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A Swedish Bible Inscriptions in Esthonia

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lost at sea; others maintain that he merely returned to his native Arendal and settled down.

Other theories about David fall flat. It is not likely that David remained in Chicago permanently. He does not appear in the directories or censuses. He is not buried in Graceland Cemetery, which would be the logical place to look for him. No descendants have ever stepped forward to bask in his reflected fame. No grave has ever been pointed out as that of the first Norwegian in Chicago. And, it is not likely that David went elsewhere in the country. David would no doubt have enjoyed telling his story; some newspaper would have sought him out, and his story would inevitably have received a good press.

David Johnson was a mysterious figure in his own time. In ours he is likely to remain so. He continues, however, to be Chicago's first Norwegian and now a figure of interest as the Norwegian colony of Chicago marks its 150th anniversary this year.

¹John Calhoun (1808–1859) founded *The Chicago Democrat* 26 nov. 1833. It continued to be published with a few minor gaps until 23 June 1861, when it was merged with *The Chicago Daily Tribune*.

²Algot E. Strand, *History of the Norwegians in Illinois* (Chicago, 1905), pp. 186–187.

³Knut Gjerset, *Norwegian Sailors on the Great Lakes* (Northfield, MN, 1928), p. 18.

⁴Rasmus B. Anderson, *The First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration* (Madison, WI, 1895).

⁵Hjalmar Rued Holand, *De norske settlementers historie (The History of the Norwegian Settlements)* (Chicago, 1912), p. 100.

⁶*Den Norske sjöfarts historie fra de ældste tider til vore dage (The History of Norwegian Shipping)* I–III (Oslo 1923–1925), II, pt. 1, p. 221.

A Swedish Bible Inscription in Esthonia

On a recent visit to Tallinn (formerly Reval), capital of Esthonia, and now a part of the U.S.S.R., I happened to visit an old second-hand bookshop. Among the items for sale was a Swedish Bible, printed in Stockholm in 1816 by Samuel Rumstedt. The title page was missing (the information on the printer and date of printing was gathered from the title page of the New Testament). The Bible was in a poor condition but commanded a price of 25 roubles or the equivalent of \$32.00. On the front flyleaf was the following inscription in Swedish, here rendered in translation as follows:

“This (book) belongs to Johan Fredrik Roos, given to him for his diligent and exemplary conduct while attending the school of St. Michael's Swedish Congregation in Reval March 12, 1829.”

— Editor