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The story of an immigrant family

SUBMITTED BY LUANN SCHIEFERDECKER

PETERSON FAMILY HISTORY

Niels Peter Peterson and wife Eva Corin Mannosdotter came from Lonneberga, Sweden. Niels was born November 28, 1812 in Gummarp, Lonneberga, County of Kälmar, Sweden. Eva Corin was born February 10, 1821 in Majohult, Sodravä Parrish, Lonneberga, Sweden. They married March 27, 1842 in Sodravä Parrish and received their passport for America May 15, 1849. They left from the port of Gotenborg, Sweden June 8, 1849. They traveled in a sailboat. The ocean journey lasted 3 months. Both Mr. and Mrs. Peterson became very sea sick. When Mr. Peterson began recovering from his first attack of sea sickness, he got out a pipe and began smoking. The sea captain said, if Peterson can smoke now he will be fit for a sea captain. Mr. Peterson was able to keep off the felling of nauses by smoking. Calmness caused their boat to stand still for two weeks. Mr. & Mrs. Niels Peterson had 3 daughters with them. Christina, age 6, Anna Marie, age 3, and Charlotte Margareta, age 1. Niels Peterson had a brother named Carl Johan who had a wife Anna Lovisa and 3 or 4 children. Mrs. Peterson had 2 girls cousins that came on the same boat. The cousins helped Mrs. Peterson with daughters. Carl Johan's children were Kristene, Tilda, Charlotte, August and Gus. (We do not know how many were born in Sweden.)

Niels Peterson daughter Christina became ill on the boat. She died after they landed in Pennsylvania. She was buried in Penn. Due to sickness the Petersons temporarily stopped in Penn. The trip from Penn. to Chicago, Illinois was made by railroad. They went from Chicago to Peru, Ill. by canal boat. The boat was pulled by either a horse or a mule. From Peru, Ill. they went to Andover, Ill. in a wagon.

(In 1849 Chicago had six railroads).

The Petersons settled on a farm of 40 acres which Mr. Peterson bought. It was between Orion and Andover, Ill. The farm was 1 mile from Orion and 7 miles from Andover. Orion was formerly been called Deanigton and La Grange. While the Petersons first house was built, they camped in a wagon barn loft. The barn belonged to a Mr. Lloyd. Mr. Peterson bought 1 horse for farming purpose, paid \$50.00 in gold for it. Before he bought a wagon he borrowed one from a neighbor for 75¢ for each use of it. Mrs. Peterson brought a spinning wheel from Sweden. After they came to Ill., Mr. Peterson made her a hand loom for weaving. Their first house was temporarily covered with slough grass. The following children were born to them in Illinois: Johan Peter (Will) born Apr. 13, 1851; Carl Erick (Albert) born March 11, 1854; Alfred born Sept. 12, 1856; Christina Augusta born Aug. 30, 1859 (She died of Typhoid Fever at the age 8 years); Otto Edward born March 27, 1862; Niels August born Nov. 10, 1865. Mrs. Peterson died in 1883 at age 62 (She had poor health several years before she died). Mr. Peterson died in 1888 at age 76 (He died of a heart attack, was found dead in the yard). When he died he owned 160 acres of land and 2 houses on the land. Niels Peterson's brother settled near Orion also. Mrs. Peterson's cousins went to Galesburg, Ill. Niels Peterson's father was the foreman of a farming estate in Sweden. Niels oldest brother was lost in the woods and died there. This caused the death of Niels mother (grief). Niels had one sister and some younger half brothers who never left Sweden. Niels wife father was farmer in Sweden. (It is said she was a dandy ice skater). Mrs. Peterson had a brother who moved to Ill. in 1887, his name was Nichols August Magnusson. Mrs. Peterson left 3 brothers and sister in Sweden. One sister was the mother of the late Mrs. Issacson of Louise, Tex. Her brother, Nichols had a daughter the late Mrs. Lena Bard, the mother of John, Freeman, Luther and other children of Elcampo, Texas and a son Alof of El Campo, Tex. Mr. and Mrs. Niels Peterson were members of the First Swedish Lutheran Church at Andover, Ill.. This was the first Swedish Church to be built in Ill. Niels Peterson was an active church worker. It is said he could read shaped notes and that he led the singing in this church.

and some comments (by Elisabeth Thorsell)

This interesting story has some information about the family's life in Sweden, and it might be interesting to see how it tallies with the church and other records.

The birth of Nils Peter

The Lönneberga church records do show that Nils Peter's birth date was correct [the spelling Niels is Danish] and that his parents were the sharecropper Petter Nilsson and his wife Stina Johannisdotter in Gummarp. Petter was born 1780 Mar. 12 in Karlstorp, and Stina 1785 Sep. 5 in Eshult.¹

The birth of Eva Carin

Eva Carin (Catharina) was born 1821 Feb. 10 in Mjöhult 2, Södra Vi parish. Her parents were Magnus [Måns is a short form of the name] Jonsson and his wife Catharina Ericsdotter. Magnus was born 1791 Mar. 9, and Catharina was born 1788 Sep. 29 in Rumskulla parish.²

The marriage

Nils Petter Petersson and Eva Carin Månsdotter were married 1842 Mar. 28 in Södra Vi. Nils Petter is recorded as being a sharecropper at Saxemåla in Lönneberga, and Eva Carin as a farmer's daughter from Mjöhult.³

Children

Nils Peter and Eva Carin lived at cottage Gummarp, which was situated on Saxemåla manor lands in Lönneberga, where their children were born:

Christina Catharina, b. 1843 Sep. 5.

Anna Maria, b. 1846 Jan. 8.

Margareta Charlotta, b. 1848 June 8.⁴

Passport records

In the Lönneberga household records it shows that this family left for America in 1849. This is good, as then there is a chance that they will be

found in the book *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850 [SPAUS]*, by Nils William Olsson [SAG founder] and Erik Wikén (1995).

And so they are! They are listed as emigrants #3055-3059 on p. 351. From the notes on the family we learn that they received their passport 1849 May 15 in Kalmar city. The passenger list shows that they sailed from Göteborg on the ship *Brödrene*, and arrived 1849 Aug. 17 in New York.

Further it is recorded that Nils Petter became an American citizen in Rock Island County on 1856 June 22.

Daughter *Anna Maria* is recorded as having married Johan Victor Svensson in 1863.

Daughter *Margareta Charlotta* is recorded as having married A.P. Falk in 1867.

Nils Peter's brother

Carl Johan Petersson was born 1815 Sep. 8 at Gumarp, Lönneberga. His wife was Anna Lovisa Nilsson, b. 1816 Nov. 17 in Vena parish. She was born to an unmarried mother, Catharina Larsdotter from Hulthenäs.⁵

Carl Johan and Anna Lovisa lived at Saxemåla in Lönneberga and had the following children:

Christina Margareta, b. 1840 Apr. 4.

Anna Matilda, b. 1842 Jan. 11.

Petter August, b. 1844 Dec. 30.⁶

Going to America

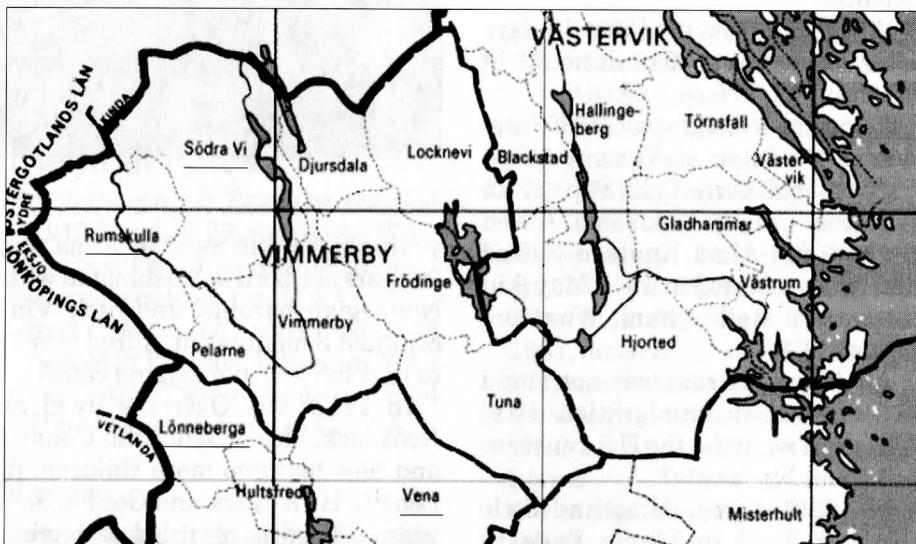
Carl Johan and his family are also found in SPAUS, p. 355, as emigrants #3128-3132. They sailed on the same ship as Nils Petter and his family, but first settled in Sugar Grove, PA, and moved in 1852 to Andover, IL.

The cousins?

According to the story some female cousins of Eva Carin's also travelled on the same ship, but they are not possible to identify without more research, as their names are not known.

Notes:

1. Lönneberga household records AI:3 (1812-1816), p. 271.
2. Södra Vi household records AI:5 (1826-1832) p. 305.
3. Södra Vi marriage records C:5 (1828-1851) p. 379.
4. Lönneberga household records AI:10 (1843-1850) p. 202.
5. Vena birth records CI:4 (1815-1836) p. 17.
6. Lönneberga household records AI:10 (1843-1850) p. 199.



Parts of Kalmar county, from Atlas of the divisions of Sweden. See link on p. 30.