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Carla Markell, 1st lady of Delaware, has Swedish roots

A Facebook clip gave the clues

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

During the preparations for the celebrations for the New Sweden 375th Jubilee, I happened to see an interview with Mrs. Carla Markell on Facebook. She is married to Mr. Jack Markell, governor of Delaware since 2009.

In the interview Mrs. Markell mentioned that she had Swedish ancestors who came to the U.S. in 1912. She told a story about how that family had wanted to go on the *Titanic*, but had to wait for a later boat and thus avoided the shipwreck.

Ancestors of Carla Smathers Markell

1 *Carla Smathers*, b 1960 Dec. 26 in Newark, DE.
(Father 2, Mother 3)

Married about 1991 to Jack Markell, governor, b 1960 Nov. 26 in Newark, DE.

— Generation I —

2 ff *Donald Lee Smathers*, b 1927 Dec. 5 in San Diego, San Diego, CA, d 2009 Jul. 21 in Wilmington, DE.

In the 1940 U.S. Census he lives with his grandmother Marie Olson and his mother at 1143 15th Street in San Diego.

(Child 1, Father 4, Mother 5)

Married 1st 1952 Apr. 5 in Los Angeles, CA, USA to the following ancestor. Divorced about 1962.

Married 2nd 1975 to Rita McWorther.

3 m *Joan Ison Mills*, b about 1930.
(Child 1, Father 6, Mother 7)

— Generation II —

4 ff *William Long Smathers*, b 1901 Jul. 14 in Texas, d 1957 Dec. 18 in Sacramento, CA.

In the U.S. Census for 1930 he and his family lived in San Diego, CA.
(Child 2, Father 8, Mother 9)

Married about 1924 to the following

ancestor. Divorced about 1935.

5 fm *Adela Ingegerd Olson*, b 1905 Jun. 6 in Linghed, Svärdsjö, (Dala.), Sweden, d 1998 Jul. 20 in San Diego, CA.

In the 1940 U.S. Census she is living with her mother and son at 1143 15th Street in San Diego. She is divorced, but had the surname Horn, which indicates a short 2nd marriage. She works as a shop assistant in a department store.
(Child 2, Father 10, Mother 11)

6 mf *George R. Mills*
(Child 3)

Married to the following ancestor

7 mm *Beatrice Keziah*
(Child 3)

— Generation III —

8 ff f *James M Smathers*, b ca 1872 in Kentucky. He lived in 1910 with his family in Santa Anna, Coleman Co, TX.

9 ff m *Mary M Cee*, b ca 1869 in Kentucky. (Her maiden name from "California Death index" when son William died).

In 1930 she lived with her son William and his family in San Diego, CA.
(Child 4)

10 fm f *Daniel Gustaf Olsson*, b 1873 Oct. 24 in Vallbyn, Enviken, (Dala.), d 1913 in the U.S. He was a stonemason.

He lived with his family at Linghed, Svärdsjö, before their emigration. Before they left their home there was a big farewell party, and much talk in the area on how they had missed travelling on the *Titanic*, according to local historian Björn Engström.

Moved with his whole family 26 Mar 1912 from Linghed, Svärdsjö, to North America. Moved with his



Governor Jack Markell and his wife Carla. (Photo from Sweden & America.)

whole family 19 Apr 1912 from Göteborg to New York, NY, USA. Moved on the S/S Lusitania 3 May 1912 from Liverpool, England, to New York, NY, USA. They travelled to San Diego as Daniel had a sister Minnie (Wilhelmina) there who had immigrated a few years earlier. They settled in San Diego, where Daniel seems to have died shortly afterwards.
(Child 5)

Married 1900 Apr. 16 in Svärdsjö to the following ancestor.

11 fm m *Maria (Marie) Andersdotter*, b 1 Aug 1877 in Linghed, Svärdsjö, d 24 Aug 1961 in San Diego, CA.

In the 1920 U.S. Census she lived with her children at 16th Street in San Diego, and was then a widow. The family is recorded as "Oleson." She owned her house and had four boarders.

In the 1930 U.S. Census she lives at 2503 Lincoln Avenue in San Diego with sons Enar and Birger.

In the 1940 U.S. Census she lives at 1143 15th Street in San Diego with her daughter Adela and her grandson Donald.

(Child 5)

f is far (father in Swedish).

m is mor (mother in Swedish).

fm is farmor (father's mother).

(Dala.) is province of Dalarna.