

6-1-2012

Who was Bertha Louise Peterson?

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Recommended Citation

Thorsell, Elisabeth (2012) "Who was Bertha Louise Peterson?," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 32 : No. 2 , Article 3.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol32/iss2/3>

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Who was little Bertha Louise Peterson?

I do not usually read the *Augustana Heritage Newsletter*, but during the spring Jill Seaholm told me of an item in the Spring 2012 Newsletter, that might interest the SAG readers too.

So here it is:

“Those of us who go to yard sales and thrift stores sometime buy old prints and paintings for little or nothing, not for the picture but for the frame. Viewers of the Antiques Road Show know that we occasionally make unusual discoveries when we open up the frame. A treasure may be lurking underneath the picture, out of sight for many years.

“Early this year, Debbi Siebert of Caddo Mills, Texas, contacted Ronald Englund, *Augustana Heritage Newsletter* editor, about such a discovery. She wrote:

“I am not sure who to go to, so I will start with you. Here is the story:

“My mother-in-law, in Wichita, Kansas, found a very pretty frame with a picture in it at a thrift store years ago and bought it to give to me. I opened up the frame and took out the picture, and behind it was a very pretty certificate in a foreign language. I have figured it out as Swedish.

“The bottom right of the certificate form says ‘Lutheran Augustana Book Concern’ and at the bottom left side it says, ‘No. 76.’

“This is the death certificate for Bertha Louise Peterson, born February 1, 1905; died June 29, 1909; and buried July 2, 1909. There is nothing to state the place of birth or death.

“I would like to find the family to whom it belongs and give it to them. Our Swedish community in Kansas is in Lindsborg.

“We’re grateful that Debbi Siebert made the effort to track us down.

“Neither she nor her husband, Bill Siebert, have any links with Lutherans. She says that “I am from Wichita and my husband is from Salina. We

lived in Manhattan and Wamego before moving south to Texas in 1982.

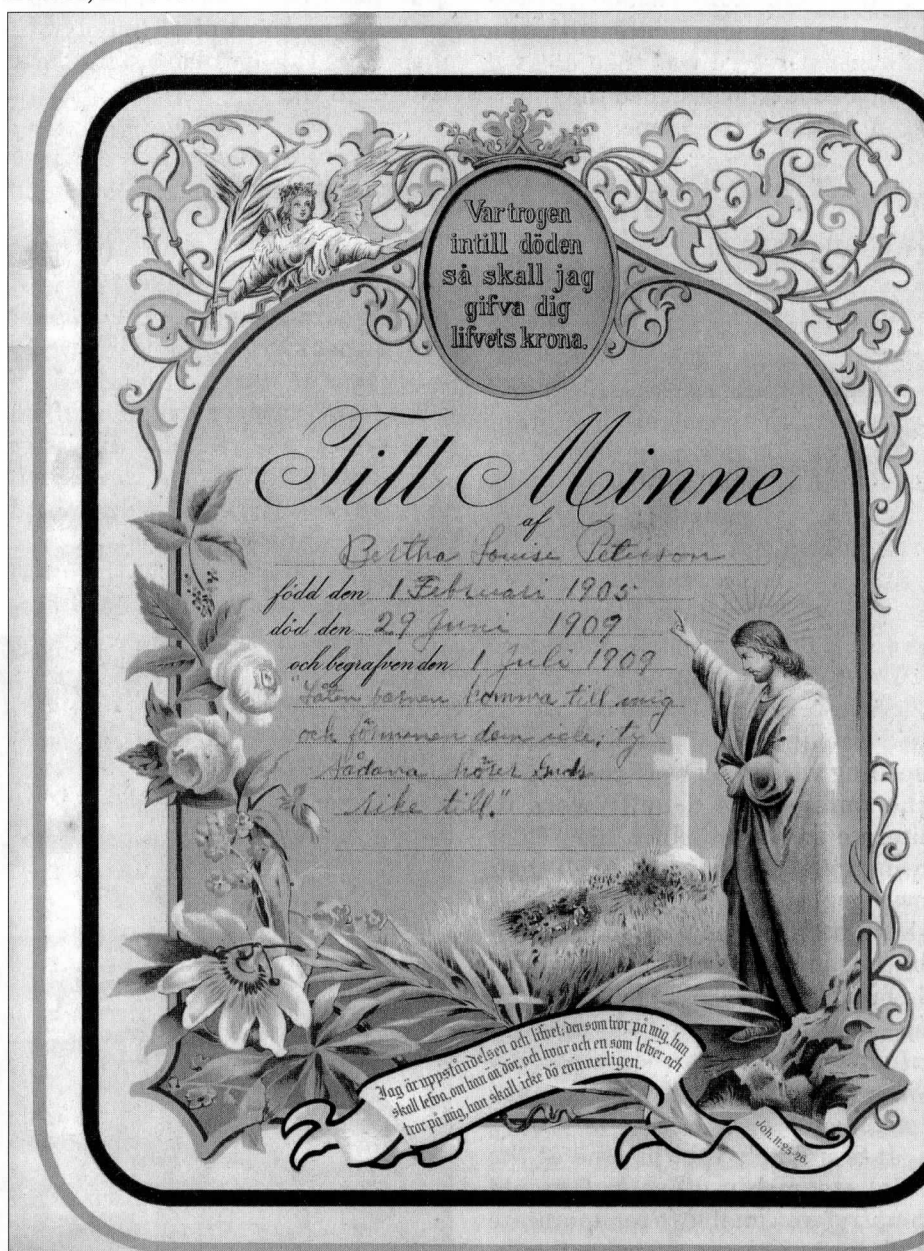
“We much miss Kansas, but not the winters.”

Is there a SAG reader who can help solve this mystery? Who are the Peterson family, certainly Swedish and from the Augustana Synod, who sadly lost a four-year-old, Bertha Louise, in 1909?

Please contact Rev. Roland Englund at <englund@cape.com> if you have any clues. Or the SAG editor at <sag@etgenealogy.se>.

[Reprinted from the 2012 Spring Newsletter of the Augustana Heritage Association, by permission from Rev. Englund.]

Elisabeth Thorsell



The handwritten text is the Swedish version of Jesus’ speech about the children: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”