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## Handwriting example 27

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# Handwriting Example XXVII

Letter No. 128 J. Sep. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1911  
Perth Amboy N.J.  
Mr. A. W. Berggren  
Berta Broder  
Broder P. E. Engberg  
var hos os i dag och  
so underretade mig att min  
syster Kristina gift med  
Johan <sup>född Krantz</sup> Johanson, <sup>restervik</sup> är  
död det viste vi ej, var  
snell och lit os Berta

till vem vi skall vända  
os för att utföra arvet,  
var snell och skriv till  
oss. vi vill så gärna  
skriva till eder igen.  
glad att få eder address  
teknar er Broder  
Carl J. Nilsson  
414 Washington st  
Perth Amboy N.J.

## An official declaration of death that did not work

Often, when looking for something, I do not find that item in the records, but discover something else, also of interest.

The above letter jumped out at me when going through a court minute book from the Tjust *Häradsrätt* (legal district) along the coast in Småland. The book was from the Fall Meeting (*Höstetinget*) 1911, and the letter was pasted into the records. It was from a man, Carl Johan Nilsson, living in Perth Amboy, NJ, to somebody in Sweden, but what was it doing in the court records?

When reading more in the records it showed that this man was on the verge of being officially declared dead (*dödförklarad*), but evidently was still much alive. The cause for this

declaration of his death was that his half-sister Stina Lisa Krantz had died in Västervik in 1903, and Carl Johan was her closest relative, BUT! He had emigrated with wife and three children in 1881 from Tryserum (Små.), and nobody had heard from him for many years. The law then required that a person should have been missing for 20 years or more before he could be declared dead.

He had had two sisters, but they were both dead long ago. One of them had four children, and they were the ones that had applied to the court to have Carl Johan and his family declared dead.

Before the court could do this they had to publish an advertisement for

them in the Swedish official newspaper, *Post och Inrikes Tidningar*, and this had been done three times during the fall of 1911.

Evidently this newspaper was read in the U.S. as well, as somebody told Carl Johan that people were looking for him in Sweden. The next step for him was to write to a man he knew in Sweden and ask for advice on how to handle this matter, and that letter is the one I found.

It is not difficult to imagine the disappointment of the Swedish relatives when they found out that the missing uncle was no longer missing, but very much alive and would claim his inheritance.

*Transcription on p. 23.*