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## Little Bertha Louise is found!

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# Little Bertha Louise is found!

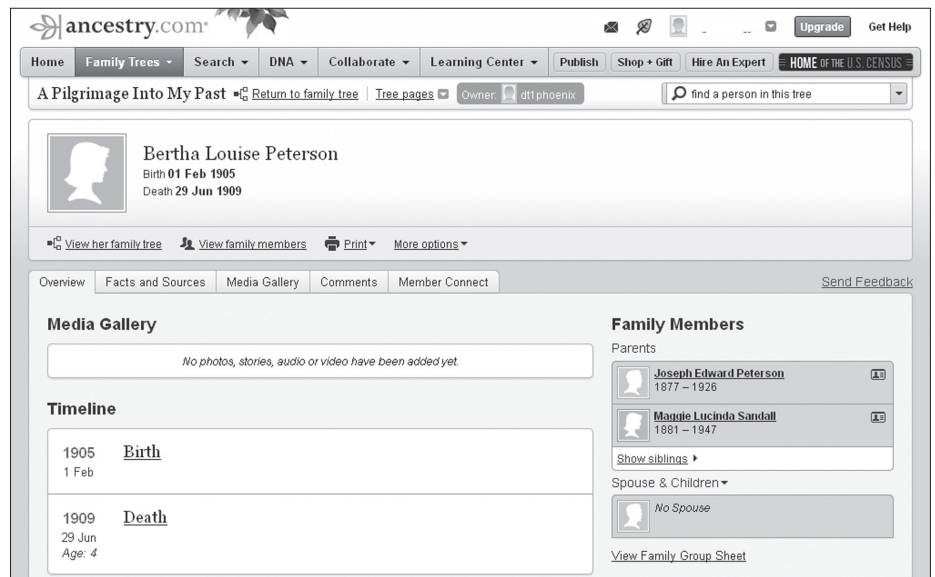
In SAG 2012/2 we told a story that we were borrowing from the *Augustana Heritage Newsletter*, with the permission of its editor, Rev. Ronald Englund. The story was about a death memorial card for a little girl who died, just 4 years old, in an unknown location, and the names of the parents were not mentioned. The card had surfaced in a thrift store in Kansas. The little girl's name was *Bertha Louise Peterson*, which looked very Swedish.

Just a few days after that issue of SAG was sent out the mystery was solved. SAG reader David Johnson sent a link to a Family Tree on Ancestry.com – and there she was!

Clicking on her father's name revealed that the family lived in Bradshaw, York County, Nebraska.

In the list of Swedish American Churches I found that there was a *Bethesda Lutheran Church* in York, which had records already from 1874, where I hoped there would be more information about Bertha Louise's family. A question sent to Jill Seaholm at the Swenson Center gave the information shown at the bottom of this page. With the help of the various U.S. Censuses the following family ancestral table for Bertha Louise can be built:

1) **Bertha Louise (Lovisa) Peterson**, born 1905 Jan. 15 in Bradshaw, York Co., NE, died there 1909 June 29.



*Bertha Louise Peterson on a Family Tree at Ancestry.com.*

## — Generation I —

- 2) **Joseph Edward Peterson**, born 1877 Sep. 1877 in IA, died 1926 May 27 in Bradshaw. Farmer in Bradshaw. Married 1904 Jan. 20 to  
 3) **Maggie Lucinda Sandahl**, born 1881 Jan. 28 in York Co., NE., died 1947 in Bradshaw.

## — Generation II —

- 4) **Nils Peterson**, born 1846 Jan. 10 in Sweden, died 1916 Oct. 23 in Bradshaw. He first came to Iowa, but shortly before 1880 he moved with his family to York Co., NE. After the death of his wife (before 1900) he lived in Bradshaw with son Frank Alfred, born 1875 Oct. 22 in Iowa,

died 1936 May 15 in Bradshaw. Married to

5) **Christine N.N.**, born ca 1841 in Sweden, died before 1900 in Bradshaw.

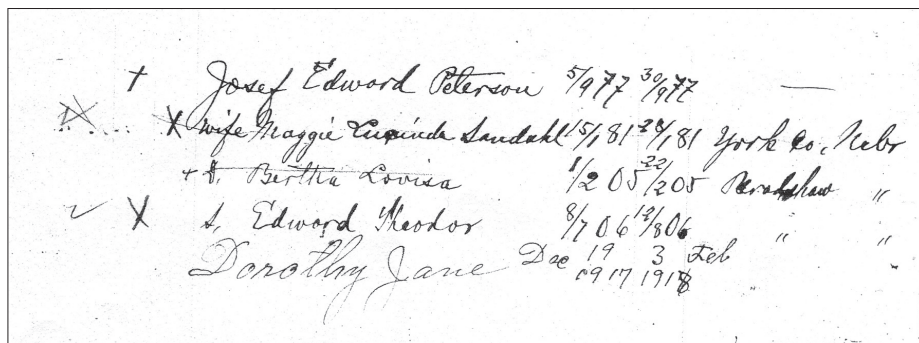
6) **Anders Lorents Zakrisson Sandahl**, born 1848 Nov. 17 in Edshult (Jönk.), died 1933 Nov. 22 in York Co., NE. He immigrated with parents and siblings in 1858 from Bredagård, Edshult. The family first settled in Wayne, Henry Co., IA, but moved before 1873 to York Co., NE, where he spent the rest of his life. Married 1873 Nov. 2 in York Co. to

7) **Matilda Kaliff**, born 1854 Apr. 9 in Gammalkil (Östg.), died 1915 June 14 in York Co., NE. She immigrated in 1869 Sep. 15 from Östra Snår, Gammalkil, with parents and siblings.

## Remaining questions

How did little Bertha Louise's death memorial card end up behind another picture in a thrift shop in Wichita, KS?

And who were her paternal grandparents? Nils Peterson and his wife Christine? Where in Sweden did they come from?



*Membership records for Bethesda Lutheran Church, York County, NE. Swenson Center collections.*