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Death in Paris

One of our loyal subscribers, Cameron Allen of Columbus, OH, spotted the following item in going through microfilms of dispatches from U.S. consuls to the Department of State from 1790 to 1906 at our nation’s National Archives. The document deals with an American tailor, with the obvious Swedish name of Ernest Nystrom, who, though born in New York, died in Paris, France 19 Oct. 1858. In translation from the French, the language in which the original dispatch was written, the document has the following wording:

"City of Paris

City Hall of the Ninth Arrondissement. Extract from the Civil Register for 1858.

On the twentieth of October one thousand eight hundred fifty eight at ten o’clock in the morning, the death was reported concerning Mr. Ernest Nystrom, tailor, who died yesterday, at eight thirty o’clock in the morning at his place of business, Notre Dame No. 4, at the age of thirty five, born in New York (America), dwelling at Rue St. Nicolas d’Antry No. 3, Hotel Europe. He was a bachelor and the declaration was made by Mr. Manuel Lerendu, fifty six years old and Marie Trost, seamstress, thirty eight years old, both of them employees and domiciled at the address of the establishment, Notre Dame No. 4."

We know very little about Ernest Nystrom, except that Daggett’s City Directory for New York, dated 1850–1851, lists Ernst Nystrom as a tailor with an address at 379 Sixth Ave. He is not listed in the accelerated index of the Federal census, of 1850. If any reader can furnish further information concerning this Parish inhabitant, it would be interesting to know where Nystrom came from and why he settled in Paris. He may even have been a Swedish immigrant, despite the reference to his having been born in New York.