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Sophia Carolina Schön

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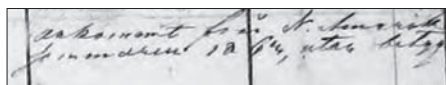
Sophia Carolina Schön, companion to Erik Jansson, returned to Sweden - what happened next?

BY LARS ÅKE WÄNGSTEDT AND ELISABETH THORSELL

In 1994 when Ovanåker *kommun* wanted to use the 150th anniversary of the first of Erik Jansson's book-burnings to attract tourists to our area, I realized that much more research was needed on this subject. Since, I have found several items of interest; there seems to be no end to this project. Some of these findings have to do with Sophia Schön after her return to Sweden, and I wish to share them, so that other researchers will not be frustrated as I was.

Sophia Carolina Schön was born 1821 May 20 in the parish house (*socknestugan*) in Österunda (Vstm.), and her parents were the church verger (*klockare*) Carl Albin Schön and his wife Anna Stina Olsdotter, living at the residence of the parish organist (*organistbostället*).

In the Bishop Hill records is a note that Sophia returned to Sweden in 1868, which is wrong. We do not know where she first landed in Sweden, but she came in the summer of 1863 to her brother Olof Enoch Schön (b. 1823 Apr. 1 in Österunda) and his family, who at that time lived in Husby in Spånga parish.¹ There is a note in the clerical survey that she just arrived, without any testimonies.



Spånga AI:17 (1861-1869), page 13. Text says: ankommit från N. Amerika sommaren 1863, utan betyg (arrived in the summer of 1863 from North America, without testimony).

In 1865 she moved with her brother Olof Enoch to Stora Ulfsätra in nearby Järfälla parish (Stock.), but she is not listed in the Järfälla records. Olof Enoch was a tenant farmer there until he and his family in 1874 Oct. 28 moved to Rickebasta in Alsike parish (Upps.),² which he owned.

From the church records of nearby Spånga³ it is noted that she came there in 1868 Oct. 24, from Österunda, which is also wrong. The pastor must have confused where she was born and where she came from. Her birthdate is also recorded wrong, 1821 Nov. 20, instead of May 20; this follows her the rest of her life. Unfortunately the preserved moving-in certificates (*flyttningsbevis*) from Spånga do not start until 1874. In the moving-in records of Spånga she is classified as a *mamsell*, which at that time means an unmarried female of a somewhat higher social status than a *piga*.

In Spånga she works as a housekeeper for the tenant farmer Carl Erik Andersson (b. 1818 May 15 in Hölö (Södm.)), at Lunda farm.⁴ His wife did not live with him, as she preferred living in the little town of Trosa, where she died in 1872 March 26.

In 1881 March 17 both Carl Erik Andersson and Sophia Carolina Schön also moved to Rickebasta, where Carl Erik became the tenant farmer for Sophia's brother. According to a note in the clerical survey the local pastor was not convinced that Sophia was free to marry,

so they could not have the banns read until February 1883, when she had received testimonies from the clergyman of Österunda concerning her conduct before leaving Sweden. She had also received the testimonies of reliable men in North America, and finally of the pastor of Spånga.⁶

Finally Carl Erik and Sophia Carolina were married in Alsike on 1883 March 3, but he died not long after in 1886 Mar. 31 at Rickebasta of the gout, at age 67 years, 10 months, and 19 days.⁷

In 1887 Olof Enoch and his wife moved to Uppsala, but Sophia Carolina moved back to Spånga.

In Spånga she lived for some time at Värsta gård,⁸ and is called *änkefru* Karolina Sofia Andersson. She did not stay long here; in 1889 Nov. 6 she moved to Färentuna parish (Stockh.) on one of the islands in Lake Mälaren. She lives with the family of the commissar Sixten Ragnar Hasselström and his family at

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Ulfsätra farm in Järfälla, where Sophia probably lived a few years with her brother.

Hända gård, possibly as some kind of a housekeeper, as they do not seem to be related.⁹

In 1891 Feb. 19 the Hasselström family and Sophia Carolina moved to Väsby¹⁰ in Skå parish (Stockh.), where Mr. Hasselström, who had now been appointed county constable (*länsman*) had his official residence.

Sophia Carolina stayed with the Hasselströms until she died on 1899 Jan. 18 from heart disease.

An eventful life had ended.¹¹

Endnotes:

- 1) Spånga AI:17 (1861-1869), page 13.
- 2) Järfälla AI:11 (1861-1874), pages 42 and 52.
- 3) Spånga BI:a:4, picture 54. Sophia is #86.
- 4) Spånga AI:18 (1869-1876), p. 253.
- 5) Alsike AI:13 (1881-1885), page 78.
- 6) Alsike C:6 (1871-1887), page 79.
- 7) Alsike C:6 (1871-1887), page 110.
- 8) Spånga AI:21 (1886-1892), page 309.
- 9) Färentuna AI:17 (1886-1890, page 146.
- 10) Skå AI:17 (1891-1899), page 220.
- 11) Skå FI:2 (1896-1936), page 4.



Värsta estate in Spånga, where Carolina Sophia worked for some time.

Swedes born, married, or dead in 1942 are now available online at SVAR

In January 2013 the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics (*Statistiska Centralbyrån*, SCB) released their extracts from the church records of births, marriages, and deaths in 1942. The Swedish Privacy laws are in force for all such data younger than 70 years, so every new year they release a new set of records.

The new records are published on-

line on the SVAR web site, which is a subscription site.

SVAR is the online branch of the Swedish National Archives, and you may find more information in their ad on page 6 in this issue of SAG.

SVAR is a huge site, and it is not always that easy to find what you are looking for, but they have a very fast e-mail support.

On SVAR you can find all church records from the 1600s onwards, emigration records from 1869 onwards, military muster rolls, prison records, Swedish censuses for 1880, 1890, 1900, and partly for 1910. You can find probate records' indexes for about half the country, and much more. The SVAR site is indispensable for the serious genealogist.