Swedish American Genealogist

A quarterly journal devoted to Swedish American biography, genealogy and personal history

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Genealogically Speaking

The publication of a new genealogical journal may seem quite superfluous at a time when many of such journals seem to be as ephemeral as the life of a dragonfly. Despite the heavy odds which seem to marshall against an undertaking of this kind, the editor has sensed for some time the need for a special forum, beamed at Swedish America. Other ethnic groups have for some time presented genealogical journals. The Norwegian Americans have published almost a score of issues of Norwegian Tracks and though the Swedish Americans have been slow to follow suit, they have on the other hand for more than thirty years proved through the pages of The Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly that a journal devoted to Swedish immigrant research is not only possible, but also highly successful.

It is therefore the aim of SAG (and we trust that this acronym does not connote any negative characteristic of the magazine’s contents or style) to be a forum in which readers will find inspiration, assistance and enthusiasm in furthering their own genealogical studies. We are happy to have as associate editors five excellent authorities. Glen E. Brolander has published several books on his own family, one branch being descended from the Swedish Ugglafamily. Prof. Sten Carlsson of the University of Uppsala, is one of the leading historians in Sweden, who has written widely in the field of personal history. Carl-Erik Johansson is assistant professor of history at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT and has published a very useful tool for genealogical research, Cradled in Sweden. Henric Sollbe of Norrköping, Sweden, is the guiding spirit in the Genealogical Society of Sweden and is a very busy lecturer on genealogy. Dr. Erik Wikén, classical scholar in Sweden, has also done research on early Swedish emigration to the United States. He will be making contributions to the journal from time to time.

Finally we should say that SAG belongs to its readers. By letting us know what you desire, we shall hope to be able to meet those desires. More of the program of the future will appear in subsequent issues of SAG.
The Swedes in Illinois
– A Centennial

Nils William Olsson

The centennial of the appearance in Chicago in 1880 of Eric Johnson’s and C. F. Peterson’s Svenskarne i Illinois (The Swedes in Illinois) has gone virtually unnoticed and yet the publication of this pioneer work by two Swedish immigrant journalists, nine years after the disastrous Chicago Fire of 1871, was a feat of such magnitude that it remains to this day a standard reference work on the early Swedes in Illinois. Moreover, the almost 1,000 biographies to be found in the volume constitute one of the best genealogical sources for those Americans of Swedish descent who can trace their family story back a hundred years ago to the Prairie State.

Node and Peterson were not historians, but primarily journalists working in the midst of their compatriots, editing their Swedish newspapers, which circulated throughout the Swedish settlements in northwestern Illinois as well as in Chicago. They were thus in an excellent position to know the people they saw daily, in their interviews, in their editorial offices, and while mingling with Swedes wherever they congregated. They were thus able to get the immigrants’ stories first-hand, to learn of their origin in Sweden, of their arduous journey across the ocean and their subsequent movement to the Middle West in search of a new existence.

It is tempting a hundred years later to criticize the authors’ lack of historical acumen, the absence of source references in their work, the missing bibliography and the non-existence of an index. We must keep in mind, however, that Johnson and Peterson were self-taught journalists, who went about their task of recording the fates of their fellow countrymen because they had a consummate fear that unless they did so, the memories of these early days would be lost forever. The authors stress this fact in the foreword of their book, when they state that:

“No one will deny the desirability of having at our disposal a chronicle depicting the first appearance in this state of our own nationality. Because of this and also because it is already quite difficult to rescue from oblivion the memories we value and hold dear, it is therefore not too soon — to attempt this task.”

What do we know concerning the co-authors? Very little, indeed, beyond the brief biographical accounts in the standard Swedish reference works.

Eric Johnson was the son of the well-known Erik Jansson, founder and
leader of the Erik Jansson movement in Sweden, which ultimately was responsible for the emigration to the prairies of Illinois of more than 1,500 Swedes, mostly to the communalistic colony of Bishop Hill in Henry County. Eric Johnson was born in Österunda Parish, Västmanland län July 15, 1838 and was thus eight years old when in 1846 he accompanied his family to America. On the long journey from New York to Illinois he received his first instruction in English from Sophia Pollock, an Erik Jansson follower. She was born in Göteborg, but had spent a number of years in New York and had married an American, who operated a school, had educated Sophia and had given her an assistantship in the school. She came under the sway of Erik Jansson and followed him to Bishop Hill with her unwilling husband. When he died she married Erik Jansson, who in the meantime had become a widower. Thus she became Eric’s stepmother. There is little doubt that the English instruction Eric received from Sophia Pollock was of great help to him in his later journalistic career.

Eric Johnson had one more year of schooling in the colony school in 1856, after which he worked in the colony store and helped work the family farm. In 1861 he volunteered for service in the Union Army and joined the “Swedish” Company D of the 57th Illinois Volunteer Regiment. He was quickly promoted to lieutenant and in September of 1862 he was made captain, a title he retained to his dying days. A health problem developed and at the urging of the army surgeons he resigned his commission and sought a healthier climate. He now began a career which interspersed newspaper publishing with merchandising. He bought, edited and sold in quick succession The Galva Union of Galva, IL and The Altona Mirror of Altona, IL. In the meantime he also acquired The Galva Republican. In 1869 he founded The Illinois Swede, which in 1870 was renamed Nya Verlden. When the latter newspaper was moved to Chicago in 1871, he divested himself of his share and remained in Galva. During the same year he also sold The Galva Republican, severing his connection with the newspaper publishing business for a time. He tried his hand at merchandising, politics and selling real estate in Kansas. All of these ventures failed and he returned to Illinois, settling in Nekoma in 1876. Once more he entered merchandising, only to once more fail. It was at this stage that he joined Peterson in a new project, aimed at telling the story of the Swedes in Illinois.

After the appearance of this work in the following year, he returned to newspaper publishing, starting The Swedish Citizen in Galva November 26, 1880, but relinquished it two years later. During the next few years he served as a state legislator in Nebraska, spent a few years in Washington, DC, working for the War Department, and finally went to Texas to sell real estate. From 1896 to 1906 he published The Wahoo Era in Wahoo, NE. In 1906 he began his last journalistic venture, the publication of The Viking, devoted to American Scandinavian life and culture. As so many of Johnson’s ventures, it also floundered after but a few months. Johnson then moved to California and from there back to Omaha, NE, where he died May 18, 1919.
Carl Fredrik Petter Peterson, the co-author, was born in Fittja in the Parish of Botkyrka, Stockholm län April 16, 1843 and was thus Eric Johnson’s junior by five years. He was eighteen years old when he emigrated to America in 1861 and immediately volunteered his services in the Union cause. His nearsightedness kept him out of the Army and he began a career of various jobs — working as a deck hand on a Mississippi steamer running between Saint Louis and New Orleans, as a section hand on the railroad, as a wood-cutter, a farm laborer and factory hand. In the meanwhile he used every opportunity to improve himself.

In 1870 he became editor of Minnesota Tidning in Saint Paul, MN, a job which lasted but four months. His experience, though, gave him the opportunity in Galva, IL, where he met and became co-editor with Eric Johnson of The Illinois Swede in the fall of 1870. He stayed to see the name changed to Nya Verlden, and co-edited the newspaper together with Johnson until January 20, 1871, when the paper and Peterson moved to Chicago. Johnson, in the meanwhile, remained in Galva.

He was to remain in Chicago for the remainder of his life, staying with Nya Verlden until 1877, when it merged with Nya Svenska Amerikanaren to become Svenska Tribunen. Peterson stayed on as chief editor until 1880, and as assistant editor until 1884, when he bought a fourth share of Svenska Amerikanaren and joined its staff. Here he stayed until 1888. In 1888–1889 he was the editor of Svea and in 1890–1891 of Aftonbladet Skandia, both published in Chicago. In 1901 he assumed the editorship in Chicago of Nationaltidningen, but remained at this post only a few months. He died in Chicago June 11, 1901.

During the last fifteen years of his life Peterson devoted much of his time to writing historical and cultural articles. In 1885 he brought out Förenta Staternas historia (The History of the United States), translated both into Finnish and Norwegian and used for many years in Scandinavian immigrant circles. In 1890 he published Amerikanska vältalare (American Orators); in 1891 Republiken och dess institutioner (The Republic and its Institutions) and finally in 1898 Sverige i Amerika (Sweden in America).

A comparison of the two men responsible for Svenskarne i Illinois is quite difficult due to the lack of contemporary records. Johnson seems to have been an impetuous character with little staying power. He was the most prolific Swedish newspaper publisher in America, having started or published more than a half score of them. Except for his co-editorship with Peterson, we have very little evidence of his ability as a writer except for the material contained in his newspapers. Peterson, on the other hand, was an extremely gifted writer, who if he had enjoyed a formal education, would have gone very far.

This brings us to attempting to analyze who was responsible for what in the team effort that produced Svenskarne i Illinois. We know that Peterson, living in Chicago, must have been the man at the headquarters. His newspaper was published by Wahlfrid Williamson, a Swedish printer from Trelleborg, Sweden, who had arrived in America at the age of 19, and who, through ambition and hard work, had managed in two short years to become foreman at Nya Verlden’s...
printing plant. Four years later he bought the plant which then became the W. Williamson Printing Company, located at 1-3 North Clark Street.

It was no accident, therefore, that Williamson became the publisher of Johnson’s and Peterson’s work. Peterson was in the shop daily, editing his newspaper, and could thus tend to the editing, proofreading and make-up of the volume in question.

Johnson, on the other hand, seems to have been the field man, living as he did in Nekoma. His close family ties with Bishop Hill and his long associations with Galva, Altona and the neighboring Swedish settlements had given him valuable connections which he used very well to create his part of the story.

Certainly Johnson wrote the chapters on the history of the Bishop Hill colony and its leaders. This material was quite familiar to him and throughout this chapter one senses a certain sympathy for the colony and its leader. This was home territory to him.

Peterson, however, having lived in Chicago for almost ten years, was probably responsible for the material dealing with this city and its many Swedes — more than 25% of the biographies hail from Chicago.

That Peterson seems to have had the final say in deciding on the contents of the book is best proved by the fact that while Johnson’s picture is one of nineteen in the work and his biography consumes more than a full page, Peterson’s picture, as well as biography, are missing.

Whether Peterson had access to written sources, living as he did in Chicago, is uncertain. Both authors disclaim their dependence on such materials and claim in their foreword that they had no help:

“from the tiniest written source, but we have had to make personal visits to hundreds of our compatriots, from whose memories we have had to extricate information concerning the earliest phases of the settlements.”

_Svenskarne i Illinois_ contains a rich and rewarding lode of genealogical information. The first part of the work dealing with the settlements themselves bristles with facts and information concerning the early settlers and their families. Here we learn of their origin, their time of arrival, their pioneer experiences and their family ties. The second part of the book is biographical, containing almost a thousand biographies of Swedes who arrived in the Middle West before 1880 and who were then still living. These biographies are loaded with genealogical data. For the greater part of them, all but thirty, the authors have been able to cite the city or parish of birth in Sweden as well as the birth date. There follow short resumés of their activities before and after emigrating. In most cases the marriages are noted, the name of the spouse, and where he or she hailed from in Sweden, sometimes the date of birth and occasionally information concerning children. For Americans whose roots go back a hundred years or more and who can follow their lines back to the Swedish settlements in Illinois, this amazing work can be very helpful.
In order to show the breadth and extensiveness of these biographies, they are here listed by city, county and township:

**Cities**

- **Chicago** 242
- **Elgin** 15
- **Galesburg** 60
- **Geneva** 7
- **Kewanee** 2
- **Knoxville** 10
- **Moline** 54

**Cities**

- **Monmouth** 8
- **Paxton** 22
- **Princeton** 31
- **Rantoul** 3
- **Rockford** 74
- **Rock Island** 16
- **Sycamore** 10

**Counties**

- **Bureau** Wyanet Township 7
- **Fulton** " Union 2
- **Henry** " Andover 46
- **Cambridge** " 16
- **Clover** " 8
- **Galva** " 45
- **Geneseo** " 11
- **Lynn** " 28
- **Munson** " 2
- **Osco** " 14
- **Oxford** " 9
- **Weller** " 86
- **Western** " 30
- **Wethersfield** 1

**Counties**

- **Iroquois** Beaver Township 18
- **Sheldon** " 1
- **Knox** Lynn 1
- **Nekoma** " 1
- **Ontario** " 2
- **Sparta** " 12
- **Victoria and Copley** 21
- **Walnut Grove** " 10
- **Mercer** Mercer 6
- **New Boston** " 2
- **New Windsor** " 13
- **Sankt** Toulon 2
- **Illinois Swedes** "
- **Miscellaneous residing in Nebraska** 7

Excellent as *Svenskarne i Illinois* is as a genealogical source, containing information concerning thousands of early Swedes in Illinois, the work should be used with extreme care. Again it should be kept in mind that Johnson and Peterson were journalists — they did not pretend to be historians. They have told us that they did not use written sources, that they instead visited hundreds of their fellow countrymen to gather the information contained in their work. They must have anticipated criticism for they say in their foreword that:

"We have conscientiously sought to check the information we received and we know that the older countrymen whom we have mentioned are in agreement that we have not written down our information at random."

Be that as it may, there were often "slips between the cup and the lip". Errors due to poor aural comprehension and errors while copying down the information abound, and even though the interviewers may have written down the information received correctly, much could have happened as the material wandered from the typewriter to the proofreader to the make-ready and to the final product. Aural misconceptions predominate, in which the interviewer has
not grasped fully the statement given by the person interviewed. We find such errors as the following, with the Swedish län given in parentheses: Frysända for Fryksände (Värmland); Kristala and Krigsdala for Kristdala (Kalmar); Österlunda for Österunda (Västmanland); Jerrbro for Järbo (Gävleborg); Färlla for Färlöv (Kristianstad); Vasarum for Virserum (Kalmar); Munkaljunga for Munkaljungby (Kristianstad); Ocker for Åker (Jönköping); Östra Karp for Östra Karup (Halland); Gersäter for Gesäter (Ålvsborg); Grusmark for Gräsmark (Värmland); Östra Göinge for Östra Göinge (Kristianstad); Härsveda for Härsveda (Kristianstad); Andershöstra for Angerdshestra (Jönköping); Stimbelt for Stenbrohult (Kronoberg); Boviken for Oviken (Jämtland); Omuts bruk for Åmotsbruk (Gävleborg); and Örken for Örkened (Kristianstad).

Some of the scribal errors are quite obvious and were not caught by the proofreader. Some of these are as follows: Firserum for Tirserum (today Tidersrum in Östergötland); Sonneberga for Löinneberga (Kalmar); Sannaskede for Lannaskede (Jönköping); Sormestorp for Tormestorp (in Brönnestad Parish, Malmöhus) and Sällaryd for Sällaryd (Jönköping).

These examples are cited to demonstrate how the researcher must be on guard as he analyzes the biographical and genealogical information. We all know that the most important link across the ocean is the knowledge of the precise parish from which one’s ancestor comes. With care Svenskarne i Illinois can become a useful genealogical tool. It should be added that not all of these place names can be deciphered. There are some garbles that frustrate and stump the most ambitious researcher, but these are in the minority.

On balance we should be grateful to the two Swedish journalists who came upon the idea a hundred years ago to give us this study of the early Swedish settlements in Illinois and the people who settled there.

It is unfortunate that Svenskarne i Illinois has not been translated into English. Portions of it are well worth it. In the meanwhile any scholar with a minimum Swedish vocabulary and armed with a good Swedish-English dictionary should have little trouble penetrating the genealogical information in this worthwhile study.

Bibliography

Johnson, Eric and C. F. Peterson, Svenskarne i Illinois, Chicago, 1880.
Lundstedt, Bernhard, Svenska tidningar och tidskrifter utgifna inom Nord-Amerikas Förenta Stater, Stockholm, 1886.
Declarations of Intention
by Swedes in Rockford
1859–1870

Nils William Olsson

Declarations of intention to become United States citizens and the final naturalization documents are among the best sources for determining the presence in a given community of early Swedish settlers. Up until the time that the law was changed in 1906, with the establishment of the Immigration and Naturalization Service under the U.S. Department of Justice, which then took over the sole function of the naturalization of foreign subjects, any foreigner in the United States had been able to secure his or her naturalization in almost any court of justice, ranging from the U.S. District courts to the police courts of individual cities and towns.

Any foreigner coming to the United States could become a citizen of this country, after having resided here a minimum of five years, renouncing his loyalty to the sovereign of the country of his birth, and after having taken out the "first paper" or the declaration of intention, which could be done a year after arrival.

For immigrants who were naturalized before 1906, therefore, the naturalization records as well as the declarations of intention may be found in almost every court in the United States, except where the records have been transferred to central archival institutions or have been lost through fire, neglect or because of the upheavals wrought by the Civil War.

The information contained in these records will vary from court to court. If the searcher is fortunate, he might find such valuable genealogical data as the birth date of the applicant, his city or province of birth, the time of his arrival in the United States, the port of arrival and in some rare instances even the name of the vessel which brought him to this country. At the other end of the spectrum one will usually only get the name of the applicant, his date of declaration or naturalization as well as the name of the court, and perhaps the names of the witnesses who aided in the naturalization process.

The city of Rockford, located in Winnebago County, Illinois, is one of the most Swedish communities in the United States and one can expect to find here a great deal of information concerning early declarations and naturalizations. In checking the early records in the well organized and pleasant surroundings of the modern court house the writer came across three early volumes which have been
helpful in pinpointing the presence of early Swedish settlers in Winnebago County.

The first volume which stems from the earliest period, before the heavy flow of Swedish immigrants descended upon the city, contains relatively few Scandinavian names. Unfortunately the first volume carries no signum. Its spine is missing, but internal evidence shows that it contains naturalizations for Winnebago County, extending from Oct. 13, 1851 to Oct. 2, 1858. The information contained in this volume is quite sparse — usually only the names, the nationality, the date of naturalization and the names of the two witnesses who appeared at the ceremonies. Only fourteen names are Swedish or Norwegian, the difficulty being that inasmuch as Norway and Sweden were united under a dual monarchy during most of the 19th Century under a Swedish sovereign, it is sometimes difficult to determine whether the applicant was Norwegian or Swedish. An analysis of the names, however, shows that the greater part of the fourteen names listed must be Norwegian. The names of those naturalized between 1852 and 1858 are listed here with the date of naturalization:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Witnesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 1852</td>
<td>Christopher Kittleson</td>
<td>William Randall and David Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27, 1852</td>
<td>Gunald Halwerson</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Aslack</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Hallowell Anderson</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3, 1853</td>
<td>John Christensen</td>
<td>G. W. Elliott and William Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Thore Torgersen</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Mogens Swennungson</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lars Johan Suckow</td>
<td>William Morris and John R. Henning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27, 1854</td>
<td>Lars Nielson</td>
<td>S. R. Franklin and Augustus Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7, 1857</td>
<td>Johns Pederson</td>
<td>John Peterson and John Fraley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 27, 1858</td>
<td>Augustus Johnson</td>
<td>Peter Johnson and Peter Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27, 1858</td>
<td>John Olson</td>
<td>A. Johnson and C. J. Carlson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30, 1858</td>
<td>John Nelson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next volume carries the signum A and is titled *Final Naturalization Record*. It runs from 1860 to 1890. For some reason, unfortunately, there is a lacuna between 1860 and 1877. Certainly there must have been naturalizations during these seventeen years, even though the Civil War years intervened. What happened is difficult to ascertain. Perhaps this volume after the year of 1860 was misplaced, and another volume, now not extant was used, which carried up to 1877, when this volume again came into use. There are only five names recorded during 1860. Since this study is limited to Swedes in Rockford before 1870, no names from 1877 on have been included. The five names from 1860 are as follows and all are undoubtedly Swedish:
Declarations of Intention by Swedes in Rockford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Witnesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3, 1860</td>
<td>Charles Anderson</td>
<td>John Telander and Peter Hokenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7, 1860</td>
<td>John Svenson Smith</td>
<td>Augustus Johnson and Charles J. Charleson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10, 1860</td>
<td>Isaac Lundgren</td>
<td>James Albert and Augustus Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Joseph Hogland</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 14, 1860</td>
<td>Magnus Forsburg</td>
<td>Andrew Andreen and John Anderson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The third volume and by far the most voluminous is a record of *Declarations of Intention* and runs from February 1, 1859 to December 7, 1888. The information contained in these declarations is quite sparse indeed, being concentrated to the name of the applicant, his or her nationality and the date the declaration was filed. Since the declaration could be filed at any time after the first year after the arrival in the United States, there is no way of determining from the declaration how long the applicant had resided in this country. Again, as for the other volumes, the applicant’s foreign allegiance is given as the Kingdom of Sweden and Norway. This means that we cannot be quite sure if the applicant is Norwegian or Swedish. Therefore all of them have been listed, except in two or three instances, where he has indicated that he is a subject of Norway solely and where his name obviously has a Norwegian ring to it.

One important fact concerning these declarations should be emphasized. They have all been signed by the applicant, except in such cases where he was illiterate and the clerk of court wrote his name, but asked the applicant to indicate by his mark (x) that he was indeed the individual making the declaration. Where the applicant actually signed his name, we are able to witness how he originally spelled his name and how it was used in Sweden, before he had succumbed to the custom used by so many of his fellow immigrants, either anglicizing his name or dropping the patronymic in favor of a taken family name.

At times the applicant used only his initials, but the clerk has often supplied the first or Christian name. In such instances the first name is to be found within parentheses. Parentheses have also been used to indicate instances where the applicant inadvertently dropped letters as he signed his name.

In the autumn of 1930, Herman G. Nelson, popular Rockford journalist, wrote a series of articles on the early Swedes in Rockford for the *Rockford Morning Star*, highlighting their achievements in industry, civic affairs, politics, church life as well as their very active involvement in the Civil War. Many of those listed in the declarations below can be found in Mr. Nelson’s highly interesting narratives.

The following Swedes (and perhaps a few Norwegians) declared their intention of becoming United States citizens in the County Court of Winnebago, Rockford, Illinois from 1859 to 1870:
Date       Name

**1859**
Feb. 11 — Gustaf Andersson
Feb. 21 — Magnus P. Lindahl
March 8 — Peter J. Henberg
March 19 — Johannes Abrahamsson
April 27 — Christopher Hansen; Andreas Hansen
Aug. 8 — Isaac Linquist
Sept. 19 — Ephraim Andersson
Oct. 19 — C. Christopher Lunde

**1860**
Feb. 17 — Anton Hendrickson (x), his mark; Ole Larson (x), his mark
Feb. 23 — Peter Benson (x), his mark
Feb. 24 — Christopher Kittleson
March 17 — Peter Lindahl
March 20 — Abraham Johnson
April 5 — Jerome Patterson
April 7 — Ole Pettersson; Petter Hakansson
April 10 — Gustaf Pettersson
May 31 — Micha(e)l Olson
June 18 — Olaus Pettersson
Aug. 7 — Nyquist Johansson
Sept. 26 — Andrew Peterson (x), his mark; Seaver Anderson (x), his mark
Oct. 17 — Frank Anderson
Nov. 20 — Andro Androson
Dec. 1 — Nels Olson (x), his mark
Dec. 29 — Christopher Heide

**1861**
Feb. 10 — Knud Swenningson
Feb. 24 — Carl Fredrick Gustafson
March 15 — Charles Anderson (x), his mark
April 2 — Louis Svenson
Aug. 2 — Ole Christian (x), his mark; Johan Hansen
Aug. 4 — Alexander Anderson

**1864**
Nov. 23 — Carl Johan Andersson
Date Name
1865 June 24 — Ole Andreas Tallakson
July 10 — Janne Olstrum; Johanna Clifford
Sept. 30 — Andrew Borg (x), his mark
Nov. 22 — John Goransson
Dec. 13 — Frank Enoch
1866 Jan. 10 — Anders Qvist; Andrew Floberg; Johan Johnson
Jan. 15 — Jonas Johnson
Jan. 16 — Swen Welin; Jacob Welin; Charles I. Welen (Welin?); Elias Magnus Nilson
Feb. 27 — Charles John Nelson
March 20 — Lars Molander (x), his mark; Andrew Floberg (x), his mark
Aug. 22 — Andro G. Edberg
Sept. 26 — A. Engelbrektson
Oct. 10 — Gustavus Peters
Oct. 20 — Swan L. G. Johnson; Andreas Snäll
Dec. 7 — Jonas Pettersson
Dec. 15 — Adolf Colsen (x), his mark
Dec. 18 — Swen Peterson (x), his mark; Andrew Adamson (x), his mark
1867 Feb. 5 — A. (Andrew) Holmquist
Feb. 20 — Carl Gustaf Peterson
March 4 — F. Lundquist; S. R. Anderson; Jon Petter Berglund
June 19 — Andrew A. Anderson
Oct. 23 — John Lind (x), his mark
Nov. 9 — L. (Lars) Noling
1868 March 7 — Otto Petersson; Charly F. Hultstrom
March 9 — J. A. Pettersson; Anders Holm; Joh. Jaldman; Gustaf Carlsson
March 10 — Johan Stenström; Andrew G. Friborg; Sven Flygare; Johan August Danjelsson
March 11 — Petter Johansson; Gustaf Floborg; Johan Gren
March 12 — S. J. Pettersson; Gustaf Melin; John Lend (Lind?); Bengt Nilsson; Endro (Andrew?) Isackson
March 25 — Andrew Leonard Dahlgren; Johan Allgoth Danielsson; Johan August Jönsson; Johan Fabian Nordstr(o)hm; Charle(s) Huldt; Frank Adrian Söderström; Gustave Peter Johnson; C. M. Lundberg; Jonas Peter Johnson; John Henry Beckman; Augustus Kling
Date | Name
---|---
March 30 | Gustaf Alfred Hellberg
March 31 | P. A. Wennerström
April 3 | Claes Johanson
April 4 | Andrew Linberg (x), his mark
April 14 | Andrew Kellgren
April 16 | Gustaf Sanden
June 19 | John A. Kling
Aug. 1 | Jöns Nilsson
Aug. 8 | Andrew Carlsson; Andreas Linder
Aug. 15 | August Bredberg
Aug. 28 | Charly Theo. Anderson
Sept. 8 | A. P. Edstrom; A. Stromberg
Sept. 17 | Gustaf Alfred Boman
Sept. 19 | Knut Mauritz Ohman
Sept. 29 | Charles Söderberg; Charles John Liljequist
Sept. 30 | Fredrick Anderson; Frank O. Linden; Isac August Peterson
Oct. 2 | Charles A. Anderson; A. (Adolphus) Bowman; Nils T. Thompson; Andreas Bergsten
Oct. 3 | Francis B. Mattson; Hans Melander; August Lindstedt; John Lunden; Jan P. Sjögren; Peter Hägglund; Olof Johanson; John C. Brolin; Charles Oscar Bowman
Oct. 5 | Johan(n)es Ával(l); Johannes F. Benson; John Benson; Axel Johnson; August Kjellgren; Charley Edvard Borg; L. P. Linstrom; A. P. Bergstedt; Johan(n)es A. Halander
Oct. 6 | Per Andersson; Cha(r)le(s) Booman; Melcker Frank; Lars Rothsten; August Bergman; Isak Peter Lindbeck; John Challgren
Oct. 7 | O. (Olof) Rose; Gustaf Janson; C. (Charles) Moberg; Ferdinand Boman; Johan August Grans; Johan Sköld; Peter Settergren; Anders Bred; Johan August Nilsson; Lars Fihn; Johan Petter Larson; Gustaf Häggqvist; Gustaf Petterson; Swan Adamson; Gustaf Försäll; G. W. Wästerström; Jan Larsson; Gustaf Samuelson; Anen Jansson; Jon Peter Swanson; Charles H. Johnson; Frans Os(c)ar Runnqvist; Johan August Petersson; C. A. Isacsson; John P. Ny; Johannes Gabrielsson
Oct. 8 | August Wallentinsson; A. (Andrew) Svensson; Isak Danielson; P. (Peter) G. Johanson; L. G. Andersson; Sven August Fagerqvist; Johan Andersson; Lars Wallentinsson; Carl Otto Lundgren; N. G. Stockenburg; N. P. Nygren; Carl Jonsson; Cha(r)les Englund; Anders Stenstrom
Oct. 9 | A. (August) Nygren; A. (August) Sjöblom; Charles Paterton; Peter Larson; P. (Peter) G. (Gus) Bowman; Adolf Carlsson; A. (Anders) N. Nolting; John Noling; Anders Kjellberg; Lewis (Lars) Westergren; P. (Peter) M. Melander
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Charles Jasperson; Sam. Johnson Kjellgren; Johan Olson; A. G. Andersson; Samuel Johnson; P. J. Holmqvist</td>
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<td>Charles Wallin; Andrew P. Anderson</td>
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<td>Abraham Isakson Langen; John Benson; F. (Frederick) Pohl</td>
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<td>Christoffer Gustafsson; Carl Swärd</td>
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<td>Andrew Anderson (x), his mark</td>
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<td>Oct. 28</td>
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<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Ole Fredrickson (x), his mark</td>
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<td>John Johnson</td>
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1869

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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Carl Nordstrom; Jonas Petter Källqvist; August Lind; S. A. Johnson-</td>
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<td>March 30</td>
<td>Peter Wanstrom; S. P. Wennerström; Johannes Svensson; Svante Moberg; Anders Ekzaell; Andrew Svanstrom; Gustaf Berlof; Johan Fredrick Setterlund; Johan Emanuel Nilsson (x), his mark; Frans Falk; Johan August Beckman</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
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<td>John Buckland (x), his mark; John Sundgren (x), his mark</td>
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May 24 — Charles Roos; Hans Ljungberg; Jan Petter Stenstrom; Petter Johansson
May 25 — F. W. Jonson; A. F. Jonson (x), his mark
May 26 — Johan P. Soderquist; C. A. Ostrom (x), his mark; C. W. Carlsson
May 31 — Charles G. Yderen
June 5 — Olaus Andersson
June 17 — John Carlsson (x), his mark; Fred Carlsson (x), his mark
June 23 — John Westergren (x), his mark
June 28 — Johan Svanbom; Gustaf Edlin; Gustaf Gislen; Johan Kjellgren
June 12 — Carl Johan Soderqwist; Anders G. Frid (x), his mark; Anders Nyberg
Aug. 14 — John A. Hultquist; Gustaf A. Hultquist; John P. Hult; Gustaf Lungn; John W. Johnson; John Gaust
Aug. 21 — Anton Anderson
Sept. 28 — Johan Kling
Oct. 9 — Ole C. Johanson
Oct. 12 — Carl Andersson
Oct. 14 — Johan Andersson (x), his mark; J. P. Stockhus
Nov. 23 — Carl Andersson
Nov. 25 — Lars Stenström
Dec. 10 — Lars Johan Seger
Dec. 13 — P. L. Norlund; Jonas Larsson
Dec. 20 — Ola Rossenlund (sic!)

1870

Jan. 3 — Frid Walus; John Bruszer; A. W. Sander; Anders Johnsson
Feb. 4 — J. O. Lundvall; Charles A. Lundvall
Feb. 7 — Alexander Sanberg; C. A. Stockhus
Feb. 8 — Hagen Andersoon
March 2 — J. Johansson; Johan Lind; Alexander Lind
March 9 — Joel Kling
April 11 — Charles John Rosenquist; Gustaf A. Johnson
June 13 — Frans L. Carlsson; Claes A. Carlsson; Gustaf F. Carlsson
June 20 — Carl Gustaf Johansson
Oct. 17 — John J. Bucklund
Oct. 22 — Charles Barquest (x), his mark
Nov. 9 — G. Flodell
Nov. 29 — G. J. Jonsson
Dec. 10 — A. G. Sävfgren
Dec. 31 — Isak P. Forsberg; John Johnson
One item which almost every immigrant carried with him in the baggage was a copy of the Holy Bible or the New Testament. It was a "must" ingredient in the packing procedure, placed on the bottom of the emigrant chest as the emigrant in spe made his preparations for the journey across the Atlantic. These copies of the Bible or the New Testament were usually of two types, which we shall here call Type A and Type B.

Type A. These were Bibles, usually heirlooms, handed down from father to son or daughter. They represent printings going back to the early Nineteenth or even the latter part of the Eighteenth Centuries. Many of these, so called "heirloom" types, contain notations on the flyleaf, or on the inside of the front or back covers, and sometimes even on the blank pages which separate the Old Testament from the New. These notations usually consist of pithy comments on the purchase price of the Bible, where purchased (usually at a county or village fair), or perhaps a note that the book had been inherited and from whom. There may be comments concerning the owner of the Bible, from which farm, village or parish he hailed, and occasionally family data concerning births, marriages and deaths. On rare occasions one can also find information as to when the owner departed for America or when he arrived at an American port of entry.

Type B. These were the so called Confirmation Bibles and New Testaments which were the gifts of the home parish to the young confirmands on the day they took their first Holy Communion and thus made their entry into adulthood, usually at the age of 14 or 15. The typical inscription was made by the minister of the congregation, either the clergyman or his curate, and consists of the name of the confirmand, sometimes the name of the farm or village, and almost certainly the name of the parish, the date of the Confirmation, a reference to a Bible verse and finally the signature of the officiating cleric. These inscriptions or dedications by the minister, can therefore be classified as official and as such constitute primary source material for the person researching his genealogy.

Even though the inscription may not give the birth date of the confirmand, it is fairly easy to extract this information by going to the confirmation rolls of the parish, which each Swedish officiating clergyman had to keep and which then became a part of the official record of his ministerial acts, as important in a way
as his record of births, marriages and deaths. If the confirmation took place within the last 100 years, chances are that the confirmation records of the parish will show the identity of the confirmand. If the confirmation act took place longer ago than 100 years, the recorded information would have been transferred to one of the provincial archives in Sweden, responsible for the safekeeping of the parish records in that district.

The data contained in these two types differ, therefore, in that Type A Bibles and New Testaments were usually inscribed by the owner or owners, sometimes after the fact — such as a birth or a death. The owner was often unlettered, his hand more accustomed to the plow than to the pen. Information contained in Type A Bibles should therefore be used with caution and should most certainly be checked against data found in the official documents. Nevertheless data found in Type A Bibles can be useful in helping pinpoint relevant information, when all other sources fail.

The material to be found in Confirmation Bibles and New Testaments, or the Type B variant, is considered to be virtually prima facie evidence and is fairly reliable.

Immigrants may not have read their Bibles and New Testaments, but they held such books in deep reverence and would not think of consigning them to the trash bin. They were retained when much other material was discarded. Hence, there is to be found an enormous quantity of Swedish Bibles, New Testaments, books of sermons, and catechisms in church libraries, retirement centers, college libraries of Swedish provenance and such institutions as The American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, The Swedish Pioneer Historical Society in Chicago and The American Swedish Historical Foundation in Philadelphia — all these repositories for the Swedish books which latter-day descendants were loath to throw away. There are literally hundreds upon hundreds of these devotional books in these collections.

Tempting as it may be for these institutions to cry: “Enough is enough”, when flooded with gifts of Swedish Bibles and New Testaments, it is nevertheless very important that any Bible or New Testament, as well as catechisms, psalm books and postils containing genealogical information be preserved in some manner, so that the message contained on the flyleaves, title pages and on the inside covers of these books may be preserved for posterity, perhaps to provide the sole link which could tie the latter-day descendant of an immigrant to his parish of origin in Sweden.

Because so many of the Bibles and New Testaments are on deposit in these institutions, containing valuable genealogical information, it is the aim and purpose of Swedish American Genealogist to bring to its readers on a continuing basis extracts from such devotional books, in the hope that the inscriptions they contain may be helpful in solving genealogical problems. They will be assigned numbers, translated from the Swedish with personal and geographical names spelled to coincide with modern Swedish orthography. The first series of these inscriptions features devotional literature on deposit at The American Swedish
Institute in Minneapolis, to which institution the genealogical student may turn to request a xerox copy of the data available. The charge for this service is $5.00, which covers the cost of bringing the book in question from the archives and having the material reproduced. Send all such inquiries to Genealogical Bibles, The American Swedish Institute, 2601 Oakland Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407. Be sure to cite the ASI number of material desired.

ASI — 1. This is a Type A Bible, printed in Stockholm 1874. It came into the possession of The American Swedish Institute in 1980 and has the following inscription on the inside of the front cover:

"Samuel August Andersson, Skräddartorpet, Vartofo Parish April 25, 187- (the last digit illegible)."

Note: Skräddartorpet is a croft in the Parish of Vartofo, Skar. län, just south of Falköping. On a loose scrap of paper, found in the Bible, are the following names:

"Blenda Ellen Victoria, born April 27, 1883
Arthur Henry William, born May 4, 1887
Olga Hedvig Henrika, born March 25, 1889."

ASI — 2. This Bible, printed in Örebro in 1849 is a Type A, but contains a Type B notation at the beginning:

"Botilla Nilssdotter in remembrance of her Confirmation February 17, 1871. John 8:31."

On a loose sheet inserted in the Bible is the following notation:

"We gave this Bible to the American Swedish Institute for Mrs. Okerlund, born Botilda Nelson in Nunnäs, Fulltofta Parish (Malm län), who came to America in 1886, died in 1913 and was buried near the Walla Church in New Effington, SD."

ASI — 3. Type A Bible was printed in the U.S. but lacks information concerning date and place of printing. Between the pages, separating the Old and the New Testaments, is the following notation:

"It is herewith declared that Lawrence Pearson from Sweden and Gerda Johanson from Sweden were united in Holy Matrimony according to the Ordinances of God and the laws of the State of Alabama August 1, 1896. Witnesses were David and Hulda Karlborn and Rudolph and Lydia Pearson, all from Mobile, AL.

Lawrence Pearson was born December 15, 1867
Gerda Pearson was born March 26, 1859
Sonja Anita (Pearson) was born May 15, 1897; died June 27, 1897
Elin (Pearson) was born January 11, 1899
Vera (Pearson) was born January 22, 1905; died January 10, 1906
Elin Pearson and Thomas William Mayo were married on January 24, 1925
Thomas William Mayo, Jr. was born October 24, 1925.
Donald Gene Mayo was born October 23, 1935.

ASI — 4. This Type A Bible was printed in Stockholm (no date) and has the following notation:
“This book belongs to Brita Andersdotter Rapp in Hällåsen, Hassela Parish, Gävl. län as a remembrance from her father on her journey to America 1861.”

On the back of the title page of the New Testament part is the following notation:
“Erick Olson was born in Bergsjö Parish, Gävl. län March 2, 1837
Britt Andersson was born in Hällåsen, Hassela Parish December 12, 1835
Oscar Leonard was born in Henry County, IL October 19, 1870
Blanche Adelia was born in Sac County, IA July 16, 1874”

ASI — 5. Samuel Ödmann’s Geographiskt Hand-Lexicon öfver Nya Testamentets Heliga Skrifter, printed in Uppsala in 1799, is a Type A book and has the following inscription:
“Carl Z. Pontén” as well as a book label No. 284 from the library of C. J. Johnson, (well-known book collector in Minneapolis).

On the reverse side of the title page is the following notation:
“This book belongs to me, Henrik Zachariasson in Broholm, Barkeryd Parish, Jön. län.”

ASI — 6. Henric Schartau’s Predikningar, published in Stockholm in 1865 is a Type A book and has the following notation on the inside of the front cover:
“Per Nilsson, No. 13, Tunnby.” Below this is a signature of “Mrs. E. D. Johnson”.

On the fly leaf facing the back cover is the following inscription:
“Mrs. E. D. Johnson, Willmar, Minnesota.”

Note: Tunnby may be identical with a village by that name in the Parish of Norra Äkarp, Krist. län.

ASI — 7. A badly damaged copy of Daniel Nohrborg’s Postilla without year and date of printing, but with internal evidence showing that it stems from the late 18th Century, is a Type A book with the following notation on the inside of the front cover:
“Olof Persson is the owner of this postil in 1797 and is born in 1769.
Maria Lovisa Carlson 1849; Carl Carlson in Råbäcken; Olof Carlsson in Råbäcken; Jonas Carlsson Råbäcken 1881.”

On the inside of the back cover is the following writing:
“Carl Carlson in Unbyn, Råbäcken (Överluleå Parish, Norr. län) 1849; Maria Lovisa Carlson, Unbyn, Råbäcken is the rightful owner of this book; Carl Carlson in Unbyn, Råbäcken is the rightful owner; Maria Lovisa Carlson in Unbyn, Råbäcken is the rightful owner of this book 1853; Agatha Albertina Carlson — Olof Carlson in Råbäcken 1819.”

Continued on the inside of the back cover is the following information:

“1797 to 1908 is 111 years ago. This book has gone through the third generation. It first belonged to Olof Person, next to Carl Carlson and next to Mrs. Charley Johnson. This was written July 30, 1908 in Pelican Rapids, MN.”

☆ ☆ ☆

ASI — 8. An illustrated family Bible, printed in Stockholm (no date) is a Type A book and has the following information on the inside of the front cover:

“This Holy Bible belongs to C. E. Hammarström and his wife, Inga Elisabeth. Axel Ferdinand was born June 12, 1870.”

On the flyleaf is the following:

“C. E. Hammarström was born 1831; his wife Inga Elisabeth was born May 22, 18-- (last two digits are illegible). Their son Carl Johan was born November 21, 1855 and died April 27, 1859. Their daughter Hulda Elisabeth was born December 10, 1857. Daughter Hilda Christina was born May 24, 1860. Son Carl Johan was born October 4, 1862. Son Axel Ferdinand was born October 11, 1865 and died September 18, 1866. Daughter Anna Axelina was born September 27, 1867. Son Axel Ferdinand was born June 12, 1870 and died August 7, 1871. Son Axel Otto was born August 5, 1872.”

☆ ☆ ☆

ASI — 9. A New Testament, printed in Stockholm in 1864 is a Type A book with the following notation on the inside of the front cover:

“This book belongs to me Anna Maria Andersdotter in Planen August 24, 1882.”

On the flyleaf is the following information:

“Martha Catharina Nilsdotter was born July 20, 1850 and was confirmed May 6, 1866. This book belongs to Johannes Danielsson. This Bible belongs to Nils Peter Samuelsson in Ulvagraven and I have bought it at auction after Märta Catharina Nilsdotter in Espetuna December 27, 187-(last digit is illegible). This book belongs to me Johannes Danielsson in Planen of Sjöatorp Postgården. Johannes Danielsson was born 1864. This book belongs to me Christian Johannesdotter in Planen, born 1864. This book belongs to me Anders Johan Johannesson. This Bible belongs to Johannes Danielsson in Planen of Sjöatorp Postgården 1883.”

Note: Espetuna and Ulvagraven are located in Blådinge Parish, Kron. län. The names of Planen and Sjöatorp can be found in many parishes in Småland.

☆ ☆ ☆

(continued on page 25)
Immigrant Artifacts as Aids to Genealogical Research

Nils William Olsson

Artifacts brought over by immigrants from Sweden can sometimes be of help in genealogical research, particularly when such items carry identification marks, such as owner's names, or initials, the year the item was made, occasionally the farm, village or parish of the owner, and in the case of the immigrant chest itself, perhaps even the destination in the United States and the route the immigrant took to arrive at his final destination.

Limited as he was in what he was able to bring over from his native country, he concerned himself mostly with such artifacts which he deemed would be of most practical use in a new and different environment — the immigrant chest or trunk itself, which not only served its purpose as a trunk on the journey, but later could be used for storage purposes in the small prairie home or city dwelling, as well for sitting on and perhaps even as a table. Additionally he was likely to bring with him a spinning wheel, perhaps a loom, wool carders, small storage boxes, mostly of wood, tools, textiles and clothing, samplers, occasionally silver and pewter items, such as spoons, snuff boxes, mugs, platters, plates, salvers and beakers. Such items were often decorated with the owner's initials. Oddly enough, only a few brass and copper items examined have owners' marks, perhaps because copper and brass were in plentiful supply and were thought of as utility items, rather than mementos and keepsakes from the old world.

Items with complete names seldom give us problems. It is in the decipherment of owners' initials that problems arise. First of all one must understand the system itself. Since most of the early arrivals in America were rural immigrants, they usually had patronymic surnames. This system of names goes back to the Greek word *patrónumíkos*, meaning father's name, and has been used in Sweden as far back as there are written records. Very few people had family names and a person was known by his first or Christian name given to him or her at the time of baptism. In order to differentiate him or her from others with identical Christian names, the father's first name was added with the word *Son* or *Dotter*, depending upon the sex of the child. A lad baptized Sven, who was the son of Anders, became Sven Anders Son. A daughter named Christina became Christina Anders Dotter. It was not until the latter part of the 19th Century that the
patronymic and the words -son and -dotter were conjoined to form Andersson and Andersdotter.

Older immigrant artifacts, particularly wooden items, textiles and tools, therefore, always bore three initials, the first standing for the Christian or baptismal name, the second, the initial of the father’s Christian name and finally the letter S or D, depending on the owner’s sex.

The decipherment of initials found on immigrant artifacts must, therefore, be very chancy and can easily lead to errors. The problem of decoding these initials must, therefore, proceed with a great deal of caution. On the other hand these initials can be useful in corroborating other evidence. Thus, if an immigrant chest, which we know belonged to an immigrant by the name of Anders Andersson, who emigrated in 1868 and which bears the initials A A S, the year of emigration and the parish name of Leksand in Dalarne, we can be fairly certain that the initials belong to this immigrant. By searching the parish records for Leksand we might find his name, his year of emigration and if these bits of information check out, we can thus determine his origin, his birth data and the names of his parents.

Some time ago a sterling silver snuff box (Fig. 1) surfaced at an antique show in Minneapolis. The box was of Swedish provenance, having been manufactured in 1840 in the city of Hudiksvall in the north central part of Sweden by a well-known silversmith named Lars Löfgren. The box bears the initials S M D with the additional words I Killbo (In Killbo) According to Svensk
ortförteckning\(^1\) there are two villages in Sweden named Kilbo (Killbo in the vernacular), both in the same general area of Sweden — one in Söderala, a parish to the south and one in Färila Parish to the west. Of these two villages we can probably eliminate the Kilbo in Söderala on the outskirts of the city of Söderhamn. Any silver object ordered or purchased for someone in Kilbo in Söderala would doubtless have come from Söderhamn, which was a prominent center of merchants and craftspeople.

Färila Parish, being farther north, has its trade route with Hudiksvall, along the valley of the Ljusnan River, which empties into the Gulf of Bothnia. It would be natural for people in this valley to trade in Hudiksvall.

Among the many Swedes who emigrated to the United States in 1850 was a contingent of farmers from Färila Parish, numbering at least 36 persons, who arrived in New York aboard the bark Maria on September 3. Of this group, two families came from Kilbo — an army sergeant named Pehr Rehnström with his wife Carin Pehrsdotter and a farmer named Johan Ersson with his wife Sigrid Månsdotter. Though it is difficult to prove that the silver snuff box in question actually belonged to Sigrid Månsdotter with the initials S M D, it is tempting to conjecture that she was the original owner. By checking the church records of Färila Parish we find that Sigrid Månsdotter was born in the village of Svedja Dec. 19, 1813, the daughter of Måns Jonsson, a farmer, and Brita Pehrsdotter.\(^2\)

Another immigrant artifact, (Fig. 2), much easier to identify, is also a silver snuff box, the origin of which we find in Chicago, IL. It is a beautiful item, made of coin silver and housed in a handsome velvet lined leather case, made by an early Swedish silversmith in Chicago by the name of L. F. Hussander, born in Levide Parish on the Swedish island of Gotland. He had arrived in America in 1868 and had opened a silversmithy in Chicago in 1870.\(^3\) The snuff box in question was a custom made job to honor the president of the Svea Society of Chicago, J. M. Schönhäcken, one of the founders of the society in 1857, who on April 25, 1873 celebrated his 57th birthday. The snuff box was suitably engraved for the occasion:

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"Minne af Vänner inom Sällskapet Svea till J. M. Shönbeck (sic!) på hans 57e Födelsedag den 25e April 1873."
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In translation the engraving states that this was a memento to J. M. Schönhäcken from his friends in the Svea Society on his 57th birthday April 25, 1873.

The story of John Mathias Schönhäcken is the saga of an early Swedish immigrant, who arrived in Chicago in 1847 and became one of the leading figures in Swedish American circles. He was born in Riseberga Parish, Malm. län April 25, 1816, the son of Christian Schönhäcken, rector and provost of the parish, and Ella Botilla Sorbon. Schönhäcken was for many years vestryman in the Swedish St. Ansgarius Episcopal Church, Chicago, where he became a warm personal friend of its rector, Gustaf Unonius. He died in Chicago Oct. 2, 1873, less than six months after having been honored by his brother members of the Svea Society.\(^4\)

Though books, and in particular, devotional books, do not actually belong in the category of artifacts, it is of interest to students of early Swedish immigration
to the U.S., that a unique literary item came to light in Chicago in the fall of 1950 with the discovery of a copy of the original edition of Erik Jansson’s Några Sånger samt Böner (Some Psalms and Prayers), printed in Söderhamn in 1846 (Fig. 3). This item combines the fates of three early Swedish immigrants to the United States. Erik Jansson was the prime mover of a sect named for him, who, approximately 1,500 strong settled in Bishop Hill, IL between 1846 and the early 1850’s. He was born in Biskopshulta, Väst. län Dec. 21, 1808, the son of a farmer named Jan Mattson, and died in Bishop Hill, IL May 13, 1850 at the hands of an assassin. His hymnal was published in a second and enlarged edition in Galva,
Fig. 3. Title page of Erik Jansson’s *Några Sånger samt Böner* with O. G. Lange’s imprint.

IL in 1857 by Svante Ulric Cronsoe, early Swedish printer in the Middle West (1817–1881).⁶

Carl Gustaf Blombergsson, the printer of the hymnal, was a warm friend of Erik Jansson, and had printed the book in his printing shop in Ina, Söderala Parish, outside of the city of Söderhamn. He had also emigrated to America in 1846, approximately at the same time as Jansson and was a member of the Bishop Hill colony. He died in Hanktown, CA of scurvy, probably Oct. 11, 1850 on a mining mission to the gold fields.⁷

The third name allied with this particular hymnal is that of O. G. Lange, whose imprint is to be found on the title page as an insurance broker in Chicago. Lange, who had arrived for the first time in Boston, MA in 1824, was the son of a furrier in Göteborg named Fredrik Lange. He was only 13 years old when he
arrived to the U.S. as a cabin boy aboard an American sailing vessel. He sailed out of Boston for fourteen years before moving on to Chicago, arriving there in 1838, most certainly as one of the earliest Swedes to settle in that city. The title page also bears the autograph of Lange.  

These examples will suffice to show that much can be learned from clues provided by artifacts brought over by the immigrants. No item is too insignificant in building up a body of evidence which ultimately may provide the solution to a thorny genealogical problem.

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2 Färila Parish Records, Härnösand landsarkiv, Härnösand.  
6 Ornberg, Victor, Svensk slägt-kalender för år 1887, Stockholm, 1886, p. 68.  
8 Skarstedt, Ernst, Vagabond och redaktör, Seattle, 1914, p. 37.

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Swedish Genealogical Bibles  
*(continued from page 19)*

ASI — 10. Martin Luther’s Little Catechism, printed in Göteborg (no date) has the following notation on the inside of the front cover:

“Anna born in Hjärtum Parish (Göt. län) April 3, 1847. Mathias Andersson 1851.”

On the inside of the back cover is the following:

“This book belongs to me Anna Catharina Andersson, Trollhättan December 9, 1851.”

Stars

ASI — 11. A Bible, printed in Lund in 1880 is a Type B book and has the following notation on the flyleaf:

“Ernst Adrian Olsson on his Confirmation Day in Vanstad Parish April 20, 1900.”

Note: Vanstad is a parish in Malm. län.
What’s in a Swedish Surname?

Nils William Olsson

The use of surnames in Sweden is of comparatively late date. Prior to the 15th and 16th Centuries, all Swedes used patronymics, i.e. the father’s name in conjunction with the word -son (son) or -dotter (daughter). This practice was not unique in Sweden, but existed in practically all European cultures. Whereas in Sweden the patronymic was a suffix, coming at the end of the father’s baptismal name, it was a prefix in the British Isles, where the word Fitz (from the French fils meaning son) was prefixed to the father’s Christian name, thus giving rise to such forms as Fitzgerald, Fitzpatrick and Fitzsimmons. In Ireland the prefix was O’ as in O’Connell, O’Grady and O’Neill. In Scotland where the word for son was Mac, patronymics became MacAdams, MacCarthy and MacDonald.

It should be emphasized that the patronymic is not identical with a family name. It was not until the latter part of the 19th Century that the patronymic in Sweden congealed to become a family name. Before that time it had changed with each generation. Thus persons named Sven and Anna, the children of Anders, were known as Sven Andersson and Anna Andersdotter. If Sven in turn had a son, he became Svensson and his daughter became Svensdotter. Iceland is the only Scandinavian country today, which retains the system of patronymics. Even the telephone directories follow this custom by listing Icelandic telephone subscribers by their Christian names. The patronymic follows in second place.

Aristocratic Names

By the 15th and 16th Centuries family names begin appearing in Sweden, at first confined almost exclusively to the aristocracy, somewhat later but in a parallel development to what was happening in the British Isles and on the Continent. At first the family name was simply an identifier added to the patronymic. This identifier was usually the symbol emblazoned on the field of the escutcheon, thus Ture Jönsson Tre Rosor, a Swedish political leader, who died in 1532 was named thus because of the three roses inscribed on his coat of arms. Gustaf I (1521–1560), the first of the modern kings of Sweden was known as Gustaf Eriksson Vasa or Vase because of the fact that his escutcheon was inscribed with a vase (fasces in English). One of the oldest Swedish families of
nobility used an escutcheon on which the chief or upper half was emblazoned in gold, the lower half or base was inscribed in blue. In the popular jargon of the day the family which carried this heraldic emblem was first known as *Dag och Natt*, later changed to *Natt och Dag* (Night and Day), a name carried by the family to the present time.

Sweden’s House of Nobles (*Riddarhuset*) in Stockholm contains the records of many thousands of families, who across the years have been ennobled by Swedish royalty for services rendered the monarch or in the service of Sweden. While many of them retained their original names, it was customary that when dubbed a knight, the individual so honored was given, not only a coat of arms, but also a new name “more fitting” to his new social station in life. Some of these names were derived from his earlier name, as for instance the name of *af Klercker*, derived from *Klerck*, but often a new name was created for the peer. This is no place to go into the flora of aristocratic names, which have come to the fore across more than 350 years of history since *Riddarhuset* was founded, suffice it to say that we have here a vast collection of Swedish surnames allied with the Swedish nobility.

Clerical Names

By the 17th Century the clergy had begun to adopt family names. In the pre-Reformation era young men who entered the church automatically latinized their baptismal names as well as their patronymics. This custom continued in the 16th Century and into the beginning of the 17th. Thus patronymics like *Andersson* became *Andrae*, *Eriksson* — *Erici*, *Håkansson* — *Haqvini*, *Hermansson* — *Hermannii* and *Petersson* — *Petri*, etc. Though they were latinized forms, they were still the patronymics they had inherited at birth. By the beginning of the 17th Century, young clerics went one step farther. They actually adopted new family names, using their knowledge of Latin and Greek. The young student pursued various methods to concoct a new surname. One method was to take a name of the farm, village or parish in which he was born and simply translate it into Latin. Thus *Berg*, meaning mountain, became *Montanus*. This was the route taken by the hero in Ludvig Holberg’s delightful comedy, *Jeppe på Bjerget* (*Jeppe on the Hill*), in which the rustic student, possessing a smattering of Latin attempts to impress his home village neighbors with his learning, by having taken the name of *Montanus*. There are legions of such names. Another name, which has become internationally known is that of *Anders Celsius*, inventor of the centigrade thermometer, whose ancestors came from the manse of Högen in Ovanåker Parish in the province of Hälsingland. Another interesting transformation is the name *Cavallius* taken by a student from Håldala in Småland, who simply translated the name of his home village into Latin — *cava vallis*. A Danish counterpart is the name of *Pontoppidan*, taken by a young student from Broby, who likewise translated the Danish into Latin — *ponto* (bridge) and *oppidanus* (town).
Still another method was to add the Latin -ius to a Swedish name, usually derived from a place name, as for example Bergius from Berg. A few other -ius forms which come to mind are names like Abelius, Acrelius, Agrelius, Arrhenius, Barchaelius, Boëthius, Craelius, Darelius, Dryselius, Fornelius, Forselius, Gumaelius, Hålleniус, Hageliüus, Hagrelius, Hazeliüus, Hesseliüus, Lothigiuus, Moseliüus, Netzelius, Nobeliüus, Normeliüus, Nyseliüus, Topeliüus and Unonius. Most of these surnames are also formed after the principle of using a first syllable anchored in a Swedish place name. There are exceptions as with Unonius, which originally was the latinized form of the Christian man’s name Uno. With succeeding generations, the bearers of these typically clerical names, entering into secular professions, often would lop off the -ius ending, calling themselves Abel, Acrelus, Darell, Drysell, Hagrell, Mosell, Netzell, Nobel, Normell, etc.

Another favorite Latin ending was -aeus as in such surnames as Barchaeus, Bosaeus, Tranaeus and the modern 20th Century form Lonaeus.

Some scholars preferred to use the suffix -ander, derived from the Greek word for man, andro(s). This suffix became so popular, that it is used even today to create new Swedish surnames, despite its clerical past. Surnames ending in -ander are as numerous as there are persons with fertile minds to fashion a new variant. The following are only a few samples from this sea of names, most of them arising from using the first syllable with some allusion to a native place name: Ahlander, Akiander, Alander, Allander, Arenander, Bellander, Björkannder, Bolander, Bonander, Brolander, Chrysander, Dahlander, Duvander, Dylander, Elander, Enander, Erlander, Fjellander, Fornander, Forsander, Frösender, Gallander, Gasslander, Gullander, Gravander, Hällander, Hussander, Isander, Jarlander, Kilander, Kylander, Kyllander, Lekander, Levander, Lithander, Lotsander, Mellander, Mosander, Nylander, Olander, Osander, Palander, Pelander, Petander, Rosander, Särnander, Sallander, Selander, Solander, Spolander, Svalander, Telllander, Tholander, Ullander, Wallander, Welander, Wikander, Ysender, etc.

These are but a few of the clerical names in vogue in Sweden, but they give a good indication as to the endless variety which exists.

The next social group to drop the patronymics in favor of surnames were the citizens of the towns and villages, as well as the itinerant craftsmen, who coming from rural parishes, sought improved economic conditions within the cities and towns. These name changes begin occurring toward the middle of the 17th Century. At first the artisans and craftsmen were content with a nickname which had allusion to their trade and craft, such as Thomas smed (Thomas the smith), Sven skräddare (Sven the tailor) or David bagare (David the baker). But David bagare’s son was not necessarily a baker, and there was therefore a need to differentiate people with identical names as the population increased. Hence the gradual emergence of fixed family names.
Nature Names

It is not certain why and how Swedish nature names were formed. Sweden and Finland alone in Scandinavia use this unique form. Since Finland was an integral part of Sweden for hundreds of year, it is not peculiar that the Swedish Finns as well as the Finns themselves have followed Swedish name usage. In Norway and Denmark, where these forms are unusual it was customary to take the name of the farm or the dwelling and adopt this as a surname. This method has of late been introduced in Sweden also. The taking of nature names may have been inspired by an unconscious effort to borrow from the nobility, not their names, which was illegal, but to use the same techniques, except where the nobility used the vocabulary of heraldry with copious allusions to martial exploits, the burghers were content to use names which incorporated the vocabulary of the peaceful Swedish countryside.

Swedish nature names are based upon the topographical features of the Swedish landscape, almost all types of Swedish flora and fauna, as well as parts of the mineral kingdom, the four points of the compass and innumerable references to Swedish place names, ranging from the smallest croft, hummock and rivulet to the larger cities, counties and towns.

The nature names generally consist of one or two syllables, very rarely three, as in Bergendahl, Levenhagen and Björkegren. As a result of an ongoing campaign in Sweden for persons to change their patronymic surnames for new names, the trend has been to take three syllable names, which for many years was frowned upon as being too foreign-sounding. Since we are dealing with names brought over by emigrants, antedating the modern name-changing process, we shall confine this study to the two syllable names. Here follows a partial list of the common topographic elements which go into the structure of a nature name. The Swedish word is to the left, followed by an English translation of the element to the right:

Å — creek
Åker — field, arable land
Älv (old form was Elf) — large river
Äng (old form was Eng) — meadow
Bäck — rivulet
Backe — small hill
Berg — mountain
Brant, Bratt — steep incline
Dal (old form was Dahl) — valley
Fall — a clearing in the forest
Fjäll (old form was Fjell) — a large mountain
Fält (old form was Felt, Feldt) — field
Flod — river
Fors — rapids
Häll (old form was Hell) — a flat rock
Hage — paddock
Hall — a rock formation
Hammar — a rock formation
Hav (old form was Haf) — the sea, ocean
Hed — heath
Hög — hummock, hillock
Holme — island
Hult — wooded area
Källa (old form was Kella, often in surnames written Kjell) — well, spring
Kil (old form was Kihl) — a small inlet of the ocean
Klev (old form was Klef) — a rock formation
Kulle — a small hill
Land — land
Lid — a gradual incline
Lund — a grove
Mark — land, ground
Mo — heath
Mosse — low lying pasture
Myr — swamp
Ö — island
Ryd (from the Swedish verb rödja, to clear ground) — clearing
Säter (old form was Seter, also written Setter, Zätter, Zätther, Zätter in surnames) — farm in the mountains
Sand — sand
Sjö — lake
Skär — skerry
Skog — forest
Sten — stone
Strand — shore
Ström — stream
Sund — narrows
Tun (old form was Thun) — open place in front of farmstead
Vad (old form was Wad) — wading place, ford
Vall (old form was Wall) — pasture
Vik (old form was Wik, sometimes written Wiik, Wijk in surnames) — bay

Most of these monosyllables can function alone as surnames. Words ending in e, however, drop the e in combination with another element — thus the compound form would have Back-, Hag-, Holm-, Kull- and Moss-. In some instances both Back and Holm are also used as surnames. It is questionable if Å and Ö can stand alone. At least the writer has never seen references to such surnames.

By far the most common practice is to combine two of these elements to form a family name. There are myriads of combinations. If we take the form
What's in a Swedish Surname?

Berg, as an example, we come up with surnames like: Åberg, Elfberg, Engberg, Brantberg, Brattberg, Bergdahl, Dahlberg, Fallberg, Fjellberg, Flodberg, Forsberg, Hellberg, Hagberg, Hallberg, Hammarberg, Högberg, Holmberg, Hultberg, Kihlberg, Klevberg, Kjellberg, Kelberg, Landberg, Lundberg, Mossberg, Myrberg, Öberg, Rydberg, Skogsberg(h), Strömberg, Bergström, Sundberg, Tunberg, Thunberg, Wadberg, Vikberg, Wijkberg, Wallberg, Sandberg, Strandberg, Sjöberg, Bergstrand, Bergsjö, Bergstedt, Berglund and Bergwall, to name a few.

If we go to the Swedish flora and begin with tree nomenclature, we find the following common Swedish trees, which all can stand alone as surnames or can be combined with other elements:

- **Ahl** — alder
- **Alm** — elm
- **Asp** — aspen
- **Björk** — birch
- **Bok** — beech
- **Ek** — oak
- **En** — juniper
- **Fur** — pine
- **Gran** — fir
- **Hägg** — chokecherry
- **Hassel** — hazel
- **Lind** — linden
- **Lönn** — maple
- **Rönn** — mountain ash

Add to these native trees and bushes the very popular exotic trees, **Ceder** (cedar), **Lager** (laurel) and **Palm** (palm), and we have thus covered the more common elements from the area of trees.

Some Swedish flowers and plants which have been used to fashion surnames are the following:

- **Blom** — flower, bloom
- **Lilja** — lily
- **Ljung** — heather
- **Myrten** — myrtle
- **Ört** — herb
- **Ros** — rose
- **Säv** (old form was Säf) — rush

Parts of Swedish trees and plants are also incorporated into the names:

- **Bark** — bark
- **Blad** — leaf
- **Gren** — bough or branch
- **Kvist** (old form was Qvist) — twig
- **Löv** (old form was Löf) — leaf
- **Rot** — root
- **Stam** — stem or trunk

Certain fruits and berries also lend themselves to the formation of family names, but not all. The older Swedish word for apple was **Apel**. This occurs in surnames but not the modern word **Apple**. Neither is **Pärøn**, the word for pear, in the surname vocabulary. On the one side we have several family names in which the word **Hallon** occurs, the word for raspberry, but no strawberry (**Jordgubbe**). The word for plum is **Plommon** in Swedish and is found in the surname **Plomgren**, but the writer has never seen a name based on **Körsbär** (cherry).
Except for the fruit names, all of the above forms can stand alone as surnames. Combined with other elements in the floral kingdom, we find such names as Blomgren, Blomqvist, Hallongren, Hallonqvist, Liljeblom, Liljeblad, Liljegren, Liljefors, Liljeros, Liljestam, Ros(en)qvist and Ros(en)gren.

Again it is perfectly proper to combine any of the Swedish topographic elements with those in the botanical library and names like Blomberg, Dahlgren, Dahlqvist, Dahllöf, Hellqvist, Hallgren, Hammarqvist, Hedblom, Holmqvist and Rydqvist are quite numerous.

In the animal kingdom we find the following birds:

Fågel (old form was Fogel) — bird  
Duva — dove  
Häger — heron  
Hök — hawk  
Svala — swallow  
Svan — swan  
Sparv (old form was Sparf) — sparrow  
Ugglan — owl  
But not Höna (hen), Tupp (rooster), Anka (duck) nor Gås (goose).

The quadrupeds are represented by:

Älg (old form was Elg) — moose, elk  
Djur (old form for deer)  
Hjort — hart  
Lejon — lion  
Ren (old form was Rehn) — reindeer  
Varg (old form was Warg) — wolf  
But not Ko (cow) nor Hund (dog).

Examples of names derived from the animal kingdom are Hjort, Hjortsberg, Elgqvist, Elgström, Djurberg, Lejonberg, Varg and Warg.

Fishes are represented by:

Gädda (old forms were Gedda or Giedda) — pike  
Göss — walleyed pike  
Haj — shark  
Lax — salmon  
Sik — whitefish  
Val (old form was Wahl) — whale  

Several Swedish families are named Gedda and the words Haj and Lax have also been used in combinations with other elements. The most popular fish is the whale, and it may be the first part of such names as Wahlberg, Wahlund, Wahlqvist and Wahlström.

If we turn to the mineral kingdom we find a few elements which are used in family names. Malm, the word for ore is found in Malmberg, Malmqvist and Malmström. Guld(Gull) for gold and Silver for silver are found in such names as
Gullberg, Guldström, Gullstrand and Silverberg.
Names of precious stones have apparently not caught the fancy of the
Swedes wishing to change their names. We find no native Diamant, Rubin nor
Safir names.
Points of the compass are popular in the formation of Swedish family names,
either standing alone or in combination with nature elements or names of flowers
and trees.
Väst(ér) (old form was West or Wester) — west
Öst(ér) — east
Nord, Norr — north
Söder — south
The points of the compass are popular in themselves as family names but in
combination with other elements they form a large proportion of the Swedish
name flora: Westberg, Westerberg, Westerdahl, Westerstrand, Östberg, Nord-
ström, Norström, Nordgren, Norgren, Norqvist, Norqvist, Söderberg and
Söderqvist.
The adjective Ny, meaning new, has been very popular in forming names,
thus we find countless families named Nyland, Nylund, Nyberg, Nyström, Ny-
gren, Nyqvist, Nystedt and Nystrand.
If we, for a moment, look at surnames formed from Swedish place names,
we shall discover that the list is endless. Particularly in recent years, when the
campaign has been going on to induce Swedes to take new names, thousands of
new names have been selected, most of them based on a Swedish place names.
Only two examples will be given here, in order to show how many names have
their origin in the Swedish countryside. Two of Sweden’s largest lakes are
Vänern (old form was Wenern) and Vättern (old form was Wettern) which have
given birth to many such names as Wennerberg, Wennerström, Wenner-
strand, Wetterberg, Wetterdahl and Wetterström.

Walloon Names
In the late 16th Century and early 17th, Swedish kings, wishing to revitalize
and modernize the Swedish iron and steel industry, brought in from what is
today Belgium, several hundred French-speaking Walloon families. Walloon
smiths were well-known for their excellent craftsmanship in the working of steel,
iron, copper and brass. They were hard workers and their knowledge and skills
had been handed down from father to son for many generations. The infusion
into Sweden of this foreign “knowhow” brought about a veritable revolution in
the Swedish metal industry and laid the foundation for the fact that the Swedish
metallurgical industry today enjoys world-wide reputation. The Walloons were
not only gifted smiths, but they brought into the life stream of Sweden new blood
and new ideas.
The Walloons and their descendants have remained a small but highly in-
fuential segment of Swedish life, numbering at the present time about 30,000,
and residing for the most part in those areas of Sweden, where the iron manufacturing industry has had its center of activity, in the län of Kopparberg, Uppsala, Västmanland, Örebro and Östergötland.

The physical characteristics of the Walloons have somehow persisted and have often been dominant across the centuries despite intermarriage with Swedish women. Their brown eyes, dark complexion and high foreheads constitute a type which one can spot quite easily in Bergslagen, the part of Sweden where they first settled.

Though many of the old Walloon names are gone, having been dropped by latter-day descendants in favor of patronymics and Swedish surnames, there are still a number of them in use today, names like Anjou, Bedoire, Boivie, Bouveng, de Besche, De Geer, Galon, Gauffin, Gefvert or Gäfvert, Gille, Gilljam, Hybinette, Laurin, Lemon, Pousette and Sporrong.

Military Names

A very characteristic part of Swedish nomenclature is the existence of a number of military names. They are to be found in every segment of Swedish life and have been transported, as well, across the ocean to America, where they can be found in great numbers, even if in a slightly altered form or perhaps totally anglicized.

The story goes back a long time, to the time when Sweden had to fill its cadres of army and navy personnel with recruits from the rural areas in the land. The standing army was small and Sweden had to rely on the mustering of a great many men, who during peace time were occupied mostly with the tilling of the land. They were thus assigned small cottages with a small piece of land, which they could work, but be ready at a moment’s notice to leave home and join the army and the navy, should a military emergency arise. These cottages, provided by the government, were called soldattorp or båtsmanstorp, depending upon whether the inhabitant was a member of the army or the navy.

Usually the recruit, as he arrived for the first time to be mustered into the military service, had a patronymic which was all too common and easily led to confusion. The military scribe therefore assigned a new name to the soldier or sailor, a name which was usually short and pithy and in some way alluded to his new profession. The name could be an object from the arsenal of the weaponry he used or a martial characteristic he was supposed to possess, or simply a name fashioned from the place name of his torp.

Some of the names in the first category that come to mind are:

Dolk — a small knife, a stiletto
Granat — grenade
Kanon (old form was Canon) — cannon
Hagel — shot, lead pellet
Kula — cannon ball or bullet
Pamp — a large heavy sword
Pil (old form was Pihl) — arrow
Pistol — pistol
Sabel — sabre
Sköld — shield
Skott — shot, volley
Skytt — marksman
Spjut — spear
Stål — steel
Strid — battle, skirmish
Svärd (old form was Swärd) — words

Names based on a characteristic which a soldier was supposed to possess were:

Ärlig — honest
Frimodig — brave
Glad — happy
Hurtig — bold
Modig — courageous
Munter — jolly
Säll — blessed, ecstatic
Stadig — steady or sturdy
Stark — strong
Stolt — proud
Tapper — brave
Trofast — trustworthy
Trotsig or Trotzig — stubborn

It is not unusual to find some of these characteristic names partly or wholly anglicized among Americans of Swedish descent in America. Names like Sell, Shield, Shields, Shold, Streed and Sturdy are only a small part of the flora of Swedish American names with a martial past.

Before we leave the military names it should be mentioned that certain recruits who were assigned to soldattorp in the Swedish countryside, would often also inherit the name of the predecessor in that billet, even though no blood relationship existed. An example from the province of Västergötland comes to mind, where three generations of soldiers, none related, were billeted in the same cottage, one after the other, all bearing the name of Ådahl. Research showed that the name given to the first resident of this soldattorp was Ådahl, and subsequently all occupants came to be known by the same name. Caution should therefore be used in searching the military rolls and check how the soldiers inhabiting the identical torp with the same name could be related.

Foreign Names

In addition to the Walloon names, other foreign names have also gained admittance to the catalog of Swedish surnames. Many of these names are linked
to the movement into Sweden of other nationalities at certain time periods of Swedish history. In the 16th and 17th Centuries, a number of Scottish and English mercenaries sought service in Sweden’s armies, particularly in the service of Gustavus Adolphus during the Thirty Years War. Many of these young men won fame and fortune in this bloody conflict and elected to settle in Sweden, where some of them founded families, which exist to the present day. Some of these mercenaries were scions of British and Scottish noble families, who in Sweden sought entry and were admitted to the Swedish House of Nobles (Riddarhuset). Typical of these families were names like Fleetwood, Hamilton and Montgomery. Others who became a part of Swedish society were names like Lejon (Lyon), Klerck (Clark), Forbus (Forbes). Later in the 18th Century we find English families in the city of Göteborg with names like Gibson, Dickson, Chalmers and in Karlskrona the Sheldons.

The Germans have always had strong ties to Sweden, going back to the Middle Ages, when German kings occupied the Swedish throne and the city government of Stockholm was dominated by German merchants and craftsmen. Many of the members of the St. Gertrude’s Church in Stockholm (Tyska kyrkan), were immigrants from Germany, who had settled in Stockholm to ply their trade as printers, brewers, smiths, and tradesmen. In the 18th and 19th Centuries new waves of German tailors, shoemakers and other craftsmen came to Sweden to settle down and marry Swedish women.

Polish and Russian prisoners of war, captured in Sweden’s many wars to the east, released from captivity, elected to settle in Sweden, where some of them still have descendants. Immigrants from southern Europe and France have entered Sweden from time to time, have settled down and have produced progeny represented by French names like Giron and Richert and Italian names like Ambrosiani and Dominique.

In the northern part of Sweden Finnish settlers have brought in Finnish names and throughout Sweden may be found families of Norwegian and Danish origin.

The influx of these disparate peoples have brought into Sweden a number of distinct and different surnames, which still live on to speak their language of foreign origin.

Swedish family names constitute a part of Swedish history and speak eloquently of the part that both natives and immigrant peoples have played in the making of modern Sweden.

It is the plan of SAG to bring to its readers in the future more complete essays on the various classes of Swedish names, particularly the military and Walloon names, which form such a distinct pattern in the formulation of Swedish surnames.
Corrections and Additions to Genealogical Books

Nils William Olsson

GRIPENSCHÜTZ

According to Elgenstierna, the family of Gripenschütz became extinct probably Aug. 27, 1852. Actually a member of the family was living in Washington, DC as late as Oct. 23, 1877, when sergeant Charles G. Gripenschutz was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps after 51 years of service. He is almost certainly identical with Carl Gustaf Gripenschütz, b. in Stralsund, Swedish Pomerania Sept. 6, 1806, s. of captain Carl Adolph Gripenshütz and Brita Lovisa Hård af Segerstad. ¹ He resided in Göteborg and in the records of the Garrison Parish (Garnisonsförsamlingen) of that city he is listed as “absent” during the years 1820–1846. ² On July 22, 1820 a youth by that name received a passport to America. ³

In the Gripenschütz jacket, on file in the National Archives, Washington, DC, are a total of 11 U.S. Marine Corps enlistment papers, each of which shows the date and term of enlistment, the oath of allegiance, Gripenschutz’ signature and his physical description. ⁴

In the jacket is also a bounty land warrant application and a paper proving that he received a bounty land warrant for 160 acres as a result of his military service from 1844 to 1848. Records in the General Land Office, also in the National Archives, indicate that Gripenschutz assigned this warrant to Amos Wilkins on Dec. 13, 1850. ⁵

The Washington city directory for 1872 lists a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant named Charles G. Gripenshultz (sic!) as residing at 533 Fifth St., S.E. ⁶ A white married female, named Ann Grifenschultz (sic!), 62 years old and for forty years a resident of Washington, died and was buried in the capital (no date given) some time between 1855 and 1874. She may have been his wife. ⁷

There is no information in his military file concerning his subsequent death or if he left any descendants.

¹ Gustaf Elgenstierna, Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor, Stockholm, 1927; III, p. 141.
² Göteborgs garnisonsförsamling, Civila avdelningen. Längd över gift personal 1820–1846, p. 131; Göteborgs landsarkiv.
³ Svenska flottans pensionskassas verifikationer 1820; Krigsarkivet, Stockholm.
⁴ National Archives, Washington, DC.
⁵ Bounty Land Warrant No. 65 951-160-47; National Archives.
Genealogical Queries

Queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a "space available basis." The Editor reserves the right to edit the question to conform to the general format.

**Lundberg, Lumberg, Lindberg**

Peter Lundberg, b. Sweden 1849. M. Aslaug Anna Kittleson in WI or MN. He had six children, including Peter. He d. in River Falls, WI Jan. 23, 1885. His birth data in Sweden as well as names of parents sought by:

Virginia R. Frey  
1585 South Grape Street  
Denver, CO 80222

**Emanuelsson, Nelson**

Janne Emanuelsson, also John Nelson, b. Bolmsö, Jön. län May 18, 1890. He m. a Norwegian girl and had s. Harold. His present whereabouts sought by:

Fru Elemina Krook  
Gyllebogatan 1 B  
21773 Malmö, SWEDEN

**Andreasson, Andersson, Israelsson**


John C. Engel  
816 East Clarke Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

**Lundstrom, Hanson, Norman**

Axel Lundstrom, b. Sweden ca. 1839; d. Medfield, MA Nov. 14, 1918. M.
Anna Hanson, b. Sweden ca. Feb. 1, 1855, dau. Karl G. Hanson and Gustava C. Norman. She d. Cambridge, MA July 8, 1923. They had two s. — Nils Oscar, b. Jan. 11, 1892 and Hans, b. ca. 1893. Supplemental facts sought by:
Michael J. Denis
P. O. Box 253
Oakland, ME 04963
Following additional information has been located:
Erik C:son Swartz’ Släkten Lundström från Svartalund, publ. 1958, pps. 31–32, has following: “Axel Hjalmar Lundström, b. in Dragered, Hyssna Parish, Älvs. län Oct. 2, 1839, s. Lars Georg Lundström and Fredrika Wilhelmina Dymling. Went to sea and was second mate on board the Carl XV Oct. 18, 1871. On Nov. 11, 1878 he was captain on board the Norden but left this ship already April 14, 1879, after which time he disappears from view. Rumor has it that he emigrated to the U.S., m. a Swedish girl named Anna, d. and left two s. — Nils Oscar, b. Jan. 11, 1892 and Hans Wilhelm, b. July 24, 1893.” (Editor).

Modin, Larsson, Landberg
John August Larsson, b. ca. 1838 environs of Jönköping, Sweden; emigr. 1867 and changed name to Modin(e). M. Amanda Landberg, b. Sweden 1845, in 1871. Birth data and names of parents sought by:
Mrs. Julie Modine Woodrow
2926 Cascade, Villa del Rio
Tucson, AZ 85702

Christofferson, Pettersson, Berg
Karl E. Svenson
Norra Parkgatan 64
56134 Huskvarna, SWEDEN

Nilsson, Svensson
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Under this heading the editor hopes to bring to the attention of the readers of SAG pertinent literature in the field of Swedish American genealogy. Some of the material may have been in print for some time, some may be of recent origin. For further information concerning these titles and for help in locating pertinent literature please write to SAG under the address given in the front of this magazine.

One of the most important aids in researching one’s Swedish origins is Carl-Erik Johansson’s *Cradled in Sweden*. For some time out of print, the good news is that the publishers will be bringing out the third revised edition sometime in early June. The tentative price of the volume is $12.95.

First brought out in 1972, Mr. Johansson’s volume has gone through two editions, both of them eagerly sought for by students of Swedish genealogy. Originally published by Mr. Johansson for his students in his courses in family and local history at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT, the text is beamed primarily at an audience affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. This approach, however, does not in any way detract from the usefulness of the guide, which for years has been a veritable gold mine of information and a must for every serious student interested in following his lines back to Sweden.

Swedish vital statistics have always been the concern of the established Lutheran Church. It was, and still is, the concern of every parish to supervise the recording of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. When it comes to non-church related activities such as last wills and testaments, tax lists, estate inventories and census lists, various Swedish administrative units were responsible.

The author of *Cradled in Sweden* gives the reader a brief presentation of the Swedish language and outlines the differences between the Swedish and the English language, so far as orthography and pronunciation are concerned.

There are references to the geographical names in Sweden, how to locate them on maps and he takes up the discussion of Swedish personal names, how they have been derived, either from the older Norse sources or from the beginning of the Christian era when first names, derived from the Latin and Greek, were introduced. He discusses the use of Swedish patronymics in the Swedish
rural population and explains the peculiarity of Swedish soldiers’ names.

The author has included a very useful chapter on the handwriting of pertinent documents. Until the beginning of the 19th Century, Swedish writing conformed in style to the German, known in Sweden as kantslistil, also known as Gothic script. Since it differs markedly from Latin and English, it takes special practice to decipher it and Cradled in Sweden contains a good guide to solve some of these writings.

The main section of Mr. Johansson’s book is devoted to the records themselves, not only those which originate within the church, but also court records, military records, land and census materials, emigration records both in Sweden and in the United States, as well as a chapter on the Swedish Mission records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The final section of the book is given over to valuable appendices, such as tables of Swedish and Finnish army units (Finland was for hundreds of years an integral part of Sweden). Another section deals with probate records for each judicial district in Sweden, as well as the dates of the earliest available records.

There is a complete list of Swedish parishes, arranged alphabetically with the name of the parish before 1952, the year of the big reform, when hundreds of parishes were merged to form larger communal blocks.

All in all, Mr. Johansson’s Cradled in Sweden constitutes the one available guide book in English to the genealogical material to be found in Sweden. Readers are eagerly looking forward to the third edition.

Nils William Olsson’s pamphlet, Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry, is an unpretentious guide for the beginner searching for his Swedish identity. Originally published in 1963 by the Swedish Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, it was re-published in 1974 in a second and expanded version. It is distributed by the Swedish Institute in Stockholm and may be had through any Swedish Consulate General and Consulate in the United States.

Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry seeks to introduce the beginning student to the sources at his disposal both in the United States and Sweden. The main emphasis is placed on learning as much as possible concerning the Swedish immigrant in the United States, before the attempt is made to continue the story in Sweden. All too often the genealogical student is too impatient in his research and approaches the Swedish sources with insufficient information, thereby wasting his time as well as that of the Swedish archival authorities. The main thrust of the pamphlet is to document as much as possible of the American story before proceeding across the Atlantic.
While H. Arnold Barton’s excellent family history, *The Search for Ancestors*, is not a genealogical guide book in the narrow sense of that word, it is an outstanding example of how family history should be written. *The Search for Ancestors* is a personal narrative, in which the author seeks to trace his roots back to Småland in Sweden. The volume contains a wealth of practical genealogical information and in the course of the story he makes clear such difficult Swedish terms as *mantal*, *skattejord*, *frälsejord*, *skattebonde*, etc.

There is no mistaking Dr. Barton’s enthusiasm for the task at hand. He pulls his reader along and invites him to follow his journey step by step as he unravels the skeins of his family saga.

*The Search for Ancestors* contains six genealogical tables and is well illustrated. It is published by the Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL and sells for $11.95.

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Two books on Swedish genealogical research are available in the Swedish language and should be mentioned here for the benefit of the reader who understands Swedish. Both are excellent treatises and are to be recommended. The first is the late Börje Furtenbach’s *Släktforskning för alla* (*Genealogical Research for Every Man*), published in 1971 by the ICA Publishing Co. in Västerås, Sweden. Mr. Furtenbach was for many years the president of the Genealogical Society of Sweden and was instrumental in building the membership of this prestigious organization to an all-time high at the time of his death.

*Släktforskning för alla* does not miss a single trick. It begins with a general introduction to genealogical research and then takes the student on a survey tour of bibliography, including newspapers, discusses ancestral charts and pedigrees and archival organisations in Sweden. He has a chapter on reading the old Gothic script and dwells at length on the ecclesiastical records in Sweden. From this section he moves to the secular sources, legal sources and various specialized archives. All in all it is a comprehensive inventory of how to go about conducting genealogical research in Sweden. Unfortunately he does not touch on emigration sources in Sweden or the United States.


Dr. Beijbom, the director of the Emigrant Institute in Växjö, Sweden, covers approximately the same ground as Mr. Furtenbach, but extends his field to include also the “unknown relatives” in the United States. In his final chapter he spends a great deal of time explaining the various emigration sources in Swedish archives, such as exit lists in the various church and parish archives, the passport journals in the Royal War Archives in Stockholm, etc. He also goes into the material extant in the United States, showing how it is possible to trace the
"unknown relatives" on American soil. He dwells on the microfilming of the Swedish American church archives, which has been one of the projects of the Emigrant Institute. Again, as with Mr. Furtenbach's guide, Dr. Beijbom's volume is restricted to those persons who can read Swedish.
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