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Genealogical Queries

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Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a "space available" basis. The editor reserves the right to edit these queries to conform to a general format. The inquirer is responsible for the contents of the query.

We would like to hear about your success if you receive useful information as a result of placing a query in this publication. Please send us your feedback, and we will endeavor to report your new discoveries in this section of the journal.

Blomqvist / Blomquist / Bloomquist and Andersson / Börgesson / Börjesson

1) I am searching for information on my 2nd great-grandparents Jonas Peter Blomqvist (b. 23 Sept. 1823, Åseda Parish) and Hedvig Kristina Jonsdotter (b. 10 May 1827, Lemnhult Parish), their ancestors and descendents. Jonas, Hedvig, and 3 of their children left their residence in the city of Visby in Gotlands *län*, and departed Göteborg on 4 September 1880 with a destination of Jamestown, New York. They arrived on 29 September 1880.

The three children that Jonas and Hedvig Blomqvist traveled with to America were:

Johan Algot, b. 19 Dec. 1858, Hejnum Parish; Claes Wilhelm, b. 2 Nov. 1865, Etelhem Parish; m. Judith Marie Anderson; Hildur Josefina, b. 28 Jan. 1873, Etelhem Parish; m. Edward E. Burch.

Other children of Jonas and Hedvig Blomqvist: Peter, b. December 1849; m. Anna L. Swanson, Mary J. Swanson; John M., b. August 1851; Oscar, b. August 1855; Otto L., b. August 1863, m. Jennie B. Daily; Alice, m. George Eckloff; Frank.

2) I am also searching for information on my 2nd great-grandparents Alfred J. Andersson (b. 3 March 1851, Skärstad Parish) and Augusta Börgeson/Börjeson (b. 14 Oct. 1849, Göteborg), their ancestors and descendents. Alfred's mother died when he was an infant. Alfred came to America in 1866 to Beaver, IL, with his older sister (name unk.) and her husband (possibly Edward Elming). Augusta is the daughter of John B. and Mariana Borgeson/Borjeson.

Children of Alfred and Augusta Anderson: Judith Marie, b. 19 Sept. 1876, IL, m. William Claudius Bloomquist; Victor H., b. 2 Sept. 1879, NY; A. Garfield, b. 13 April 1882, IL, m. Hattie Peterson; Naomi A., b. 16 Oct. 1884, IA; Ruth Augusta, b. 16 Oct. 1884, IA, m. Nels Peter Glemaker; Raymond Anderson, June 1892, IL

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Johnson, Swanson

I am looking for the origins of my great-grandfather Charles Samuel Johnson, born 18 May 1853 somewhere in Sweden. On his marriage on 28 Feb. 1880 in Fairfield, VT, his father is listed as Sven Johnson and his mother as Maria. Charles Samuel also had brothers Oscar and John Swanson living in Minneapolis, but no dates are known for them. They were supposedly tailors. One had a daughter, Anna, who kept in contact with my great-aunt Hattie. Great-grandfather went to visit his brothers in 1896 and then he died in an accident in Vermont in 1898.

After his immigration he first worked for the railroad in Vermont, and then bought a farm in Bakersfield, VT, and married Alma Jones. They had the following children (all born in Fairfield, VT): Hattie Augusta, born 14 June 1881; Lillian Mae, born 28 April 1883; Oscar James, born 12 Nov. 1886; Charlie Augustus, born 18 Sept. 1887; Willie Oliver, born 8 May 1893; Grace Maude, born 28 July 1897.

Two more things are known about Charles Samuel's family in Sweden: his father Sven is supposed to have drowned in Lake Vättern (possibly Vänern) while skating across to get a doctor for a sick child. His widow Maria, her married daughter and her husband are also supposed to have immigrated, but stayed in New York.

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[Pictures for Jane Macomber's question on next page]



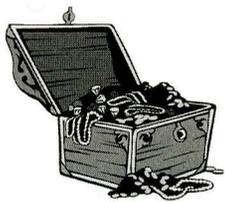
Daughters of one of Charles Samuel Johnson's brothers.



Charles Samuel Johnson and his brothers. Photo taken in Minneapolis in 1896.



One of Charles Samuel Johnson's brothers and his wife.



The Question Chest

This time there was only one question:

Q: My question would be, "Was there any kind of legal age requirement for people who wished to emigrate from Sweden during the late 1800s?"

In my family, my grandfather and his three brothers all left Luleå Parish within days after they turned 18 (in different years of course, between 1880 and 1890). My grandmother followed her childhood sweetheart as soon as she turned 21. Actually, she applied for permission to emigrate the day after her 21st birthday. Are these things simply coincidences?

A: Many young men emigrated as soon as they turned 18 to evade doing their National Service. From 1884 you had to have a proper *flyttningsbetyg* to be able to buy a ticket to emigrate. Young men of military

age (21 to 32 years) also had to apply to the King to get permission to emigrate, which was usually granted.

The national service (*värnplikten*) from 1885 consisted of 42 days, 27 days the first year and 15 the next year. In 1892 the military age increased to from 21 years to 40 years of age, and the men had to train for 90 days, 68 days the first year and 22 the next year.

In 1901 the old Allotment system (*indelningsverket*) was abolished and the army was now based on the draft, and the training time increased to 240 days.

At least before 1901, many considered doing national Service as a complete waste of time and preferred to emigrate.

Sources: *Nationalencyklopedien*, *Svenska knektar*, by Lars Ericson.

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