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The silver spoon

Even an old spoon can have its story

BY LOIS HARALDSEN

In the December 2007 SAG the article "Birth, baptism, and churching" with the picture of the silver baptismal spoons brought to mind Nils William Olsson's article "The Old Silver Spoon" in the December 1995 SAG.

Because of my husband's Norwegian ancestors, we have several silver wedding spoons with the initials and dates of the bride and groom engraved on them and also a baptismal spoon.

My Swedish family has a silver spoon with a history, owned by my great-grandmother.

Anna Gustafva Tullberg was born 22 April 1857 in Ivetofta, Kristianstads län, Sweden, to Carl Magnus Tullberg and Pernilla Mårtensdotter. Anna's father had just become the schoolteacher in Ivetofta. Before that he was a carpenter in Grönby, Malmöhus län (Pernilla's home parish, see SAG 2/08 for her story).

Anna taught school in Skärsnäs, Vånga parish, Kristianstads län. The first night she spent at the school-house she heard so many scary noises that she would not stay there and was driven back and forth to school in a horse and wagon.

On 27 July 1879, Anna married Jöns Jönsson from Vånga, Kristianstads län (born there 6 July 1854). Their marriage is recorded in Ivetofta and Vånga.

Jöns immigrated to Chicago in 1883. Jöns older brother, Måns, was already established in a coffee and tea business. Anna followed in 1885,

she left their home in Vånga on 15 Aug. with 4-year-old Jöns, our *morfar*, and Eva Ingeborg age 2. When Anna arrived in Chicago no one was there to meet her and the children at the station because Jöns had to work. Anna took a cab to her brother-in-law's home. Måns's wife, Ella, left Anna and the children waiting outside until Jöns returned from work. Anna and Ella were never friendly. Måns would visit but Ella never.

When Jöns finally became a United States citizen he became John J. Julian. Måns had taken the surname Julian years earlier in Knox County, Illinois. Anna had a difficult adjustment at first to the U.S.A. She took in laundry to help with finances. She helped many newcomers to adjust to the new life. Anna and John had 9 children. Two little girls, each named Alma, died in Sweden, one just a few weeks before Anna immigrated. Five more children were born in Chicago.

John held many jobs, mostly doing carpenter work. Two of his sons had their own construction company. Our

grandfather Jöns (John) was a bricklayer.

Anna visits Sweden

In 1912 Anna's children sent her to visit Sweden. Her mother Pernilla was still alive. While visiting the Ahlviken (schoolhouse) in Ivetofta, a former maid met her and told her this story.

Anna's father Carl Tullberg was a difficult man to work for and one day the maid was so angry with him she took a prized silver spoon that the minister had given Carl and hid it in the stone wall that was in the house. Anna and the maid found it all those years later and Anna returned to Chicago with it. One of our cousins has it now.

I am wondering if more of you have silver spoons with a history?

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Not THE spoon, but another early 19th century Swedish silver spoon.