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Family Ties to the Dakota Uprising – Minnesota 1862, Part 2

Connections to the Lundborg and Broberg victims

BY HELENE LEAF

When I was searching for information about Mary Anderson, I asked Pastor Robert Kruger if he had any memories of people talking about an East Union person who was killed in the Sioux uprising. Pastor Kruger had served for many years at the East Union Lutheran Church, Carver Co., Minnesota, but now he is retired. He said that he did not remember any connection with the East Union Church, but he thought that there was something about the Lundborgs from West Union being connected with the Massacre. Immediately I thought this is something to investigate as my husband had family ties to the Lundborgs at West Union Lutheran Church which is just about 8 miles from the East Union Lutheran Church.

In 1970 at my husband's first parish in Dunnell, Martin County, Minnesota, there was one parish-

ioner who said that she was related to John through the Wahlstroms. At that time I had no idea who the Wahlstroms were so that information was filed away somewhere in the back of my mind for about thirty years. In the past few years I had found out who the Wahlstroms were, but not how this parishioner was connected to the Wahlstroms. Last year I decided to figure this out. John's great-grandmother, Katarina Carlsdotter, had a sister, Ingri, who married Olof Wahlstrom. Ingri and Olof had married in Geneva, Illinois, but eventually moved to San Francisco Township, Carver County, Minnesota, and joined West Union Church. The West Union Church records were lost in a fire in 1943 so the best source for following these people was gone.

I turned to following the family in U.S. censuses. I was able to get the names and approximate ages of their children. The boys I could follow in federal censuses, but with the girls, I lost their trail.

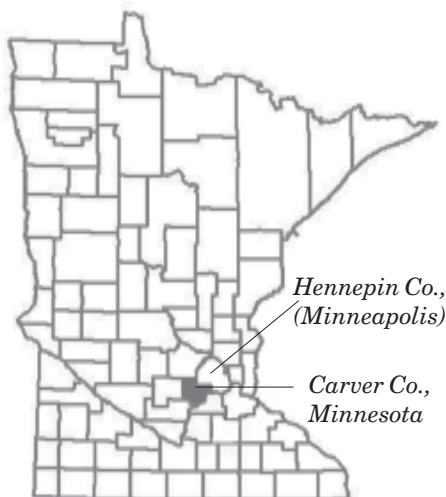
Mystery solved

The breakthrough came in January 2006 when my husband handed me a photo of his grandmother. This photo had been given to John by the parishioner from Dunnell; it had been her mother's. On the back were these words, "to my cousin Anna Lundborg." Now I had a last name and a place. I knew this parishioner had been raised mostly in Wright

County, Minnesota. Using the census records through Ancestry.com at a local library and church records at the Swenson Center, I was able to determine that Anna Wahlstrom, daughter of Ingri and Olof, had married August Lundborg at West Union where both had been born, confirmed, and started to raise a family. They had lived for some time in Isanti County and then had moved to Wright County and belonged to the Stockholm Lutheran Church. The parishioner from Dunnell was a daughter of Anna and August Lundborg, as was confirmed by census records and church records from Salem Lutheran Church, Dalbo, Isanti County, and Stockholm Lutheran Church, Wright County, Minnesota.

Who were the Lundborgs?

At this point the research stopped until Pastor Kruger's remark. I had read about the Lundborgs who had been killed at the Broberg house in August 1862 during the Indian uprising. Now to find out if there was a family tie. Because the West Union Church records were not available, I looked on the Rootsweb.com website for Carver County; there is a listing of the readings from the West Union Lutheran Church Cemetery. There were the names of many Lundborgs. For several of them exact birth dates and places, and death dates and



places were given. Three of the names matched perfectly with the three Lundborgs who were at the West Lake cabins in August 1862 but escaped being killed: Anders the father, Johannes the oldest brother, and Samuel the youngest brother.

Tombstones help

The tombstones said that the Lundborgs were born in Tumberg, Västergötland. A check of the birth records and HFL in Tumberg confirmed that these Lundborgs in the West Union Cemetery were the ones who had survived the massacre and that the three Lundborg brothers who died at the Broberg cabin were part of this family. Census records from 1870 and later confirmed that Samuel and Johannes lived in Carver County near the West Union Church. A look through the West Union Lutheran Church 50th Anniversary Book showed that they both had been active in that congregation. There were even pictures of them in the book.

A further study of the 1870 census showed that Johannes and his wife Christina were the parents of August Lundborg who later married Anna Wahlstrom. I had found the family tie. Now I set out to find out a little more about these Lundborgs.

Origins in Sweden

In the Tumberg records we find the family living at Lund Västergården. The parents were Andreas Larsson, b. 28 Feb. 1812, and Lena Johansdotter, b. 11 Oct. 1810. The children listed were: Johannes, b. 1832; Anders Petter, b. 1837; Gustaf, b. 1839;



Kullings-Skövde church, which was also used by the people of Tumberg.



Membership records for the Anders Peter Broberg family, from the records of the Lebanon Lutheran Church.

Lars, b. 1840; Sara, b. 1842; Johanna, b. 1848; and Samuel, b. 1853.

In 1858 three of the Lundborg brothers, Johannes, Anders Petter, and Lars, immigrated to Minnesota. In 1860 they claimed land by West Lake at the western edge of Monongalia County (now northern Kandiyohi County). The following year their parents, Andreas Larsson and Lena Johansdotter, brothers Gustaf and Samuel, and sister Johanna left Tumberg and came to the brothers' homestead near West Lake in Monongalia County, Minnesota. Also in 1861 two brothers, Anders Petter and Daniel Petter Broberg, and their families emigrated from Södra Härene, Älvsborg län. Södra Härene is close to Tumberg, and the families probably knew each other in Sweden. The Broberg brothers each claimed 80 acres of land about two miles west of the Lundborgs just over the line in what is today Swift County. Two other families from this same area in Sweden also settled in this area; they were the Sven Öman and Olle Larsson families. All the families became members of the Norway Lake parish which had been founded in 1859. There was no church building so services were held in homes.

Indians were coming

On Wednesday, August 20, 1862, Pastor Andrew Jackson was holding a morning service at the Lundborg

home when young Peter Broberg (age 7) ran up and said that Indians were at the Broberg cabins and were bothering the children who had been left at home. This was not cause for great alarm but Anders Petter Broberg and four of the Lundborg brothers started for the Brobergs by taking a shortcut through the woods. Daniel Broberg took the women and children in the oxcart via the road. The Lundborgs did not take their guns with them as Pastor Jackson advised them so as to not incite the Indians. Father Andreas Lundborg forever after regretted that they had not taken their guns. He took his gun and also headed to the Broberg cabins.

When Anders Petter and the Lundborgs arrived at the cabin, they found that they knew all of these Indians and started talking to them. All of a sudden the Indians opened fire, killing Anders Petter Broberg, his brother-in-law Johannes Nilsson, Anders, Gustav, and Lars Lundborg, and four small children. The youngest Lundborg brother, Samuel, was shot; he pretended to be dead even when the Indians went through his pockets and beat him with their guns. He survived.

Andreas Lundborg arrived on the scene with his gun, but was badly outnumbered and fled. The Indians fired at him, but they did not hit him. They stopped chasing and shooting



Carver Church, New London, Kandiyohi Co., Minnesota. Microfilm R74 from Swenson Center.

at him as Daniel Broberg came near. Daniel Broberg was shot and killed. The Broberg wives and children leaped from the wagon and ran for their lives. All were killed except one child from each family: Peter from the D.P. Broberg family and Anna Stina from the A. P. Broberg family.

Hiding in the cellar

Peter Broberg ran to the home of Sven Öman. He and this family hid under the trap door in the floor while

the Indians rummaged through the house. The Indians did not discover them, and later at night these people along with the other settlers hid in the woods and grassy areas. Andreas Lundborg had grabbed Anna Stina and ran towards his cabin; they and other members of the Lundborg family hid in the grass nearby their cabin. Johannes Lundborg ran to warn Pastor Andrew Jackson who was holding afternoon services at the home of Thomas Osmundson on the

shores of Norway Lake. On Thursday Johannes and some of the others returned to the Broberg cabin to bury the dead, but there were too many Indians around, and they returned to the survivors hiding in the grass. That evening they gathered with other settlers on an island in Norway Lake to spend the night; this island is to this day called Isle of Refuge. On Friday the survivors returned to bury the dead. Sam was not there; he had revived and crawled into the cellar for the night and then hid in the woods. He eventually was found by the Öman family. The people on the island had intended to leave on Friday, but there were too many Indians around and they returned to the island for one more night. On Saturday a group of 62 settlers set off for St Cloud going by way of Paynesville. These people stayed in the St Cloud area and then Anoka for a short time. The Brobergs and Lundborgs went to the Carver area where they had relatives.

Many victims

About twenty members of Pastor Jackson's parishes were killed. Ten counties in Minnesota were emptied of white people and people in another eight counties were attacked. The refugees headed east; many of the Swedes went to Carver County and Goodhue County and remained there until it was safe to return in about three years.

Andreas Lundborg and his wife returned to the West Lake area later; she died there in 1870, and he died in the West Union area in 1899. Their daughter, Johanna, married Erik Paulson and lived in the Norway Lake area. Johannes and Samuel raised their families in the West Union area. Little Peter Broberg lived with the Lundborgs until after Christmas. Then he lived with John Ahlin in the West Union area until 1865 when Anna Stina Broberg married John Peterson (also a survivor of the massacre) in Carver. They returned to live in the Norway Lake area. Peter Broberg lived with them until he was 14 and then he



Map of the area where the Massacre took place. From "A Church is planted," by Emeroy Johnson, (1948).

lived with Lars Larsson in the town of New London where he made his home for the rest of his life.

Monument in their memory

The remains of the 13 people killed at West Lake were removed June 20, 1891, from the scene of the massacre and buried in the cemetery at Lebanon Lutheran Church in New London. The State of Minnesota erected a monument at the cemetery August 20, 1891, in remembrance of the massacre.

The memory lives

In 1927 the descendants of the survivors; Peter Broberg, Anna Stina Broberg Peterson, the two Lundborg brothers, and their sister Johanna Lundborg Paulson, and others who lived in the area of West Lake (now called Monson Lake) formed an organization known as the *Monson Lake Memorial Association* which met yearly for a number of years at the site of the massacre. In 1937 a State Memorial Park was established at this place.

A 1980 meeting included two Swedish descendants of one of Anders Petter and Daniel Petter Broberg's siblings who had remained in Sweden. The day's events included visiting the various Kandiyohi County sites, some of which have been designated historical sites from the uprising: the Lundborg cabin, the site of the Broberg cabins, the monument at the cemetery, the home of Anna Stina Broberg and John Peterson, past the Isle of Refuge, and the Guri Endreson Memorial Shrine (another good story).

The State of Minnesota and several counties have created monuments, parks, interpretive centers, and historical markers which tell the story of this uprising. Throughout southwest and west central Minnesota, along the Minnesota River from Fort Snelling to Big Stone Lake and some miles north and south of the river are signs of this chapter in Minnesota history. I have been to some of these places, but now that I have

discovered the family ties, I think that I will have to visit these places again and stop at some of the others.

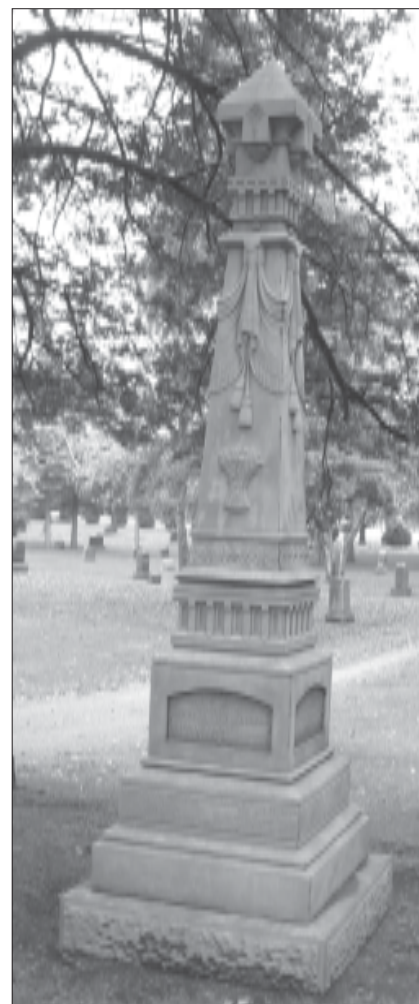
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Swedish church records from the following parishes: Södra Härene, Älvsborg län, Kullings-Skövde, Älvsborg län, Larv, Skaraborg län, Tumberg, Älvsborg län, and Herrljunga pastorat, Älvsborg län.

United States Federal Censuses 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930. Ancestry.com and NARA – Chicago branch.



The monument at New London, MN. (Photo: Earl Leaf.)

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