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A Swedish City Directory for Cleveland 1898

Nils William Olsson

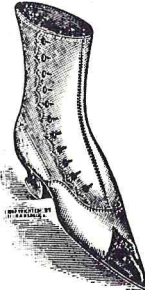
Scarcely had the ink dried on the article written by Tell G. Dahllöf of Stockholm, Sweden, in the Dec., 1982 issue of *SAG* (Vol. II, No. 4), entitled *Swedish American Directories*, when yet another Swedish city directory was unearthed in the holdings of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.¹ This work, printed for the Swedes, living in Cleveland, OH in 1898, is different from all of the others discussed in the pages of this journal. These were all printed in Swedish. The Cleveland item is printed in English and is a delightful little volume, measuring $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ in. It is entitled *Swedish Directory and Almanack Cleveland, Ohio 1898*, "Comprising an Alphabetical List of the Swedish People of this city, together with a Swedish Almanack and a Certified Map and Street Guide". It was published by The Swedish Directory Company of Cleveland and contains a total of 124 pages including a 16 page Swedish *Almanack* for 1898, published separately by the Engberg-Holmberg Publishing Company of Chicago, but bound together with the directory. On the inside of the title page there is the statement that the volume was copyrighted in 1897 by Carl Nyquist of Cleveland, Ohio and was printed by Carl Ohman, who had his shop at 269 St. Clair Street in Cleveland. The original cost of the paper covered book was 30 cents.

The compiler, who seems to have been Carl Nyquist, and who is listed as an ornamental ironworker, residing in the then suburb of Cleveland, Glenville, says the following in the foreword of the directory "we feel quite satisfied that it will be fully appreciated by the 4,500 Swedish speaking people of Cleveland (on the basis of 3 persons to each name appearing in the directory), and quite as freely referred to as any public directory".

The directory contains a total of 94 advertisements, many of them reflecting the trades, shops and establishments of Cleveland Swedes. The directory listings are brief but adequate. Here we find the names listed alphabetically, in most cases followed by a title, trade, occupation or profession of the individual listed. If the person listed is a widow, we often find the name of the deceased husband in the listing. Lastly follows the street address of the person listed. If this happens to be outside of the city proper, the name of the suburb is given.

The directory contains a total of 1,438 names of Swedes living in Cleveland in 1897, the year before the volume was published. The trades, occupations and professions of the Swedes residing in Cleveland at the end of the 19th century mirror very well the life and type of employment these persons had in a heavy industrial city. American Steel and Wire Company operated a rolling mill at the foot of 67th Street, where in 1896 a number of Swedes, having moved to Cleveland from Pennsylvania, found employment in the mill and in the shops where steel wire was produced.² This accounts for the relatively large number of Swedes listed in the directory as millhands, ironworkers, wireworkers and a total of 30 wire drawers. These were the handlers of the hot wire which passed from one machine to another in the process of reducing the gauge of the wire. The steel mill probably also absorbed such trades as rollers, with three Swedes listed, assistant rollers (2), heaters (8), rollturners (4), rodmill workers (11), machinists (40) and machinists' hands (3). To this group can be added such trades as grinders (7), riveter (1), rivetmaker (1), rougher (1), polisher (1), springmaker (1), toolmakers (3), trimmer (1), shearman (1) and winder (1).

Swedes have always excelled as craftsmen and we are therefore not surprised to find a total of 66 Swedes listed as carpenters, carpenter contractors, carpenter repairmen and cabinetmakers. Of other trades represented we find 18 blacksmiths, 1 horseshoer, 1 lithographer, 8 masons, stonecutters

<p>78 SWEDISH DIRECTORY.</p> <p>Patterson, Peter A., engineer, 116 Fifth Paulson, Albin, 436 Central av. Paulson, Anna Miss, 54 Fifth av. Paulson, August, patternmaker, 1145 St Clair Paulson, Elof, 221 Waring Paulson, Emil, coaldealer, 83 Church Paulson, Emma Miss, 33 Quincy Paulson, George H., clerk 109 Marvin av. Paulson, John, lab., 109 Bluestone Paulson, Nils, cabinetmaker, 407 Kirtland, Pearson, Alfred H., 66 Sibley Pearson, Andrew, helper, 13 Spencer Pearson, Andrew, 30 Bliss Pearson, Anna E., widow W., 554 Pearl Pearson, Chas., lab., 19 Norwich Pearson, Emma, Miss, 254 Luther Pearson, Enoch, molder, 115 Swiss Pearson, E. A., 154 Melrose av. Pearson, George, carp., 142 Elton Pearson, George, fitter, 323 Detroit Pearson, George B., lab., 50 Rawlings av. Pearson, Gustav, coachman, 100 Crawford rd. Pearson, Gustav A., painter, 16 Huff Pearson, Gustav A., coachman, 173 Dana Pearson, J. R., draftsman, 1001 Scovill Pearson, John, mach., 5 Wright Pearson, John A., coachman, 4 Norwood Pearson, William, teamster, 103 Stone Perleberg, August, janitor, 16 Monroe Persson, Ernest, heater, 1 Metta Peterson, Adam, patternmaker, 455 Quincy</p>	<p>CLEVELAND, OHIO. 79</p> <p>For your Shoes go to</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Barth's Shoe Store,</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Cor. Lorain and Burton Sts.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>Large Assortment at lowest Prices.</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">ELEGANT PREMIUMS GIVEN TO CUSTOMERS FREE.</p> <hr/> <h2 style="text-align: center;">CARL NYQUIST,</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">83 Gertrude St.,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">meddelar LIFVÖRSÄKRING i "FRIMURARNES" välkända Lifförsäkringsbolag.</p>
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Sample page from the Cleveland directory

and stone masons, 3 cigarmakers, 1 cooper, 20 painters, 8 patternmakers, 5 printers, 3 plasterers, 3 plumbers and steamfitters, 5 shoemakers, 1 tinner, 1 tanner, 1 bookbinder, 3 bricklayers, 1 boilermaker and one upholsterer. There were also 11 women listed as dressmakers and one vestmaker.

In the service category we find 3 waiters, 3 porters, one bartender, 21 clerks, 2 barbers and 2 agents. In the professional field Swedes were represented in the following categories: 3 doctors, 2 draftsmen, 2 inventors, 1 decorator, 13 engineers, one civil engineer, one mining engineer, one crayon artist, 15 foremen, 3 inspectors, one missionary, 2 mechanical engineers, one midwife, one nurse, 2 professors, 4 clergymen, one proprietor, 1 park policeman, one travel agent and 5 students.

Of the total number of Swedes listed a total of 47 are shown as being widows; there are 178 females listed as Miss and 126 females listed as being Mrs. A total of 177 persons have neither title nor profession after their names.

As a cross section of the lives and identities of close to 1,500 Swedes residing in Cleveland at the turn of the century, the document is of great value. Checked against other genealogical aids as the U.S. Census of 1900, the city directories of Cleveland for 1897 and 1898, the microfilmed church records of the Swedish churches in Cleveland at the time, as well as the naturalization records and vital city and county records, it should be possible to positively identify a major proportion of the Swedes listed in this very interesting document.

¹ The author is indebted to Dr. Joel W. Lundeen, acting archivist of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center and the staff comprising Kermit B. Westerberg and Lilly Setterdahl for kind assistance in locating this volume.

² Emil Forsberg, *Svenskarne i Cleveland* (Cleveland, 1911), p. 6.