

3-1-1983

## The Diary of an Early Swede with a Texas Connection

Nils William Olsson

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



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

---

### Recommended Citation

Olsson, Nils William (1983) "The Diary of an Early Swede with a Texas Connection," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 3 : No. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol3/iss1/2>

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).

# The Diary of an Early Swede with a Texas Connection

Nils William Olsson

The purpose of this presentation is twofold — first of all, to publish an extraordinary and interesting account of America in the 1850s, a brief but action-filled journal, covering a time span of eighteen months, written by a young and fairly well educated Swedish immigrant upon his arrival to this country. Secondly, the publication of this document is meant to demonstrate how it is possible by the use of sources of this type — journals, diaries, travel descriptions and letters — in addition to the usual genealogical aids such as ships' lists, census records and city directories to successfully identify individuals, who otherwise might remain unknown and undiscovered.

It should be kept in mind that as our country's boundaries expanded westward, with the arrival of tens of thousands of new immigrants, record-keeping was probably the last thing on anyone's mind. Thus the keeping of vital statistics as the responsibility of the community and the state did not materialize until late in the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th centuries. Every scrap of information, therefore, which we can uncover, becomes an important link in the constant search for information concerning our Swedish forebears as they struggled to carve out their lives in a new and strange world.

Recently the author chanced upon such a document, a short diary, written by a young Swedish immigrant, Johan Fredrik Roos af Hjelmsäter, one of the many young persons from that era who was drawn to the New World by the smell of opportunity, excitement and adventure. Although he died at an early age, he left a small literary estate, comprising the diary in question, a few letters and some recommendations, which eventually found its way to the Eugene Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas in Austin.<sup>1</sup> The cornerstone of this small literary legacy is the diary covering the time from August, 1850 to January, 1852. The journal consists of a homemade notebook, fashioned from rag paper of an excellent quality, measuring 10 in. × 4 in., and containing 30 pages with 28 pages of text plus the title page. The last page is blank. The writing is neat and flows easily, and except for a couple of words, is very legible. The document is in Swedish

and contains some spelling mistakes, principally words dealing with personal or place names, as well as a few foreign words. These have been reproduced as written in the original but with explanatory notes added, where needed.

The diary appears to be complete. Even so, it ends abruptly in New Orleans in January, 1852. Whether Roos continued his story in subsequent journals is not known.

The author, himself, is an interesting study and deserves a fuller presentation. His name was, as has been noted earlier, Johan Fredrik Roos af Hjelmsäter. Though he carried the name of an ancient and noble Swedish family, he was not of that lineage. He was actually born in the Garrison Parish (*Garnisonsförsamlingen*) in Göteborg Nov. 22, 1821, the illegitimate son of a spinster named Fredrika Mathilda Dahlgren (1803–1870), father unknown. A few years later, on Jan. 9, 1825, in the same parish mademoiselle Mathilda Fredrika Dahlgren became the wife of Johan Elias Roos af Hjelmsäter (1796–1873), a non-commissioned officer in the Swedish Army. In the household examination roll of the parish at this time, Fredrika Mathilda is listed as the mother of Johan Fredrik.<sup>2</sup>

The stepfather seems to have given his stepson the right to use the family name, which is borne out by the son's use of the name on the title page of the diary. It is also attested to by the stepfather, himself, writing to Texas after his stepson's death, where he refers to Johan Fredrik Roos af Hjelmsäter as his son.

In the same Garrison Parish records we learn that Johan Fredrik departed from Göteborg for Copenhagen Aug. 3, 1846, at the age of 25. He seems not to have remained in Denmark very long, for in the Roos Collection we find a recommendation for Roos, made out by C. J. Nymansson, a merchant in the city of Kristinehamn, Sweden, attesting to the fact that Johan Fredrik had worked for him as a clerk in his store from Oct., 1846 to Oct. 30, 1847, a task he had done very well. The next item in the dossier is a discharge notice from the First Danish *Jaeger Corps*, stating that Johan Fredrik Roos had served in the Danish Army, first as a private, and later as a sergeant from Oct. 3, 1848 to Aug. 31, 1849. He had apparently participated in the Schleswig-Holstein war of 1848–1849, in which war Prussia sided with Schleswig-Holstein against Denmark. At the end of the hostilities Johan Fredrik returned to Sweden and there entered the service of the Royal Swedish Corps of Engineers, then stationed at Fort Karlsborg<sup>3</sup> in central Sweden. Here he served from Nov. 2, 1849 to Oct., 1850, when he received his honorable discharge in order to join the Danish military service once more.

Johan Fredrik's career for the next eighteen months is mirrored in the diary he kept. It speaks most eloquently for itself. As stated earlier, it ends abruptly Jan. 23, 1852, after which Johan Fredrik Roos' life becomes shrouded in mystery. His peregrinations cannot be documented, except that

in his file is a letter from Swante Palm,<sup>4</sup> the Texas Swede, who later was to become Swedish consul in Austin, dated Austin Oct. 7, 1856, addressed to Johan Fredrik in San Marcos, TX. By this time Roos had changed his name, calling himself Hamilton, for some unexplainable reason. The letter from Palm offers Roos/Hamilton employment as a clerk in the S. M. Swenson<sup>5</sup> mercantile establishment in Austin at a salary of \$45.00 per month without board. The interesting thing about this employment offer is that Roos/Hamilton is asked to come back to his old job and old friends, indicating that he must have been living in Austin prior to 1856.

His time in Austin was very brief. Three months later, on Jan. 13, 1857 he died, at the age of 36. The news of his death filtered back to Sweden slowly, by way of a notice in the Swedish American newspaper, *Hemlandet*,

<p>28. -          29. Feb.          14 -</p> <p>... som jag till Columbus          denna staden är en mycket          bra liden i Georgien och          är stor, mycket god och skön          till och med ligger i en          skön och vacker staden          i Florida och Columbus          är mycket vacker. Man          ser man gör sig på vägen          först i Florida och är mycket          lägt och flug gult med          tillräckligt med till och med          man ser skön skön och          man ser skön och Georgien          för högt och skön för          och skön för med Skön          28. -          29. Feb.          14 -</p> <p>... som jag till Columbus          denna staden är en mycket          bra liden i Georgien och          är stor, mycket god och skön          till och med ligger i en          skön och vacker staden          i Florida och Columbus          är mycket vacker. Man          ser man gör sig på vägen          först i Florida och är mycket          lägt och flug gult med          tillräckligt med till och med          man ser skön skön och          man ser skön och Georgien          för högt och skön för          och skön för med Skön          28. -          29. Feb.          14 -</p>	<p>... som jag till Columbus          denna staden är en mycket          bra liden i Georgien och          är stor, mycket god och skön          till och med ligger i en          skön och vacker staden          i Florida och Columbus          är mycket vacker. Man          ser man gör sig på vägen          först i Florida och är mycket          lägt och flug gult med          tillräckligt med till och med          man ser skön skön och          man ser skön och Georgien          för högt och skön för          och skön för med Skön          28. -          29. Feb.          14 -</p> <p>... som jag till Columbus          denna staden är en mycket          bra liden i Georgien och          är stor, mycket god och skön          till och med ligger i en          skön och vacker staden          i Florida och Columbus          är mycket vacker. Man          ser man gör sig på vägen          först i Florida och är mycket          lägt och flug gult med          tillräckligt med till och med          man ser skön skön och          man ser skön och Georgien          för högt och skön för          och skön för med Skön          28. -          29. Feb.          14 -</p>
--	---

Sample page from J. F. Roos' Diary.



dated Aug. 24, 1857, which in turn was picked up by the Göteborg newspaper, *Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfartstidning* on Sept. 26. On Oct. 6 the stepfather, Johan Elias Roos af Hjelsäter, wrote a letter to S. M. Swenson alluding to the newspaper stories and asked that his son's estate be inventoried and that the residue be forwarded to Sweden.

The journal kept by Johan Fredrik Roos is an artless account of his journey from Fort Karlsborg in Sweden to New Orleans, LA. It pulsates with life and adventure and it provides the reader with an eye-witness account of life in the United States in the middle of the 19th century. It is a valuable document from the point of view of identifying a number of Swedes who were living in various parts of the U.S. There are references here which help to fill in the lacunae which exist in our knowledge of some of these early immigrants.

The diary is surprisingly accurate so far as dates and names are concerned. In almost every instance where a check has been made against other sources, Johan Fredrik Roos is amazingly accurate. There are lapses, of course, but for the greater part of the story he has stuck to the facts.

The diary is here printed in extenso in translation, following Roos' own style and spelling. Only in a few instances has the editor allowed himself the license to change the word order or substitute words where the meaning is doubtful or obscure. Roos' spirit and flavor have been maintained throughout the document, so far as has been possible.

## "My Diary From 1850 When I Departed from my Native Land for the Third Time

J. F. Roos af Hjelsäter

1850

- Aug. 10 Took my farewell from Ft. Karlsborg in order to enter the Danish military service.
- Aug. 12 Arrived in Växjö, where I received a warm welcome, mostly from my beloved Sophie.<sup>6</sup>
- Aug. 17 Departed from Växjö for Helsingborg. Received 25 *Riksdaler*<sup>7</sup> from Nordwall<sup>8</sup> for travel expenses. My trip was interrupted several times because of the cholera epidemic, which was rampant everywhere. I was on the point of turning back, but Fate intervened and ordained that I should press forward.
- Aug. 19 Arrived in Helsingborg, where I got a room in a city hotel. I met Gelin and three Danes, including the hussars Lose and Jenssen.
- Aug. 22 Went on to Denmark. We were a company of thirteen persons, who had hired a boat to take us over the Öresund strait for 100 *Riksdaler*. We could not cross by steamboat inasmuch as it had

been discontinued because of the cholera epidemic. In the afternoon we arrived at Dragör in Denmark, where we were quarantined for five days. Among those who I remembered as being fellow passengers were a Mrs. Nise and her daughter from Helsingborg.

- Aug. 27 We arrived in the royal capital of Copenhagen. I first visited Mr. Lose, a potter, where I had breakfast. Afterwards I took lodging with my old host, Peder Jenssen in Nyhavn, on Little Strand Street. I paid a visit to the Danish Minister of War, in order to offer my services as a volunteer for military duty, but was told that no longer would foreigners be accepted into the Danish Army.
- Sept. 15 Had an audience with His Royal Majesty, King Fredrik VII,<sup>9</sup> who received me graciously. He promised he would speak to his Minister of War concerning my case. I decided I could not wait for an answer and decided to go to America.
- Sept. 30 I met Widlund and a former lieutenant by the name of von Denel[?] Malmler. A couple of days later I was in the company of several Russian officers.
- Oct. 8 Today I received a letter from my father<sup>10</sup> together with 200 *Riksdaler*.
- Oct. 10 Wrote to my parents, to Nordwall and to my beloved Sophie Apelqvist. On the same day I left Copenhagen for Wismar in Germany aboard the steam ship *Apotrit*[?].
- Oct. 11 At 8 o'clock a.m. I arrived in Wismar. I sold my gold watch to a Swede for 29½ *Riksdaler* and acquired a silver repeater watch in the bargain. After having seen the sights of the city I departed from Wismar.
- Oct. 12 Arrived in the city of Schwerin by railroad late in the afternoon.
- Oct. 13 Left Schwerin by railroad and arrived in Hamburg about noon. I secured lodgings at my old hotel, the Brandenburg, where I met a Swedish merchant from Kalmar by the name of Båth.<sup>11</sup> He was on his way to California to dig for gold. As I had arrived on a Sunday, I decided to take a look at the Prussian Army, which was quartered in Hamburg. I saw many of the regiments which had taken part in the war against Denmark.
- During the afternoon I visited Altona in order to speak to General Hedeman. He received me courteously. I was with him for about an hour. He proposed that I enter the Holstein Army Service as an officer. I promised him I would consider it. Since I was dressed in a Swedish uniform, I had to be escorted back to the city gates by a dragoon.
- Oct. 14 I visited a wine tavern, where I was accused of being a spy. I had great difficulty in disproving the accusation.

- Oct. 16 I bought a ticket at Sloman's<sup>12</sup> for New York. I paid 30 Prussian *Taler*, which is about 80 Swedish *Riksdaler*. I then purchased a tick for my mattress and other items which cost me 14 Prussian *Taler*. I was waited on by a Jew. In the evening I went to a dance and left with an Hungarian girl. During the night I went on board the ship.
- Oct. 19 We lifted anchor and departed from the beautiful city of Hamburg. We were taken out through the Elbe River by a steam tugboat. The weather was ideal. The name of the bark, on which we are travelling, is *Mellis Sloman*.<sup>13</sup> There are seventy persons on board, all Germans. Among those with whom I became acquainted was a pastor from Hannover with his family, named Walther.<sup>14</sup> His family consisted of his wife and two adorable girls, Antonia and the heavenly beautiful Laura. She made the journey very agreeable. I spent most of the time squiring Laura about the vessel, attempting to make her journey as pleasant as possible. From her I learned German. We encountered beautiful weather, except in the North Sea, where we experienced some squalls. In the English Channel two of the couples were united in marriage. They were farmers from Mecklenburg.<sup>15</sup>
- Nov. 22 We have had a very severe storm and lost part of the forecastle. We thought for a time that we would founder. This took place in the Gulf Stream. I arose and remained up the entire night. My Laura was with me and I thought to myself that if it were God's will that we perish, it would be wonderful to die in the company of an angel. I became ill and went to the captain,<sup>16</sup> who gave me some medicine. Pastor Walther was on his knees praying to God. I thought of my home and how to save my girl. Morning came and we were safe. However, we had heavy seas the entire second day of the storm.
- Dec. 10 Arrived in New York during the afternoon. A few of the passengers and I stepped ashore for the first time in the New World and its principal city. We visited a few places, looking for lodging and a few glasses [of spirits]. In the evening we returned to our vessel.
- Dec. 11 Went ashore. Resided on Greenwich Street at a place called Dutsei Hejmark [Deutsche Heimat?]. Then we went to Hotel Scandinavia, where we met several Swedes, among them Captain Dannberg<sup>17</sup> from Göteborg and others. We drank until quite late. When I returned to the hotel I fell and broke my finger, but it soon healed.
- Dec. 16 Received employment as a bartender at Hotel Bremen Arms on Albany Street, the proprietor of which is Mr. Gästler. Received no salary.



- Dec. 23 Left Mr. Gästler and travelled to Cumberland[MD] together with I. D. Roser<sup>18</sup> and Deen.<sup>19</sup> I had no money, but my German travelling companions helped me, since they thought I was German. We left New York by steamboat at 3 p.m. for Philadelphia. We had a boring trip.
- Dec. 24 We arrived in Philadelphia during the afternoon. It was Christmas Eve. Not as pleasant as at home, but we had our health and a little money, about \$3.00 each.
- Dec. 25 Left Philadelphia during the afternoon for Baltimore via railroad, where we arrived late in the evening. We crossed the bay to the other side of the city, where we secured lodging. There were almost 100 persons in the place, almost all of them Irish.
- Dec. 26 We left Baltimore at 2 p.m. for Cumberland. We travelled the entire night by railroad.
- Dec. 27 We arrived in Cumberland.
- Dec. 28 The three of us, Roser, Deen and I, left by foot from Cumberland and arrived that evening in a little town called Wellesburg<sup>20</sup> in Pennsylvania. We secured lodging with a farmer named Philip Möller.<sup>21</sup> We stayed here over Sunday and attended worship services in the church.
- Dec. 29 We went to Wallesborg and found lodging with a farmer about a mile from the city. At both places we paid for our board and lodgings.
- Dec. 30 We left the farm and walked to look for work. It was cold and there was much snow. When we had hiked about nine miles we came to a farmer by the name of Andres Wagerman.<sup>22</sup> We asked for a night's lodging and were told that we should [first] attend the church service which was next door. It was snowing heavily and we were both tired and hungry. About 7 o'clock in the evening we came into God's House. When we arrived we found many people assembled. I thought at first that we had happened into an insane asylum, but then I understood that these people were Methodists. They pray to God on their knees and beat their hands and heads against chairs and pews so that blood spattered all over the room. After the service we departed from the church for our new quarters, where we received food and slept until seven o'clock the next morning.
- Dec. 31 We went to a farmer by the name of Porbach,<sup>23</sup> where we stayed over night. In the morning we were awakened by rifle shots. There were a great many farmers who had come to wish the host a Happy New Year. The custom here is that they shoot their guns while going from farm house to farm house. Roser remained here.
- 1851
- Jan. 1 Deen and I went to Wagerman, where I got employment, after he

- had interviewed us both. My comrade went into Wallesborg where he received employment with a cooper.
- Jan. 2 I began my duties by first currying five horses, after which I was dispatched to the granary to thresh. This job was most difficult for me. After a few weeks I was sent out into the forest to chop down trees. I felled oak trees which were more than two feet in diameter.
- Jan. 20 Went hunting.
- Feb. 4 Visited Berlin, a small town, about three miles distant.<sup>24</sup> Returned the following day.
- Feb. 10 Went to Walesburg. Sold my watch to Wagerman for eight dollars. We agreed on my salary which was to be \$3.00 per month.
- Feb. 11 Returned to Walesburg.
- March 4 Said farewell to Wagerman in order to try my luck in the company of my former travelling companion, J. D. Roser. I left the safe haven with sadness, since I was well liked by all, but I was earning too little. I shall long remember this beautiful spot and its hospitable people. The place is known as Somerset County in Pennsylvania, between the towns of Wallesborg and Berlin.

During the afternoon we arrived in Wallesburg, after having walked ten miles with our knapsacks on our backs. This town is neither large nor pretty and has a population of about 3,000 souls. The majority of the residents are German, as is the case in most of Pennsylvania. We stayed here over night.

- March 5 This morning we went to see a farmer who lives six miles from here in order to seek work. We had heard that he paid very well, but we could not accept it, since the work was too difficult. We were offered \$6.00 per month. We stayed over night and the next morning we walked back to Wallesburg.
- March 6 We left the city about 2 p.m. on foot after we had said goodbye to Deen as well as a few other friends and acquaintances. We arrived in Cumberland about 5 p.m. This city is situated in Maryland, eight miles from Wallesburg. We were in the company of many persons because on the following day an Irishman was to be hanged and for this reason people were streaming into the city.
- March 7 I went out to inspect the city. It is a large place with 40,000 residents, not particularly beautiful. I remember counting 34 different churches. The railroad to Baltimore runs straight through the city. Another railroad is in the process of construction, which will go all the way to Ohio. Half of the residents in the city are Catholics or Irishmen. There are also many slaves.

The Irishman was to be hung at 1 o'clock p.m. and I went along to watch the execution, which was to take place one mile outside the city. Much military had arrived from Baltimore, be-



cause the authorities feared that the Catholic population would set fire to the city. I shall never forget the awful sight of the execution itself. After a quarter of an hour it was all over. His crime consisted of having slashed the throat of his wife. He was 28 years old.

March 8 We left Cumberland on foot at 11 a.m., after having left our belongings at the railroad station, in order to be more mobile. We encountered rain and snow and the road was a mess. At 6 o'clock p.m. we arrived at an inn, where we wished to lodge for the night. It was snowing and the weather was not fit for dogs. This inn lay by itself and the innkeeper looked like a scoundrel. A German had informed us earlier that this was a good place and that everything was cheap. Roser asked for some bread and butter, for which he had to pay twelve cents. The innkeeper wanted his money in advance, but I wanted first to see where he intended for us to sleep. When he refused to show us the lodgings I took my coat and told Roser to follow me, since I did not wish to remain there. It was now about eight o'clock in the evening and the weather outside was terrible, the darkness as black as pitch. We could not get lodgings, so were forced to sleep over night in a barn. Then we walked through many villages, whose names I have forgotten. During the rest of the journey we had good weather.

The road between Cumberland and Baltimore is good. It meanders consistently through beautiful forests and several valleys.

March 12 We arrived in Baltimore, the capital city of Maryland, at four o'clock in the afternoon. The distance between the two cities is 134 miles. Baltimore is a large city and is very much alive with a brisk trade and with almost 160,000 residents. Many of these are black, most of them slaves. I stayed in Baltimore two and a quarter days, living with Roser. We then separated.

March 14 Left Baltimore for Philadelphia by steamboat at 3 o'clock p.m., which journey cost me \$1.50. We had beautiful weather.

March 15 Arrived in Philadelphia at 9 o'clock in the morning and secured lodgings at Mr. Wagner's at Hotel Rotterdam. The same day Wagner accompanied me to Prof. C. W. Roback,<sup>25</sup> where I got a job as a clerk.

March 18 I moved in with Mr. Roback and signed a contract for six months for \$5.00 per month plus everything free, except laundry, since he was a bachelor. Before me he had hired a Swede by the name of Carlsson.<sup>26</sup> We became very good friends.

April 1 We have a new comrade by the name of A. P. Lofblad.<sup>27</sup> He hails from Norrland, but has forgotten how to speak Swedish. He had

left Norrland for Kiel in Holstein as a young lad. Today I learned that I have to feed myself and received for this an additional \$10.00, so now I have \$15.00 per month.

April 7 Roback has been sued by the alderman of Philadelphia, which is the same as a *härads hövding* in Sweden. He was charged with trafficking in bogus medicines. He was released after posting a bond for \$2,000.00.

May 9 Roback and Carlsson left for Baltimore.

May 13 They returned from Baltimore.

May 18 Roback left for New York.

June 14 I received a letter from Roback telling me of my dismissal from his service. He included a tip of \$3.00.

July 3 Left Philadelphia for New York aboard a steamboat which cost me \$1.50. Philadelphia is the most beautiful city in the United States with a total population of 460,000. It is well built, contains 150 churches, has a thriving trade, in other words it is a superb city. It is Pennsylvania's capital city. Most of the residents are Quakers. There are no slaves, but many black people, who are all free.

There are not many Swedes here. Among those, whose acquaintance I made were — Mr. B. Herrman<sup>28</sup> and his brother<sup>29</sup> at No. 95 Callow Hill Street, below Schill Street, Consul Sundler on Front Street, Langlet<sup>30</sup> from Borås, Mrs. Åberg,<sup>31</sup> at leisure, and a mechanical engineer by the name of Nyström.<sup>32</sup> Also here are Ludvig T. Carlsson from Karlskrona, who arrived from Kalmar in September, 1850 and A. P. Löfblad (my two comrades at Roback's).

July 4 I arrived in New York for the second time at 9 o'clock in the morning. Took a cab, pulled by two horses, to Wacker Street and stopped at No. 222, the residence of Mr. Smith. July 4 is the day the United States citizens celebrate their freedom from England and there were salutes in our house, both by young and old. On the same day I called on Dr. C. W. Roback. He received me courteously and I agreed to move into his domicile in a month's time. Löfblad and I were out the whole day celebrating. A couple of days later I made the acquaintance of Mr. Shuman,<sup>33</sup> who moved in with me.

July 11 Moved to my old host, Mr. Gästler, but could only stay there four days.

July 15 Moved from Gästler to Dylssi Hjemark [Deutsche Heimat?] on Greenwich Street, where I settled in.

July 18 Löfblad and I went over to Jersey City, NJ to visit Pastor Walthner. Laura was not at home. Antonia is now married to a German music director. A few days later I met Laura.

- July 26 Moved in with Mr. Roback and was to have \$18.00 per month, but the job was not as satisfying as in Philadelphia, and as a result I did not wish to remain in his employ.
- Aug. 8 I was at the home of Hanna Malmgren,<sup>34</sup> now Mrs. Williamson. She resides in Brooklyn. In New York I met many people from Göteborg, among them Nils Wängberg,<sup>35</sup> C. Wedberg,<sup>36</sup> Damm,<sup>37</sup> Wettergren,<sup>38</sup> Fredrikson,<sup>39</sup> a tinsmith, Fallkert, Captain Lundgren<sup>40</sup> and others. Jonsson, Marie's brother, came from California and departed for home with Lundgren on July 28.
- Aug. 14 I was accepted for the Cuba Expedition.<sup>41</sup>
- Aug. 25 I was made first lieutenant with the Cuba Army by the Hungarian Major General von Böttger. We were to embark on three steamboats, armed with eight guns each. In all there were 2,000 Hungarian and Italian troops.
- Sept. 1 General Lojus<sup>42</sup> was captured and condemned to death by the Spanish. His little army was defeated and partly captured. He, himself, met the most gruesome death. The army was dissolved and scattered for the time being. At about this time I received letters from Sweden.
- Sept. – Departed from New York via the *Hindrico*, a schooner, with Captain Tuttle on board for Richmond, VA.
- Sept. 23 Lay at anchor in Jersey City. I went ashore, both in Jersey and New York.
- Sept. 29 At four o'clock we sailed for St. Ireland,<sup>43</sup> eight miles away. Lay there until the next morning.
- Sept. 30 We had a good wind. The passengers consisted of nine Irishmen. My best company was a guitar I had bought in New York for \$6.25. I had borrowed \$10.00 from Roback in order to purchase the instrument.
- Oct. 4 Arrived in Richmond. This is Virginia's capital city, 600 miles from New York. The shores one passes are the most lovely one can see, covered with trees on both sides for a distance of 160 miles. The city of Richmond is beautiful, situated on several hills. The chief trade here is in tobacco and wheat flour. The population is between 30,000 and 40,000. Many of these people are slaves. There is not much life in this city, since it is not on the ocean. I became acquainted with all of the Swedes who were residing here. First of all there was Mr. Shuman,<sup>44</sup> with whom I resided, and who was very kind to me. In the second place there is an apothecary here named Zachrisson.<sup>45</sup> In the third place there is a Mr. Rosén,<sup>46</sup> a music teacher, and fourthly a Mr. Dahlberg,<sup>47</sup> an employee in a billiard hall. Lastly there is a shoemaker here, whose name I have forgotten. He was a real radical.
- Oct. 23 At 11 o'clock in the morning I left Richmond for Petersburg,



- where I arrived in the evening of the same day, at about 10 o'clock. I had marched 22 miles with my guitar under my arm. I had left my belongings at the railroad station.
- Oct. 24 At ten o'clock in the morning I walked from Petersburg to City Point,<sup>48</sup> where I arrived at 5 p.m. I had then walked ten miles. During the journey I played for an American and earned twenty cents. I received free lodgings. The bartender's name was Peter Wilson.
- Oct. 25 At nine o'clock in the morning I departed from City Point for Norfolk, VA via steamboat. The journey cost me \$1.50. At 6 p.m. I arrived in Norfolk, where I struck up an acquaintanceship with a German. We lodged with Mrs. Wilson at No. 5 Commerce Street in Norfolk, named North Carolina and Virginia House.
- Oct. 30 I moved from Mrs. Wilson's. I could not pay my board and room and as a result I could not retrieve my belongings. I had left my knapsack with my best clothes at the railroad station in Richmond. Thus I stood there without money and without clothes. My only property consisted of a guitar and a gold ring, once given to me by my mother. I left these items with Mrs. Wilson as pawns for the \$2.00 I owed her. In Norfolk I became acquainted with a Captain John Smith, a Dane by birth. He was the master of a schooner named *Georrod*[?]. He asked me to go with him to Chagres<sup>49</sup> in Nicaragua as a ship's steward.
- Nov. 6 Went on board and on Nov. 9 we lifted anchor and tacked against the wind through the river.
- Nov. 10 Lay at anchor at Cape Hendrick,<sup>50</sup> fifty miles from Norfolk.
- Nov. 11 We sailed, but encountered a bad storm in the Gulf Stream. For the first time I stood at the wheel for almost thirteen hours, except for two short periods when I had something to eat. Finally we had to jettison the deck cargo and also a part of the cargo in the hold. The captain then told me that he was not going to Chagres, since the vessel was leaking and furthermore he did not have a crew good enough for the journey. The helmsman and I were the only ones who could steer the vessel.
- Dec. 2 We had good weather. Saw land ahead which was Cuba.
- Dec. 4 At one p.m. we arrived in Key West. We had been on the way a total of 24 days.
- Dec. 11 I moved ashore after the captain and I had quarreled. He was drunk all of the time on the trip. He drank worse than the Devil himself. On Nov. 12 he was ill from the alcohol and lay in his cabin for several days. After the vessel had been sold, as a result of the damages sustained, I played my guitar for Mr. Thift,<sup>51</sup> who had asked me to come. Key West is a small island which belongs to Florida, about 60 miles from Havana in Cuba. It has a good

climate, the best in the southern states of North America. The population of the island is not large, most of them are black, and these are slaves. Otherwise one finds all nations represented here, even Turks and Malayans. There are many Spanish people here. I had a good friend, a countryman, Mr. N. Smith.<sup>52</sup> He has lived here for seventeen years and is quite wealthy. The island subsists on [illegible], small vessels which assist ships which have gone aground on the Little Bahama Banks.

- Dec. 26 I sailed from Key West to Apalachicola, FL aboard the *Franklin*, a bark. We had good weather during the journey. I worked on board for my passage.
- Dec. 29 I landed in Apalachicola, a city of small size, the population of about 2,000. During the winters there is a good deal of activity here with cotton which comes down from the river to be unloaded, pressed and then dispatched to the ships which are anchored thirty miles out in the bay. One can earn a lot of money here if one has the proper constitution for this kind of work. I did what I could.
- 1852
- Jan. 21 Capt. Smith arrived from Key West. He was looking for me and offered me the chance to go to New York with him.
- Jan. 23 Left for Columbus, GA with my old captain, aboard the steamship *Swan*, after he had paid \$7.00 for my board and had given me several items.
- Jan. – Arrived in Columbus. This city is pretty, located in Georgia. It is a large place with beautiful homes and is situated in a wonderful location. The river between Apalachicola and Columbus is very beautiful. When one travels along, one passes first Florida, which is quite low-lying, even with the sea level and sometimes below that. Then comes Alabama on the left side and Georgia on the right, lying higher and covered with trees.
- Jan. 28 Captain Smith left Columbus. He had recommended me as a second steward aboard the *Swan* at a salary of \$10.00 per month.
- Feb. 2 I returned to Apalachicola, after having left the steamboat, since they paid too little in salary. I worked in Apalachicola.
- Feb. 4 Signed on board the steamboat *Swan* for the second time, after they raised the salary to \$15.00 per month. I was well liked and they did not wish to lose me.
- March 19 I left the *Swan* for the last time.
- March 29 I left Apalachicola for the third time, now for New Orleans aboard the steamboat *America*. I left at four o'clock in the afternoon together with Julius Hammarström<sup>53</sup> from Öland. He was the only Swede in Florida who was a genuine friend. The journey cost \$12.50 per person in first class. I must not forget the name of



my host in Apalachicola, where I resided, Mr. Petry.<sup>54</sup> He was German and had a little girl whom I instructed in playing the guitar. She was to me a kind angel here in this desert. I liked her very much and she liked me. Marie, God knows I parted from her with sadness. When I arrived in New Orleans I heard that she was very ill and they surmised that she would not survive.”

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Labeled “Roos (Frederik) Papers, 1826–1874”, the dossier bears the signum 2F483. The title is somewhat misleading since the earliest item in the collection bears the date of 1846, rather than 1826. The diary is reproduced above with the kind permission of the library and the generous assistance of William H. Richter of the Eugene Barker Texas History Center.
- <sup>2</sup> The author is indebted to Håkan Skogsjö of Göteborg for his kindness in furnishing the data concerning Johan Fredrik’s birth and family. Interestingly enough, another document in the Roos Collection consists of an affidavit from the chaplain of the Karlsborg Garrison Church, Johan Dahlstein, who attests to the fact that Johan Fredrik Roos was born Nov. 22, 1824. Here the evidence of the original parish records has greater weight and should be accepted.
- <sup>3</sup> In 1850 Karlsborg was considered to be Sweden’s strongest and most important fortress, the hub of the central Swedish defense system. It was begun during the reign of Carl XIV Johan and bears his name.
- <sup>4</sup> Sven (Svante) Palm (1815–1899) had emigrated to America in 1844, settling in Austin, TX, where he was employed for a time by his nephew, Sven (Svante) Magnus Swenson. In 1866 he was appointed Swedish-Norwegian vice consul. — Nils William Olsson, *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York 1820–1850* (Stockholm and Chicago, 1967) (*SPANY*), p. 59.
- <sup>5</sup> Sven (Svante) Magnus Swenson (1816–1896), emigrated to America in 1836, coming to Texas two years later. He was probably the first Swedish immigrant to settle there. He became a successful merchant in Austin, and after the Civil War moved some of his operations to New York. He gradually expanded his banking business, cotton exports and real estate holdings to become a very wealthy man. — *SPANY*, pp. 18–19.
- <sup>6</sup> Probably Helena Sophia Appelqvist (1827– ), who after having given birth to two illegitimate children, apparently fathered by Eric Nordwall (see note 8 below), was married to him in the early 1850s. It is puzzling that Johan Fredrik Roos should refer to her as “my beloved Sophie”, both on Aug. 12 and Oct. 10. Was he aware of his real father’s interest in Sophie? Could his statement be interpreted as approbation for his father’s choice of Sophie as his new wife? Or did Johan Fredrik have his own designs? He was only six years older than Sophie, whereas his father was 27 years her senior. — Vadstena *Landsarkiv* (*VLA*).
- <sup>7</sup> One *Riksdaler* is worth approximately \$1.00.
- <sup>8</sup> Eric Nordwall (1800–1859) was born in Göteborg. He served in the Swedish Army as oboist and sergeant, being posted to both Kristianstad and Växjö. He resigned from the army and became a furrier in the latter place. His wife, with whom he had had four children, died in 1848. As time went on he initiated an acquaintanceship with Helena Sophia Appelqvist (see note 6 above), which resulted in the birth of one child and perhaps two. He legitimated the children when he married the mother in the early 1850s. While it cannot be proved, internal evidence points to Eric Nordwall as being the natural father of Johan Fredrik Roos. In a letter from Nordwall to Johan Fredrik, dated Växjö June 18, 1849, Nordwall asks if Johan Elias Roos (Johan Fredrik’s stepfather) is kind to his mother. He also signs the letter “Your faithful father”. — *VLA*; “Roos Collection”, Barker Texas History Center, Austin, TX.
- <sup>9</sup> Frederik VII was King of Denmark from 1848 to 1863.
- <sup>10</sup> His stepfather, Johan Elias Roos af Hjelmsäter.
- <sup>11</sup> Georg Martin Bååth (1819–1867), merchant in Kalmar, who absconded from his wife and family in 1850. He received a passport in Kalmar Sept. 21, 1850 for travel to Denmark, Germany, England and America. Whether he ever reached America is not known. He returned to Kalmar and died there. — *Svenska flottans pensionskassas verifikationer* (*SFP*), Royal Swedish War Archives, Stockholm; *VLA*; A. W. Lundberg, *Ur Skånska Båt-slåktens häfder* (Lund, 1905), pp. 136, 140–141.
- <sup>12</sup> The Sloman Shipping Line, one of the first German shipping firms to traffic the North Atlantic

- on a regular basis. In 1838 it began regular service between Hamburg and New York with sailing ships. In 1849 it inaugurated a service with steamships.
- <sup>13</sup> Johan Fredrik Roos is slightly confused. The name of the vessel was *Miles*, belonging to the Sloman Line. In the reconstructed ship's list for the *Miles*, the compiler, Clifford Neal Smith, accounts for only 58 passengers. The ship's manifest lists 58 steerage and 8 cabin passengers for a total of 68. — *N.Y. Port Manifest No. 1381*, 1850, National Archives; — Clifford Neal Smith, *Reconstructed Passenger Lists for 1850: Hamburg to Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile and the U.S.* (Multilithed, 1980–1981), List No. 47 (*Reconstructed Ships' Lists*).
- <sup>14</sup> C. C. Walther, pastor from Winsen in Hannover, was accompanied by his wife, Wilhelmine, two dau., Antonie, 19 and Laura, 17, as well as two s., 15 and 12. — *NY Passenger Lists*.
- <sup>15</sup> There were two farmers from Mecklenburg aboard the vessel — Johann Hennermann (Hinneman), 22 years old, shepherd from Ruhethal and Friedrich Wenzel, 32 years old, from Kleekamp. — *Reconstructed Ships' Lists*, No. 47; *NY Passenger Lists*.
- <sup>16</sup> The captain of the *Miles* was J. S. Ariansen. — *Reconstructed Ships' Lists*, No. 47.
- <sup>17</sup> Possibly Captain Lars Dannberg, who had brought the bark *Zebra* from Göteborg to New York Nov. 19, 1850 with 30 Swedish immigrants. — *SPANY*, pp. 264–266.
- <sup>18</sup> I. D. Roser is probably identical with John D. Ruser, clerk, 28 years old, who was a fellow passenger on the *Miles*. — *NY Passenger Lists*.
- <sup>19</sup> Deen is probably identical with F. Dehn, cooper, 40 years old, who was a fellow passenger on the *Miles*. — *NY Passenger Lists*.
- <sup>20</sup> Wellersburg in Southampton Township in Somerset Co., Pennsylvania, approximately 7 miles north of Cumberland.
- <sup>21</sup> There was no Philip Möller living in Southampton Township at this time. Roos probably refers to Conrad Miller, born in Germany, where his name would have been Möller. He was 22 years old, a sawyer, married with two children. The only other Miller living in the township was Israel Miller, a native Pennsylvanian. — *Seventh U.S. Census* (1850), Somerset, PA, p. 218.
- <sup>22</sup> Andrew Wagaman, a farmer living in Southampton Township. He was 28 years old, had a wife and four children and was worth \$1,500 in real property. The entire family was born in Pennsylvania. — *7th U.S. Census*, Somerset Co., PA, p. 218.
- <sup>23</sup> There were three farmers living in Southampton by the name of Poorbough, Adam, John and Philip. Adam was a bachelor, worth \$1,000 in real property; John was also worth \$1,000, had a wife and five sons; Philip was worth \$500 and had a wife and three children. All the Poorboughs were born in Pennsylvania. With whom Johan Fredrik Roos stayed is difficult to say. It may have been Philip, since he refers to Conrad Miller as Philip Möller. — *7th U.S. Census*, Somerset Co., PA, pp. 215, 219.
- <sup>24</sup> Berlin is located in Somerset Co., approximately 18 miles NNW from Wellersburg via a winding country road. The Wagamans must have resided approximately eight miles from Berlin, as corroborated by Johan Fredrik's entry on March 4, when he says that he walked from Wagamans to Wellersburg, a distance of ten miles. His statement that they only had three miles to Berlin must therefore be inaccurate.
- <sup>25</sup> Charles W. Roback (1811–1867). He was born Carl Johan Nilsson in Fallebo, Kristdala Parish (Kalm). May 22, 1811. From his birthplace he took the name of Fallenius. He was also known as "Fallebo Gök" ("The Cuckoo from Fallebo"), a nickname he garnered in his youth as a trickster and practical joker. In 1843 he fled to America from troublesome creditors, leaving his wife behind. In the U.S. he took the pseudonym Charles W. Roback, adding the titles of "professor" and "doctor" as it suited his fancy. He lived in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Cincinnati. He died in the latter city April 15, 1867. He was an impostor of considerable skill, claiming to heal the sick, detect crimes, predict the future and recover stolen property. It was as the purveyor of bogus medicines that the Philadelphia authorities had him arrested in 1851, according to an entry in Johan Fredrik Roos' diary for April 7. This did not dismay him, for he continued on to New York and Boston. In the latter city he published in 1854 a fanciful and bizarre account, *The Mysteries of Astrology and Wonders of Magic, Including a History of the Rise and Progress of Astrology, and the Various Branches of Necromancy, together with Valuable Directions and Suggestions Relative to the Casting of Nativities, Predictions of Geomancy, Chiromancy, Physiognomy, etc.* Toward the end of his life Roback mended his ways and made



- restitution to many in his home community in Kristdala who had suffered economic hardships because of his peccadilloes. — Måns Månsson [Måns Henrik Hultin], *Fallebo-Göken. Doktor Roback eller en svensk bonde i Amerika* (Stockholm, 1865); C. A. Carlsson, *Anteckningar om Kristdala socken* (Stockholm, 1900), p. 117; Alfred Söderström, *Blixtar på tidningshorisonten* (Warroad, MN, 1910), p. 83; C. Ax. Egerström, *Borta bra men hemma bäst* (Stockholm, 1859), pp. 56–59.
- <sup>26</sup> Ludvig Theodor Carlsson, born in the City Parish (*Stadsförsamlingen*) in Karlskrona June 4, 1827, the son of Sven Carlsson, drayman (*åkare*), and Britta Catharina Grönlund. He received a passport in Kalmar July 9, 1850 and arrived in Philadelphia Sept. 17, 1850 aboard the *Marie* from Stockholm. — *SFP*; Nils William Olsson, *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in U.S. Ports 1820–1850 (except New York)* (Stockholm and St. Paul, MN, 1979) (*SPAexNY*), 78–79; information courtesy Erik Wikén, Stockholm.
- <sup>27</sup> Probably identical with Andreas Löfblatt, male, 20 years old, native of Sweden, who arr. in New York May 25, 1850 aboard the bark *Franklin* from Hamburg. — *SPANY*, p. 210.
- <sup>28</sup> Probably identical with Birger Herrmann, male, 38 years old, blacksmith, native of Sweden, who arr. in New York June 29, 1850 aboard the *Helena Sloman*. — *SPANY*, pp. 210, 212.
- <sup>29</sup> The brother may be identical with Johann Herrmann, male, 28 years old, also a blacksmith and a native of Sweden, who arr. on the *Helena Sloman* June 29, 1850. These two Herrmanns are listed together on the manifest. — *SPANY*, pp. 210, 212.
- <sup>30</sup> Johan Philip Langlet arr. in Philadelphia Oct. 7, 1846 aboard the *Superb* from Göteborg. He was b. in Borås Aug. 12, 1795, s. Philip Langlet, dye manufacturer (*färgfabrikör*), and Brita Maria Rissling. After experiencing financial difficulties in Sweden, he emigr. to America, leaving wife and three s. behind. Very little is known of his subsequent career in this country. — *SPAexNY*, pp. 76, 77; information courtesy Olof Langlet, Ulricehamn, Sweden.
- <sup>31</sup> She is identical with Henrietta Ulrika Sjögren (she transposed her two Christian names in the U.S., calling herself Ulrika Henrietta), who arr. in Philadelphia from Göteborg aboard the *Superb* Oct. 7, 1846. She was b. in Mariestad Sept. 30, 1821, dau. Henrik Sjögren, prison official (*fånggevaldiger*), and Anna Andersdotter. She had taken the surname of Åberg from her previous employer, Carl Wilhelm Åberg, who had arr. in New Orleans in Feb. of the same year. Mrs. Åberg had a s., Carl Hjalmar Wilhelm Åberg, born out of wedlock Feb. 11, 1846, presumably the s. of Carl Wilhelm. According to a family tradition, she m. a Swedish sea captain in Philadelphia by the name of Sandgren. She d. in 1907. — *SPAexNY*, pp. 72–73; information courtesy Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr., Havertown, PA.
- <sup>32</sup> Joh[a]n Wilhelm (William) Nyström, male, 25 years old, mechanic and native of Sweden, arr. in New York July 12, 1849 aboard the bark *Charles Tottie* from Gävle. He was b. in Överum, Lofta Parish (Kalm.) Feb. 8, 1824, s. Jonas Nyström, blacksmith, and Anna Dorothea Hellberg. After studies at the Technological Institute in Stockholm 1844–1846, he was employed in the mechanical shops in Motala. In 1849 he emigr., settling in Philadelphia. His employment took him to such far-away places as Russia and Peru, South America. His classic text book on marine engineering, *Pocket Book of Mechanics and Engineering*, came out in 18 editions during his lifetime. He d. in Philadelphia in 1885. — *SPANY*, pp. 156–157; *VLA*; information courtesy Erik Wikén; *Svenska män och kvinnor* (Stockholm 1942–1955), V, pp. 583–584; Axel Paulin, *Svenska öden i Sydamerika* (Stockholm 1951), pp. 486–487.
- <sup>33</sup> He is possibly identical with Swen Schomann, male, 56 years old, farmer and native of Sweden, who arr. in New York June 29, 1850 aboard the *Helena Sloman*, accompanied by Anna Schomann, also 56 years old. — *SPANY*, p. 212.
- <sup>34</sup> An Anna Malmgren, female, 21 years old, native of Sweden, had arr. in New York June 1, 1848 aboard the bark *Charles Tottie* from Göteborg, with her mother, Catharine, 54 years old, and siblings, Justina, 18 years and Wilhelm, 16 years. There is the possibility that Johan Fredrik Roos is referring to Anna Malmgren in this entry. — *SPANY*, p. 140.
- <sup>35</sup> This could refer to either Nils Wengberg (1789–1882) an innkeeper in Göteborg, or his s. Nils Gustaf Wengberg (1823–1873), a jeweler. There is no evidence that either Wengberg visited the U.S., but the name is unusual and the fact that both came from Göteborg strengthens this hypothesis. — [L.M.V. Örnberg], *Svensk släkt-kalender*, IV, pp. 286–287.
- <sup>36</sup> There is a possibility that Roos is here referring to Carl Gustaf Weberg (sic!), male, 22 years old, native of Sweden, who arr. in New York Oct. 17, 1850 aboard the bark *Janet* from Stockholm. — *SPANY*, p. 250.
- <sup>37</sup> In all probability, Fredrik Damm, a farmer, b. in Göteborg in 1804 and residing in New York,

- where he received a passport May 14, 1842 from the Swedish consul in New York for travel to Sweden. He left Göteborg for England Aug. 18, 1842, after having visited relatives in Göteborg. — *Göteborgs och Bohus länsstyrelses journal över utländska resande i Göteborg (Journal of foreign Visitors to Göteborg)* in the archives of the county government for Göteborg and Bohus län in *Göteborgs Landsarkiv*.
- <sup>38</sup> Either of two brothers Wettergren, Axel Theodore, b. in Göteborg Sept. 15, 1831, s. Niklas Wettergren, merchant, and Helena Wallgren, or Frans Ludvig, b. March 3, 1827. Both received passports to America Sept. 18, 1849 and arr. in New York Oct. 18, 1849 aboard the *Carolina* from Göteborg. — *SPANY*, pp. 206–207; *SPAexNY*, p. 98; information courtesy Erik Wikén, Stockholm.
- <sup>39</sup> Claes Fredriksson, journeyman tinsmith, received passport in Göteborg Oct. 12, 1849 and arr. in Boston, Jan. 11, 1850 aboard the bark *Swan*. He was listed as being 28 years old. He was b. in Göteborg Jan. 8, 1833, s. Claes Anton Fredriksson, master tinsmith (*bleckslagaremästare*), and Caroline Charlotta Tranchell. — *SFP: SPAexNY*, p. 37; information courtesy Erik Wikén.
- <sup>40</sup> Captain C.L. Lundgren, who had brought the ship *Hebe* into the port of New York July 7, 1851 with 147 Swedish immigrants. He returned to Sweden on July 28. — *New York Passenger Arrivals*, Microfilm roll No. 101, National Archives.
- <sup>41</sup> The Cuba Expedition was an armed attempt by Cuban revolutionists, in 1850–1851, led by Narciso López (see note 42 below) together with American annexationists, primarily from southern United States, to free Cuba from Spain. — Richard W. Van Alstyne, "López Filibustering Expeditions" in *The Dictionary of American History* (New York, 1976), Vol. IV, p. 188.
- <sup>42</sup> Narciso López (1798–1851), a Venezuelan, who served in the Spanish colonial service. For a time domiciled in Cuba, he became disenchanted with the Spanish regime and began plotting to overthrow the colonial power. After one failed military mission, he again assembled an army, consisting of 450 men, mostly Americans, but also Hungarians, Germans and Cubans. His army landed in Pinar del Río, 60 miles from Havana. When he did not meet with support from the local populace, his mission was doomed and when Spanish reinforcements arrived, his men either capitulated or fled. López was publicly garroted in Havana Sept. 1, 1851. The second in command, W. L. Crittenden, an American, and 49 others were summarily shot. Most of the Americans were imprisoned in Spain, but were subsequently released. Historians disagree as to López' motives — did he envision Cuban independence or did he wish to see Cuba annexed to the U.S.? Though a grim failure, López' actions helped arouse Cubans for later uprisings against the Spanish. — Jaime Suchlicki, "N. López" in *The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Biography* (New York, 1973), Vol. VI, pp. 566–567; Samuel Flagg Bemis, *A Diplomatic History of the United States*, p. 316.
- <sup>43</sup> Unidentified.
- <sup>44</sup> There is a possibility that he might be identical with Swen Schomann (see note 33 above).
- <sup>45</sup> Svante M. Zachrisson, male, 25 years old, druggist, worth \$200 in real property, was living in Richmond, VA in 1850. He is doubtless identical with S. M. Zachrisson, manufacturer (*fabrikör*), who received passport in Göteborg Nov. 26, 1838 for travel to Boston and who arr. there Feb. 18, 1839 aboard the *Elizabeth* from Göteborg. On the manifest he is listed as a distiller. The Virginia census lists him as being b. in the state, which is of course erroneous — *SPAexNY*, p. 9; *SFP: 7th U.S. Census*, Hendrico Co., VA, p. 337.
- <sup>46</sup> A person named Charles Rosine, male, 38 years old, music master was residing in Richmond, VA in 1850 together with his family, consisting of his wife, Eliza F., 25 years old, born in Massachusetts and two boys, Charles, 7 years old and August, 3 years old, both b. in Virginia. The census lists him as having been b. in Switzerland, which is inaccurate. He was in reality Carl Folke Rosén, b. in Kalmar 1812, the s. of Folke Rosén, merchant, and Anna Christina Swars. He received a passport in Kalmar Nov. 20, 1837 for travel to Copenhagen, the European continent and America. He ultimately settled in Richmond where he taught foreign languages and music. On his return from a journey to Sweden in 1858 he was a passenger on the ill-fated steamship *Austria*, which caught fire on the Atlantic with the loss of 456 lives, including Carl Folke Rosén's. — *SFP: 7th U.S. Census*, Hendrico Co., VA, p. 349; [Anonymous], *Angskeppet Austrias brand* (Uppsala, 1865); *New York Times*, Oct. 23, 1858.
- <sup>47</sup> John Dahlberg, male, 40 years old, native of Sweden, was employed at the Exchange Hotel in

Richmond in 1850–1852. In the city directory for Richmond, he is listed as John Dalberg (Swede) and in the census records as John Dabberg (sic!). He may be identical with J. Alf. Dahlberg, born in 1832 in Gävle, a sailor, who jumped ship in New York in 1847. — *7th U.S. Census*, Hendrico Co., VA, p. 371; *Richmond City Directory for 1852*; *Gävle Sjömanshus Matriklar*, Vol. IX, Härnösand Landsarkiv.

Ångfästpet

## Austrias brand,

med 538 personer ombord, på resan från  
Hamburg till Newyork.

Eliden uppkom genom röfning med tjära.



Uppsala  
Wagn & Birgum. 1866.



Denne trykt af  
den Kungliga

Title page of Swedish brochure dealing with *Austria's* loss at sea.

- <sup>48</sup> City Point, VA, one of the earliest settlements in the state, is today incorporated into the city of Hopewell, VA.
- <sup>49</sup> Chagres, small town on the Caribbean side of what is today Panama, port at which the argonauts disembarked to make the overland trek through Panama, in order to continue their journey to the gold fields of California by sea.
- <sup>50</sup> Cape Henry, VA.
- <sup>51</sup> There were two merchants in Key West named Tift — Asa, 41 years old, was worth \$20,000 in real property and Charles, 31 years old. — *7th U.S. Census*, Monroe Co., FL, pp. 151, 152.
- <sup>52</sup> Nicholas Smith, male, 46 years old, merchant, native of Sweden, was worth \$10,000 in real property. — *7th U.S. Census*, Monroe Co., FL, p. 152.
- <sup>53</sup> Eyald Julius Timoleon Hammarström, b. in Skedemosse, Köping Parish on the island of Öland June 27, 1827, s. Nicolaus Hammarström, assistant forester (*vice jägmästare*), and Sophia Albertina Klingspor. He received a passport in Kalmar May 11, 1850 and arr. in Philadelphia Sept. 17 aboard the *Marie* from Stockholm. The last word from him was a letter to his mother, dated Apalachicola, FL Dec. 15, 1851. — *SFP*; *SPAexNY*, 151; information courtesy Erik Wikén.
- <sup>54</sup> William Petry, male, 39 years old, native of Germany, was a baker, residing in Apalachicola with his wife and five children. Mary Petry, 12 years old, according to the Census of 1850 was probably the *Marie* to whom Johan Fredrik alludes. — *7th U.S. Census*, Franklin Co., FL, p. 161.