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A Bibliographical Note on *The Swedes in Illinois*

Nils William Olsson

The extremely valuable reference work, *Svenskarne i Illinois (The Swedes in Illinois)*, written and published by the two journalists, Eric Johnson and Carl Fredrik Petter Peterson in Chicago 1880, has previously been noted in *Swedish American Genealogist* (Vol. I, 1981, pp. 1-6). Contrary to what has been the impression earlier, it now appears that this highly useful biographical volume, containing the names of almost a thousand Swedish immigrants, really exists in two versions, so different from each other, that it is worthwhile to call attention to this bibliographical fact.

Recently I was provided with a reference to Johnson and Peterson, which I could not locate in my volume of the work. This fact puzzled me since the notion that more than one edition of the work existed had never crossed my mind. I quickly checked four widely distributed copies and found to my surprise that in one of the four copies examined there was indeed the reference which I did not have in mine. Thus began a thorough collation of the two divergent editions in order to see what lay behind the mystery.

Although both volumes show the same publication year—1880, it was noted that the earlier edition, which we shall call version A, contains 471 pages of text, 14 pages of introductory material and a total of eight pages of advertisements. The later edition, which we shall call version B, contains 475 pages of text, the same introductory material and seven pages of advertisements. There are no discernible differences in the two versions until the appearance of the Chicago biographies. Both editions begin this segment on page 388 and end it on page 431. What is different is that the editors have deleted a total of 98 biographies from edition A and have replaced them with 117 new and different write-ups. Only three of the 98 biographies dropped reappear in edition B. Of the total of 44 pages of Chicago biographies, which are to be found in both editions, no less than 29 are identical. The other fifteen pages are entirely new in version B, except for the reappearance of three from the first edition—F.W. Ankarfelt (p. 402 in A; p. 410 in B), a printer from Göteborg, who later married the Swedish American writer, Signe Liedberg; John Levin (p. 402 in A; p. 410 in B), watchmaker and jeweler, who advertised in both editions and Claes Peter Rosen(e) (p. 417 in A; p. 412 in B), who operated a meat store on Oak Street. His write-up is the only item which was reset in type, obviously in order to redress an error in the first edition, where his birthplace in Sweden was given as Skirö Parish (Skar.) instead of (Jön.). It was this bit of internal evidence which conclusively proved to me the chronology of the two editions.

The immediate question which comes to mind is the reason behind the editor summarily dropping 95 biographies from edition A. We know that one of them,

C.W.R. Wimmerstedt (p. 425), a grocer from Skärstad Parish (Jön.) had died, but that had already been noted in the first edition. One therefore questions the exclusion of some of the very best known Swedes in Chicago, persons such as Sven Trägårdh (p. 412), probably "the best known Swede west of New York," according to his grandson, Rudolph Tragard, writing in 1925. Other well-known Swedes, eliminated in edition B are such people as C.F. Billing (p. 400), a Civil War veteran, who had been a lumber dealer in Chicago and had served as bailiff in the Chicago Circuit Court from 1874 to 1878.

H.P. Gryden (p. 426) had arrived in the U.S. as early as 1838 and had manufactured ambulances for the Union forces during the Civil War. His name is missing in the later version as is the name of Lawrence Hesselroth (p. 414) from Dalsland, who had arrived in the U.S. in 1864, had joined the U.S. Navy during the Civil War and established the first Swedish apothecary shop in Chicago named *Kronan*. He had run full-page advertisements in both editions of the volume and was one of the well-known Swedes in the Windy City.

Another dropped Swede was A.M. Lind (p. 420) who had been an early arrival in Chicago in 1848. He was a master carpenter and also served as first warden of the St. Ansgarius Swedish Episcopal Church. David Netterström's name (p. 400) is also missing in version B. He was a master bookbinder, had traveled widely in Europe and the Middle East and came to Chicago in 1869. Others missing are the Nodling brothers (p. 417), John August and Johan Fredrik, who not only operated a very successful grocery business in Chicago, but also owned 2/3 of a Great Lakes schooner. Another surprising omission is that of Fritz von Schultz (Schoultz) (p. 428), born in Copenhagen of Swedish-German parents, but who had received his theatrical training in Stockholm. When he arrived in Chicago he not only participated in many Swedish-American theater appearances but also built up one of the largest houses in Chicago for the manufacture of theatrical costumes.

Another omission is that of Sven Youngquist (Ljungqvist) (p. 420) from Jönköping, who after settling in Chicago in 1867, opened a shoe store and became one of the founding fathers of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church.

There seems to be no pattern for the editorial changes instigated by the editors in revising edition B. The mystery will probably never be solved. It is enough to establish that the researcher should be aware of the fact that the second version of *Svenskarne i Illinois* is missing 95 biographies in version A, and that version B includes 114 biographies not in version A. Both editions must therefore be consulted when using this very crucial work. It will also be necessary in citing this source to specify in which edition the reference is to be found.

The only other difference noted in the two editions, beyond what has been said above, consists of the extra four pages to be found in version B. Here we find a list of eleven Swedes residing in Sycamore, DeKalb Co., IL; fifteen Swedes living in Elgin, IL and an addendum to the Rockford list, which provides the names of three additional Swedes residing in that city.