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Jacob Fahlstrom's Bible

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50 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 emigrated 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.

51 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 emigrate 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 Söhlberg and after her death, he m. (2) Anna Backlund Johnson in 1886. — Strand, III, pp. 940-943.

52 O. H. Arosin was b. in Stockholm, Sweden 14 May 1861. After having learned the printer’s trade he emigrated 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.

(Too 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.