

6-1-2005

Spin, Spin, Oh Daughter Mine!

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag>



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#), and the [Scandinavian Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2005) "Spin, Spin, Oh Daughter Mine!," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 25 : No. 2 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol25/iss2/9>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Swedish American Genealogist by an authorized editor of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.

Spin, Spin, Oh Daughter Mine!

(“*Spinn, spinn, dottern min, sen så kommer friarn din,*” traditional song)

The old immigrants did not know what they would need in the New World, but they could be certain that clothes and household linens would be very worn and needing replacements. So some women brought their textile tools with them. A loom might be too big a thing to bring, but her own spinning wheel was easier to pack.

Spinning was also one of the favorite chores during the winter, when the women on the farm gathered by the fireplace and spent the evenings spinning, talking, and singing. It was also by the mother's knee, while she was spinning, that many children learnt to spell and read the catechism.

The spinning wheels were mostly homemade, but the wheel needed more than average skill in wood-working to be made, so they were often made by a special *hjulmakare* (wheel makers) and probably bought at the local market.

One of the women who brought her spinning wheel to the U.S. was *Clara Augusta Andersdotter*, born 28 January 1844 in Skog Norrgård in Vist parish in Östergötland. She was the next youngest child of Anders Carlsson and his wife Lena Cajsa Måns-

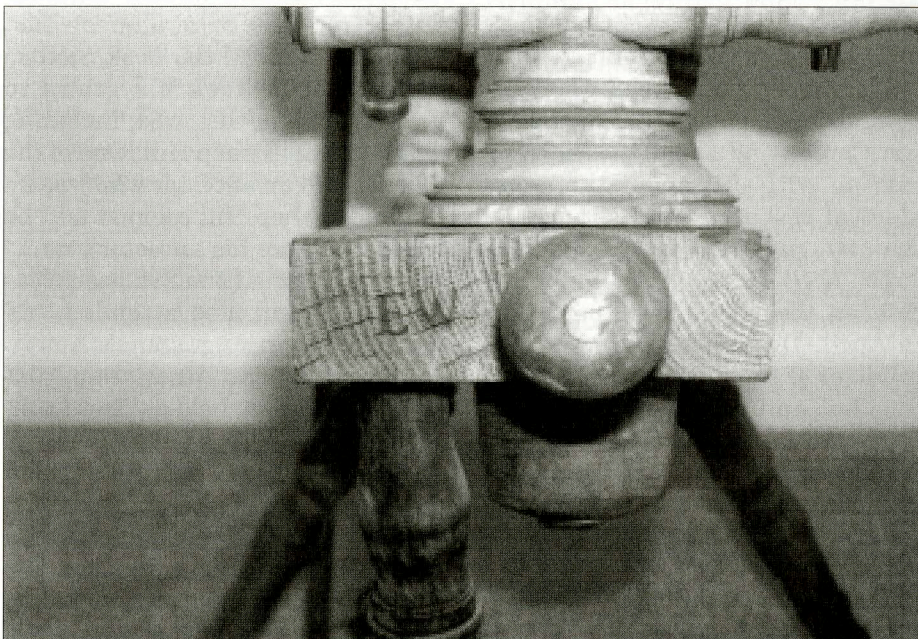
dotter. Clara immigrated in 1869 to Lucas County, Iowa, where she married Andrew Lawrence Nelson (Lars Anders Nilsson) in 1870.

Her spinning wheel is now owned by her descendant *Dorothy Knowles* of Tucson, Arizona.

The remarkable thing is that on the back end of the spinning wheel, one can see the initials “E W”, which

tells us that it was made by Erik Westlund of Västra Lund on Västerby lands in Vårdnäs, a parish close to Vist. This information was found by Dorothy in a local history book, “*Vårdnäs socken. Bygdeskildring* by Paul Aineström” (printed in 1959).

Elisabeth Thorsell



The end of the spinning wheel frame. Note the initials to the left of the round knob.

SwedGen Tour 2005

In 2001 a group of Swedish genealogists had planned to visit the U.S. and give a few workshops in the Mid-West. The tragedy at the World Trade Center stopped that tour, but the next year the group visited the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference in Ontario, CA, and also Kingsburg, CA, and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The group felt that the tour was a success and have now planned a new SwedGen Tour for the fall of 2005.

The group now consists of *Ted Ros-*

vall, President of the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, *Anna-Lena Hultman*, *Åza Olofsson*, and *Ingrid Månsson Lagergren*, all representing the Federation. *Olof Cronberg* and *Charlotte Börjesson* represents the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden (DIS). And there will be representatives of both GeneLine and SVAR in the group.

The tour schedule:

2005 Sep 5-6 Workshops at the Family History Library in *Salt Lake City*. Preregistration necessary.

2005 Sep 8-10 Exhibition booth at



the FGS Conference at the Salt Palace, *Salt Lake City*.

2005 Sep 11-12 Workshops and lectures at the Nordic Heritage Museum, *Ballard, Seattle*.

2005 Sep 14-15 Workshops and lectures at the British Columbia Genealogical Society, *Vancouver, Canada*. More information can be found at the web site:

<http://www.dis.se/swedgentour/>