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Children with Swedish Parents in Omaha in 1891

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

There are many treasures in the huge collections of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, a place that is so full of information that it is almost overwhelming. It is a pleasure just to walk the aisles on the ground floor, where the books in the U.S.-Canadian collection are kept, and read all the titles on the spines and wonder what is hidden there. I

do this sometimes and then keep looking and reading the sections for states, where I know many Swedes settled, and now and then something very interesting is found.

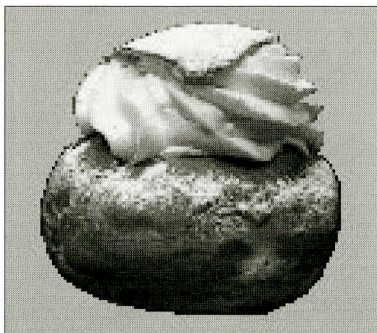
There was a midwife in Omaha, Nebraska, *Mrs. Louise Mohr*, who kept her own records of the babies she delivered from 1879 until 1902, and for several years she also noted

the nationality of the parents. There is a copy in the library of the list she kept, and I have excerpted all the "Swedish" babies for 1891.

[The call number for the book is 978.2254/O1 V2m, and there is also a microfilm of it: FHL US/CAN Film 1320740 Item 2]

1891 Mar. 15	twin boys, to Emma and Frank Lind, 2312 N. 27th Street
1891 Apr. 17	girl, to Tinne and Peter Forstlund, 21st Str. and South
1891 May 27	boy, to Mary (American) and Geo Wheeler, 27th Str and Patrick Ave.
1891 Jun. 4	girl, to Cicilia and Sam Nichols, 27th and Grant Streets
1891 Jul. 11	boy, to Ella and John Green, 28th and Dodge Street
1891 Jul. 23	boy, to Mary and Richard Sardien, cabinet maker, 40th and Nelson Streets
1891 Aug. 1	boy, to Anna and Nels Lenstadt, 26th and Douglas Streets
1891 Aug. 14	girl, to Louise and Herbert Lindquest, Mason and 22th Streets
1891 Aug. 27	girl, to Selma and John Hutgreen, 3713 N. 19th Street
1891 Oct. 7	girl, to Emma and Charly Karlson, 28th and Dodge Streets
1891 Oct. 17	boy, to Mary and Anton Larson, milkman, Florence Lake
1891 Oct. 31	girl, to Berta and Herman B. Engstedt, 1017 N. 23rd Street
1891 Nov. 16	girl, to Anna and Herman Larsen, tailor, 16th and Leavenworth Streets
1891 Dec. 26	boy, to Amanda and Peter Nelson, 27th and Burt Streets

A Swedish Tradition: the *semla*



This year you are supposed to eat your first semla on Tuesday Feb.24.

A *semla* is a bun made of ordinary coffee-bread dough, preferably with some cardamom in it. You make round buns and bake them as usual in the oven. Then, when you want to make a *semla*, you slice off the top, dig out some of the inside, mix that with ground almonds and a drop of milk. Then you put it back into the bun, top it with whipped cream and then the sliced-off piece is put on top, as a hat, and finished with a sprinkling of finely granulated sugar (*florsocker*). Then it is ready to eat, either

as it is or in a bowl with hot milk.

The *semlor* (pl.) are to be eaten on the first Tuesday in Lent and each Tuesday until Easter. Traditionally you first eat fried salted pork in slices and brown beans, and then a *semla*.

Lots of bakeries can't wait until Lent, but start selling them directly after Christmas, which is cheating the tradition. The *semlor* are known since the 1700s, when King Adolf Fredrik died in 1771 after eating too many.