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# Swedish Bible Records

Nils William Olsson

The inventory of Swedish Bible records with genealogical significance was instituted in the first issue of *Swedish American Genealogist* as an aid to those, who perhaps in Bibles and devotional literature may find a clue to their origins in Sweden. Readers are referred to the opening remarks in this section, which briefly reviewed the two general types of Bible inscriptions — those with the owner's notes, often written down years after the fact, and here called Type A Bibles. Where the notations and dedications were done by the parish clergyman at the time of an official church function as a baptism, a communion or a wedding, the inscription takes on an official standing and is labeled Type B.

The Bibles and other devotional literature, from which additional examples are cited here, all emanate from the vast collection of such books in the archives of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. These entries are coded with an ASI number, and xerox copies may be ordered by writing to *Genealogical Bibles* and including \$5.00 for service costs in locating the item and furnishing xerox copies of the material.

Only genealogical information found in these Bibles is extracted, other matter such as quotations from the Bible, the Swedish Psalmbook and the pious notations made in many of these books is omitted. The spelling of Swedish place names has been normalized and certain abbreviations and contractions have been done to save space.

ASI-12, Type A. *The Holy Bible* (Stockholm, n.d.). It has the following inscription on the flyleaf:

This Bible belongs to me, Carl Otto Nilsson on Västerlund Farm, given to me by my father at my first Holy Communion on June 2, 1873.

On the back of the flyleaf is the following:

This Holy Book belongs to me, Carl Otto Nilsson, b. in Bostorp's Johansgård in Lenhovda Parish (Kron.) July 5, 1858. My wife, Hilda Fredrika Gustafsdotter, was b. in Kärskeskrub, Åsheda Parish (Kron.) Aug. 1, 1854. My s. Carl Mannfred, b. in Forsa Mill, also in Lenhovda, Aug. 28, 1882; my dau. Syster Nanny, b. Sept. 19, 1884; my dau. Martha Helvi Sylvia, b. in Knivingaryd, Bäckebo Parish (Kalm.) Sept. 21, 1886; my dau. Edith Julia Francis, b. in Lindstrom, MN Oct. 27, 1888; my s. James Angus Louis, b. Nov. 6, 1890 and my dau. Agda Eufemia Alvida, b. in Lindstrom Nov. 12, 1893.



ASI-13, Type A. Related to item ASI-12 is the following, Hakvin Spegel's *Guds Werk och Hwila (God's Creation and Rest)* (Norrrköping 1745). On the last page of the text, just below the end ornament is the following:



This book belongs to me, Jonas Jonsson in Kållehylte, Åsheda Parish.

On the flyleaf is the following:

I bought this book at an auction after Jonas Jonsson, a pensioner (*undantagsman*) in Åkvarn, Älghult Parish (Kron.). He had bought it at an auction after the deceased juror (*nämndeman*) in Åsheda Kärsegård named Zacharias Danielsson.

On the other side of the flyleaf is the following:

This belongs to me, Gustaf Pettersson in Kärskeskruv, Åsheda April 26, 1862.

Just below follows:

This book I have bought at an auction after the deceased Lisa Pettersdotter in Kärskeskruv April 6, 1886. Carl Otto Nilsson and his wife, Hilda F. Gustafsdotter in Forsa Mill June 10, 1886.



ASI-14, Type A. This item is related to both ASI-12 and ASI-13. It is Lorentz Christopher Retzius' *Christeliga Predikningar (Christian Sermons)* (Stockholm, 1880). On the flyleaf is the following notation:

These evangelical sermons belong to Carl O. Nilsson Vägershult, Lenhovda Parish Aug. 12, 1881.

Below is written:

Mr. Carl Otis, Lindstrom, MN (Did Carl Otto Nilsson change his name to Carl Otis, after arriving in Lindstrom?)



ASI-15, Type A. *The Holy Bible* (Stockholm, 1837) is a gift to the American Swedish Institute from Hildur Anderson Kasmirsky of Minneapolis. On the flyleaf and carrying over to the flyleaf at the back of the book is the following:

This Bible belongs to Henrik Båll. He bought it from Pastor Stalin in Forshem March 9, 1838 for 1 *Riksdaler*, 4 *Sk. Riksgälds*.

Soldier Bålld (sic!) was b. Dec. 28, 1813. His wife, Stina Andersdotter was b. March 13, 1811. They were m. Sept. 8, 1839. Their dau. Anna was b. July 10, 1838; dau. Maria Cajsa b. April 27, 1842, d. Nov. 2, 1850; dau. Greta b. Nov. 5, 1844; dau. Johanna b. April 16, 1847; s. Johannes b. May 24, 1848; dau. Lotta b. May 14, 1850; dau. Christina b. June 12, 1852; s. Anders b. Dec. 17, 1855; dau. Augusta b. Sept. 28, 1866; s. Frank b. March 29, 1870, d. May 9, 1904; dau. Hannah b. Feb. 14, 1873; s. Axel b. June 1, 1876 and Harry b. April 12, 1885.

On Sept. 28, 1839 we moved here to Ramsbacken in Fullösa Parish (Skar.)

(Pastor Johan Stalin (1770–1852) was the pastor in the Forshem Parish (Skar.) from 1829 to 1852. It is possible that soldier Båll(d) was b. in Forshem, and then in 1839 moved to the neighboring parish of Fullösa).



ASI-16, Type B. *The New Testament* (Stockholm, 1869).

On the front flyleaf is the following:

Anna Margreta Nylander, Gullgruva, in memory of her first Holy Communion in Skog Parish (Gävl.) July 3, 1870.



ASI-17, Type A. *Doct. Mart. Luthers Lilla Cateches, med Förklaring af Doct. Ol. Swebilus (Dr. Martin Luther's Little Catechism with interpretations by Dr. Ol. Swebilus)* (Lund, 1854). On the inside of the front cover is the following:

This book belongs to Sissa Pehrsson in Näsrum (Krist.)



ASI-18, Type A. *The Holy Bible* (Helsingfors, n.d.). On the flyleaf is the following notation:

Anna Erickson, b. in Karlskoga Parish (Öre.) Nov. 10, 1841, and residing in Flöjshammar in Grythyttan Parish (Öre.), was m. Oct. 29, 1865 to John Erickson, a servant (*dräng*) from Sörby in Grythyttan.



ASI-19, Type B. *The New Testament* (Stockholm, 1876). On the flyleaf is the following:

Ingrid Olsdotter, b. March 22, 1862. This book is given to her at her first Holy Communion in the Österåker Parish Church (Söd.) the Second Sunday after Trinity 1877. Signed by the pastor of the church, Fredrik August Thavenius (1813–1888), pastor in Österåker from 1850 to 1888.



ASI-20, Type A. Johan Arndt, *Fyra Anderika Böcker om En Sann Kristendom (Four Spiritual Books Concerning a True Christianity)* Örebro, 1849). On the inside of the flyleaf there is the following:

This belongs to Elsa E. Nelson, née Ekström. This is a gift from my late mother. Elna Magnusdotter, Vanstad Parish (Malm.).

Paxton and Sangamon, IL January 25, 1863.

Arrived from Sweden to New York October 7, 1863.



ASI-21, Type A. *The New Testament* (Stockholm, 1819). The following inscription is to be found on the inside of the front cover:

Olof Mårtensson Ullberg, Anna Ullberg, his wife, in Galtström, Njurunda Parish (VN) are the rightful owners of this Bible 1827.

On the inside of the back cover is the following:

Olof Mårtensson b. May 4, 1796

His wife b. May 4, 1796 (sic!), d. April 29, 1862

s. Martin b. Jan. 4, 1819

dau. Anna Stina b. Feb. 26, 1823

dau. Märta Cajsa b. April 26, 1825

dau. Sigrid Brita b. July 31, 1829

s. Olof b. May 24, 1833

dau. Carolina Gustava b. Dec. 5, 1840



Thörig

Elsa C. Nelson  
född Ekström

den är en skänk af dess längeseda  
bäddangångna moder

Elna Magnusdotter  
Wanstad,  
Färs Härad, Malmöhus Län, Sverige  
(Sweden)

Paxton & Sangamon Illinois  
Januari 25<sup>th</sup> 1864.

antenn från Sw. till New York  
Oktober 7<sup>th</sup> 1869.