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# The dream came true

BY LOIS HARALDSEN

Most of our ancestors had a dream of a better life in America. My Lindstrom ancestors were among the dreamers.

**Johannes Svensson Lindström** was the first to come. Johannes was born 26 July 1857, in Mistelås, Kronoberg, Sweden. He was the son of Sven Petersson and Maria Petersdotter. On 12 March 1880, he married **Mathilda Justina Nikolaidotter** in Slätthög, Kronoberg, Sweden. She was born 13 January 1856, in Grönby, Gällaryd, Kronoberg, to Lisa Jonsdotter. Her father is unknown.

Johannes left his family in Mistelås in 1888 to work in the mines in the Denver, Colorado, area. The work was too difficult for him and he turned back to Sweden. We have often wondered how Mathilda and her young children lived while he was gone.

## Johannes and Mathilda had six children:

**1. Teodolinda Elise** born 22 December 1880, in Mistelås. She arrived in January 1901 in Chicago, Illinois, using the name Svenson. She became known as Linda Lindstrom. She worked as a housemaid. Her mother was ill and Linda returned to nurse her. After Mathilda died, Linda returned with her brother Johan to Chicago in 1906. On 15 Au-

gust 1908, she married *Carl E. Danielson* in Chicago. Linda died 17 March 1909, of complications of a pregnancy. Carl died about eighteen months later.

**2. Carl Edward Martin** was born 6 October 1882, in Mistelås. He arrived in Chicago in April of 1901. He worked in a piano factory and as a guard in a bank. He served as a cook in World War I. He married and had no children. He died 28 May 1969, in Chicago.

**3. Justina Maria** (our *mormor*) was born 22 August 1884, in Mistelås. She immigrated to Chicago in May of 1904. She worked as a housemaid. On 24 September 1910, she married *Alexander John Julian*. Alex was born *Jöns Jönsson* on 31 January 1881, in Vånga, (Krist.), Sweden. The marriage was not a happy one. They separated many times and for good in the 1930's. They had 6 children. Alex died 5 May 1955, in Chicago and Justina 15 April 1976, also in Chicago.

**4. Johan Ferdinand** was born 3 April 1887, in Mistelås. He arrived in Chicago in April of 1906. He was a carpenter. Sometime around 1910 he married *Helga Svenson*. By 1914 they had had their third child. Helga, trying to commit suicide, turned on the gas jets. As we now know, she was suffering from postpartum depression. The two little girls, Linda, age 4, and Mabel, age 2, died. Helga and

baby, Walter, about 6 weeks old and John were unconscious. They survived. Helga was charged with murder and later the charge was dismissed. The Swenson Center researched the incident for us and found two articles in *Svenska Amerikanaren* from 1914. We also found an article in the *Chicago Tribune*.

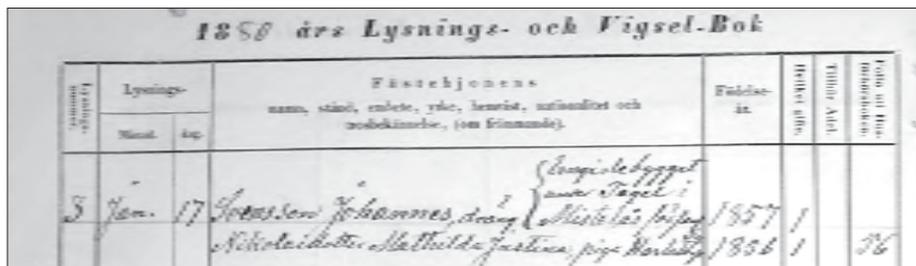
By 1920 the family was living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They had two more boys, Stanley and John, and a daughter Edith. Before 1930 the parents were both dead and the children were in an orphanage.

We have often wondered what happened to the children of John and Helga. Just recently we found an obituary for their son John Lindstrom on the internet. As a result we have had some contact with his children.

**5. Ernst Gunnar** was born 21 January 1892, in Mistelås. He arrived in Chicago in April of 1910. He died of TB 16 October 1916, in Chicago.

**6. Klas Edvin Herman** was born 9 May 1895, in Mistelås, and died 26 May 1987, in Ljungsåtra, Berga parish, in Kronoberg län, Sweden. Herman, as he was known, tried to immigrate but was turned back when they found his confirmation Bible that gave his real age. He decided to stay in Sweden. He never married.

We are grateful to the Lindstroms who immigrated. While they had many trials and tribulations, the ensuing years have been beneficial to their descendants.



Marriage of Johannes and Mathilda in Slätthög.

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