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A Swedish Bible Inscription

An unusual Bible inscription came to light recently in Minneapolis, where a Holy Bible, printed in Swedish, was donated to the American Swedish Institute in that city by a descendant of the original owner, Lloyd Svedin, 8349 Riverview Lane, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.

What makes this particular Bible inscription genealogically valuable is the fact that it contains not only the birth data of the children born in Sweden, but also the names of all of the witnesses at their baptisms. The inscription also contains data on the deaths in the family as well as the date of immigration to Minnesota, which was in 1884.

The inscription is entitled *Family Chronicle* and deals with P. Eriksson from the parish of Sveg in Jämtland County in north central Sweden. When P. Eriksson died in Minnesota in 1911 his name is given as P. Erikson Svedin. Most certainly he assumed the family name of Svedin from his home parish in Sweden. We do not know what the letter P. stands for in his name, but may safely assume that it was Pehr, since his mother's father bore that name. It was the custom in rural Sweden at the time that if two boys were born in the family, the firstborn was named for the paternal grandfather and second one born was named for the maternal grandfather, provided they were dead at the time of the boys' birth. If not, other boys in the family, born after the demise of the grandfathers were given the names in that order.

The inscription is reproduced here as found in the Bible, translated into English. The place names have been normalized to conform with modern Swedish spelling. All the place names listed in this document are names of villages in the parish of Sveg.

Family Chronicle

“P. Eriksson, a farmer in Knätten in Sveg Parish, born Dec. 10, 1830, the son of Erik Ersson and Gertrud Pehrsdotter in Knätten. My wife, Martha Svensdotter, a farmer's daughter from Ytterberg, was born Oct. 5, 1830, the daughter of Sven Jonsson and Gunill Svensdotter in Ytterberg. We were married in the church in Sveg on Palm Sunday, April 5, 1857. Our daughter Gertrud was born March 1, 1858. The witnesses on this occasion were Jöns Svensson and Gunill Persdotter in Ytterberg, Olof Pålsson and Gertrud Mårtenstotter in Överberg, E. Eriksson and Innebor (Ingeborg) Jonsdotter in Knätten, E. Andersson in Sveg and Sigrin Svensdotter in Ytterberg.

Our daughter Gunill was born July 9, 1860. The witnesses were Olof Olofsson and Brita Mickelsdotter in Duvberg, Nils Jönsson and Injebor (Ingeborg) Svendsdotter in Ytterberg, Pål Olofsson and Brita Halvarsdotter in Överberg.

Our daughter Karin was born Nov. 11, 1863. The witnesses were Sven Pehrsson and Brita Larsdotter in Ytterberg, Olof Svensson and Karin Olofsdotter in Överberg, Mårten Olofsson in Överberg and Segrin Pehrsson in Ytterberg, Anders Andersson in Glissjöberg and Märet Olofsdotter in Ytterberg.

Our daughter Brita was born April 23, 1866 and the witnesses were Pehr Jonsson and Karin Jonsdotter in Knätten, Mattis Mattsson and Märet Larsdotter in Knätten, Erik Halvarson in Överberg and Karin Ersdotter in Remmet.

Our daughter Karin died Feb. 28, 1868 at the age of four years and three months.

Our son Sven was born Aug. 23, 1869. The witnesses were Jon Jonsson and Brita Andersdotter in Glissjöberg, Halvar Olofsson and Karin Olofsdotter in Duvberg, Erik Eriksson in Remmet and Kerstin Olofsdotter in Duvberg.

Our son Pehr was born Sept. 5, 1872 and the witnesses were Jonas Andersson and Karin Olofsdotter in Mosätt, Nils Sten and Karin Mårtensdotter in Överberg, Jonas Ersson in Remmet and Aurora (?) Hansdotter at the Härje River Bridge.

My mother died at the end of December, 1868, 77 years old and my father died in 1868, 71 years old, only five days after my mother.

We moved to Kittson County, Minnesota in North America in 1884.

Our daughter Gunill (Mrs. Berg) died June 18, 1898, at an age of 37 years and 11 months.

P. Erikson Svedin died May 26, 1911, at an age of 80 years, 5 months and 16 days.

Martha Svedin died Nov. 14, 1924'.

Correction

Through an unfortunate mishap in the bindery the title page for the 1983 volume of *Swedish American Genealogist* and pages 173–176 were transposed in the December 1983 issue. This can be remedied by carefully bending up the points of the staples of the issue, exchanging the two center leaves and replacing them in the proper order and then bending the staples back in their original position.