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A Swedish Arrival in Newport, RI 1824

Erik Wikén*

In rummaging through a batch of American crew lists for Newport, RI, housed in the National Archives in Washington, DC, my friend, Nils William Olsson, came across a passenger list, heretofore unknown. It dealt with the ship *Boy*, Nathaniel Green, master, which arrived in Newport 23 July 1824 on a journey from Göteborg in Sweden and Bremen in Germany. There were two Swedish passengers on board:

Frederick Klingspor, a native of Sweden, male, 26 years old and an officer, whose intention was to return to Sweden. He was accompanied by a female, Charlotta Maria (no surname given), also born in Sweden, thirteen years of age, whose intention was to settle in the United States.

A check of Elgenstierna's work on the Swedish nobility quickly settled my mind that we are here dealing with Baron Fredrik Adolf Klingspor, born on the estate of Skörtinge in Skärkind Parish (Ög.) 13 Aug. 1802, the son of a Swedish army officer, Count Gustaf Klingspor and Magdalena Charlotta Wennerstedt.¹ Young Fredrik Adolf began his military career at age 16 on 30 Nov. 1818, when he was given a commission as staff sergeant (*fanjunkare*) in the elite Svea Life Guard Regiment. On 26 Oct. 1819 he was promoted to second lieutenant (*fänrik*), and on 23 Oct. 1822 he reached the rank of first lieutenant (*löjtnant*). Almost two years later, on 11 May 1824, he resigned his commission, preparing to depart for America. His passport, issued by the Foreign Minister of Sweden, was dated three days before his resignation, on 8 May 1824. Upon his departure from Sweden, his passport was checked by the military authorities at Fort Älvsborg on Sweden's west coast on 14 June 1824.²

In a despatch, dated Washington, DC 6 Sept. 1824, from the then Swedish-Norwegian Minister to the Royal Swedish Foreign Ministry, reference is made to F.A. Klingspor's arrival in Boston, the fact that he had been lent a small sum of money and that the chances of his being given a commission in the United States Army were minimal.³

In another despatch forwarded to the Foreign Ministry on 21 Jan. 1825, in which the Minister also enclosed a letter from young Klingspor to his father, reference is made to the fact that the letter had been mailed from Utica, NY.³

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Nothing further is known concerning Fredrik Adolf Klingspor. Did he return to Sweden or did he disappear in the vastness of the American continent? Elgenstierna claims that he died unmarried.⁴

The fate of his travelling companion, the 13 year-old girl, Charlotta Maria, is also unknown.

¹Gustaf Elgenstierna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*, I-IX (Stockholm 1925-1936), IV, p. 174.

²Fort Älvsborg Records, Vol. 74, Royal War Archives (*Krigsarkivet*), Stockholm.

³Despatches from the Swedish-Norwegian Legation in Washington, DC to the Royal Swedish Ministry, National Archives (*Riksarkivet*), Stockholm.

⁴The estate inventories (*hoppsteckningar*) of his father, who d. 6 July 1840, and his mother, who d. 27 Feb. 1847, do not mention Fredrik Adolf, only his three brothers - Gustaf, Mauritz and Otto, as well as his two sisters - Sophia and Amalia, strongly suggesting that Fredrik Adolph had d. before his father, probably in America. --- The Archives of the Göta Court of Appeals (*Göta Hovrätt*), Jönköping.

Corrected Ancestor Table

Pontus Möller, Chief Genealogist for the House of Nobles (*Riddarhuset*) in Stockholm has forwarded some corrections and additions to ancestor table No. XXI for John Orville Martin (whose present address is 28600 Fairway Lane, Apt. 200, Chisago City, MN 55013).

3935. JAKOBSDOTTER, Elin (not BÅÅT).¹

3966. ERIKSSON, Jöns, of Råö in Halland, was still alive in 1624.²

7810. (HALVHJORT av ÄRNÄS), Michel Nilsson (not SVARTE SKÅNING), judge in Uppland, d. 1528.³

7811. (DJULAÄTTEN), Anna Josefsdotter (not BJÖRN).⁴

7870. JONSSON, Jacob, untitled cavalryman, d. 1604 (not BÅÅT).¹

7871. PERSDOTTER, Hamfred (Holmfrid), d. ca. 1611 (not PIK).⁵

7900. SVAN, Hans Ulfsson, councillor in Stockholm, d. at the latest 1597.⁶

7901. SVENSDOTTER, Brita, was still alive in 1607.⁶

7932. OLSSON, Erik, of Råö, was still alive 1610.²

7933. ---, Karin.⁷

Sources

¹Kjell Magnell, "Pelle i Ramstad, Stårckarna och Elin Jakobsdotter" in *Släkt och Hävd*, 1964-1965, pp. 397-420 with a genealogical table on p. 420.

²Hans Gilllingstam, "Ätten Hiertas ursprung och den halländska ätten Krabbe" in *Släkt och Hävd*, 1964-1965, pp. 197-208 with a genealogical table on p. 209.

³Jan Eric Almquist, *Lagsagor och domsagor i Sverige* (Stockholm 1954) Vol. I, pp. 15, 112, 114 and Vol. II (Stockholm 1955), p. 53 ff.

⁴Jan Raneke, *Svenska medeltidsvapen*, I-III, 1952, p. 321.

⁵Kjell Magnell, "Pelle i Ramstad," pp. 411 and 415-420. Cf. Jan Eric Almquist, "Väpnaren Tore Bytings svenska avkomlingar i fem led" in *Släkt och Hävd*, 1958, pp. 16, 23.

⁶(Nils Östman, Frans de Brun, Gustaf Elgenstierna and Ivar Simonsson), *Stockholms rådhus och råd*, I-II (Stockholm 1915-1918), II, p. 156, no. 378.

⁷Hans Gilllingstam, "Ätten Hiertas ursprung," pp. 204, 209. Cf. the same author's "Kompletteringar och rättelser till genealogiska arbeten" in *Släkt och Hävd*, 1975, p. 380.

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In Elzada Mavia Hypse's ancestral table, No. XXII, her marriage date to John Orville Martin should read 25 Sept. 1932, *not* 1931.