Swedish American Genealogist

Volume 29 Number 2

Article 12

6-1-2009

The Old Picture

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Recommended Citation

(2009) "The Old Picture," Swedish American Genealogist: Vol. 29: No. 2, Article 12. $Available\ at:\ https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol29/iss2/12$

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The Old Picture

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This picture is called Minne af Svenska Gymnastik Föreningen[s] i New York City Första årsfäst[!] d. 15 Dec. 1905 (Memorial of the first annual party of the Swedish Athletic Society of New York 15 Dec. 1905). It was sent in by Georg Lundblad, Möllegränden 12, 252 23 Helsingborg, Sweden.

His e-mail: luaxel@telia.com

Mr. Lundblad's father, the photographer Axel S. Lundblad, took the picture, but is also in it himself. He is the young man at the right with his elbow sticking out. Axel Lundblad was born 30 July 1883 in Helsingborg, and left Sweden in 1902. He first spent some time in Cadillac, MI, with an aunt and uncle to learn the English language. In 1903 he moved to New York and started to work as a photographer. He returned to Sweden for a visit in 1910, and to stay in 1913, but returned again in 1915 to the U.S., and lived in Jersey City, NJ, until his final return to Sweden in 1918. He worked as a photographer in Sweden, and died on 8 Aug. 1976 in Helsingborg.

During his time in New York he was one of the founders of the Swedish Athletic Society. In 1905 they had their first public appearance in Carnegie Hall; the members were I.K. Rahmn, M. Peterson, C. Rahmsen, E. Stocklassa, H. Peterson, G. Moe, W. Lidfelt, W. Olson, A. Anderson, B. Holmqvist, N. Gruggel, S. Wester, W. Lundblad, J. Carlson, A. Mellgren, W. Sahlberg, H. Carling, T. Åsbrink-Melander (the instructor), T. Sjögren, A. Lundblad, C. Witgen, G. Widman, C. Bergman, and W. Witzell.

How long this society survived is not known, but more information can be sent to the SAG Editor.