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Swedish Immigrants in McCulloch Co., Texas*

In Vol. I of *Handbook of McCulloch County (TX) History*, Wayne Spiller, assisted by Elizabeth Griffin McSwain and Thelma Jackson Murray, has compiled an impressive list of Swedish immigrants who settled in the central part of Texas, approximately 125 miles west of Waco, TX in the last part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th.

The compilers have extracted the names of the Swedish settlers in McCulloch County from the records found in the District Clerk's Office. These records consist of Vol. I of the *Division of Naturalizations-Record of Declaration of Intention* as well as Vol. I, *Division of Naturalizations, Petition and Record* in the District Court of McCulloch County.

Since this printed list is a secondary source, it is recommended that the serious scholar on the hunt for a Swedish immigrant ancestor check the original records in the McCulloch County Court House. The list in the *Handbook* and reproduced here is of sufficient interest, however, that the reprinting of it may be useful to searchers looking for clues concerning these early Texas settlers.

Of the 111 immigrants who sought naturalization in the Circuit Court of McCulloch Co., the Swedish contingent is by far the greatest, more than twice as large as the next group—the Mexicans. A breakdown of the list by nationality shows the following distribution:

Sweden	42
Mexico	20
Germany	13
Russia	12
Prussia	5
England	4
Canada	4
Austria, Denmark and Poland	2 each
Scotland, Ireland, Cyprus,	
Norway and Switzerland	1 each

The names listed in the *Handbook* are reproduced as given, with the exception that there are obvious errors in transcription; these have been corrected. This applies in particular to the place names in Sweden.

*The editor is grateful to Heart of Texas Historical Museum of Brady, TX for permission to reprint portions of this article contained in *Handbook of McCulloch County (TX) History*, Vol. I (Seagraves, TX 1976), pp. 578-585 published by Pioneer Book Publishers.

1. ANDERSON, Aron Emil.¹ B. in Jönköping², Sweden 5 Feb. 1877; emigr. via the *S.S. Umonic* of the White Star Line; arr. in NY 1 Dec. 1900; farmer in Melvin, McCulloch Co., TX; petition dated 2 Feb. 1917; citizenship granted 28 March 1922.

2. ANDERSON, Carl A.³ B. in Jönköping 19 Oct. 1864; emigr. via *The City of Rome*; arr. in NY 19 June 1887; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 17 Sept. 1923; citizenship granted 10 June 1927.

3. ANDERSON, Hulda Matilda. B. Malexander Parish (Ög.) 20 Nov. 1870; emigr. via the *S.S. Umbria* of the Cunard Line; arr. in NY 29 Sept. 1906; petition dated 25 April 1925; citizenship granted 21 May 1928. Housewife and wife of Carl A. Anderson (see No. 2 above).

4. BENSON, Adolph (Adolf).⁴ B. in Sweden 2 Aug. 1879; emigr. via the Gunner (Cunard?) Line; arr. in NY 10 Jan. 1900; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 16 Jan. 1904; citizenship granted 28 Sept. 1914. He was m. to Emma Benson, with whom he had the following children—Axel, b. 17 Feb. 1907; Emma Lee, b. 5 April 1909; and twins Rodye and Ruby, b. 22 Dec. 1911.

5. BERQUIST (BERGQUIST), Reinhold Herburt (Herbert).⁵ B. in Jönköping, Sweden 16 July 1888; emigr. from Göteborg, Sweden; arr. in NY in Dec. 1888 via the White Star Line; farmer in Brady, McCulloch Co., TX; citizenship granted 26 May 1928. He was m. to Gertrude Berquist, b. in Llano, Llano Co., TX.

6. BEXEL(L), Alf Oscar. B. in Åseda Parish (Kron.) 29 May 1906; emigr. via the *S.S. Drottningholm* of the Swedish American Line 6 Sept. 1924; farmer in Brady, TX; petition dated 11 April 1925.

7. BLOOMDAHL, August Arnold.⁶ B. in Jönköping, Sweden 10 Jan. 1885; emigr. from Barkeryd Parish (Jön.); arr. in NY aboard the *S.S. Carmania* of the Cunard Line 11 March 1907; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 20 April 1914; citizenship granted 3 Oct. 1921. He was m. to Melba Elsa Bloomdahl, with whom he had the following children—Berndt, b. 6 Sept. 1911; Woodrow, b. 22 April 1915 and Corine, b. 17 Sept. 1917.

8. BARG (BERG?), Simon. B. in Forsom Parish (this could be either Forshem in Skaraborg *län* or Forserum in Jönköping *län*) 7 April 1885; emigr. from Göteborg; he was a passenger aboard a vessel of the White Star Line and arr. in Galveston, TX 1 Sept. 1891; farmer in Williamson Co., TX; petition dated 24 Dec. 1908; citizenship granted 2 Oct. 1911.

9. BYMAN, Oscar Magni. B. in Högshult, Sweden (there are at least ten places in Sweden named Högshult) 8 Sept. 1888; emigr. via the *S.S. Mauretania* of the Cunard Line; arr. in NY 6 Sept. 1908, farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 9 March 1923; citizenship granted 21 May 1928. He was m. to Myrtle Byman, who was b. in Wharton Co., TX.

10. CARLSON, Johan Gideon. B. in Järsnäs Parish (Jön.) 15 Dec. 1897; emigr. via the *S.S. Drottningholm* of the Swedish American Line; arr. in NY 21 Dec. 1926; petition dated 2 March 1942.

11. DAHL, Carl.⁷ B. in Jönköping 21 Sept. 1866; emigr. from Göteborg;

arr. in St. Paul, MN and then to New Orleans, LA, where he arr. 23 May 1896; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 2 April 1917; citizenship granted 28 March 1922.

12. DAHLBERG, Carl. B. in Forserum Parish (Jön.) 31 May 1881; emigr. via the S.S. *Symric* of the White Star Line; arr. in Galveston, TX 6 Nov. 1900; farmer in Brady, TX. His name is also spelled Dolberg. Petition dated 27 Feb. 1911. He was m. to Emma Dahlberg, b. in Iowa.

13. ENGDAHL, Carl August. B. in Sweden 25 April 1870; emigr. via the S.S. *Umbria* of the Cunard Line; arr. in NY 11 Dec. 1890; farmer in Williamson Co., TX; petition dated 17 Oct. 1892; citizenship granted 23 Sept. 1912. He was m. to Ortelia Engdahl, with whom he had the following children—George Walter, b. 1 Jan. 1897; Edna Eleanor, b. 25 Sept. 1898; William Theodore, b. 2 Sept. 1900; Charlie Edward, b. 30 Jan. 1903 and Pearl Mable, b. 4 Feb. 1905. Carl August Engdahl was originally named Carl August Jarl, but he changed his surname upon his arrival in the U.S.

14. HAGSTROM, Lars Erik.⁸ B. in Gävle, Sweden 31 May 1879; emigr. from Göteborg 26 June 1905; arr. in NY probably 8 July 1905 aboard the S.S. *Lucania* of the Cunard Line; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 11 Oct. 1907; petition was later dismissed for an unknown reason. He was m. to Kristina Hagstrom, b. in Skog Parish (probably in Gävleborg län). They had the following children—Peter Erik, b. 1 Oct. 1904; Frank Elof, b. 22 June 1907; Olga Helena, b. 25 Jan. 1909; Oskar Erland, b. 24 Nov. 1910 and Gunnar Ferdinand, b. 11 Oct. 1912.

15. HANSON, Gustaf Adolph Henry. B. in Sandsjö Parish (this could be Norra Sandsjö in Jönköping län or Södra Sandsjö in Kronoberg län), 22 April 1883; emigr. from Göteborg; arr. in NY 23 Jan. 1903 aboard the S.S. *Celtic* of the White Star Line; farmer in Brady, TX; petition dated 1 June 1911.

16. HANSON, Hans John.⁹ B. in Jönköping 26 Dec. 1870; emigr. from Rydaholm Parish (Jön.) and arr. in NY 1 April 1892 aboard the S.S. *Brittanic* of the White Star Line; farmer in Brady, TX; petition dated 3 Aug 1918; citizenship granted 28 March 1922. He was m. to Hilda Hanson, b. in Rydaholm. They had the following children—Lydia, b. 24 Feb. 1903; Paul, b. 7 June 1904; Harry, b. 26 Sept. 1908; Ruth, b. 7 June 1910 and Rajnhild (Ragnhild), b. 22 Jan. 1912.

17. HERMANSON, Sven. B. in Forserum Parish (Jön.) 30 Jan. 1894; arr. in NY 5 May 1913 aboard the S.S. *Caronia* of the Cunard Line; farmer in Brady, TX; petition dated 22 March 1924.

18. HOLMQUIST (HOLMKVIST, HALMKUIST), Elis Wilhelm. B. in Norrköping, Sweden 5 June 1902; emigr. from Malmö, Sweden aboard the S.S. *United States* of the Scandinavian-American Line and arr. in NY 13 Sept. 1927; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 31 March 1928.

19. HOLMQUIST, Erik Filip. B. in Norrköping 5 July 1905; emigr. from Malmö aboard the S.S. *United States* of the Scandinavian-American Line and arr. in NY 13 Sept. 1927; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 31 March 1928. He is probably a brother of No. 18 above.

20. JANSEN, Carl August. B. in Sweden 6 June 1866; petition dated 31 Oct. 1892.

21. JOHANNESON, Per Johan.¹⁰ B. in Värmland, Sweden 12 June 1888; res. in Ekshärad Parish (Värm.); emigr. aboard the *S.S. Virginia*, which arr. in Quebec, Canada 5 May 1911; entered the U.S. at Port Huron, MI via the Grand Trunk R.R. 8 May 1911; farmer; petition dated 29 Nov. 1922; citizenship granted but no date given. He changed his name to John Bratt 20 May 1930. He was m. to Agnes Johannesson, b. in Sunne Parish (Värm.) 7 Jan. 1886 and had with her the following children—Ally Hildegard; Astrid Waldine; Alvin Berger; Bernice Corine and Ruby Virginia.

22. JOHANSON, Ernest Iver (Ivar). B. in Forserum Parish (Jön.) 31 Jan. 1902; emigr. aboard the *S.S. Drottningholm* of the Swedish American Line and arr. in NY 28 March 1925; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 11 April 1925.

23. JOHNSON, C. Henry. B. in Sweden; 22 years old; petition dated 23 Oct. 1896.

24. JOHNSON, C.O. B. in Sweden; 21 years old; petition dated 23 Oct. 1896.

25. JOHNSON, Carl August.¹¹ B. in Malmbäck Parish (Jön.) 6 June 1866; emigr. from Göteborg 20 Sept. 1881; arr. in Baltimore, MD 31 Oct. 1892 via the *S.S. Christine*; farmer; petition dated 31 Oct. 1892 (sic!); citizenship granted 24 Feb. 1915. He was m. to Delia Johnson, b. in Williamson Co., TX, with whom he had the following children—Edmond Leonard, b. 10 Oct. 1896; Ernest Theodore, b. 10 Feb. 1900; Ruby, b. 20 Dec. 1902; Lucile, b. 29 March 1906 and Anna Hazel, b. 20 Dec. 1909.

26. LEO, Carl Gustav. B. in Norrköping 1 June 1905; emigr. from Göteborg aboard the *S.S. Stockholm* of the Swedish American Line; arr. in New York 12 Sept. 1928; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 9 Nov. 1929; citizenship granted 20 May 1936.

27. MATTSON, Lewis. B. in Sweden; 22 years old; petition dated 5 Nov. 1894.

28. MOLLBERG, Samuel John. B. in Sweden 7 July 1872; petition dated 30 March 1909.

29. NELIN, E.G.¹² B. in Sweden; 26 years old; petition dated 31 Aug. 1888.

30. NELSON, Oscar Joseph. B. in Småland 29 April 1892; emigr. from Malmö, Sweden 1 Sept. 1911 and arr. in NY aboard the *S.S. Olympic* of the White Star Line 10 Sept. 1911; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 16 Feb. 1920; citizenship granted 4 Jan. 1925. He was m. to Minnie Nelson, b. in Illinois. They had one child—Harry Joe, b. 13 April 1920.

31. NORDBERG, Samuel John. B. in Öggestorp Parish (Jön.) 7 July 1873; emigr. from Göteborg; arr. in NY 28 Nov. 1889 aboard the *S.S. Wyoming*; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 30 March 1909; citizenship granted 23 Feb. 1914. He was m. to Lottie Nordberg, with whom he had the following children—Mamie, b. 3 Nov. 1898; Ella, b. 19 Aug. 1900; Leonard, b. 25 Sept. 1905 and Evangeline, b. 25 June 1910. Sometimes the surname is listed as Mordberg.

32. NYSTROM, Claus Edward. B. in Sweden 7 July 1869; petition dated 2 Feb. 1938.

33. OLSEN (OLSON), Eric Conrad. B. in Malung Parish (Kopp.) 23 Nov. 1899; res. in Ekshärad Parish (Värm.); emigr. from Göteborg aboard the *S.S. United States* of the Scandinavian-American Line; arr. in NY 11 Aug. 1925; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 2 Aug. 1926; citizenship granted 23 Oct. 1933.

34. OMAN, C. W. B. in Sweden; 27 years old; petition dated in Oct. 1892.

35. STEELHAMMER, Albert.¹³ B. in Sweden; 29 years old; petition dated 16 Aug. 1890.

36. STEELHAMMER, Charles. B. in Sweden; 21 years old; petition dated 30 Sept. 1890.

37. SUNVISON (?) (SVENSON?), Jonas Olaf (Olof). B. in Haverö Parish (Vn.) 7 March 1875; emigr. from Göteborg; arr. in NY 21 April 1894 aboard the *S.S. Germanic* of the White Star Line; farmer in Melvin, TX; petition dated 11 Dec. 1935.

38. THORNBLUM (TÖRNBLOM), C.G. B. in Sweden; 37 years old; petition dated 30 July 1887.

39. ULLENSTEEN, John. B. in Sweden; 21 years old; petition dated 26 Oct. 1892.

40. WAHL, Annette Johanna. Wife of John Wahl (see No. 41 below). B. in Sweden 20 Dec. 1888; petition dated 17 Feb. 1913; citizenship granted 21 May 1928.

41. WAHL, John. B. in Sweden 24 Nov. 1878; emigr. from Helsingborg, Sweden; arr. in NY 26 Feb. 1913 aboard the *S.S. Caledonia* of the Anchor Line; carpenter and farmer in Melvin, TX; citizenship granted 4 Jan. 1926. He was m. to Annette Johanna Wahl (see No. 40 above).

42. YOUNG, August.¹⁴ B. in Sweden 16 Nov. 1867; emigr. from Jönköping, Sweden; arr. in NY 16 Feb. 1889 aboard the *S.S. Teutonic* of the White Star Line; farmer in Brady, TX; petition dated 27 Aug. 1918; citizenship granted 27 March 1923. He was m. to Annie Young, b. in Sweden. They had the following children—William J., b. 18 Oct. 1891; G.E., b. 22 Oct. 1892; Carl O., b. 26 Jan. 1895; K.E., b. 31 March 1896; Ellen, b. 27 June 1897; Elsie, b. 20 Feb. 1901; Arthur, b. 26 July 1902; Freda, b. 3 May 1904; Clarence, b. 26 Dec. 1905; Manard, b. 31 March 1907; Ernest, b. 16 Feb. 1909 and Edith, b. 16 Jan. 1911.

The other Scandinavians were three—two Danes and one Norwegian:

43. LUND, Otto Henry. B. in Holstebro, Denmark 15 July 1904; emigr. from Copenhagen aboard the *S.S. Oscar II* of the Scandinavian-American Line; arr. in NY 14 March 1922 with his wife, Lillie Elfreda. He was granted citizenship 21 Oct. 1941.

44. PETERSON, Hans. B. in Denmark; petition dated 29 April 1893.

45. THINGSTAD, Kristian. B. in Romsdal, Norway 8 Sept. 1897; emigr. from Christiania (now Oslo) via Louisiana and arr. in Jacksonville, FL 20 Dec. 1923; farmer in Brady, TX; petition dated 30 July 1925.

- ¹Aron Emil Anderson was b. in Långåsa, Barkeryd Parish (Jön.). He remained unmarried. —Ernest Severin, Alf L. Scott and T.J. Westerberg, *Svenskarne i Texas i ord och bild 1838-1918*. I-II (n.p.n.d.), II, p. 840.
- ²Jönköping throughout this list seems to refer to the County of Jönköping, not the city itself.
- ³Carl A. Anderson was b. in Järsnäs Parish (Jön.), the s. of Anders Andersson, a carpenter. —*Svenskarne i Texas*, p. 827.
- ⁴Adolf Benson was b. in the Swedish province of Halland. In 1906 he m. Emma Johnson of Austin, TX, who was b. in the city of Linköping in 1880. The children's names differ radically from those listed in the *Handbook*. Thus the s. is named Arnold; the dau. Adeline and the twins Rhodie and Ruby. The family attended the Swedish Methodist Church in West Sweden, eight miles west of Brady. —*Ibid.*, p. 828.
- ⁵Reinhold Herbert Bergquist was the s. of Alfred Bergquist, b. in Lommaryd Parish (Jön.) in 1858. He had emigr. in 1888 with his wife, Christina Lönn, b. in Haurida Parish (Jön.) in 1856. Reinhold Herbert Bergquist m. Gertrude Porter of Llano. The family attended the Swedish Methodist Church in Brady. —*Ibid.*, p. 794.
- ⁶August Arnold Bloomdahl (Blomdahl) was b. in Barkeryd Parish (Jön.), the s. of a farmer named August Blom. Bloomdahl m. Mabel (sic!) Gustafson, who was b. in Sprinkle, Travis Co., TX in 1891, the dau. of Frank Gustafson. The family attended the Evangelical Free Church in Melvin, TX. —*Ibid.*, p. 829.
- ⁷Carl Dahl was b. in Svarttorp Parish (Jön.). —*Ibid.*, p. 834.
- ⁸Lars Eric Hagstrom was b. in Ljusne, Söderala Parish (Gävl.), but soon moved to Skog Parish in the same county, where he met his future wife, Christina Persson, b. in Mo Parish (Gävl.), but who received her education in Skog. The family res. in McCulloch Co. 1911-1913 but then moved to Kenedy in Karnes Co., TX, where they attended the Swedish Lutheran Church. —*Ibid.*, p. 758.
- ⁹Hans John Hanson was b. in Rydaholm Parish (Jön.). He was m. to Hilda Carlson, also b. in Rydaholm in 1872. The family attended the Swedish Methodist Church in West Sweden. —*Ibid.*, p. 808.
- ¹⁰Per Johan Johanneson (later John Bratt) was b. in Ekshärad Parish (Värm.). His dau. Ally Hildegard was b. in 1914. —*Ibid.*, p. 840.
- ¹¹Carl August Johnson arr. in McCulloch Co., in 1890. He was m. in 1893 to Delia Johnson, who was b. in Palm Valley, Williamson Co., TX in 1875, the dau. of John Johnson, who originally hailed from Svarttorp Parish (Jön.). The family attended the Presbyterian Church in East Sweden, due east of Brady. —*Ibid.*, p. 811.
- ¹²Erik Gustaf Nelin was b. in Hardemo Parish (Öre.) in 1862, the s. of Carl Johan Nelin, a shoemaker. He emigr. to Williamson County, TX in 1882, but already the following year he moved to San Saba, TX. He was m. in 1890 to Ellen Marie Söderling, who had arr. in Richland, TX in 1890 from Stora Mellösa Parish (Öre.), where her father, Olof Söderling was a sea captain. The couple had six children—Carl, b. 1891; Arthur, b. 1892; Emil, b. 1896; Conrad, b. 1898; Edith, b. 1901 and Ivar, b. 1903. The family attended the Presbyterian Church in East Sweden.
- A railroad siding a few miles east of Brady bears the name of Nelin, named for Erik Gustaf and his older brother, Carl Johan Nelin, b. in Hardemo in 1859. —*Ibid.*, p. 819; Otto Robert Landelius, *Swedish Place-Names in North America* (Chicago and Carbondale, IL 1985), p. 218.
- ¹³Albert John Stålhammar (in the U.S. he Anglicized his name) was b. in the city of Södertälje, Sweden in 1862 and arr. in the U.S. in 1884. In 1890 he arr. in Brady, TX, being probably the first Swede to settle there. He m. twice—the first time to Anna Nygren, who d. in 1890 and with whom he had one dau.—Agnes. His second wife was Sophia Otty, with whom he had nine children. —*Svenskarne i Texas*, II, p. 823.
- ¹⁴August Young was b. in Hjälmteryd Parish (Jön.) in 1867, the s. of a carpenter. In 1891 he was m. to Anna Charlotta Carlsdotter, b. in Lommaryd Parish (Jön.) in 1869. —*Ibid.*, p. 824.

Information on Swedish Arrivals Wanted

Dr. Erik Wikén of Uppsala, Sweden has been conducting research on Swedish passenger arrivals to the U.S. 1820-1850. These additions and corrections, supplementing Nils William Olsson's two works of 1967 and 1979, will be published in the near future. Those who are familiar with Olsson's lists, and who possess supplementary information pertinent to this project are asked to submit such material to SAG's office, P.O. Box 2186, Winter Park, FL 32790