Long Generations

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the list, so that it can be duplicated in print, but none of the pertinent information has been left out. The column which recounts the names of relatives in the U.S. has been deleted, but this information can be found on the original list, which bears the signum T-715, Roll No. 273 in the National Archives in Washington, DC. The manifest of the Oscar II, which departed from Copenhagen, Denmark 23 April 1902 and which arrived in New York on 6 May of that year, can be found on page 13 of this particular microfilm roll.

We are particularly fortunate that the scribe who made out this list was a person who was either Swedish or was well acquainted with Swedish orthography. There is not a single garble in the entire list. In printing this list I have normalized the Swedish spelling to conform with present-day usage and I have also added in parentheses the county or län after each place name so as to make it easier for the student to locate the parish in question.

All of the persons listed on this manifest were born in Sweden, with the exception of No. 5, Edvin Eliasson, who was born in the United States, the son of Bengta Eliasson. The brother, Georg, No. 6, being only five months old, was born in Sweden, apparently during Mrs. Eliasson’s visit to her homeland. All of the thirty passengers were making their first visit to the U.S., except Mrs. Eliasson, who had been residing in the U.S. for five years. One other passenger, No. 20, Hans Håkansson, had resided in the U.S. for one year, back in 1879.

Of particular interest to the scholar of immigration is the fact that almost in every instance the passenger was going to join a relative or friend. Mrs. Eliasson was joining her husband. Eleven of the passengers were joining a brother, three a sister, four an uncle, one an aunt, one a cousin, one a brother-in-law and three were going to join a friend. Only in one case did the passenger enter a “no” in this column.

No attempt has been made to further identify the passengers. A closer analysis of this particular manifest can doubtlessly furnish a great many clues as to these identities, both so far as the parishes these persons departed from in Sweden as well as the addresses given on the manifest for the relatives they were going to visit in the United States.

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Long Generations

Elsa Victoria Olsson, b. in Snävlunda Parish (Öre.) 17 Nov. 1884, died in Miami, FL 17 Feb. 1983, at the age of 98½ years. Her mother, Anna Sofia Åström, was born in Vibly Parish (Öre.) 22 May 1864, the daughter of Anders Magnus Josephsson Åström, who at the time of his daughter’s birth was 69 years old. He was born in Vallby Parish (Öre.). 10 Dec. 1795. Here the difference between the birth of the grandfather and the death of the granddaughter is 188 years—not a record, but a unique case nevertheless.