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On Swedish names

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I arranged with the constable to give me as much as possible of my food to keep with me below deck, where I was given a chest to keep it in, so I only had to come in contact with the crew just a few times in their mess.”

What happened next

Carl then describes the rest of his voyage and writes unflattering comments on his fellow passengers. He arrived in Boston 1853 Aug. 10 and had planned to go on to New York and from there continue to Australia, but found out that his funds were almost

gone.

Instead he went with some of his fellow passengers to Chicago, and finally ended up in Minnesota where he settled in Goodhue County.

His wife *Clara Sophia Persdotter* and his son *Carl Emil* (b. 1848) and daughter *Carolina Gustava* (b. 1853) joined him in 1854, and then more children were born: *Cecelia Fredrica* (twin, b. 1856); *Cornelia Sofia* (twin, b. 1856); *Camilla Rosalia* (b. 1860); *Carlina Hjalmar* (b. 1862); *Celinda Armida* (b. 1866); *Clodamir Nino* (b. 1867); and *Tialinda Cassandra* (b. 1874).²

Notes:

1. Carl’s birth is not found in any church records, neither in Färnebo, nor in Gåsborn, where he was baptized, according to his memoirs.
2. Details from *Descendants of Carl Roos and Clara Sophia Persdotter*, by Arthur Louis Finnell (1992).
3. There were several Norwegian barks with names like *Christiana* at this time, but none fits Carl’s description. *See link on p. 30.*

On Swedish names, and why they were changed

An incitement for Swedes to change their names might have been that they often had patronymics, which are very common.

Still today in Swedish statistics of surnames for 2011 the 16 most common surnames are patronymics.

The leading surname – if variations on the name *Johan* like *Johansson*, *Jonsson*, *Jansson*, and *Jönsson* are counted – today totals more than 410,000 bearers. Most of these variations became *Johnson* in the U.S., so there could be a number of *Johnsons* on the same street, causing confusion. This might have led some of them to change surnames, and then often to typical Swedish surnames like *Lindberg* or *Berglund*.

Surname #17 is *Lindberg* (27,000), a non-patronymic name, but still followed by some less common patronymics, like *Jakobsson*, *Magnusson*, *Axelsson*, and *Fredriksson*.

Swedish genuine male patronymics are always spelled with the double “ss”, as they really mean *Fredriks son* (son of *Fredrik*) with the first “s” being the genitive marker.

In the table to the right the two first columns shows the “ranking” for 2010 and 2011. The two columns to the right shows the number of name bearers for those years. Remember that the Swedish population is just over 9 million.

Source: Swedish Bureau of Statistics (SCB). www.scb.se

2011	2010		2011	2010
1	(1)	Johansson	255 205	(258 785)
2	(2)	Andersson	254 909	(257 994)
3	(3)	Karlsson	226 049	(228 794)
4	(4)	Nilsson	173 483	(175 392)
5	(5)	Eriksson	148 969	(150 296)
6	(6)	Larsson	126 061	(127 403)
7	(7)	Olsson	115 828	(117 401)
8	(8)	Persson	109 320	(110 618)
9	(9)	Svensson	103 208	(104 689)
10	(10)	Gustafsson	98 592	(99 693)
11	(11)	Pettersson	97 232	(98 475)
12	(12)	Jonsson	74 630	(75 353)
13	(13)	Jansson	50 800	(51 412)
14	(14)	Hansson	44 389	(44 900)
15	(15)	Bengtsson	34 682	(35 047)
16	(16)	Jönsson	32 775	(33 225)
17	(17)	Lindberg	27 542	(27 584)
18	(18)	Jakobsson	26 896	(27 030)
19	(19)	Magnusson	26 705	(26 935)
20	(20)	Olofsson	26 611	(26 820)