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.

Persson, Danielsdotter

I am doing research on my great-grandfather’s family who immigrated from Sweden to Paxton, Illinois, in 1864. He was Nils Peter Peterson/Persson, b Mar. 25, 1820, in Horn (Östg.) He was married to Carolina Danielsdotter, b. March 5, 1826, in Västra Eneby (Östg.) Their daughters were Kristina Louisa, b. Dec. 29, 1853, Maria Charlotta, b. Nov 6, 1856; Karolina Josefina, b. Dec, 22, 1859; and Clara Albertina, b. June 27, 1863.

The family immigrated to Paxton IL from Kättilstad Parish (Östg.) in July 1, 1864. Nils Peter, his wife, Karolina, and four daughters comprised the family at that time. However, my grandmother, Emma Peterson, was born in Paxton on March 25, 1865.

My research indicates that the family moved from Paxton, IL, to Orion, IL, in 1879.

In looking in church records, census, etc., I have been unable to find any mention of the one daughter, Karolina Josefina, in the U.S. I have also checked state death registers as well as marriages for information on Karolina Josefina Persson (Peterson).

In Mercer Co. Historical Society, the records indicated that at the time of Nils Peterson’s death (Feb. 13, 1907), he was survived by five living daughters, which tells me that she was alive then.

I am trying to find out what happened to Karolina Josefina. Any help or advice would be appreciated very much.

Thanking you,
Mrs. Leslie Enstrom, 3217 37th Ave, Rock Island IL 61201. E-mail: lrhcenstrom@aol.com

Johnson, Olson, Pearson, Svenssan, Anderson

I am searching for the Swedish origins of my great-grandparents Martin Johnson and Hannah Olson. They were married by a Swedenborgian minister 17 October 1873 in Gloucester, Essex County, Massachusetts. Their children were all born in Gloucester: Charles (5 November 1874); Hulda Marie (1 February 1877); Anna Louise (9 October 1880); twins Gustaf & Martin (16 December 1883) and Gertrude May (24 October 1886). One of the twins died almost immediately; the other twin died just after his first birthday. The family lived at 25 Liberty Street, Gloucester. Hannah and Martin were divorced in 1887.

Hannah married William Wilson 02 January 1889 in Gloucester. Hannah and William Wilson moved to Seattle, Washington, before June, 1900, with her children, including Hulda Marie who had married Capt. Fred Fredricks in 1895. The Fredericks had daughters Helen Gertrude (born in 1896) and Ethel Louise (born in 1898).

When Martin and Hannah were married, his parents were recorded as John Pearson and Martha Johnson. His occupation was fisherman. Hannah’s parents were recorded as Olof Svenssan and Bottilla Anderson.

When Hannah and William were married, her parents were recorded as Olof Olsen and Tilda Anderson.

Martin Johnson (signed Martin Johanson) renounced his allegiance to Oscar II, King of Sweden, and became an American citizen on 26 March 1875. His witnesses were John Wilson and Sigurt Anderson.

The obituary for Martin Johnson appeared in the Gloucester Daily Times, June 18, 1907: “Died at Almshouse. Mr. Martin Johnson, a former fisherman, and who for many years conducted a fisherman’s boarding house, died at the almshouse yesterday, having been ill about two years. He was 63 years old, and has a widow and family in Seattle.”


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The Question Chest has received a number of questions, but due to lack of space we will try to answer them in the next issue. So there is time for more questions!