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## Update on the marriage certificate

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# Marriage certificate, found at the Swedish Consulate in Chicago - a follow-up

In SAG 2013/2 on p. 4 there was a picture of a marriage certificate for Otto Persson and his bride Emma Johnson of Rockford, Illinois.

Now SAG reader Ted Rosvall has found obituaries for both Otto and Emma on GenealogyBank.com.

In the obituary for Otto it is mentioned that he died 1942 July 13 at the Billings Memorial Hospital in Chicago, after having been hospitalized for almost a month.

Otto was born in 1877 Apr. 9 in Visby, Sweden, according to his obituary, which is wrong. It turns out that the date was correct, but he was not born on Gotland.

He was actually born at Fiskars bruk in Finland, where his family lived for a couple of years before moving to Stenkyrka parish on the island of Gotland. Otto's father was the farmer Per Andersson (b. 1846 Sep.1 in Svedala (Skån.). Otto's mother was Anna Johanna Olivia Funk (b. 1850 Apr. 30 in Stenkyrka).

Son Otto Johan Theodor left his home in 1896 Sep. 18 for North America.

In 1901 Apr. 9 Otto came back to his father's home with his own family: his wife and the oldest daughter Florence Loretta. There is a long note in the *Församlingsbok*, that Otto and Emma had been married by Pastor Leafgren in the Swedish Free Church in Rockford, which is what it says on their marriage certificate.

They only stayed for a year, and went back to America on 1902 Mar. 21, with tickets for Chicago. By then daughter #2, Bertha Ottilia Johanna, had been born on 1902 Jan. 6 in Stenkyrka.

From now on they stayed in Rockford for the rest of their lives. Otto used the surname Pearson, as his father's first name was Per. His younger brother Oscar kept the Anderson name. Oscar left Visby on 1909 Oct. 13 with a ticket for Rockford.

**Death Claims**  
**Otto Pearson**

**Rockford Resident for  
45 Years Succumbs  
At Chicago Hospital**

Otto Pearson, 65, rural route 7, died at 6:25 o'clock last night at Billings Memorial hospital in Chicago where he had been a patient since June 18. Death ended a long illness.

A resident of Rockford for 45 years, Mr. Pearson was born in Visby, Sweden, April 9, 1877, and came directly to Rockford when he arrived in America. He was a retired furniture worker and was a member of the Royal league.

Mr. Pearson is survived by his wife, Mrs. Emma Pearson; a son, Robert Pearson of Rockford; four daughters, Mrs. Alice Bjorklund, Mrs. Mildred Pratt, both of Rockford, Mrs. Florence Hunter of Mount Rainier, Md., and Mrs. Bertha Morris of Chicago; a brother, Oscar Anderson of Kansas City, Mo.; seven grandchildren and a sister and a brother in Sweden.

The Rockford Register-Republic 1942 July 14

**Mrs. Emma Pearson**

Mrs. Emma M. Pearson, 89, the mother of Mrs. Mildred Pratt, a deputy sheriff - matron for Winnebago County, died at 4:55 a.m. today in Beloit (Wis.) Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Pearson, who formerly resided at 1413 6th Ave., had lived at Caravilla Nursing Home, Beloit, for 3½ years.

Survivors besides Mrs. Pratt include two other daughters, Mrs. Bertha Morris, Chicago, and Mrs. Florence Hunter, Enka, N.C.; one son, Robert, Rockford; and one brother, Axel W. Johnson, Rockford.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in the Sundberg Funeral Home, 215 N. 6th St., with burial in Willwood Burial Park.

The Rockford Register-Republic 1967 May 1. (GenealogyBank)

8	77/4	Sweden	1898	Amicitia 1901	8
9	77/5	Finland	1901		9
10	77/6	Sweden			10
11	77/7	Sweden			11

The left-hand side of Stenkyrk AIIa:1:8, which shows Otto and his family and the various places they were born.

8	b. n.	1898	Amicitia 1901
9	c. n.		
10			
11			

The right-hand side of the same page, which shows the note of the marriage of Otto and Emma, and when they left for America again.

## Emma Mathilda's family

As seen on the picture above, Emma was born 1877 May 10 in Ludvika, at a place called Finnäset. Her father was the laborer Joel Johansson, (b. 1847 Apr. 29 in Hällestad [Östg.]). Her mother was Johanna Sofia Risberg (b. 1853 Dec. 1 in Ludvika). Joel and Johanna also had a daughter

Alma Sofia, (b. 1878 Dec.24, died 1879 Jan. 21.). Next they had another Alma Sofia (b. 1880 Sep.16).

On 1881 May 13 they left their home and went to Göteborg. They left the port on May 20 with tickets for New York.