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Emigrants from Gotland to America 1819–1890

Nils William Olsson

The Provincial Archives (Landsarkivet) of the city of Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland is the repository for the archival holdings of the island, including not only the ecclesiastical records from the various parishes on the island, but also all of the records of the various official bodies, who for years have been administering the affairs of this, "the pearl of the Baltic." Among the many records housed in the Archives are those of the central administrative offices for the island, Gotlands Landskansli.

In this vast body of material there is also a section dealing with the issuance of official passports for foreign travel — one of the duties of the central administration. Until the early 1850's it was incumbent upon every Swedish citizen as well as aliens, to procure a passport before departing for foreign parts. A fee was charged for this service, a part of which then was remitted to the Swedish naval authorities for the partial pensioning of Swedish naval ratings.

Though the requirement to obtain passports for foreign travel was dropped and Swedish citizens as well as aliens now were free to move about and to depart for foreign lands without this document, travellers, nevertheless, were still obliged to pay a call on the clergymen of their home parish and there obtain the necessary exit permit. The rolls containing the records of exit permits constitute a part of the ecclesiastical records and hence do not concern us here.

Despite the relaxation of the passport requirement, passports were still being issued, seemingly on a voluntary basis. The records of these transactions are to be found in the official papers of Gotlands Landskansli with the signum C W:1–3, spanning the years 1813–1922. For this study all passports issued have been noted for the time period 1819–1890, the year 1819 being the first year in which a person from Gotland received a passport to North America.

The passport entries have been listed here in chronological order, with the date when the passport was issued, the name of the bearer, the names of the members of his family, if he had one, his occupation or profession, where he came from on Gotland and his destination in America. Supplementary information concerning the passport bearers, where it has been possible to identify them further, has been supplied by the means of foot notes at the end of the article.
It should be stressed, however, that the vast majority of the emigrants who departed from Gotland for America, from the early 1850’s to 1890, did not receive passports and are therefore not included in this study. The names appearing here are but a small fraction of the total number of emigrants who went to the United States, numbering in the thousands, as can be seen from the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1851-1860</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1870</td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871-1880</td>
<td>1,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881-1890</td>
<td>4,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891-1900</td>
<td>2,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901-1910</td>
<td>2,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11,349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The domicile of the passport recipient is usually the city of Visby and the destination North America. Where there is a variance from this pattern, it has been noted in the list. All parishes cited are on Gotland.

1819
March 30. G.A. von Schröder, first mate, has passport from Stockholm and has paid for foreign travel.

1834

1837

1839
Aug. 23. Fredrik Herman Chausseur.⁴

1842

1843
July 29. H. A. Cheever, American sea captain, master of the American ship Germany, lost off the coast of Gotland.

1844
June 15. C. G. Dahlberg,⁶ farmer, with wife and six minor children from Mästerby Parish.

1846
Aug. 28. H. W. Lundblad,⁷ merchant, with wife and two minor children from Follingbo Parish. To Holstein and continuing on to America.
1847
June 29. Petter Alexander Leizinsky. To Germany and America.

1850
Feb. 20. Sven Hindrichsson, baker.
June 13. Sven August Pettersson, journeyman musical instrument maker from Sjonhem Parish.
Sept. 21. Alexius Lange, inspector.

1851

1852
July 1. Fredrik Engström, first mate from Norrlanda Parish. To Germany, England and America.
Nov. 22. A. N. Engström, sea captain. To Stockholm and America.

1853

1854
March 6. Jon Oscar Emanuel Lewander, youth from Källunge Parish.
March 17. Anders Carlsson, farmer with wife Fredrika Pehrsson and minor son Carl Alfred from Västerhejde Parish.
March 18. Petter Magnus Svensson, crofter, with wife Christina Johansdotter, sons Constans and Aron, and daughter Anna Lovisa from Barlingbo Parish.
April 20. Anna Magnidotter, wife, and her son Johan Magnus Samuelsson from Småland.
May 3. Carl Daniel Hultberg, carpenter.
May 26. Lars Petter Hallberg, farmer’s son from Hall Parish.
June 21. Andreas Löhner, journeyman mason from Rute Parish.
June 21. G. W. Schenholm, bookkeeper from Rute Parish.
Aug. 29. Carolina Hahr, b. Thornström, with a minor daughter from Stockholm.

1855
April 16. Samuel Samuelsson, servant, and his wife Anna Magnidotter from Barlingbo Parish.
June 12. Lars Carl Ericsson,\textsuperscript{17} journeyman carpenter from Follingbo Parish.

\begin{center}
1856
\end{center}

July 23. Agnes Johanna Maria Lundgren, girl from Klinte Parish.

\begin{center}
1857
\end{center}

April 6. Jacob Romquist, former first mate.
June 11. Maria Christina Levander, wife, with minor children, Margareta Johanna and Johannes Nicolaus August from Hejde Parish.
Aug. 22. Adolph Jacob Dahlgren, seaman from Levide Parish.

\begin{center}
1858
\end{center}

Sept. 2. Erland Pettersson, laborer, and wife Margareta Christina Johansdotter and minor child Jacob Edvard from Levide Parish.
Nov. 1. Johan Niclas Ljungberg,\textsuperscript{19} bookkeeper.

\begin{center}
1859
\end{center}

March 18. Johannes Adamsson, servant.

\begin{center}
1860
\end{center}

July 5. Baron J.F.G.R. Åkerhielm,\textsuperscript{20} second lieutenant.
July 16. Anton Herlitz,\textsuperscript{21} merchant.

\begin{center}
1862
\end{center}

May 8. Herman Donner,\textsuperscript{22} sea captain.

\begin{center}
1864
\end{center}

June 25. Bernhard Johan Sundahl,\textsuperscript{23} mechanical engineer.

\begin{center}
1866
\end{center}

June 5. Jacob Niclas Gardell, journeyman carpenter.

\begin{center}
1868
\end{center}

May 6. Carl Fredrik Segerdahl, bookbinder, and his wife, Fredrika Carolina Fogelström.

\begin{center}
1876
\end{center}

Nov. 20. Knut Wilhelm Stare,\textsuperscript{24} office clerk from Tingstäde Parish. To Philadelphia.
1878


May 4. Olof Emil Johansson, youth.


Aug. 1882


Oct. 2. Eric Jacob Ljungholm, bookkeeper.

June 16. Olof Abraham Edvard Klintbom, former farmer, his wife Anna Sophia
Christina Högvall and her son, Olof Anton Rudolf.

Nov. 9. Carl Ludvig Lorens Herlitz, brewery bookkeeper.

Nov. 23. J. O. Boman, merchant.


May 7. Edwin Oscar Johansson, fireman.


June 18. Anna Augusta Lungström, widow.

July 1. Niclas August Hallgren, farmer from Väte Parish.

Sept. 5. Jacob August Pettersson, laborer from Hejde Parish.

Sept. 17. Oscar Walfrid Dahlbom, clerk from Dalhem Parish.


Oct. 27. Johan Petter Danielsson, civil engineer from Yole Parish.

1888


May 5. Jacob Petter Berglund, former farmer from Hejnum Parish.

June 2. Lars Fredrik Larsson, former farmer.

June 6. Carl Anton Kolmodin, first mate.

June 8. Carl August Wilhelm Ollander.


1890

July 2. Carl Wilhelm Fredrik Lemke.

Sept. 16. Bror Albert Achander, farmer.

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2 Carl Christian Agrell, b. in Visby May 12, 1813. s. Carl Christian Agrell, dyer, and Charlotta Christina Wernström. He settled in Charleston, South Carolina as a grocer, where he was living in 1850 with his wife, Sarah Ann, 28 years old, and a one-year-old child, C. F. Agrell. He d. in 1851 and was buried in the Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston Aug. 24, 1851. — August Kinberg, *Gotländska slägter* (Visby, 1889), p. 3; *Seventh U.S. Census, South Carolina*, Vol. 2; *Records of
Johan Rudolf Gardell, b. in Klintehamn, Gotland May 18, 1828, s. Erik Gardell, merchant, and Catharina Charlotta Gyllenstam. He served as captain in the Swedish Army, part of the time in the Gotland National Guard. He was m. to Gustava Fredrika Melander, b. in Karlskrona Nov. 6, 1795. Erik af Klint d. in Visby Dec. 22, 1847. — Gustaf Elgersterna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns attartavlor I-IX* (Stockholm, 1925–1936), IV, p. 184b.

Fredrik Herman Chausseur, b. in Visby April 16, 1813, s. Carl Anton Albert Johan Chausseur, Prussian and Netherlands consul in Visby, and Catharina Margareta Herfitz. He settled in America, where he became a farmer. — Kinberg, *Gotländska slägter*, pp. 106–107.

Carl Fredrik Ljunglof, apprentice, was b. in the city of Torshälla May 30, 1816. He arr. in Visby by.

C. G. Dahlberg, farmer, 40 years old, arr. in New York Oct. 23, 1844 aboard the Swedish brig "Carl Fredrik". He served as captain in the Swedish Army, part of the time in the Gotland National Guard. He was m. to Gustava Fredrika Melander, b. in Karlskrona Nov. 6, 1795. Erik af Klint d. in Visby Dec. 22, 1847. — Gustaf Elgersterna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns attartavlor I-IX* (Stockholm, 1925–1936), IV, p. 184b.

Fredrik Herman Chausseur, b. in Visby April 16, 1813, s. Carl Anton Albert Johan Chausseur, Prussian and Netherlands consul in Visby, and Catharina Margareta Herfitz. He settled in America, where he became a farmer. — Kinberg, *Gotländska slägter*, pp. 106–107.


William Olsson, farmer, 40 years old, arr. in New York Oct. 23, 1844 aboard the Swedish brig "Carl Fredrik". He served as captain in the Swedish Army, part of the time in the Gotland National Guard. He was m. to Gustava Fredrika Melander, b. in Karlskrona Nov. 6, 1795. Erik af Klint d. in Visby Dec. 22, 1847. — Gustaf Elgersterna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns attartavlor I-IX* (Stockholm, 1925–1936), IV, p. 184b.

Erik af Klint, b. in Karlskrona July 16, 1781, s. Erik af Klint, major in the Swedish Navy, and Catharina Charlotte Gyllenstam. He served as captain in the Swedish Army, part of the time in the Gotland National Guard. He was m. to Gustava Fredrika Melander, b. in Karlskrona Nov. 6, 1795. Erik af Klint d. in Visby Dec. 22, 1847. — Gustaf Elgersterna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns attartavlor I-IX* (Stockholm, 1925–1936), IV, p. 184b.

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Fredrik Herman Chausseur, b. in Visby April 16, 1813, s. Carl Anton Albert Johan Chausseur, Prussian and Netherlands consul in Visby, and Catharina Margareta Herfitz. He settled in America, where he became a farmer. — Kinberg, *Gotländska slägter*, pp. 106–107.

Henry W. Lundblad, 29 years old, arr. in New York Dec. 9, 1846 aboard the Swedish brig "Fritz" together with his wife, Charlotte, 27 years old, and two children, Emelia, five years, and Carl, two. Lundblad was b. in Tång Parish (Skar.) Jan. 23, 1816 and his wife, Carolina Wilhelmina, was b. in Västervik Feb. 22, 1816, dau. of Carl Christian Heinrici, a physician, and Anna Maria Forssenius. The passport mentions two sons, both b. in Follingbo Parish — Carl Wilhelm, b. July 27, 1844 and Axel Rudolph, b. June 10, 1846. The manifest statement that the wife’s name was Charlotte and that there was a dau. Emelia, must be in error. Lundblad settled first in Chicago as a bottle of carbonated beverages. Later he moved to Quincy, IL, where he also ran a bottling works. Lundblad d. in Quincy, after which his wife returned to Chicago, where she subsequently d. The two sons were employed by the Chicago & North Western Railroad in the late 1870’s. — SPANY, pp. 128–129; *Seventh U.S. Census, Illinois*, Vol. I; Eric Johnson and C. F. Peterson, *Svenskarne i Illinois* (Chicago, 1880), p. 242; A. H. Wistrand, A. J. Bruzelius & Carl Edling, *Sveriges lakarehistoria I-II* (Stockholm, 1873–1876), I, p. 318; Visby Landsarkiv.

Petter Alexander Stanislaus Leczinsky was b. in Visby Feb. 6, 1821, s. Ulrik Bernhard Leczinsky, army fiscal officer, and Maria Elisabeth Sturzenbecker. Leczinsky had served 28 days in jail for a minor brush with the law, had left for Halmstad, but had now returned to Visby to procure his passport. — Visby Landsarkiv.

Sven Henriksson was b. in Ljusdal, Skatelö Parish (Kron.) April 27, 1820, s. Henrik Henriksson and Lisbeth Bengtsdotter. After having worked as a wagon maker, he opened a bakery. He was m. to Christina Brobeck, b. in Bläsinge, Väskinde Parish (Got.) in 1799. — Visby Landsarkiv; Vadsöna Landsarkiv.

Sven August Pettersson arr. in New York Sept. 19, 1850 aboard the bark "Catherine Augusta" from Bremen together with Lindgren and Gardell (see below). He d. on the journey between Panama and San Francisco, probably in 1851. — SPANY, p. 244; *Gotlands läns tidning*, March 26, 1852, information courtesy Dr. Erik Wikën, Stockholm.

Carl Lorentz Lindgren, 22 years old, arr. in New York Sept. 19, 1850 aboard the bark "Catherine Augusta". He also d. en route from Panama to San Francisco, together with Pettersson (see above). — SPANY, pp. 244–245, *Gotlands läns tidning*, March 26, 1852, information courtesy Dr. Erik Wikën, Stockholm.


Ernst Mattias Peter von Vegesack was b. in Gannarve, Hemsö Parish (Got.) June 18, 1820, s. Eberhard Ferdinand Emil von Vegesack, captain in the Gotland National Guard, and Ulrika Christina Sophia Lythberg. He early entered Swedish military service and spent the years 1852–1854 as an officer in the garrison on the Swedish island of St. Barthélemy in the Caribbean. He returned to Sweden and entered civilian life. When the conflict broke out between the North and the South in the United States von Vegesack went to America to volunteer his services to the Union forces. He participated in a number of engagements and was promoted to brigadier general
for his efforts. In 1877 he was awarded the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor. He d. in Stockholm Jan. 12, 1903. His collection of papers, medals and Civil War memorabilia is now housed in a special von Vegesack Collection at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.

— Elgenstierna, Svenska adelns äktenskador. VIII. pp. 717-718.

14 Axel Victor Rothstein was b. in Börrum Parish (Gotl.) Nov. 4, 1826. s. Jonathan Rothstein, farmer, and Hedvig Catharina Seurling. He emigrated to California, where he seemingly operated a store in Coloma, El Dorado County, CA, near Placerville, the site of Sutter's Mill, where gold was discovered in 1848. He m. in 1852. On Jan. 21, 1860 he declared his intent of becoming a U.S. citizen in the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California. — Karl A. K:son and Gustaf C:son Leijonhufvud, Ny svensk släktbok (Stockholm. 1901). p. 460b; Alvar Kullgren, Dagbok (manuscript in Göteborg Landsarkiv); Declarations of Intent of the U.S. District of the Northern District of California, Vol. II (Federal Archives, San Bruno, CA).

15 Carl Johan Eric Fahlsten was apparently b. in Bro Parish (Gotl.) in 1823. He signed on board the Swedish frigate Oscar as an apprentice seaman participating in the Oxehufvud Expedition to South America 1840-1841. After his return to Sweden he signed on board a Swedish merchantman in Stockholm Sept. 2, 1846, but jumped ship in New York already in December of that year. He ultimately made his way to California, where he took part in the gold rush. He later settled down as an innkeeper and wine merchant in San Francisco, where he also went by the name of Edwards. He was a charter member of the Scandinavian Society of San Francisco, founded Feb. 28, 1859. When he d. he left a considerable fortune, which was inherited by a couple of sisters back on Gotland. — Stockholm Stadsarkiv; August Wetterman, The History and Review of the Scandinavian Society of San Francisco (manuscript in the Library of the University of California); Axel Paulin, Oxehufvud — en svensk viking (Stockholm. 1947), p. 306; Gotlands läns tidningar, March 26, 1852. Information courtesy Dr. Erik Wikén, Stockholm.

16 Jacob Söderström, shoemaker, b. in Tide Parish (Gotl.) Oct. 27, 1831, s. Lars Söderström, watchman and caretaker, and Christina Olofsdotter. — Visby Landsarkiv.

17 Lars Carl Ericsson, carpenter's apprentice, was b. in Tjengarve, Trakumla Parish (Gotl.) Feb. 1, 1831, s. Lars Ericsson, farmer, and Anna Christina Johansdotter. — Visby Landsarkiv.

18 Carl Johan Björkaned was b. in Tofta Parish (Gotl.) Dec. 17, 1823. — Visby Landsarkiv.

19 Johan Niclas Ljungberg was b. in Visby June 3, 1833, s. Nils Petter Ljungberg, brewer, and Maria Helena Ahlgren. He later became a tobaccoist in Visby, where he d. 1866. — Visby Landsarkiv.

20 Johan Fredrik Georg Rickard Åkerhielm was b. at Tibble in Hejde Parish (Gotl.) Jan. 18, 1839, s. Baron Samuel Georg Conrad Åkerhielm, lieutenant in the Gotland National Guard, and Anna Maria Sidvall. He became a cadet in the Swedish Military Academy at Karlberg in 1855 and a lieutenant in the Jönköping Regiment in 1862. He retired in 1864 and d. of consumption in Visby Aug. 18, 1866. — Erik Åkerhielm. Åkerhielmska släktboken (Stockholm, 1926), pp. 180-181.

21 Possibly identical with David Anton Eberhard Herlitzius, b. in Visby 1825, s. Mathias Eberhard Herlitzius, merchant, and Catharina Christina Åberg. He also became a merchant, first in Visby, later in Stockholm and finally in Sundsvall, where he d. in 1872. He was m. to Lovisa Elisabeth Fredrika Ihrle, b. in Visby 1830, with whom he had four children. — Emil Nyberg, Gotländsk släktbok (Visby, 1938), p. 274.

22 Herman Wilhelm Donner was b. in Visby June 8, 1838, s. Georg Niclas Donner, merchant and member of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag), and Wendla Maria Herlitz. He became a steamship captain and settled in Lincolnshire, England, where he m. Sarah Matthews in 1883. He d. in 1904, whereupon the widow emigrated to America, where she settled in Providence, RI. He was m. to Jenny Octavia Nelson, b. in Göteborg 1860. They had five children — Olga Wilhelmina, b. in St. Paul. MN 1885, Jean Pever, also b. in St. Paul 1886, and three children, all b. in Tingstäde — Knut August, 1891, Greta Eugenia Nadescha, 1893 and Carl Oscar, 1898. — Nyberg, Gotländsk släktbok, p. 574.

23 Probably Bernhard Johan Peter Sundahl, b. in Visby 1842, s. Anders Christophor Sundahl, sea captain, and Anna Sophia Pettersson. He began his career as a ship's chief engineer, before moving to Brooklyn. Here he m. an American woman. He d. in Brooklyn 1927, leaving two children — Johan and Jenny. — Nyberg, Gotländsk släktbok, p. 593.

24 Knut Wilhelm Stare, b. in Visby Oct. 5, 1857, s. Johan Petter Stare, merchant and Russian vice consul on Gotland, and Laura Wilhelmina Grubb. For a while he resided at Fårösjö in Tingstäde Parish (Gotl.) but soon emigrated to America, where he settled in Providence, RI. He was m. to Jenny Octavia Nelson, b. in Göteborg 1860. They had five children — Olga Wilhelmina, b. in St. Paul. MN 1885, Jean Pever, also b. in St. Paul 1886, and three children, all b. in Tingstäde — Knut August, 1891, Greta Eugenia Nadescha, 1893 and Carl Oscar, 1898. — Nyberg, Gotländsk släktbok, p. 574.

25 Eddy Lundin, b. in Visby Dec. 5, 1863, s. Johan Theodor Lundin, merchant, and Jacobina
Lyth. He emigr. to America, where he became active in many areas — as a merchant, musician, concert promoter. He participated in the Boer War as well as in the War in the Philippines, where he was wounded and permanently disabled. He was m. and had a son, who served in the U.S. Navy as an officer. He d. in Chicago in 1920. — Visby Landsarkiv; Nyberg, Gottländsk släkttbok, p. 431.

26 Carl Ludvig Lorentz Herlitz was b. in Visby Jan. 2, 1863, s. Johan Wilhelm August Herlitz, sea captain, and Johanna Maria Lorentina Wedin. He became a farmer in Costa Rica, Central America and d. in 1910. He was m. to Ellen Miller, the marriage ending in divorce. Nothing is known concerning his s. Oscar, b. in 1892. — Nyberg, Gottländsk släkttbok, p. 268.

27 Carl Johan Stenbom was b. in Visby March 5, 1838, s. Carl Fredrik Stenbom, seaman, and Anna C. Wanborg. — Visby Landsarkiv.

28 Probably Carl Anton Kolmosin, b. in Visby Nov. 4, 1839, s. Carl Gabriel Kolmodin, first mate, and Carolina Möller. He also became a first mate, after which he settled down as a farmer in Hägerstarve, Ekeby Parish (Gottl.). In 1899 his family joined him in America, where he had gone a few years earlier. He was m. in 1872 to Anna Olivia Gottberg, b. 1846, with whom he had six children — Carl Wilhelm, b. 1873, Anna Lilly Sophia, b. 1880, Carl Robert, b. 1882, Nanny Emmy, b. 1884, Tekla Olivia, b. 1886 and Carl August, b. 1888. Nothing is known of the family’s fate in the United States. — Nyberg, Gottländsk släkttbok, pp. 363-364.


30 Carl Fredrik Wilhelm Lemke, b. in Visby Jan. 24, 1864, s. Otto Wilhelm Lemke, clergyman and secondary school teacher in Visby, and Clara Gustava Wallensteen. After medical studies at the University of Uppsala, he left the university for a business career. He worked for a time in Hamburg, after which he emigr. to America. — Tor Sillen, Gottländske studenter 1865–1894 (Visby, 1896), p. 36.