

6-1-2006

Research Notes

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Recommended Citation

Thorsell, Elisabeth (2006) "Research Notes," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 26 : No. 2 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol26/iss2/10>

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Using MapQuest to Pinpoint Ancestor's Residence

By BILL LAWSON

My Swedish grandfather *August LOFSTROM* came to America in 1890. I traced him to Hamburg, then to Liverpool, New York City, and finally to Boston. He settled in Boston, and went to work for the public library as a bookbinder. He was there till his death in 1918.

My query to the Boston Public Library yielded no information. I tried to find him in the 1900 census, using his name Konrad August LOFSTROM, but failed. Family lore said that he built a three-decker on Tower Street, Boston, in 1905. So I reasoned he must have lived nearby in 1900 and liked the area.

I printed out a MapQuest detail of surrounding streets, then I went through the Enumeration Districts (EDs) listed in the census and wrote

the EDs on the map near Tower Street. I then went down each census page of all those EDs looking for grandpa and his family.

YEEESSSS! There he was – his name spelled LUFFSTROM but with the correct names for his wife and children – on Fresno Street. While studying the MapQuest detail of Tower Street, Boston, I noticed at one end of that street was a huge cemetery. Were my grandparents buried there? An inquiry to the cemetery yielded not only a positive answer, but the complete burial records of both of them – in 1910 and 1918!

[Editor's Note: The "L" on the surname was written by the enumerator so it looked something like an "S" and that's how the name was indexed –as SUFFSTROM. How-

ever, a search in the 1900 census index at Ancestry.com using just the given name of Conrad (born in Sweden) in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, reveals this ancestor – Conrad SUFFSTROM, a bookbinder, living at 17 Fresno Street in Boston.]

(Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: 31 May 2006, Vol. 9, No. 22.)

SAG editor's note: This person was probably identical with Conrad Löfström, age 31, from Uppsala, who left Sweden 22 Oct. 1890 via Hamburg with a ticket for New York [Emihamn].

Research Notes, by Elisabeth Thorsell

When doing research in various types of archives different from the church records, there are often items that catch your eye, even though they are not what you are looking for.

In Vadstena archives some time ago I was looking at the records of *Kalmar Stadsförsamling*, and found a note about a death, that was unusual. In 1915 Aug. 27 the church office received a letter from the Swedish Consulate that told that the sailor *Herman Teodor Swensson*, born 1885 Oct. 15, had been murdered by shooting in the harbor of San Francisco on 1915 June 22nd. One wonders what had happened?

Next I looked into the records of the Kalmar Magistrate for 1915, and found that the widow *Ester Sjöblom* had bought two twelfths of the town lot 163 C from her brothers *A.W. Peterson Harvey* and *Fritiof Peterson Harvey*, both in South Africa, which was quite an unusual destination for Swedish emigrants. So a little further research showed that Ester and her brothers were all born in Kalmar,

as well as a brother Fabian and a sister Alma Brigitta. They were all children of the divorced storekeeper *Andreas Petersson*, born in Mortorp in 1839. This was found in the *Swedish Census 1890*. A look into *Emibas* showed that *Adrian Vilhelm (A.W.)* had left Kalmar in 1893 for the U.S. Brother Fabian had left already in 1889 with a ticket for San Francisco.

Twenty years later A.W. lived at Nauwpoort, and Fritiof in Port Elizabeth, both places in South Africa.

One more interesting thing about the Harvey brothers was that their powers of attorney were glued into the book of records, and there were more examples of such documents in those books. Here is another example:

