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## What Happened to Olof Jönsson?

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# Milwaukee Naturalization Records

The Milwaukee County Historical Society has on file records (indexed) of naturalizations, and declarations of intent to become a naturalized citizen, for the Circuit and Municipal Courts (but not the Federal Court) in Milwaukee County for the period of 1837 to 1941.

Prior to 1906, these records only contain very basic information — name of the applicant, country and year of birth, port of entry to the United States and date (month and year), and date of application. After 1906, the record is much more complete and includes details on the applicant's physical appearance, information on port of embarkation, place of last foreign residence, and name of vessel, family data (if applicable), and occupation, for some files after 1930, a photo of the applicant is also included.

A fee of \$4.00 per subject is charged for research into these files and for copies of basic records. Inquiries should be addressed to the Curator of Research Collections, Milwaukee County Historical Society, 910 North 3rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Since many Scandinavian immigrants disembarked in Milwaukee rather than Chicago in the 19th century, chances of finding one's Scandinavian ancestor's naturalization document in Milwaukee County are quite good.

## What Happened to Olof Jönsson?

Occasionally an obscure item turns up in a Swedish parish register which triggers a response that demands further investigation. In the household examination roll for 1791–1798 for Torp Parish on the island of Orust in Göteborg and Bohus *län* we find an entry which causes us to want to learn more. Living at a croft (*torp*) named Åsen, which in turn was a part of a larger farm, also named Torp was the following household:

Jöns Olofsson, b. 1729	}	Moved to Tegneby
Wife Kerstin Håkansdotter, b. 1725		Parish (ca. 1795)
Son Olof Jönsson, b. 1760 — Married in America		

There are no exit registers for Torp Parish this early thus the only information we have concerning Olof Jönsson's emigration is this notice. We know nothing else about him. We can only guess. Since the island of Orust, just north of Göteborg, has for centuries furnished Sweden with a host of sailors, it is possible that Olof Jönsson went to sea, arrived in America and there found his wife.

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<sup>1</sup> *Torp Parish AI:1 (1791–1798)* in the provincial archives of Göteborg (*Göteborgs Landsarkiv*).