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A Birthday Gift for Governor
John Lind in 1901

Nils William Olsson

John Lind, the fourteenth governor of the State of Minnesota (1899–1901), had just left the governor's office in St. Paul, MN, when he was about to celebrate his 47th birthday 25 March 1901. A group of his admirers, mostly Swedes, decided to mark the anniversary of his birth by presenting him with a suitable gift. A subscription list was drawn up and circulated among his friends, mainly in St. Paul, but also in Minneapolis, for the purpose of raising funds for the occasion. The list seems to have originated with a Swede, J. August Nilsson, whose name appears first on the list, and among whose estate papers the document was found at the time of his decease in 1939.

John Lind, the subject of this spontaneous action, was born in the parish of Kâna in the län of Kronoberg in Sweden 25 March 1854, the son of Gustaf Lind and Catharina Jonasdotter. In 1867 he accompanied his parents to the United States, at the age of thirteen. After public schooling and legal studies, John Lind eventually set up his law practice in New Ulm, MN, from where he was elected to the United States Congress for three terms (1886–1892) as a Republican. After voluntarily resigning his seat in the Congress, he returned to Minnesota to resume his law practice. But he was not finished with politics. The "silver question" had begun to become a hot political issue and during John Lind's last term in the Congress he had thrown his support to the "free silver" Republicans. In Sept. 1896 Lind wrote his famous letter on the silver issue. This placed him in the same camp as the Populists, who promptly nominated him as their gubernatorial candidate, subsequently also endorsed by the Democratic Party. He lost the election by a mere 3,000 votes. In 1898 at the outbreak of the Spanish American War, John Lind left his law practice to join the U.S. Army. He was appointed quartermaster of the Twelfth Regiment, where he became very popular with the soldiers. In the fall of 1898 he was unanimously selected as the gubernatorial candidate by the Silver Republicans and the Democratic organization. Thus switching party loyalties, John Lind was nominated and elected as the Democratic governor, amassing a total of close to 12,000 votes more than the aggregate of the other four parties in the contest. In his bid for a second term he was defeated by his Republican opponent and retired for good from politics, settling down in Minneapolis to enjoy a lucrative law practice. He died 18 Sept. 1930.

J. August Nilsson, the presumptive instigator of the campaign to honor Governor Lind, was a good friend of the chief executive of the state, having
served in the Minnesota State Legislature, representing the Third Ward in St. Paul. The document, found among Nilsson’s papers, is interesting in that it carries the signatures of 27 signers, of which most are to be found in contemporary biographical dictionaries of well-known Swedes and Norwegians. The list is given here as it appears in the original:

“Hon. John Lind, Ex-Governor of Minnesota, and one of the foremost Scandinavians in our adopted country, will enter upon a new year of his life on 25th of March 1901.

We, the undersigned Scandinavians, who have learned to admire in him, not only the brilliant statesman, the fearless and upright congressman and Chief Executive of our state and learned lawyer, but also the man whose private life and acts are objects of our praise, have concluded to manifest our faith, confidence and admiration for Hon. John Lind by presenting to him, on his birthday at his residence, a token of our sincerity:

J. A. Nilsson .......................... $ 5.00
J. G. Thaung .......................... 5.00
C. J. Palmer .......................... 5.00
Edward Ekman .......................... 5.00
S. A. Pontham .......................... 3.00
Geo. Kraft .......................... 5.00
Olof Carlson .......................... 5.00
J. P. and G. P. Brown .................. 5.00
Andrew Holm .......................... 5.00
Edw. Peterson .................. 5.00
G. P. Sandberg & Hoelzel ........ 5.00
Olof Seaquist .................. 5.00
Andrew Nelson .................. 3.00
Frank G. Nelson, 721 Arcade .... 3.00
E. H. Hobe .......................... 5.00
C. E. Dahl .................. 2.00
Otto Olson .................. 2.00
E. M. Lundholm .................. 3.00
Gust R. Anderson .................. 2.00
O. Valline .................. 2.00
Charles Libb .................. 2.00
J. G. Dahl .................. 2.00
Olof Olson .................. 3.00
Chas. A. Rose .................. 3.00
Simon Nelson .................. 2.00
A. Lohrbauer .................. 5.00
Aug. Ekman .................. 2.00

On the back of the subscription list are several other names, scribbled in the handwriting of J. August Nilsson. They do not constitute additional donors, but are to be interpreted as Nilsson’s notes to himself as to those persons who were to participate in the planned program. These additional names are:

“Stockenström
A Ueland, Judge
H. Sundquist”
A Birthday Gift for Governor John Lind in 1901

Rev. Johnston
Alvegren
To introduce Hobe.

This assumption is borne out by an article which appeared in the 2 April issue of *Svenska Amerikanska Posten*, published in Minneapolis, which gives an account of the Governor's party and also mentions those who participated in the program. Four of the names listed had a prominent role in the evening's program. We may assume that the other two — Sundquist and Johnston, being clergymen, had been mobilized to offer the invocation and the benediction at the affair.

The newspaper article also tells us that the money raised was used by Nilsson's committee to purchase a silver loving cup. The article from *Svenska Amerikanska Posten* follows here in translation:

“Governor Lind's Birthday

On Monday 25 March Gov. Lind celebrated his 47th birthday and more than 400 Scandinavians in St. Paul as well as a few from Minneapolis had decided to mark the anniversary by arranging a surprise for Minnesota's popular and highly respected ex-Governor. In order to accomplish this, a banquet had been arranged at Cambridge Hall on Seventh Street and shortly after eight o'clock in the evening the Governor with his wife and children were picked up at their home. The Governor showed extreme surprise as he was brought into the festooned hall, where he was greeted most heartily by a crowd of between 400 and 500 Scandinavian friends, ladies and gentlemen. The Swedish Norwegian Consul, E. H. Hobe, functioned as the master of ceremonies for the event. He welcomed the Governor with a few well chosen words and then called upon Herman Stockenström, the editor, who in a short address explained the significance of the evening and then presented to Governor Lind a loving cup of silver on behalf of those assembled. The gift bore the following inscription:

Presented by Scandinavians of
St. Paul, Minn. to
Hon. John Lind
on the forty-seventh anniversary of his birth,
March 25, 1901.

The cup is an excellent piece of work and highly valuable. Governor Lind then stepped to the podium and gave a very fine talk, in which he thanked for the gift and explained that he was unable to fully express his emotions, which the invitation to the birthday party had called forth. Mr. C. J. Palmer then recited an original poem, which was followed by speeches, given by Judge Ueland of Minneapolis and the Rev. Mr. Alvegren of St. Paul.

The Orpheus Quartet from Minneapolis as well as a quartet from St. Paul sang several numbers which brought forth much enthusiasm. Professor Lundberg then presented a piano solo in his inimitable way. After this a very elegant banquet followed.
Among those present were the Hon. L. A. Rosing, Olaf Olson, Dr. E. M. Lundholm, Dr. O. Sohlberg, Andrew Nelson, Representative J. A. Jackson, Andrew Holm, Alderman J. F. Holt, Alderman Andrew Dahlquist, John Sandell, Dr. G. P. Sandberg, J. B. Jenson, H. Lohrbaur, S. A. Ponthan, G. A. Johnson, Edward Peterson, Edw. Ekman, Andrew Peterson, John G. Allen, M. A. Beckman, J. Kjellberg, A. S. Larson, C. Shogren, J. G. Ljungren, John Thoorsell, Olaf Lee and Peter Johnson, St. Paul; Capt. C. C. Bennett, Dr. F. C. Moody, Dr. C. J. Ringnell, Dr. Louis Nelson, Knute Ekman and August Ekman of Minneapolis; Senator Larson of Sibley County.

The committees responsible for the celebration were as follows:


Ladies' Reception — Mrs. Dr. Sohlberg, Mrs. A. T. Rosin, Mrs. E. Sundquist and Mrs. J. G. Thaung.

The party was a huge success and all came away from the banquet with some very pleasant memories."

Of a more than passing interest is the fact that the celebration was billed as a Scandinavian affair, in which Scandinavians of the Twin Cities closed ranks in order to honor a very popular governor. This is all the more remarkable since the banquet was held only four short years before the breakup of the political union of Norway and Sweden in 1905. The dissolution had been foreshadowed for years and had disturbed Scandinavians on both sides of the Atlantic.

Much of the material used for this article, particularly for Gov. Lind has been taken from the biographical sketches in A. E. Strand's *A History of Swedish-Americans of Minnesota* (hereafter cited as *Strand*), I–III (Chicago 1910), I, pp. 72–80; *Who Was Who in America 1897–1942* (Chicago 1942). The author also wishes to thank Patricia Harpole, Chief of the Reference Library, Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul for furnishing data on many of the more elusive Swedes and Norwegians living in Minnesota at the turn of the century. Thanks also goes to Kermit Westerberg of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Rock island, IL for kindly furnishing a photocopy of the newspaper article from *Svenska Amerikanska Posten* calling attention to Gov. Lind's birthday party.

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1Johan August Nilsson was b. in Växjö, Sweden 27 Aug. 1858, the s. of Johannes Nilsson, a contractor and builder, and Eva Charlotta Pettersdotter. He emigr. to American in 1881, settling in St. Paul, MN, where he, with his brother Gustaf, began a cigar manufacturing business, specializing in two brand names, the "Vega" and the "Christina Nilsson." He possessed a good voice and sang for many years in the St. Paul Opera as well as in St. Mary's Catholic Church in St. Paul. He d. in St. Paul 23 Feb. 1939 — *Strand*, III, pp. 987–988; information courtesy Gustaf Adolf Berling of Minneapolis (a nephew of Nilsson's).

2Johannes Gustaf Thaung, b. in Gärdsby Parish (Kron.) 24 Jan. 1865, the s. of J. G. Tong or Tång, a saddler, and Sophia Jonsdotter. He emigr. to the U.S. in 1886, settling in St. Paul, where he first became a grocer, later a successful undertaker. — *Strand*, III, pp. 923–924.

3Charles J. Palmer, at one time the "poet laureate" of the St. Paul Police Dept., was b. in Sweden 15 April 1863. He emigr. in 1884, settling in St. Paul, where he was employed in various jobs — as streetcar conductor, enumerator for the special census of 1890 and secretary of the Swedish-American Book Co. For a time he was editor of a Swedish temperance monthly, leaving that to
become a journalist with the Swedish weekly newspaper, *Folke's Nyteter*. In 1897 he was appointed to the St. Paul Police Dept., where he became a popular patrolman, not only for his inherent goodnaturedness, but also for his creative talent in writing poetry. He seems, though, to have been a restless individual, who after a short stint in the St. Paul police force is listed in the city directories at various times as laborer, tilemaker, carpenter and from 1910 to 1912 as general contractor and landscape gardener. He d. ca. 1912–1913, when his widow Emma is listed in the city directory in 1913. — Alix J. Muller and Frank J. Mead, *History of the Police and Fire Departments of the Twin Cities* (St. Paul and Minneapolis 1899), p. 133; St. Paul city directories.

Edward Ekman was b. in Växjö, Sweden 10 Nov. 1859, the s. of Nils Ekman, regimental musician, and his wife Brita Catharina. He resided in Minneapolis, where he was employed by the Board of Directors of Charities. — Strand, III, p. 769.

Swan A. Ponthan was b. in Stockholm, Sweden 12 May 1859. He received his education in Sweden and in Rostock, Germany and seems after this to have been engaged in commercial business in France. In 1883 he emigr., settling first in Boston, MA and then in 1884 in St. Paul. Except for a short period of residence in the Dakotas, he was a resident of St. Paul, where in 1901 he was a bookkeeper in the City Treasurer’s office. He d. in St. Paul ca. 1911–1912, since his widow is listed in the 1912 city directory. — *Scandinavia*, Vol. III, No. 7–8, July and August, 1886, p. 209; St. Paul city directories.

George Kraft is listed in the city directory for 1885 as a shoemaker; from 1886 to 1912 he is listed as a photographer. He moved to Forest Lake, MN in 1912. — St. Paul city directories. St. Paul city directories.

Andrew Holm was b. in Klackemåla, Eringsboda Parish (Blek.) 26 Nov. 1853, the s. of John Holm, former farmer, and his wife Ingelof. He emigr. 1872, joining his family, which had settled earlier in Stark, Chisago Co., MN in 1868. He subsequently entered the hotel business. In 1898 he had been elected to the Minnesota State Legislature. He d. in 1923. — Strand, III, pp. 865–866.

Andrew Nelson, b. in Marine-on-St. Croix, Washington Co., MN 1 April 1872, the s. of Jonas Nilsson, who had arr. from the province of Blekinge in 1856. He is probably identical with a former farmer, Jons Nilsson, who had arr. in 1856 from Mjällby Parish (Blek.), and Catharina Svensdotter. Andrew Nelson's career began in public school education and he served as superintendent of the public schools in Benson, MN from 1896 to 1899. In the latter year he was

16 Frank G. Nelson, b. in Sweden in Nov. 1872. He emigr. to the U.S. in 1887. From 1893 to 1903 he was listed as a printer, but is not found in later directories. — *St. Paul* city directories; *The U.S. Census of 1900*.

17 Engebreth H. Hobe, Swedish Norwegian vice consul in St. Paul, was b. in Risør, Norway 27 Feb. 1860. After some years in the shipping business in Arendal, Norway, he left for Copenhagen, returning later to Kristiania (today known as Oslo) in order to complete his mercantile studies. In 1883 he emigr. to America, settling in St. Paul, where he eventually entered real estate and land development activities. In 1893 he was appointed vice consul for the two Scandinavian kingdoms. — Nelson, *History of the Scandinavians*, I, pp. 411-412.

18 Carl Emil Dahl was b. in Falun, Sweden 23 Dec. 1870, the s. of Hans Johan Dahl, restaurant owner in Falun, and Emma Hellström. In 1892 he arr. in the U.S., settling in St. Paul, where he entered the fur business, being employed as head of the manufacturing plant of Gordon, Ferguson & Co. — *Strand*, III, pp. 936-937.

19 Unidentified.

20 Erik Mauritz Lundholm was b. in Venjan Parish (Kopp.) 20 June 1858, the s. of Theodard Lundholm, a public school teacher, and Maria Christina Bengtzelius. After medical studies at the University of Uppsala, he spent the years 1888 and 1889 in the U.S., passing the state board examinations in St. Paul. He returned to Sweden in 1889 and there passed his Swedish medical examinations before returning to St. Paul, where he became a practicing physician. He d. in St. Paul in 1915 after a gallstone operation. — A. J. Bruzelius, *Sveriges läkarehistoria*. Tredje följden. I–IV (Stockholm 1886–1901), IV, p. 96; A. Widstrand, *Sveriges läkarehistoria*. Fjärde följden. I–V (Stockholm 1930–1935), III, p. 374.

21 Gustaf R. Anderson, b. in Örebro, Sweden 30 Nov. 1864, the s. of Johan Reinhold Andersson, organ builder, and Maria Andersson. He emigr. first to Brattleboro, VT and later to Worcester, MA, after which he came west to St. Paul in 1888. Here he became a barber, operating a successful establishment in down-town St. Paul. — *Strand*, III, p. 886.

22 Olof Valline, b. in Vanneberga, Västra Ljungby Parish (Krist.) 3 Nov. 1847, the s. of Ola Svensson, carpenter, and Elna Hansdotter. He early demonstrated musical talents and gained entrance to the Royal Conservatory of Music in Stockholm. After spending two years there, he transferred his studies to Lund, where he came under the tutelage of W. Th. Gnosspselius, cathedral organist. He passed his examinations as church organist, married, and soon thereafter, in 1872, left for America. He first settled in Moline, IL, then in Red Wing, MN and finally came to St. Paul, where he taught in various Swedish Lutheran congregations. In St. Paul he was also the local manager of the Chicago-based Swedish American publishing firm of Engberg & Holmberg. He d. in St. Paul in 1921. — *Strand*, III, pp. 881-882; *Matrikel för kyrkans och skolans lägre fester och i Lunds stift* (Helsingborg 1860), p. 18.

23 Charles Libb was b. in Sweden in Oct. 1859 and arr. in the U.S. in 1887. From 1893 to 1900 he is listed as a shoemaker, employed by Sharood & Crooks. From 1901 to 1916 he is listed as a janitor at the Ramsey County Court House. He is not to be found after 1917. — *St. Paul* city directories; *The U.S. Census of 1900*.

24 John G. Dahl is difficult to identify. He could be the s. of Carl Emil Dahl (see note 18 above). He is not in the 1900 census. In 1898 he is listed as a furrier with Lanpher, Finch & Skinner; in 1899–1900 employed by the Northern Pacific Railroad; from 1901 to 1904 as a furrier again, this time as foreman and assistant department manager with Gordon & Ferguson; in 1950 he was estimator for E. Albrecht & Son, furrier and was listed as retired through 1970. In 1971 his widow Sophie is listed. — *St. Paul* city directories.

25 Possibly identical with Olof J. Olson, b. in the province of Blekinge 9 Jan. 1874, who emigr. to the U.S. in 1880 with his family. He early entered the floral business in St. Paul, eventually joining forces with Elof P. Holm to form the well-known floral firm of Holm & Olson. — *Strand*, III, pp. 924–925; 956.

26 Probably Charles A. Rose, b. in Sweden in Nov. 1855. He arr. in the U.S. in 1870. He was m. to his wife, Emma, and had two children — Raymond C. and Amy. He d. in St. Paul 26 Nov. 1929. The obituary mentions him as having been a resident of St. Paul for more than 50 years. He was for many years vault keeper at the Northwestern Trust Co., but had during the latter part of his life been deputy sheriff for Ramsey Co. The directories identify him at various times from 1886 on
as saloon owner, salesman, brakeman and fireman on the Northern Pacific Railroad. He is not listed 1902 - 1905. — St. Paul city directories; St. Paul obituary.

2Simon Nelson was a jeweler in St. Paul, working for other jewelers 1883 to 1894. He established his own jewelry business in 1895, which he operated until 1929, when he moved to Northfield, MN. He is not listed in the Northfield city directory for 1936. According to the 1900 census he was b. in Sweden in April 1865. The census also mentions his arrival from Sweden in 1899, but he is clearly identified in the city directories earlier. — St. Paul city directories; The U.S. Census of 1900.

28August Ekman, b. in Växjö, Sweden 3 Sept. 1866, the s. of Nils Ekman and his wife, Brita Catharina, and a brother of Edward Ekman (see note 4 above). He arr. in the U.S. with his family at an early age, settling first in St. Paul and later in Minneapolis. He was active in the Twin Cities as a realtor and land developer. — Strand, III, pp. 769-770.

29Harald Carl Herman von Stockenström, b. in Stjärnsund, Husby Parish (Köp-) 13 March 1853, the s. of Andrew Ueland was b. at Heskestad near Stavanger in Norway 21 Feb. 1853, the s. of Ole Gabriel Lohrbauer and Thrine Boedtker. He established a colonization bureau in St. Paul together with his better known brother, Johannes Lohrbauer. The directory lists the firm as “Farm Lands, Steamship Tickets and Colonization Bureau”. He d. in St. Paul 13 Oct. 1905. — The U.S. Census of 1900; The Book of Minnesotans (St. Paul, MN 1907), p. 332.

30Johan Victor Alfvegren was b. in Näsungs, Dalhem Parish (Gotl.) 16 June 1867, the s. of Nils Alfvegren and Brita Maria Lauretta Christensson. After studies at the Universities of Lund and Uppsala, Alfvegren left for America, arriving in Minnesota in 1893. Here he decided to enter the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church and entered the Seabury Divinity School in Faribault, MN, where he received his B.D. degree in 1896. In the same year, he was ordained and
began work among the Swedish immigrants, organizing the St. Sigfrid's Swedish Episcopal Church in St. Paul. He continued this work until 1903, when he was appointed general missionary for the work among the Swedes in the Northwest. — Strand, III, pp. 986–987.

35 Justus Magnus Lundberg was b. in Kalmar, Sweden 12 Nov. 1866, the s. of J. F. Pontus Lundberg, a chemist and drug store proprietor, and Sophie Wahlström. Early in life Justus Magnus demonstrated an aptitude for music and after several years of private tutoring he was admitted to the Royal Conservatory of Music in Stockholm, from which he was graduated as an organist in 1887 with the highest honors. The following year he emigrated to America, arr. in St. Paul immediately. He resided there permanently and became very active in musical circles in the Twin Cities. In 1898 he m. Mathilda Gåransson, b. in Frönlund (Jön.) 19 Jan. 1865. — Strand, III, p. 972.

36 L. A. Rosing was b. in Malmö, Sweden 29 Aug. 1861, the s. of August George Rosing and Maria Marguerite Charlotte Flint Beng. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1869 with his father and husband in Red Wing, MN. He received his public school education in Goodhue Co., MN and then worked on his father’s farm as well as clerking in stores in Cannon Falls. In 1888 he acquired a shoe store in Cannon Falls. In the political campaign of 1890 he became involved in politics and for the next ten years distinguished himself in the Democratic Party. He became state chairman of the party in 1896. He was mainly responsible for managing the Fusion forces which in 1898 succeeded in electing John Lind as governor, the first non-Republican chief executive in Minnesota in forty years. In 1899 he became the private secretary to Gov. Lind. In 1886 he was m. to May B. Season. — O. N. Nelson, The History of the Scandinavians, I, p. 483; Strand, II, p. 483.

37 Oluf Sahlberg was b. in Östersund, Sweden 6 July 1859, the s. of Oluf Sahlberg, Sr., a painter. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1879 with his parents and after preparatory schooling entered the medical school of the University of Minnesota, from which he was graduated as the first foreign-born medical doctor in Minnesota. In 1890–1891 he traveled widely in Europe studying surgery and gynecology at the leading medical centers. In 1886 he m. to Helvina A. Wold. — O. N. Nelson, The History of the Scandinavians, I, p. 493; Strand, III, pp. 911–912.

38 J. A. Jackson was b. in Carver Co., MN 17 July 1868, the s. of the Rev. Andrew Jackson, the first principal of what later was to become Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, and Christina Swenson, and a brother of Hannah F. Peterson (see note 11). He was graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1891 and then received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1893. He was the first Swedish attorney to practice law in St. Paul. In 1898 Jackson was elected to the Minnesota State Legislature. As chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings, he had much influence in the construction of the new capitol building. — O. N. Nelson, The History of the Scandinavians, I, p. 414.

39 Andrew Dahlquist was b. in Värna Parish (Ög.) 30 Nov. 1853, the s. of Lars Nilsson and Gustava Ekman. After several years of employment in Stockholm and Enköping Dahlquist emigrated to the U.S. in 1878, settling first in St. Joseph, MO as a stonemason. In 1881 he arr. in St. Paul, getting employment as a stonemason at the old Minnesota Capitol. Tiring of this, he switched to the hotel and restaurant business, which he carried on with considerable success. He became active in politics and was elected alderman from the Third Ward of St. Paul in 1890, serving two terms. He was much interested in public welfare and headed up the relief efforts for the victims of the great fire in Hinckley, MN in 1894. In 1887 he m. Emma Christina Anderson, who was b. in Jönköping in 1862 and who had arr. in the U.S. in 1877. — Strand, III, pp. 879–880; Theodore C. Blegen, Minnesota. A History of the State (Minneapolis 1963), p. 405.

40 John Sandell was b. in Sweden 4 Aug. 1851. Seventeen years old, he emigrated to Jordan, MN, where he remained for ten years. In 1878 he arr. in St. Paul, establishing himself as a merchant tailor in downtown St. Paul. He was much interested in civic affairs, being a member of the first elective assembly in St. Paul in 1892. In 1899 he was appointed a member of the Board of Public Works. In 1874 he m. Hulda D. A. Brander, b. in Sweden, but who had arr. in Jordan as a little girl. — Strand, III, pp. 919–920.

41 Gustaf Alfred Johnson was b. in Vallby Parish (Upps.), Sweden 31 May 1854, the s. of John Ersson, farmer, and his wife Anna Maria. After the death of his parents he entered the agricultural school in Alnarp, from which he was graduated in 1879 (he is not listed in Carl Sjöström’s Alnars matrikel 1862–1912). The same year he went to England for additional agricultural studies, but left two years later for America. He arr. in St. Paul in 1881 and secured a position with a wholesale grocer. In 1889 he became deputy clerk of the Ramsey County Court House. He m. in 1888 Annie M. Andrews, who was b. in Västergötland in 1861. — Strand, III, pp. 935–936.
Andrew P. Peterson was b. in Sweden 7 Sept. 1851. In 1860 he emigr. with his parents to the U.S., settling in Carver Co., MN. For a number of years he was in the merchandising business in Cokato, MN and from 1890 he was the proprietor of a drug store in that city. Peterson was active in politics, serving as county commissioner of Wright Co., MN as well as representing Cokato in the Minnesota State Legislature in 1877. In 1878 he m. Anna S. Anderson of Minneapolis. — O. N. Nelson, The History of the Scandinavians, I, p. 470.

John Gottfrid Ahlen was b. in Gudarsmåla, Algutsboda Parish (Kron.) 23 Aug. 1863, the s. of Carl Johan Jonasson, farmer and manufacturer of wallpaper, and Erika Gustafsdotter. He emigr. to America in 1880 and arr. in Minneapolis that year. In 1883 he moved to St. Paul, where he at first was engaged in the hotel business but later became involved in real estate and insurance. In 1900 he m. Camelia Anderson, dau. of Frank Anderson of Cumberland, WI. He d. suddenly in West Palm Beach, FL 25 Jan. 1910. — Strand III, pp. 818–821.

John Thoorsell was b. in Torbjörntorp Parish (Skar.), Sweden 28 July 1848, the s. of Anders Johnsson, farmer, and Anna Maria Carlsdotter. He emigr. to the U.S. in 1869, settling first in Rockford as a cabinetmaker. After five years he moved to Cannon Falls, MN, where he opened a cabinetmaking shop, a furniture store in conjunction with a funeral parlor. In 1887 he experienced a disastrous fire and moved to St. Paul, where he also established himself in the furniture and undertaking business. In 1895 he joined in a partnership with J. G. Thaung (see note 2), which lasted until 1906. In 1877 he had m. Ida Turner of Vasa, Goodhue Co., MN. — Strand III, pp. 904–907.

Carl Christian Bennet, b. in the Caroli Parish in Malmö 5 March 1847, the illegitimate s. of Anna Helena Olsson, a servant (piga). That Baron Wilhelm Bennet (1805–1890), an officer and later a colonel in the Crown Prince’s Royal Hussar Regiment, was the father of the child is pretty well documented by the fact that Carl Christian Bennet, himself, alluded to the fact that when Baron Bennet’s will was probated in Malmö after his death, the bulk of the estate went to “fruntimret Anna Helena Olsson and her four children”. Carl Christian Bennet arr. in Montreal, Canada in 1867, where he entered the fur business. In 1877 he went Omaha, NE, and after a short time there moved to Minneapolis, where he opened a furrier’s shop. He was active in the Minnesota National Guard, hence he used the title of “captain”. He m. Jenny Stokes in Montreal in 1874. — Alfred Söderström, Minneapolis Minnen (Minneapolis 1899), pp. 374–375; Elenstierna, Svenska adelns ättartavlor, I, p. 294; archives of the Court of Appeals for Skåne and Blekinge (Kungl. Hovrättens över Skåne och Blekinge) in Malmö; information courtesy Carl-Erik Johansson, Salt Lake City, UT.

Frank Emil Moody was b. in Finngården, Stöaby Parish (Kron.), Sweden 5 March 1870, the s. of John Modig, a manufacturer of furniture and threshing machines, and Lovisa Andersdotter. He emigr. to the U.S. in 1882 with a relative, settling in St. James, MN. The following year he was joined by his parents and siblings. He entered Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, graduating from that institution in three years. He then entered the School of Dentistry of the University of Minnesota, from which he was graduated in 1896. The same year he opened an office in Minneapolis. In 1900 he was appointed by Gov. Lind to membership on the State Board of Dental Examiners for a term of three years. — Strand III, pp. 843–847.

Carl John Ringnell was b. in Vissefjärda Parish (Kalm.), Sweden 3 June 1864. He emigr. to the U.S. at the age of 18, entering Gustavus Adolphus College, where he received his degree in three years. In 1891 he was graduated from the Medical School of the University of Minnesota. He traveled widely in Europe, studying hospital practices in a number of countries. After a year of post graduate studies at Tulane University in New Orleans he traveled through Mexico and Central America. In 1891 he opened an office in Minneapolis; the same year he m. Carrie Morris Wilkins of New York City, the grand niece of Gouverneur Morris (1752–1816) American diplomat and political leader. — O. N. Nelson, The History of the Scandinavians, I, p. 481.

Louis Nelson was b. in Lake Park, Becker Co., MN 18 July 1872, the s. of Nils and Christina Nilsson, who had been among the earliest Swedish settlers in Minnesota. After finishing his college studies at Augsburg College in Rock Island, IL he entered the Dental School of the University of Minnesota, from which he was graduated in 1900. In the same year he opened an office in Minneapolis. In 1905 he m. Annie M. Bjorge of Lake Park. — Strand III, p. 1137.

Knut Ekman, the brother of Edward (see note 4) and of August (see note 28), was b. in Växjö 23 Oct. 1870, the s. of Nils and Brita Catharina Ekman. He emigr. to the U.S. in 1887 with his parents, settling first in Lindstrom, MN, later in St. Paul and finally in Minneapolis. Here he was employed at first by the old Scandinavian-American Bank, and when this was merged with the Northwestern National Bank he became cashier of the newly organized Scandinavian-

Adolph Theodore Rosin was b. in Stockholm, Sweden 10 Nov. 1856. After several years as a sailor, he returned to Stockholm and entered the employ of Joseph Guida, a prominent furrier in that city. In 1880 Rosin emigr. to St. Paul, where he entered the fur business and eventually opened his own processing plant in 1885. After the death of his first wife, Charlotte Josephine Rosin, he m. again 1882 Anna Sophia Johnson of St. Paul. — *Strand*, III, pp. 994–999.

Erik Sundkvist was b. in Östersund, Sweden 8 April 1853, the s. of Erik and Christina Olsson. He early entered the fur business in his home city, but remained there only two years before deciding to emigr. to America, which he did in 1880. That fall he joined the firm of E. Albrecht Fur Co., staying there two years before joining Gordon & Ferguson, at that time the largest fur establishment in the Northwest. In 1889 he went into business for himself. In 1878 he m. (1) Elizabeth Sohlberg and after her death, he m. (2) Anna Backlund Johnson in 1886. — *Strand*, III, pp. 940–943.

O. H. Aroin was b. in Stockholm, Sweden 14 May 1861. After having learned the printer's trade he emigr. to the U.S. in 1879, settling in St. Paul, where he worked on the staff of *Skaffaren*, a Swedish weekly newspaper. In 1883 he opened a jewelry store in St. Paul. He was active in politics and served for a time as county treasurer of Ramsey Co., MN. — O. N. Nelson, *The History of the Scandinavians*, I, 370–371.

(The intrinsic value of the article above is not so much the subject matter, dealing with an outgoing governor's celebration of an uneven birthday, but rather how it is possible, thanks to city directories, Scandinavian and American biographical dictionaries, newspapers, as well as the U.S. Census of 1900 to flesh out virtually all of the names listed on a forgotten solicitation list as well as a newspaper account in a Swedish American newspaper.)

**Jacob Fahlstrom’s Bible**

The American Swedish Institute of Minneapolis has in its collection a Swedish Bible, which at one time belonged to Jacob Fahlstrom, generally accepted as having been the first Swede to settle in what is today the State of Minnesota. The Bible, with the title *Bibelen eller den Heliga Skrift*, was printed by Samuel Rumstedt in Stockholm in 1839 and contains the following inscription on the inside of the flyleaf:

> "Jacob Fahlstrom
> His Book
> Jacob Fahlstrom
> Died in 1859 at 6 O'Clock in the morning
> age 64 years old and 11 days"

The two versions of Fahlstrom’s name seem to be from his hand. The fact that the spelling differs is not unusual in a time when the spelling of surnames had a tendency to fluctuate. The reference to his death must have been written by a near relative, possibly his wife or one of the children, who inadvertently forgot to write down his death date. The Bible in question is mentioned by L. J. Ahlström, who inspected it in 1923 during a visit to some of the Fahlstrom grandchildren on the White Earth Indian Reservation in Mahnomen County in northwestern Minnesota. — L. J. Ahlström, *Femtiofem år i vestra Wisconsin* (Minneapolis 1924), p. 67.