6-1-1983

Some Comments on Swedish American By-Names

Arthur E. Granat

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

Part of the Genealogy Commons, and the Scandinavian Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol3/iss2/3

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.
Swedish American Genealogist

Swedish American Genealogist

28 Carl Borg is probably identical with Carl Borg, who emigrated from Bröllanda Parish (Älvs.) in 1876 and was admitted to the Swedish Brothers March 28, 1881. — Swedish Brothers, 51.
29 Mathilda Victoria Fogelberg was born in St. Anthony Park, MN.
30 Mabel Catherine Enieck was born in St. Paul, MN.
31 John T. Eckerstrom is probably identical with John F. Ekerström, who came from Hemmesjö Parish (Kron.) and who was admitted to the Swedish Brothers Feb. 13, 1879. — Swedish Brothers, 52.
32 Harold Frances Wilson was the adopted son of Swen and Emma Johnson.
33 Alice Charlotte Munson was born in Rio, IL.
34 Carl Luther Peterson was born in Rio, IL.
35 Herman Fredrik Peterson was born in Rio, IL.
36 Gerald Wessen Wicklund was born in Pipestone, MN.
37 Doubtless identical with Claus Alfred Fritzen (see note 12).
38 See note 16.

Some Comments on Swedish American By-Names

Henry Hanson's article, "Swedish American By-Names" in the December issue of SAG was very interesting. As a youngster in Springfield, MA I was interested in everything Swedish, probably because of my parents' membership in the local Vasa Order lodge and our family membership in the Bethesda Swedish Lutheran Church. I remember hearing that this Swede was a "Skåning" and another was a "Smålänning" and when still a third Swede was referred to as "Blekingen" I did not realize until years later that his real name was Anderson and the by-name was used to differentiate him from many other Andersons. A native of the province of Dalarna in Sweden is known as dalmas, shortened to mas. Two Johnson brothers from Avesta in that province named Johnson were known as "Stormasen" and "Lillmasen". Although they were not much different in size, one was more aggressive. This might have contributed to his being named "Big" and his brother "Small". The by-name may also have alluded to their ages. Another native from Dalarna, whose name I never did learn, was called "Masen" and he actually took the English surname Mason. We also had "Länge Erik" Erickson and in Worcester, MA I heard references made to "Mjölk" Anderson, presumably because he either distributed milk or owned a dairy.

In my father's birth parish of Algarås (Skar.) there was a farm named Saltpetersjudaretorpet (indicating that the owner at one time had been engaged in manufacturing saltpeter). One of his sons was known as Lars "Sjuars" Sigfrid. There was also "Johanna på fläskbacken" (Johanna on Bacon Hill) and "Elmer i korsvägen" (Elmer at the crossroads). Those are some examples from my own experience.

— Arthur E. Granat, Easthampton, MA