A Malung family in America

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- what happened next?

In SAG 2008/2, p. 10, the sad story was told about the immigrating family of Torspers Mats Halvarsson, his wife Joni Marit Jonsdotter, and their children, and how they lost newborn twins in Nordmark (Värm.) when on their way to the port of Göteborg.

The family left Göteborg 1869 June 15 on the S/S Scandinavian for Leith in Scotland. From there they probably travelled to Glasgow and got on a big steamer for America.

When the family was found on the Göteborg passenger lists, the family were recorded on two different pages. The daughters Kerstin, Brita, and Anna were listed among other passengers, and the parents, Mats and Marit, among people with prepaid tickets. This shows that somebody, probably a relative in America, had sent them a ticket, but who could that be? Was there anyone in Mats’s or Marit’s family that had immigrated to America earlier?

Next step

The next step was to check on the siblings of Mats and Marit, so I started with Marit.

Marit was born in 1833 Oct. 28 in Östra Fors village in Malung, one of the children of Jonas Larsson and his wife Brita Nilsdotter. Jonas and his family lived at Östra Fors #31, and had the farm name Lindjo, which alternated with the farm name Joni. This couple had several children, all born in Östra Fors:

d. Anna, b. 1822 Mar. 23.
s. Lars, b. 1827 Sep. 26.
d. Marit, b. 1833 Oct. 28.

When following the family forwards in time, it was found that daughter Brita “ran away to America” in 1846.

This indicates that she had joined the prophet Erik Jansson and his followers that immigrated in 1846 to Bishop Hill in Henry County, Illinois.

According to the Bishop Hill database, built by Bob Nelson of Trempeleau, WI, Brita married first in 1848 July 30 in Bishop Hill to Erik Sallin, who seems to have died before 1851. By 1864 she was married to Anders Olsson Nordin, born 1823 Aug. 27 in Buckarby, Nora parish (Västm.), who died in Bishop Hill in 1908. Their daughter Christina Mathilda Nordine was born 1864 May 8 in Bishop Hill.

End notes:
1) Göteborg Passenger Lists, volume SE/GLA/12703/E IX/1, 1869, picture ID A0056890_00353 (SVAR).
2) Malung 1:2, page 176.
3) Malung 1:4b, page 32.
4) Malung 1:5b, page 32.
5) http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=bishophill
6) Brita Nordine obituary, Galva News 1917 Dec. 27.

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