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Västergötland Immigrants in New Britain, CT

John E. Darrow*

The parish records of the Swedish immigrant churches in the United States provide us with some excellent source materials for tracing our roots back to Sweden. The Augustana Lutheran Church, now a part of the Lutheran Church in America, grew and developed under the guidance of clergymen trained in the State Lutheran Church in Sweden. Since the Swedish Church had a long tradition of keeping careful vital statistical records for every parish in Sweden, it was only natural that the progeny in America would carry on the traditions of the mother church in Sweden. Good record keeping was one of the more important benefits brought to the immigrant church in the United States.

Since my own grandfather, Adolph Johnson (Adolf Johansson in Sweden) joined the First Lutheran Church of the Reformation in New Britain, CT in 1912 and since he was born in the parish of Kalv in the province of Västergötland, I thought that it would be an interesting study to go through the New Britain church records to see how many of its members came from Kalv and the neighboring parish of Östra Frölunda and joined the New Britain church during the period 1885-1895. While it was fairly easy to check the parish rolls for members from these two parishes and their birth data, it took much more effort to validate this information by consulting the microfilms of the original Swedish parish records in the Genealogical Society Library in Salt Lake City, UT. In the majority of the cases the birth data checked out very well. There were a few minor differences in the birth date itself as between Kalv and Östra Frölunda on the one hand and the New Britain church on the other. These divergencies have been noted. In a few instances there was no record in the Swedish parish rosters of New Britain parishioners having been born there. This has also been noted below.

As I broke out the communicants in the New Britain church records, I was astounded by the number of members who enrolled in the church from two comparatively small parishes in in Västergötland during the ten-year period in question. Almost two score New Britain residents came from Kalv and a total of thirteen had their origin in Östra Frölunda. A substantial number also had their roots in such adjoining parishes as Håcksvik, Mårdaklev and Sjötofta in Älvsborg *län* and the parish of Gunnarp in the neighboring *län* of Halland.

*John E. Darrow resides at 10 Woodhaven Drive, Kensington, CT 06037.

Name and Birth Date

Parents

KALV PARISH

1. Britta Andersdotter b. 21 Sept. 1854	Andreas Svensson and Anna Maria Johansdotter
2. Karolina Anderson b. 15 May 1852	Andreas Svensson and Anna Maria Johansdotter
3. Karl Enok Anderson Stromquist b. 6 Oct. 1861	No record in Kalv
4. Hanna, wife of John Edman, b. 19 April 1846 ¹	Salomon Andersson and Anna Greta Andersdotter
5. Hanna Sofia Johannesdotter b. 26 May 1860	Johannes Månsson and Britta Eleanor Johansdotter
6. Karolina Andersdotter b. 14 May 1854 ²	Andreas Pehrsson and Britta Christiansdotter
7. Carl Johan Andreason b. 17 Nov. 1859	Andreas Johansson and Johanna Maria Svensdotter
8. Klara Josefina Emanuelsdotter b. 21 Nov. 1869	Emanuel Johansson and Carolina Emanuelsdotter
9. Ida Paulina Karlsson b. 23 April 1862	Carl August Emanuelsson and Johanna Bengtsdotter
10. Anna Benedekta Karlsson b. 11 Oct. 1869	Carl August Emanuelsson and Johanna Bengtsdotter
11. Carl Johan Andersson Lundquist b. 19 Nov. 1859	Identical to No. 7
12. Johan August Petersson b. 25 Feb. 1862	Andreas Pettersson and Johanna Catharina Andersdotter
13. John B. Johnson b. 28 July 1866 ³	Johannes Hanson and Eleanora Johansdotter
14. Anders Andersson Lindquist b. 22 May 1871	Andreas Andersson and Johanna Maria Svensdotter
15. Johan August Anderson b. 3 Sept. 1849	Anders Johansson and Christina Ivarsdotter
16. Klas Albert Stromquist b. 11 March 1871	Anders Johansson and Severina Carlsdotter
17. Johanna Larsson b. 20 April 1871	Lars Johan Andersson and Anna Catharina Salomonsdotter

Name and Birth Date	Parents
18. Ida Carolina Larsson b. 3 Oct. 1873	Lars Johan Andersson and Anna Catharina Salomonsdotter
19. Sven Svensson b. 6 Aug. 1863	Sven Johansson and Johanna Pehrsson
20. Bengt Enoch Gustafson b. 31 Dec. 1866	Gustaf Johansson and Johanna Kathrina Bengtsdotter
21. Ida Josefina Paulsson b. 8 Nov. 1871	Paulus Davidsson and Gustava Svensdotter
22. Martin Salomonsson Rydin b. 17 June 1865	No record in Kalv
23. John Petterson b. 21 Feb. 1865 ⁴	Josef Petersson and Catharina Johansdotter
24. Anders Andersson b. 14 Aug. 1840	Salomon Andersson and Anna Greta Andersdotter
25. Hanna Mathilda Erlandsson Anderson b. 26 Sept. 1869 ⁵	Anders Erlandsson and Anna Eleonora Andersdotter
26. Martin Gustafsson b. 28 March 1871	Gustaf Johansson and Johanna Catharina Bengtsdotter
27. Carolilna Andersson b. 7 Oct. 1864	Anders Carl Andersson and Anna Oleana Petersdotter
28. Salomon Johnson b. 9 Nov. 1866	Johan Bengtsson and Anna Lena Carlsdotter
29. Josef Petersson b. 27 Jan. 1833	Peter Svensson and Edla Jönsdotter
30. Maria Kristina Rosen b. 20 Nov. 1874	T. Rosen, corporal, and T.G. Carlsdotter
31. Carl Alfred Carlsson b. 29 Oct. 1875	Carl August Emanuelsson and Johanna Bengtsdotter
32. Johan August Andersson b. 3 Sept. 1849	Identical to No. 15
33. Anna Josefina Johansdotter b. 25 April 1876	J.A. Andersson and L. Bengtsdotter
34. August Salomon Sodergren b. 14 May 1856	Salomon Andersson and Anna Greta Andersdotter

Name and Birth Date	Parents
35. Kristina Andersson Johansson b. 21 Aug. 1839	Johannes Erlandsson and Johanna Catharina Jönsdotter
36. Lars Otto Paulson b. 29 May 1875	Paulus Davidsson and Gustava Christina Svensdotter
37. Ida Paulina Anderson b. 7 June 1866	Anders Andersson and Olena Petersdotter
38. Dina Mathilda Bengtsson b. 9 June 1872	Bengt Carl Magnusson and Hanna Maria Danielsdotter
39. Anders Andersson b. 22 May 1871	Andreas Andersson and Johanna Maria Svensdotter
40. Martin Alfred Anderson b. 5 Oct. 1877	Johan August Andersson and Lovisa Bengtsdotter

ÖSTRA FRÖLUNDA PARISH

1. Johan Emanuel Andersson b. 19 Sept. 1856	Anders Carl Johansson and Stina Pettersdotter
2. Sven Aron Persson b. 20 Nov. 1862	No record in Östra Frölunda
3. Josefina Johansdotter b. 20 Nov. 1842	Johannes Magnisson and Anna Brita Erlandsdotter
4. Hanna Benedekta Zakrisson Kellberg b. 7 March 1857	No record in Östra Frölunda
5. Sven August Josefsson Lundgren b. 16 May 1862	Josef Arvidsson and Johanna Andreasdotter
6. Alma Klasdotter Andersson b. 27 Oct. 1874	C.O. Andén and C. Andersdotter
7. Anna Lovisa Carlsson b. 20 June 1872	Carl Magnus Larsson and Josefina Eleonora Andreasdotter
8. Johanna Annette Carlsson b. 11 April 1869	Carl Magnus Larsson and Josefina Eleonora Andersdotter ⁶
9. Johan Axel Josefsson b. 11 Oct. 1867	Josef Arvidsson and Johanna Andreasdotter
10. Mauritz Josefson b. 25 May 1871	Josef Arvidsson and Johanna Andersdotter
11. Anna Charlotta Johansson b. 25 Nov. 1866	Johan Johansson and Britta Maria Carlsdotter

Name and Birth Date

Parents

- | | |
|---|--|
| 12. Joel Bernhard Alexis Andersson
b. 15 July 1869 | Andreas Andersson and
Anna Christina Andersdotter |
| 13. Anders Hilmer Anderson
b. 15 June 1871 | No record in Östra Frölunda |

¹In the Kalv records she is registered as Johanna.

²In the Kalv records her birth is given as 13 May 1855.

³In the Kalv records his birth date is given as 23 July 1866.

⁴In the Kalv records is given as Per Johan Pettersson.

⁵In the Kalv records her name is given as Anna Mathilda.

⁶Andersdotter and Andreasdotter are used interchangeably in the church records.

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Paulson Photographs

Nancy Bartoo of Bethel Park, PA writes "that her son bought for her about a year ago an antique photo album in Grand Rapids, MI. All of the large 'cabinet' size photos are by photographers in Manistee, MI. Only one of them has a name on the back—Ms Swan Paulson, 31 Clay Street, Manistee, Michigan.

"The album contains several small 'carte-de-visite' size photos, all of these by photographers in some Scandinavian country, apparently Sweden. I don't know if these are place names—some at least appear to be—but the backs of the small photos have these words:

1. Stora Harrie, Ortofta
2. Teckomatorp
3. Bokhandlare Ph. Lindstedts gård, Stortorget, Lund
4. Bokhandlare Ph. Lindstedts gård, Stortorget, Lund
5. Bokhandlare Ph. Lindstedts gård, Stortorget, Lund
6. Stora Harrie; Södervidinge
7. Landskrona
8. Mårtenstorget, Lund

"If anyone is searching for a *Paulson* family of Manistee, MI, this information might be interesting to them. I will answer any letters about the photographs, if a S.A.S.E. is enclosed. —Nancy Bartoo, 5896 Kings School Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102."

Editor's Note: Stora Harrie, Ortofta, Teckomatorp, Lund, Södervidinge and Landskrona are place names within a small radius between Eslöv in the east and Landskrona in the west. Photos No. 3, 4 and 5 come from Ph. Lindstedt, a book dealer located on the Grand Square in Lund. No. 8 comes from Mårten's Square, Lund.