The report card and its owner

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The kitchen staff at Rockford College, Rockford, Ill., ca 1895. (Hugh Johnson collection.)

Hugh Johnson, son of Marian, has the following e-mail: <PapaHoo@aol.com>

Translation of the report card is to be found on page 22.

The report card and its owner

SAG reader Hugh Johnson of Rock Island, Ill., offered his grandmother's report card from her school in Kälvene, Västergötland, from 1886, as a handwriting example, which of course was accepted.

His grandmother was Anna Elisabeth Hermansdotter, born 5 Nov. 1871 in Kälvene [old spelling: Kelfvened]. She was child #2 in the family of Johan Herman Carlsson (born 15 Aug. 1847 in Vartofta-Åsaka, Vägö.; died 9 Dec. 1899 of typhoid) and his wife Anna Stina Johansdotter (born 31 Aug. 1844 in Kälvene. The Carlsson family lived at Skållaregården in Kälvene with their children and Johan Herman's mother Johanna Johansdotter (born 12 July 1817 in Vast, Vägö., she died 13 July 1897). They had the following children, all born in Kälvene:

1) Hilda Olivia Theresa Johansson, b. 3 Apr. 1870. In 1900 she lived alone in Skörstorp, Vägö. She married later and moved to Valtorp. She died in 1947.
2) Anna Elisabeth, the owner of the report card. She emigrated in 1891, and left her home on 25 May. In her report card she is listed as Hermansdotter, but when emigrating she is listed in Emibas as Johansdotter. In the moving out records she is listed as Johansson (!), and in America she probably was a Johnson. So it is not easy to find out the last name of a person who lived at the end of the “patronymic era.” She worked as a pie cook at Rockford College, Rockford, Winnebago County, Ill. before her marriage.
3) Fritz Hjalmar Johansson, born 7 Feb. 1873. He emigrated in 1893, and left his home on 17 February. He is then listed as Frits Hjalmar Johansson. He changed his name in the U.S. to Fred Johnson and was a chemist in Los Angeles.
4) Carl Johan Johansson, born 25 Sep. 1875, moved later to Säffle, Värml., where he was a tailor. He died there in 1972.
5) Maria Charlotta Karlsson, born 6 Dec. 1877. She left her home in 1897, on 19 Jan. She travelled in the company of her sister Anna Elisabet, who had been home for a visit. Maria also became a cook at Rockford College. She lived with her sister and brother-in-law in Rockford in the 1900 Census.
7) Aron Linus Karlsson, born 15 Sep. 1883. He emigrated in 1902, as Linus Karlsson. He changed his name to Linus Aron Herman, and went to Augustana College and got a B.A. in 1913, and then took a B.D. at Augustana Seminary, and then served in many congregations in the Midwest. He died 20 Feb. 1965.

More on Anna Elisabeth

Anna Elisabeth married on 23 June 1899 in Rockford to fellow Swede Carl Alfred Johnson (Johansson), born 8 July 1870 in Vartofta-Åsaka, son of Claes Johan Andersson and his wife Christina Andersdotter of Hulegården. After Carl Alfred’s emigration his parents and brother August Natanael, born 8 Sep. 1874 in Vartofta-Åsaka, moved to Marbogården in Kälvene, where they still were in 1900.

Carl Alfred and Anna Elisabeth lived their lives in Rockford, where he is listed as a machinist. They had a house on 9th Avenue, and two daughters, Mildred, born around 1903, and Marian, born around 1909. In 1930 the girls were still at home, both working as stenographers.