

# Swedish American Genealogist

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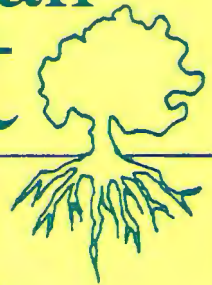
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# Swedish American Genealogist




*A journal devoted to Swedish American  
biography, genealogy and personal history*

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# Swedish American Genealogist



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# Destination - Oskaloosa

Kjell Nordqvist\*

During the 19th century many Swedish immigrants participated in and helped develop America's infrastructure as railroad workers and bridge builders. Quite a few labored in the coal mines to produce the fuel for the heavy locomotives which thundered along America's newly constructed railroads. Some of these miners are the main characters in this presentation.

On an April day in 1879 the steamship *Rollo* left the pier in Göteborg to begin its journey across the North Sea to Hull in England. Most of the passengers were emigrants, who from Hull would continue the journey via railway to Liverpool and from there board an Atlantic vessel, destined for America. One of these passengers was Victor Petersson, a 20-year-old son of a furnace foreman living in Brickegården in Karlskoga. He was accompanied by his 12-year-old sister, Maria. They had informed the emigrant agent that their destination in the new land was Oskaloosa. When I caught sight of this very distinctive Indian name on the emigrant lists in Göteborg, I was fired by the idea of attempting to follow both of these emigrants to their final destination. There are many places in America named Oskaloosa, but I soon found from some source materials that the destination of the siblings was Oskaloosa, the main town in Mahaska County, IA. In the immediate vicinity of this town there was a densely populated and well constructed mining camp, named Muchakinock, and that is where Victor was to reside during the 1880's and the 1890's. Back in his native Sweden one produced iron with the help of charcoal. Thus Victor must surely have participated both in the manufacture of charcoal as well as the transportation of the product to the smelters. In the U.S. anthracite and bituminous coal were used.

Soon the population in Muchakinock received reinforcements from Karlskoga. If one studies the genealogical tables at the end of this article one can see that the emigration of the two siblings from Brickegården was not an accident. Within a few years all of the children in the Petersson family, save one son, had crossed the ocean, and finally the mother, Maria Jacobsdotter, a widow since the death of her husband, Peter Petersson, in 1869, joined her children in Iowa. The desire to emigrate spread to the cousins in Våtsjötorp, the children of the uncle, Anders Petersson. Carl Carlsson from Aggerud, who for a time had worked as a hired man in Brickegården and there had learned to know the Petersson siblings, soon followed the stream of emigrants and in turn succeeded in getting his brother and two sisters to depart for America. From the tables it can be seen that others from our community of Karlskoga also belong to this emigration complex. Totally the group included no less than 26 persons. We have here an excellent example of what the emigration scholars call "successive emigration."

During the 1870's a number of coal mines were developed in Mahaska County

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as well as other areas in south east Iowa. The coal mining area exploited in the Muchakinock valley had a surface comprising 700 acres. The production in this coal field soon passed the production of all other counties in Iowa. The growing railroad traffic demanded an increased quantity of coal. Many immigrants from Wales were recruited, but many Swedes also came here, among them a group, which earlier had been employed on a canal construction project in Keokuk in eastern Iowa. It is highly possible that there were some Karlskoga immigrants in this group. Someone from our section of Sweden must have informed Victor Petersson concerning the job opportunities in Iowa. It is quite possible that it was Olof Larsson and his wife, Carolina, the aunt of Victor (Tab. 14), who led the way. They had departed for America ten years before Victor. Descendants of the Petersson siblings living today do not recollect having heard about them. I have not had the opportunity of checking the census lists of Mahaska County in order to find a lead as to who could have been Victor's informant. The fact that Victor's teen-age sister accompanied him to America may point to the possibility that a relative in the U.S. had promised to take care of her. She resided in this area and also married here (Tab. 6).

The mines in Mahaska were bought in 1881 by Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and the mines were worked by the Consolidated Coal Company. The C.&N.R.R. was an enormous user of coal, and all of the fossil fuel mined in Iowa was used for the operation of the railroad.

At the turn of the century the coal company in Muchakinock decided to close the mine. The houses were moved and today the city of Oskaloosa uses the site for a garbage dump. Now the activities of the company were concentrated to neighboring Monroe County. Here the center was Buxton, a swiftly developing mining community, which had received its name from the mine superintendent. It is estimated that ten mines or so were developed in the area, connected to Buxton by rail, so as to provide transportation for both coal and personnel.

Buxton was far from an ordinary mining camp. It developed into a city-like community with well laid-out streets and residential areas with well-built houses, constructed by the company. The services provided were extensive. In one company store alone there were no less than 130 sales clerks who waited on the customers and sold goods of all sizes and shapes. There were large areas set aside for leisure activities, among other things a Y.M.C.A. building, three stories tall, with facilities for athletics, social activities and education. There was an abundance of schools and churches. There has been much discussion concerning the speed at which Buxton grew and how large the population was, when it was at its peak. Several scholars have arrived at a figure of between 5,000 and 6,000 persons in the year of 1910. Ten years earlier Buxton was not even on the map. Since the time of its zenith, it steadily diminished and by the middle of the 1920's the place was a ghost town. Today the area is used for farming and cattle raising. Where the city once stood there now grow corn, soy beans, oats and cattle fodder. Lately a family with Swedish roots by the name of Blomgren has acquired some of the land. In 1984 an interesting report concerning an archeological dig of the former city was

prepared, entitled *Exploring Buried Buxton*. One of the field workers on this project was Nancy Wallace, a great granddaughter of Anders Petersson (Tab.5).

Buxton is interesting also from an ethnic point of view. Here was a large black population, greater than what was the case both earlier and later in Iowa. This had come about because thousands of black workers were recruited in the South for work in the coal mines of Muchakinock around 1880. Part of this work force had even been slaves. The company had a positive attitude to racial integration. The wages were the same, and the mingling of blacks and whites at work and play seems to have worked very well and without friction. The blacks, who later moved to other areas, stated that it was first after having left Buxton that they encountered some form of racial discrimination. One looked back on the Buxton years with nostalgia. In cities like Des Moines special groups were created called Buxton Clubs, made up of former residents from the mining area and their descendants.

A successful black merchant had been in charge of the recruitment of black workers and had belonged to the top echelon in the Buxton community along with many other well-educated blacks who were lawyers, doctors and teachers. Buxton was an unincorporated town and hence lacked a mayor, police force and other forms of local government. The mining company shouldered the whole responsibility for running the town. "Consolidated" was seen as a progressive and generous company, which fully understood that the welfare of its work force was essential if the day-to-day operation was to be successful. There were of course cases of drunkenness and violence with an occasional murder, but on the whole, society functioned without great dramatic interludes.

The company houses with their five to six rooms were surrounded by large lots, where tenants could raise fruit and vegetables for themselves and their animals. It was customary that the miners had a cow, pig and some chickens. Whether Victor Petersson, the immigrant mentioned in the beginning of this article, ever lived in one of these company houses is not clear. According to the descendants of the Peterssons, both Victor and his brother Anders rented farms in the Buxton area. Victor arrived in Buxton from "Old Muchy" in 1901 and is supposed to have lived there until 1917. His son Ed remained here until the middle of the 1920's. He became a well-known figure in the mining community, both as a labor union member and constable, and not least as the trainer and manager of the baseball team, "The Buxton Wonders," whose black ball players scored big successes in the surrounding communities. Even teams from the big cities had difficulty matching the dexterity of the Buxton players on the diamond. Another resident of Buxton was Martin Petersson, deceased a few years ago, who was a nephew of Victor's (Tab.5).

The Swedes in Buxton as well as in Muchakinock were numerically an important group. They were concentrated in two sections of the town, West Swede Town and East Swede Town. The Swedish Lutheran Church was situated in the latter settlement, probably the church where Victor worshipped.

Southeast of Buxton the Wapello Coal Company began operations in a coal field around 1890. The center of this area was Hiteman. The company had worked

mines earlier in Wapello County, east of Monroe County, and workers from that place had followed the company to Hiteman. Other miners, however, from other coal fields, among them Muchakinock, also rushed to the new site. Among these was Carl Carlsson (Tab. 12), who belonged to the earlier Muchakinock miners, who in the beginning of the 1890's settled in Hiteman. One of the early settlers here was Anders Petersson (Tab. 5). Children born to him are recorded as having been born in Hiteman during the years 1895-1897. Karl (Charles) Andersson (Tab. 8) seems to have been living in Hiteman in 1892, Anders Carlsson (Tab. 13) lived in the area by the end of the 1890's and by the end of the 1910's Victor Petersson had also settled there. There was a "Swede Town" also in Hiteman, and a couple of Swedish churches were founded here in the 1890's. The mining center was not demolished when the mining operations ceased and about 100 persons still reside in Hiteman. Every year many former residents return here for the annual reunions.

Work in the mines was hard and filled with risks. The possibility of cave-ins was always great with the resultant cut-off of oxygen. Accidents also struck the immigrants from our area. Thus in 1900 Carl Carlsson was killed in a cave-in of one of the mines in Hiteman. Around 1914 Victor Petersson's back was injured in an accident in Buxton. His obituary states that the effects of this accident remained with him to the day he died. Earlier he had been a very robust person. His son Ed also experienced an accident and he carried a blue scar on his face as a reminder of that episode.

The Briccegård siblings were many and it was unthinkable that they should all share in the farm. Karl, the oldest brother of Victor's, farmed a part of the land in addition to working for the Bofors Company in Karlskoga. Victor could surely have secured employment there also, but the stories from relatives and friends, and what they had to say about America, decided his course of action. Not even when he had tried the risky labor in the dusty, dark and narrow passage-ways of the coal mines, had he flinched from welcoming others to follow him to America. It is a certain fact that the emigrants from Karlskoga as well as others who flocked to the mines were better off economically than they were before. The information I have been able to elicit concerning the wages paid in the mines toward the latter part of the time the mines were in operation demonstrate that in 1915 a miner earned about \$450.00 per year. Often more than one person in each family worked. According to the federal reports for 1920 a family needed an annual income of \$2,000.00 to make ends meet. There were in Buxton quite a few families, both black and white, whose total income for the year varied between \$2,000.00 and \$2,500.00 per year. A mine historian has related that when the mining in Buxton was at its peak, the workers were paid in gold and silver and it was not unusual to see a \$20.00 gold piece dangling from a coalminer's watch chain.

Those immigrants who have been mentioned in this article doubtless had as their goal in life the earning of enough money to acquire a farm. Many of them began at an early stage to do part-time farming on the side. Carl Carlsson acquired land in Round Lake, MN and stayed there a few years in the 1890's. He returned to Hiteman, however, ostensibly to earn more capital in order to return to his farm at

a later date. He had come from an impoverished croft on the outskirts of Aggerud near Karlskoga and must have dreamed of one day running a farm under more fortuitous circumstances. The accident in the mine cut those plans short. Descendants of Anders Petersson claim that even he for a time owned and operated a farm in Round Lake. The brother Erik (Tab. 1) had already in 1885 become a farm owner and had obviously tempted others to try the same thing. Anders Petersson and Anders Carlsson (Tab. 13) were brothers-in-law and in 1898 they bought land together in Troy Township southeast of Hiteman, but soon separated. Later we find Anders Petersson as a farmer in the neighborhood of Albia, centered in Monroe County. Karl (Charles) Andersson is mentioned in the census of 1900 and later as a farmer in Union Township, north of Hiteman. Towards the end of his life Victor Petersson operated a farm on the outskirts of Hiteman. That farm had an area of 80 acres, while Anders Petersson's land comprised 40 acres. Considering the fact that those who homesteaded were given 160 acres, the Karlskoga immigrants had quite modest holdings. But the settlers had realized their dreams of owning their own land, and so long as the farm chores had to be done in combination with the work in the mines, the area cultivated was about as much as they could handle.

During several decades the immigrants in the coal fields who had their origins in the Karlskoga area were in close contact with each other. They met at their daily work, they visited each other in their homes, they attended the same churches. In the parish register of the Munterville Lutheran Church we find the names of Victor Petersson, his brother Anders and his sister Maria, as well as Carl Carlsson and their next of kin. Through marriages between members of the family groups, in no less than three cases, these families were knit even closer together.

In the meanwhile the younger generations scattered in various directions, to Des Moines to the north and to more distant areas of the U.S. There are still some descendants of the Karlskoga families residing in Monroe County, and in the Oak View Cemetery near Albia many of the Peterssons as well as members of the other families have found their final resting place.

Several of these latter-day descendants have begun to document their relationships and we have been able to aid them in this process. A couple of Petersson descendants have visited Karlskoga and others are planning to come here. After a century the ties connecting these Americans with their origins in Karlskoga and environs are being strengthened and deepened.

## Genealogical Tables

Tab. 1

**Peter Petersson**, b. 10 Sept. 1817, the s. of Peter Nilsson (1785-1840) of Våtsjötorp, Karlskoga Parish; d. 31 Dec. 1869; m. Maria Jacobsdotter, b. 30 May 1824, dau. of Jacob Olsson (1786-1862) of Linhult, Karlskoga. Maria emigr. to the U.S. 1881 together with the children, Per Gustaf and Amanda Carolina. She d. in Monroe Co., IA 7 March 1912 and is bur. in the Oak View Cemetery of Albia, IA. Peter Petersson was a smelter foreman in Immetorpshyttan, later part smelter owner in Brickegården, Karlskoga.



Children:

Carl, b. 17 Nov. 1844, part smelter owner in Fältet, Brickegården; worker at the Bofors Company in Karlskoga; had children in U.S.

Eric Johan, b. 2 Oct. 1846; to the U.S. 1881; see Tab. 2.

Maria Ulla, b. 27 June 1849; d. 29 Sept. 1853.

Per Gustaf, b. 30 May 1852; to the U.S.; unmarried.

Emma Lovisa, b. 8 June 1855; to the U.S. with husband and children; see Tab. 3.

Olof Victor, b. 29 July 1858; to the U.S. 1879; see Tab. 4.

Anders Conrad, b. 30 March 1861; to the U.S. 1880; see Tab. 5.

Amanda Carolina, b. 20 Sept. 1863; to the U.S. 1881; see Tab. 8.

Maria Ulrica, b. 26 April 1867; to the U.S. 1879; see Tab. 6.

Tab. 2

**Eric Johan Petersson**, b. in Brickegården 2 Oct. 1846, the s. of Peter Petersson (see Tab. 1); d. in Round Lake, MN 1932; m. Mary Erickson, b. 1856; d. 2 Feb. 1928. He emigr. to the U.S. 1881 and owned a farm in Sec. 32, northern part of Round Lake Township.

Children:

Ellen Marie, b. 18 June 1893; m. Henry Conrad Cordes (1883-1965).

Tab. 3

**Emma Lovisa Petersson**, b. 8 June 1855, the dau. of Peter Petersson (see Tab. 1); m. August Emil Sjögren, b. 1839. Emigr. to the U.S. in 1880. According to information of relatives, the family settled in the mining camp of Muchakinock, Mahaska Co., IA upon its arrival in the U.S.

Children:

Emilia Augusta, b. 1873.

Carl August, b. 1877.

Elin Lovisa, b. 16 Feb. 1880; d. 11 March 1969; m. Frank Enoch Johnson (1874-1947). They had two children, who left no descendants.

Tab. 4

**Olof Victor Petersson**, b. 29 July 1858, the s. of Peter Petersson (see Tab. 1); d. in Bucknell, Monroe Co., IA 10 Feb. 1926; bur. in Oak View Cemetery, Albia, IA. He had injured his back in a coal mine 12 years before his death. He never fully recovered and the injury seems to have hastened his demise. He was married 29 July 1882 to Augusta Wilhelmina Pettersson, b. in Säterbo Parish (Väst.) 12 March 1859 and d. 18 Aug. 1930 in Monroe Co.; bur. in Oak View Cemetery, Albia. Olof Victor was a coalminer in Muchakinock, Mahaska Co. In 1901 he lived in Buxton and finally in Hiteman, Monroe Co. He owned a farm in Sec. 1 of Guilford Co. He became a U.S. citizen 1886 and was a member of the Munterville,

IA Lutheran Church. Emigr. to the U.S. in 1879 together with his sister Maria Ulrica, their destination being Oskaloosa, IA.

Children:

Edward, b. 28 Nov. 1885; d. 25 Nov. 1956.  
 Herbert, b. 21 Aug. 1888; d. in an accident 1913.  
 Elna, b. 6 Jan. 1900; d. 5 Feb. 1979; m. D.E. Shepard.  
 Clarence (1901-1964).

Tab. 5

**Andrew (Anders) Conrad Petersson**, b. 30 March 1861, the s. of Peter Petersson (see Tab. 1); d. 17 Sept. 1944; bur. in the Oak View Cemetery, Albia; m. 1883 Christina Carlsdotter, b. 24 April 1862, the dau. of Carl Nilsson, Aggerud, Karlskoga (see Tab. 11); d. 17 Dec. 1931 and also bur. in the Oak View Cemetery. She emigr. to the U.S. in June 1883 together with Johan Andersson (see Tab. 9), their destination being Givin, IA. Andrew Petersson emigr. to the U.S. in 1880 with Oskaloosa as the destination. He was a coalminer in Muchakinock during the 1880s after which he moved to Hiteman, Monroe Co. He owned a farm in Troy Township, Monroe Co. Member of the Munterville Lutheran Church.

Children:

George, b. 3 Oct. 1884; d. 2 Sept. 1924; unmarried.  
 Martin, b. 12 March 1889; d. 21 May 1983; m. Dena Berquist.  
 Hilda, b. 27 Sept. 1895; d. 24 April 1975; m. Dwight Ware Packard (1894-1958).  
 Elmer, b. 1 Oct. 1897; d. 21 June 1962; m. Kittie Marie McKibben, b. 1903.  
 Adele, b. 9 Oct. 1904; unmarried.

Tab. 6

**Maria Ulrica Petersson**, b. 26 April 1867, dau. Peter Petersson (see Tab. 1); m. John Henry Larson. She d. 1936, her husband 1946. She emigr. to the U.S. together with her brother Olof Victor Petersson (see Tab.4) in 1879. She and her husband were members of the Munterville Lutheran Church in Wapello Co., IA. According to the parish records the family moved to Minnesota in 1913. John Henry Larson left the mining job and ran a farm in Round Lake, Nobles Co., MN.

Children:

Harry  
 Chester  
 Arthur

Tab. 7

**Anders Fredrik Petersson**, b. 10 Sept. 1817, son of Peter Nilsson of Våtsjötorp, Karlskoga and brother of Peter Petersson (see Tab. 1); d. 11 Oct. 1905; m. Johanna

Petersdotter, b. in Amnehärad (Skar.) 21 Aug. 1831; d. 22 Nov. 1917. Anders Fredrik had been a crofter in Våtsjötorp.

Children:

Carl, b. 19 July 1858; emigr. to the U.S. 1882; see Tab. 8.

Johanna, b. 10 Aug. 1860; remained in Sweden.

Mathilda, b. 22 Feb. 1864; emigr. to the U.S.; see Tab. 13.

Johan, b. 19 July 1866; emigr. to the U.S. 1883; see Tab.9.

Christina, b. 30 May 1869; emigr. to the U.S. 1887; see Tab.10.

Tab. 8

**Carl (Charles) Andersson**, b. 19 July 1858, the s. of Anders Fredrik Petersson of Våtsjötorp (see Tab. 7); d. in Gillespie, IL 25 Feb. 1953. He was m. to his cousin, Amanda Carolina Petersson, b. 20 Sept. 1863, dau. of Peter Petersson (see Tab. 1); d. 22 Sept. 1925. Charles was a miner and farmer in Hiteman, Monroe Co.

Children:

Alvin, b. in Jan. 1885; unmarried.

Gerda, b. 11 March 1890; d. 28 Nov. 1963; m. Gus Cadell (1887-1974).

Arthur, b. 15 Feb. 1892; d. 11 March 1981; m. Minnie Benson, b. 1895.

Elsie, b. 31 Dec. 1894; d. 19 July 1933; unmarried.

Mae, b. in May 1900.

Edna, b. 6 June 1903; m. Glenn Garrett, b. 3 Dec. 1899.

Helen, b. 27 Dec. 1906; m. Al Snyder, b. 24 March 1908.

Tab. 9

**Johan (John) Andersson**, b. 19 July, 1866, the s. of Anders Fredrik Petersson of Våtsjötorp (see Tab. 7). He is recorded as having left Karlskoga Parish in 1883, destination being Givin, IA. According to one source he res. in St. Louis, MO. A picture of him exists, taken in Grant City, MO.

Tab. 10

**Christina Andersson**, b. 30 May 1869, the dau. of Anders Fredrik Petersson of Våtsjötorp (see Tab. 7); d. in the 1920's; bur. in Oak View Cemetery, Albia in the 1920's. She was m. to August Johnson, b. 9 Feb. 1854; d. 1925. August and Christina Johnson res. in Ottumwa, IA.

Children:

Judith

Oscar Carl, b. 25 Jan. 1898; d. in Springfield, IL 10 Sept. 1978.

Arthur

Edith

## Tab. 11

**Carl Nilsson**, b. 1818; d. 1870; m. to Christina Eriksson (1822-1888). He owned a small farm in Aggerud, Karlskoga Parish.

## Children:

- Maria, b. 1852; emigr. in 1888; not traced.
- Carl, b. 16 March 1856; emigr. to the U.S. 1881; see Tab. 12.
- Anders, b. 1858; emigr. to the U.S. 1882; see Tab. 13.
- Christina, b. 1862; emigr. to the U.S. 1883; see Tab. 5.

## Tab. 12

**Carl (Charles) Carlsson**, b. 16 March 1856, the s. of Carl Nilsson, Aggerud; d. in a mine accident in a coal mine in Hiteman, IA 29 March 1900, caused by the fall of slate; bur. in the Oak View Cemetery, Albia; m. Severina (Sina) Carlson, b. in Halland, Sweden in 1864. She remarried after the death of her husband. Karlskoga Parish records show that Carl Carlsson was listed as having emigr. to the U.S. in 1881 together with Maria Jacobsdotter (see Tab. 1) and her children, Amanda Carolina and Per Gustaf. He became a coalminer in Muchakinock, Mahaska Co. during the 1880s, later in Hiteman, Monroe Co. During a couple of years in the 1890s he owned 80 acres of farm land in Round Lake, MN. He was a member of the Munterville Lutheran Church in Wapello Co., IA.

## Children:

- Carl Algot, b. 6 Sept. 1885.
- Sigrid, b. 7 March 1894; d. after 1978; m. Ludvig Johnson of Albia, IA.
- Emma, b. 2 Sept. 1896; d. 13 Sept. 1976.
- Selma, b. 11 March 1899; m. Ernest Norley of Pontiac, IN.

## Tab. 13

**Anders (Andrew) Carlsson**, b. 1858, the s. of Carl Nilsson in Aggerud; d. in Fairfield, Jefferson Co., IA 19 Sept. 1931; m. Mathilda Anderson, b. 22 Feb. 1864, the dau. of Anders Fredrik Andersson of Våtsjötorp (see Tab. 7); d. in Jefferson Co. 19 Oct. 1934. He came to America in 1882 and became a coalminer and farmer in Troy Township in Monroe Co., IA; later settled in Jefferson Co., also in Iowa. He was a member of the Munterville Lutheran Church in Wapello, IA.

## Children:

- Roy Leonard, b. 19 Aug. 1890; d. 7 Aug. 1978.
- Ellen Christina Amelia, b. in 1892.
- Mabel Lilly Kreesa, b. 15 Oct. 1893; m. J.R. Rupp.
- Hjalmar Herbert (Jim), b. 29 July 1897; d. 10 June 1977.
- Ralph Harry, b. 10 Nov. 1904; d. in May 1946.
- Lawrence Eugene, b. 7 Oct. 1900; d. 6 June 1908.
- Homer Harold, b. 20 June 1907; d. 11 Aug. 1908.

Tab. 14

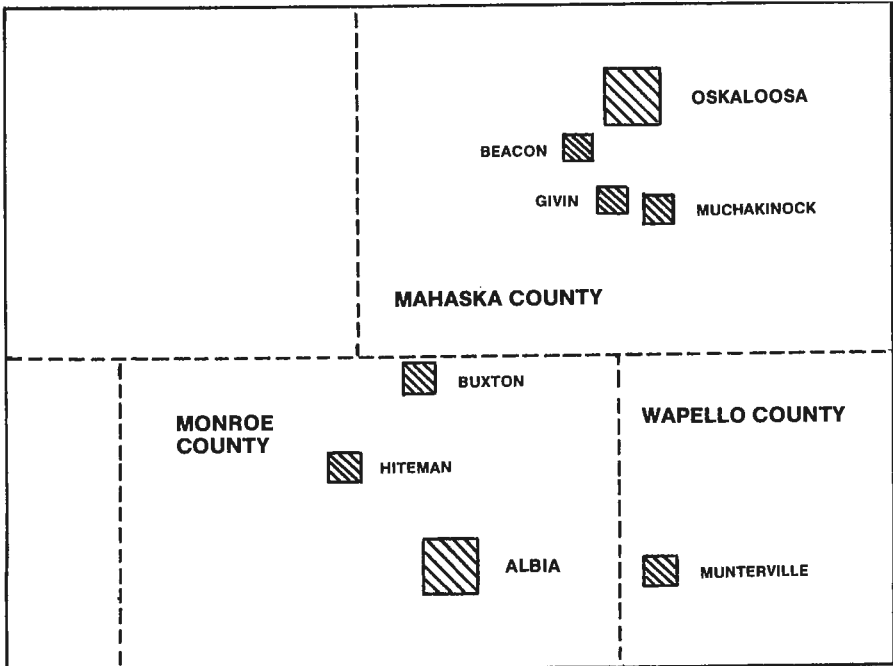
**Olof Larsson Löf**, b. 6 Jan. 1833, the s. of Lars Larsson Löf (1797-1874) of Baggetorp, Kvistbro Parish (Öre.). He was a brother of Sophia Löf, who was m. to Eric G. Eliasson (see Tab. 15). He was m. to Carolina Jacobsdotter, b. 8 June 1833, the dau. of Jacob Olsson of Linhult, Karlskoga Parish and a sister of Maria Jacobsdotter (1824-1912) (see Tab. 1). Olof Larsson Löf and his wife Carolina emigr. to America from Karlskoga in 1869.

Tab. 15

**Eric G. Eliasson**, b. 1 June 1849, the s. of Elias Andersson of Norrgrytstorp in Karlskoga Parish. In the household examination roll of Karlskoga for 1883 it is stated that Eric G. Eliasson was dead. He may have died on the journey to America or soon after having arrived. He was m. to Christina Löf, b. in Kvistbro Parish 27 March 1845, the dau. of Lars Larsson Löf of Baggetorp and a sister of Olof Larsson Löf (see Tab. 14). The family departed from Sweden destined for Givin, IA in June 1883 and consisted of the parents and the following children:

Hanna Sophia, b. 14 Nov. 1877 (the illegitimate dau. of the wife).

Frans Oscar, b. 20 Sept. 1882.



**The area in south east Iowa where the Petersson siblings from Brickegården in Karlskoga and their cousins as well as friends established their new homes.**

# Unraveling the Mysteries of Vättnlösa Parish

Scott Johnson\*

Searching for ancestors is like creating the ultimate detective novel. The story that each of us is called upon to unravel is unique, and the characters we discover along the way are not bungling constables or mysterious jewel thieves but real people, with real hopes and fears and dreams. Even more exciting, they are our own flesh and blood. Each new day, like each turn of the page, brings a new surprise or, just as often, a new obstacle to overcome. My own story serves to illustrate how a little luck, a little patience, and a lot of hard work can put together a story that may not rival Agatha Christie for suspense, but has a conclusion that is just as gratifying.

Like many amateur genealogists, I got my start at a family gathering when I was called upon to help fill in some names on a family tree. The group assembled did fairly well, remembering enough to fill in a great-great-grandparent or two in a couple of branches, but in general the tree was rather sparse. An obsession to identify every ancestor on the chart, which seems to be a prerequisite for this line of work, soon overwhelmed me. In the ensuing weeks, I was able to ask a few questions and fill in the rest of the four-generation chart—except for the Swedish side. I could trace the Johnson line back only three generations, and there it stood.

My grandfather, Roy Johnson, could tell me his parents' names, but that was all. His parents had come to America in the 1880's and had married very late in life, and if they mentioned anything about their own parents, it apparently did not make much of an impression on their younger son. Although one of his grandmothers in Sweden had lived until he was sixteen, my grandfather could not recall ever hearing her name. These setbacks only strengthened my resolve to uncover the real story.

Slowly, I began to assemble the tools required to scale the Swedish side of my family tree. I read books about how to conduct Swedish genealogical research, and I was lucky enough to be able to take classes in the Swedish language at the University of Illinois. Best of all, I was close enough to the family home in Moline, Illinois, to make forays into the office of the Swedish Lutheran church to hunt for more information. I made my first important discovery while examining the church register. Just as in the old country, the book listed each church member and his previous parish of residence, and among them were my great-grandparents:

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Johan Gabriel Johansson, Vättlösa; Elise Persson, Höör.

Vättlösa is located in the province of Västergötland, in the County of Skaraborg, between the two great Swedish lakes, Vänern and Vättern, near the old city of Skara. Höör, on the other hand, lies in extreme southern Sweden, in the province of Skåne. And so, since my next step was to query the Swedish archives (*landsarkiv*), and because the two parishes are served by separate branches in Göteborg and Lund, my research necessarily split into two parts. An exchange of letters followed, and with the help of the archivists I eventually discovered not only several new ancestors, but also the name of the farmsteads where my immigrant ancestors lived before they pulled up stakes. I later discovered that parish records are available on microfilm from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and I recommend using these films whenever possible.

Perhaps the most eye-opening aspect of my research involved the farmstead names. The archives wrote to me that my Vättlösa ancestors lived at a place named Kärret, and naturally I assumed that this was the name of a village or town within the parish. But a check of a Swedish gazeteer (*Svenska Orter*, 1932) revealed that Kärret was the name of a single farm with a single family—and that's the way most rural place names work in Sweden. We can't always expect the Old World to function by New World rules.

Having exhausted all my leads at the archives, I decided to concentrate on my ancestors in Vättlösa Parish. By this time I was well schooled in the Swedish patronymic tradition and held no illusions about being able to trace my surname, but thought it would be interesting to research the direct paternal line nevertheless. It was also about this time that I realized that the name "Vättlösa" is a homonym of the Swedish word "*vettlös*" meaning "witless." I felt sure that this meant the people there had a sense of humor.<sup>1</sup>

I rallied my best Swedish together and wrote a letter to "a responsible person at Kärret," hoping I'd be able to make myself understood. Two weeks later I received a letter from Evert Persson, the current owner of Kärret, who was eager to hear my story and provide any information he could. Eventually we were able to determine that his great-great-grandfather had bought the farm from my great-great-great-grandfather in 1845. Among the documents that Evert located in his attic was the original purchase contract for Kärret, signed in 1808 by an even more distant ancestor, Petter Andersson. Soon a full correspondence bloomed, and in 1981 my cousin, my wife, and I traveled to Sweden to meet Evert and his family at the old homestead.

Evert met our party at the train station in Skövde, and after introductions, we wasted no time in taking a tour of the countryside. Our first stop was the site of a tenant farm named Sörtorp. This tiny croft had been the last home of my Swedish family, where Johan Johansson had said his last goodbyes to his parents and sister Ida before he left for America in 1886. Ida had remained in Sweden to take care of her parents, and died unmarried at Sörtorp in 1942. The farmstead was thus our last link to the old country, and we were surprised to find that in the intervening

years the farm had been completely overgrown by forest, except for a huge boulder that used to stand in front of the house. Evert told us that the house itself had been bought by a neighbor and moved down the road a mile or so.

That night we retired to Kärret and conversed as best we could, with my skills as a translator being taxed to the limit. During the course of the evening Evert told us that Erik Olsson, the neighbor who had bought Ida's house, had brought over a package for us. We couldn't imagine what this man could have for us; we were amazed to see a package of about 75 photographs and 30 letters that he had found when he prepared to move Ida's house.

The first photograph we picked up was a portrait of my grandfather at the age of four. I was speechless. What hazy ghost of generations to come had compelled this man to save these mementos for 39 years? Who was he saving them for? For us?

The photographs and the letters sparked a new sense of history within me. I could identify most of the people in the pictures—they were my extended family from Moline and Rockford—but except for my grandfather I had never heard their words. Their letters spoke with crystal clarity as the decades that separated us melted away. The things they had to say to their parents and their sister in Sweden were sometimes humorous, sometimes heart-rending, but always revealing.

My great-grandfather, the only son, was terse and formal. "I should mention that we had a baby boy on Wednesday morning," he wrote in 1899, moving on to the next subject without giving the baby's name. Later, he noted that "Frank Petterson plans to travel home next month. I wish I could go with him." But he knew his modest means would never bring him back to his homeland.

By contrast, his sisters were quite loquacious. And their daughters, my grandfather's cousins, wrote beautiful letters in nearly perfect Swedish to Ida, the aunt they had never met. Signe Johnson Carlson wrote of her mother's death after an illness: "Finally I understood that it was serious, so I asked her to forgive me and she said so clearly, 'You know I do, child. Forgive me.' And then she clasped her hands and said, 'Dear God, I will go now,' and then it was over. Dear Aunt, I feel so empty."

We felt these items deserved special preservation, so my grandfather and I decided to donate them to the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College. During this trip we met with Professor Fritiof Fryxell, a boyhood friend of my grandfather's who also had family ties—his uncle had married my grandfather's aunt in Moline. I had found out only a few weeks before that Fritiof's father had grown up at Måsatorp (also known as Lunden), just a few yards down the dirt road from my ancestors at Sörtorp, and I was eager to find out if he could tell me anything about the old stomping grounds.

Fritiof knew a lot about the parish that our families had abandoned. In fact, he had written an unpublished biography of his father that contained many detailed recollections of life in Sweden, the trip to America, and eventual settlement in Moline. With this manuscript and some additional microfilm research, the mystery of how and why the Johnson family ended up in Moline finally began to come together.



The parish records revealed that the Fryxell family led the exodus from Vättnlösa Parish to the New World. Although the parish's first emigrant was actually the young aristocrat Ivar Alexis Hall, who left for America in 1857,<sup>2</sup> it was Fritiof's great-uncle, Carl Petter Johansson, who sparked *Amerikafeber* among the common folk of Vättnlösa. He left the family farm at Amfinnsryd<sup>3</sup> in 1869 with his wife and five children and headed for New York. They were the first family to leave Vättnlösa Parish for the United States, but many more would follow.

Seven years later, Fritiof's father, Johan (Magnusson) Fryxell, traveled to America with his brother Gustaf on tickets supplied by their cousins, who had settled near Tomkins Cove, New York. The brothers had often talked of joining their relatives in America, but not until after the death of their mother did they feel free to make the journey. Johan and Gustaf spent some time on a farm in New York before working their way west, taking jobs at a quarry at Alabaster, Michigan, on the edge of civilization. John, as he came to be known, was dissatisfied with the solitary existence at Alabaster, and he set his sights instead on Moline, a community filled with Swedish immigrants that he had read about in *Skandia*, a Swedish-American newspaper. On October 11, 1878, Moline received its first visitor from Vättnlösa Parish.

The opportunities for advancement were good in Moline, and over the years the entire Fryxell clan was brought to the bustling city on the shores of the Mississippi: John, Gustaf, brother Carl, sister Johanna Lusty and her family, and even the Carl Johansson family from New York. Right after them came my family: first Christina, who arrived in America in 1885 and immediately married Carl Fryxell, and then Johan Gabriel Johansson, my great-grandfather, who emigrated in 1886. For many years the families of Carl Fryxell and John Johnson lived next door to each other on Fifth Street, continuing the neighborly tradition they had brought from Sweden.

The influence of the migration went beyond the Fryxell and Johnson families, and at least two other friends who lived on the estate at Amfinnsryd also ended up in Moline. According to my count, 139 people had emigrated from Vättnlösa Parish by 1893 and at least 21 of these settled permanently in Moline (or Rock Island), but this total is surely incomplete. Whatever the final figure, it is certain that a healthy branch of the Sons and Daughters of Vättnlösa could be assembled in the hills of western Illinois and beyond.

The information that I have been able to gather about my family in Vättnlösa has far exceeded my expectations, and I've met with more than my share of luck. But it's important to realize that for each of us, many resources do exist, if we dig deep enough to find them. Time is of the essence: both my grandfather and Professor Fryxell have since passed away. I salute them by continuing my research into our common heritage.

**Persons from Vättnlösa Parish Who Resided  
in Moline and Rock Island, IL**

**Johnson and Fryxell Families**

No.	Name	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	Emigrated	Died
1.	Carl Petter Johansson <sup>4</sup> (Charley Johnson)	Vättnlösa	19 Aug. 1826	1869	
2.	Anna Stina Andersdotter	Ledsjö <sup>5</sup>	10 Feb. 1828	1869	
3.	Ida Sofia	Skånings-Åsaka	7 Feb. 1853	1869	
4.	Frans August	Vättnlösa	20 July 1855	1869	
5.	Anders Niklas	Vättnlösa	18 Mar. 1858	1869	
6.	Carl Otto	Vättnlösa	14 Dec. 1862	1869	
7.	Gustaf Herman	Vättnlösa	27 Aug. 1866	1869	
8.	Sven Johan Magnusson <sup>6</sup> (John Fryxell)	Vättnlösa	1 June 1854	1875	30 Jan. 1941
9.	Gustaf Magnusson <sup>6</sup>	Vättnlösa	7 Aug. 1857	1875	23 Aug. 1947
10.	Carl Magnusson <sup>6 7</sup> (Charley Fryxell)	Vättnlösa	4 Sept. 1859	1879	9 Nov. 1894
11.	Gustaf Svensson (Gustaf Lustig or Lusty)	Götene	10 Nov. 1848	1879	27 Aug. 1927
12.	Johanna Magnusson <sup>8</sup>	Istrum	22 Sept. 1850	1879	30 Dec. 1922
13.	Sven Otto	Götene	28 June 1875	1879	29 Oct. 1899
14.	Emma Charlotta	Götene	18 May 1877	1879	10 June 1914
15.	Adolf Fredrik Gustafsson <sup>9</sup>	Vättnlösa	10 Nov. 1861	1882	
16.	Christina Johansson <sup>10</sup>	Ledsjö	4 Sept. 1859	1885	15 Aug. 1913
17.	Johan Gabriel Johansson (John Johnson)	Vättnlösa	7 April 1862	1886	22 July 1936
18.	Pär Alfred Johansson <sup>11</sup> (Peter Johnson)	Vättnlösa	5 July 1859	1885	23 Aug. 1908
19.	Hildur Cecilia Johansson <sup>12</sup>	Vättnlösa	22 Mar. 1892	1907	

## Others

20.	Malkolm Alfred Johansson	Vättlösa	17 Mar. 1863	1891
21.	Karl Johan Ekstedt <sup>13</sup>	Vättlösa	28 Feb. 1862	1892
22.	Frans Oskar Karlsson	Vättlösa	11 Jan. 1866	1892
23.	Tekla Augusta Andersson <sup>14</sup>	Vättlösa	18 Nov. 1876	after 1893
24.	Frank Pettersson <sup>15</sup>			

<sup>1</sup>This is obviously popular folk etymology. Linguistically Vättlösa is made up of two syllables, the first related to the old Swedish word for water, *vetur*, which is found in Lake Vättern. The second syllable may be related to old Swedish *löi*, meaning a grassy valley. Thus Vättlösa may mean "marshy land," —Elof Hellquist, *Svensk etymologisk ordbok*, third edition (Lund 1957), pp. 615-616, 1402.

<sup>2</sup>Ivar Alexis von Hall, b. in Lidköping 19 Feb. 1832, the s. of Major General Birger von Hall and Jeanna Carlsson. He became a cadet at the Karlberg Military Academy in Stockholm in 1849, but left in 1850. He must have emigrated twice, since the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics notes that he left Ledsjö Parish, which abuts Vättlösa, for America in 1851. His departure from Vättlösa in 1857 was his second emigration. He died in the U.S. in 1892. —Gustaf Elgenstierna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*, I-IX (Stockholm 1925-1936), III, p. 420; *Personregister till Statistiska Centralbyråns i Stockholm förteckningar över emigranter 1851-1860* (Index of Swedish Emigrants 1851-1860), A 118:387.

<sup>3</sup>Here one would expect Anfinsryd, the form used by the two main Swedish gazeteers of the 19th century—*Historiskt-Geographiskt och Statistiskt Lexikon öfver Sverige* (Stockholm 1859-1869) and C.M. Rosenberg, *Geografiskt-Statistiskt Handlexikon öfver Sverige* (Stockholm 1882-1883). Anfinsryd probably goes back to the person who cleared the land, whose name may have been Annfinn, a Scandinavian name going back to ca. 1300. —Editor

<sup>4</sup>He was the uncle of No. 8, 9, 10, 12 and 15.

<sup>5</sup>Ledsjö, Skånings-Åsaka, Götene and Istrum were all parishes in Skaraborg County.

<sup>6</sup>Nephew of No. 1, brother of No. 12.

<sup>7</sup>Married No. 16.

<sup>8</sup>Niece of No. 1, sister of No. 8, 9 and 10.

<sup>9</sup>Nephew of No. 1, uncle of No. 19.

<sup>10</sup>Married No. 10.

<sup>11</sup>Returned to Sweden, emigr. again in 1887 to Rockford, followed by his wife, Anna Maria Johansson, sister of No. 16 and 17.

<sup>12</sup>Niece of No. 18.

<sup>13</sup>Lived at Amfinnsryd.

<sup>14</sup>Lived at Amfinnsryd. Her father, Anders Larsson, emigr. 1880, perhaps to Moline, IL.

<sup>15</sup>Frank Pettersson was the s. of Petter Ingemarsson.

# Who Was John Root?

Börje Östberg\*

It was noon on the 13th of May when the two mortal enemies faced each other in the court house of Henry County, Cambridge, IL—the “prophet” Erik Jansson and the man who called himself John Root.

“Return my wife to me,” said Root.

“I’ll give you a sow, that will do for a wife for you.” answered Jansson. A few seconds later he lay dying on the floor, shot through the heart. This exchange of words has been taken from Root’s testimony during his court appearance. But we only have his word that the verbal exchange was as he testified. The only witness was the clerk of court, Brainard, who did not understand Swedish.

Jansson’s answer to Root does not seem plausible. “The prophet” feared Root but at the same time he held him in respect.

It was in Root’s interest to convince the court that he had been severely provoked in carrying out the murder.

## The Colony on the Prairie

The year was 1850. Four years earlier Erik Jansson and 1,200 of his followers had fled religious intolerance in Sweden. Of the more than a dozen sailing vessels that brought the Swedes to the New World, three were lost. About 100 Janssonists perished; others died from disease and yet others died from the vicissitudes which they encountered. There were also those who deserted from the leader soon after having come ashore in New York.

Those who arrived at the goal—a prairie area in Illinois, roughly 120 miles southwest of Chicago—founded Bishop Hill, a society which believed in a communalistic way of life, based on the life of the early Christians. In the beginning the colonists lived in tents and dugout shelters and suffered grievously from all sorts of illness. Fresh boatloads of Janssonists arrived from the homeland and yet more died or deserted the colony. In the beginning of the summer of 1849, the colony consisted of approximately 500 people. That was less than half of those who had arrived in the colony. Dominating this shrunken group with promises of eternal bliss and threats of hell were Erik Jansson and his twelve assistants, the so-called “apostles.” The prophet considered himself the equal of Jesus.

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## John Root Appears

Gradually the colony began to thrive. The Janssonists worked hard and the society was well organized. The soil was productive and from the very beginning gave good harvests of corn, wheat, flax and fruit. There was an abundance of pasturage and also woods. The year of 1847 was the year of much construction. In a swift and steady tempo a church was constructed and many brick homes were built along the village streets.

During the autumn of 1848 a stranger appeared in this burgeoning community, who called himself John Root. He was a handsome man, conducted himself in an exemplary manner, seemed to be a cultivated individual and had a pleasing way about him.<sup>2</sup>

Root claimed to have been involved in the War with Mexico, which recently had ended with an American victory.<sup>3</sup> He arrived in Bishop Hill in the company of Karl Zimmerman, a former army captain and chief of the Rättvik Company of the Dal Regiment, who had been granted a discharge in 1840 and after unknown adventures in various parts of the world had volunteered in the United States Army in its war with Mexico. Thus during the late summer of 1848 he had received his discharge and was now taking a rest in Bishop Hill before going on to California to prospect for gold.

Root, on the other hand, stayed in the colony, with the aim of finding employment there. Shortly thereafter he married Erik Jansson's cousin and devoted follower—Lotta Jansson. It was now January of 1849 and at the end of October of that year a son was born to the couple, who was given the name of John at his baptism.

## A Life of Freedom

Love seems to have played a minor role in the relationship between Root and his wife. When Lotta later on was forced to make a choice between the prophet and her husband, she chose the former. Gustaf Unonius, a Swedish clergyman in Chicago, who early in 1850 met the couple, writes in his *Memoirs* that Root's love for his wife was minimal compared to his hatred toward the prophet.<sup>4</sup>

But during the time of the wedding there seems to have been a spirit of trust and good feeling. Root was welcomed to settle in the colony and was allowed to marry into the family of the mighty man. Yet, he had no practical training, neither in farming, nor in any kind of crafts. He seems not to have partaken in the chores but was still allowed to draw down clothing from the communal supplies and to participate in the common meals.<sup>5</sup>

Root was not the only one in the colony who was allowed to move about freely. This privilege was also given Erik Ulrik Norberg, who had arrived in Bishop Hill shortly before Root and who also had married a member of the colony.<sup>6</sup>

Norberg had been a sheriff in the province of Västergötland but had been suspected of some kind of financial skulduggery and had absconded to America.

Perhaps he served a useful function in the colony since Erik Jansson needed a man acquainted with the points of law in order to conduct the colony's business as well as to be a contact person with the American authorities.

Did Root curry favor with Jansson by demonstrating similar useful abilities?

### **A Veterinary Becomes a Physician**

Now we witness a third newcomer to the colony who was to play a role in the drama which ended in the murder of the prophet, an applicant for the job of physician, a new position within the colony.

Erik Jansson had always preached that the misery that beset people was God's punishment for their sins in general and specifically the lack of faith in Jansson himself. No medical help was needed. Those that believed would remain healthy and the others only had themselves to blame.

The prophet, however, felt pressures from the outside and finally had to give in and make it known that there was to be a position open in Bishop Hill for a physician. His choice fell on Robert D. Foster, a veterinarian, who owned a farm in the neighborhood of the colony.<sup>7</sup>

One should not be too harsh in judging Erik Jansson for employing a veterinarian. Presumably there was no one else available who had the medical training necessary. In the face of the tragedy that soon was to be visited upon Bishop Hill, it did not really matter whether there was a veterinarian on hand or a real physician. At this juncture in time no one knew how cholera spread, and the methods used to cure the disease were at best not harmful—such as applying mustard plasters to the stomach, bloodletting and forbidding the victim to drink water.

### **Charlatan**

Foster was, however, a charlatan, who knew how to gain access to Erik Jansson and once having gained his confidence was able to victimize him by engaging him in economic adventures. It ended by Foster presenting such demands on the colony that the society was on the brink of financial ruin.<sup>8</sup>

At the same time as an outbreak of cholera hit Bishop Hill in the summer of 1849 and carried away ca. 150 lives, the results of the prophet's financial peccadillos began to surface. Dissatisfaction grew. A couple of the "apostles" approached Norberg, convincing him that he ought to criticize Erik Jansson for his arrogance and dictatorial fashions, but the result of this was that Norberg thought better of it and left the colony.<sup>9</sup>

A more dangerous opponent to the prophet's absolute power was John Root. This is illustrated by a remarkable episode which Emil Herlenius refers to in his dissertation on the Janssonists. A fight broke out between Foster and Root, according to Herlenius, the result being that Erik Jansson let it be known that the people should vote if Foster was to stay or be fired. The voting was held and the colonists decided that Foster should leave, much to the displeasure of Jansson. The

latter, however, employed Foster as his personal physician with the privilege of treating other members of the colony for a certain stipulated fee.<sup>10</sup>

So far Herlenius. He does not explain what the balloting was all about. Did the colonists vote for being without a physician rather than keeping Foster? Or did they vote that Foster should be replaced by another doctor?

### **The End of the Drama**

Root decided to leave Bishop Hill for good, together with his wife and child, but Lotta refused to desert the prophet. In March of 1850 Root failed in an attempt to take her and his son. He then brought suit in court to regain his family and finally he succeeded during the suit to bring Lotta and John, Jr. to Lotta's sister in Chicago. But it did not take long before Erik Jansson had dispatched his lieutenants to Chicago, where they found mother and child and brought them back to Bishop Hill.

Root's threats now became so violent that the prophet with his family and Lotta fled to St. Louis. According to a letter from Jansson to the colony, dated April 1850, we sense the fear which Jansson felt toward Root but also coupled with a certain respect. He likens Root to Absalom, the handsome son of King David, who conducted a palace revolt in Jerusalem and forced his father to flee to Transjordan in order to prepare for regaining his power.

But Erik Jansson's return to Bishop Hill was quite brief. A few days later he met his fate in the Cambridge court house.

Root was incarcerated for two years and was then sentenced in the fall of 1852 to two years of prison. The sentence was later commuted to one year. A couple of years after leaving prison Root died in Chicago, "sometimes blaspheming God, sometimes in despair crying to Him for mercy," according to Unonius. All of Chicago's Swedes accompanied Root to his final resting place.<sup>11</sup>

Who was John Root? Many persons, since the dramatic episode in Cambridge, have attempted to find out where he came from and what was his real name? Without finding the answer, almost every family in Sweden named Roth or Ruth has been investigated with all of the variant spellings. This failure points to the possibility that his real name was different from that which he used in America.

Let us therefore examine the story of a Swede who arrived in America about six months before Root appeared in the Bishop Hill colony.

### **A Former Clergyman Deserts in New York**

When the three-masted bark, *James Boorman* from Stockholm, arrived in New York in March 1848 seven of the Swedish crew deserted the vessel.<sup>12</sup> This was quite typical of the times. Some deserters were bona fide sailors who wished to transfer to other ships and have a look around in New York during the interval. Other deserters were emigrants who did not have money for the ocean ticket.

Among the seven crew members from *James Boorman* was a defrocked clergyman, one of the many emigrants who seemingly disappeared in the new country without leaving a trace.

He was Carl Johan Reutermark, born in Kumla Parish (Väst.) 31 Jan. 1807, the son of a clergyman, Jonas Reutermark, who later had a charge in Kungsåra Parish near Västerås. After Carl Johan's ordination 1830, he had a string of appointments. He had, however, problems with alcohol. The beginning of the end of his clerical career came during the spring of 1845 in Stora Tuna Parish (Kopp.) where he, like the famous character in Selma Lagerlöf's story, Gösta Berling, fell, without the romantic overtones of the Lagerlöf story. The dean, Fabian Wilhelm Ekenstam, a highly cultured and respected clergyman, saw no other way out but to report to the Consistory that Reutermark had been so drunk that when he was about to preach in the parish church for the first time he had fallen down among the parishioners.<sup>13</sup>

After this accusation Reutermark went to the city physician in Falun, deciding to "take the cure." This consisted of lacing everything Reutermark ate and drank with aquavit, so that the patient thus would develop an abhorrence of alcohol.<sup>14</sup> This method failed miserably so far as Reutermark was concerned. After the "cure," Reutermark appeared before the Consistory. At first he denied everything, but when confronted with the evidence and that he would be tried before a civil court, he admitted his guilt.

He was given a suspension of three months, but when he was sent to Söderbärke (Kopp.) as an assistant pastor, new complaints were heard. In August of 1847 he speedily sought to thwart another suspension by resigning "because of illness." In October he returned his letter of ordination from Söderbärke to the Consistory and three weeks later he appeared in the Stockholm Hiring Hall to gain a berth aboard a vessel.

### Care for the Sick

This drama was played out in Sweden at a time when all over the country the distilling of liquor was going on apace in most Swedish homes and before the temperance movement had developed. Even among the clergy there were many with alcohol problems, the term used nowadays. There were so many that almost every parish in Värmland could produce the prototype for Gösta Berling of the story. Someone has done a study of all of these cases and in Värmland alone during the first half of the 19th century a total of 28 names of clergymen can be documented as being alcoholics.

Many of these unfortunate servants of the Lord carried on an existence without losing their letters of ordination. Reutermark, on the other hand, spoiled it for himself by bragging before the members of the Consistory that he "could handle it" and thus caused the worthy members to prick up their ears.

But if we study the minutes of the Consistory we find another Reutermark than the coarse drunkard. In a letter written by the dean of Linde Parish (Öre.), Samuel Christopher Rathsmann, he speaks of the years that Reutermark worked in Linde 1831-1840, that even if there were many in the parish who wished to get rid of



Reutermark, there was even a greater number who loved him and appreciated him for his selflessness and concern for the members of the parish. In Linde he had, according to the dean, been fully occupied by caring for the sick, ministering to the less fortunate, all of this having taken much of his time and had exposed him to risk-filled incidents as well as impoverished him.

As was the case with all candidates for the clergy, Reutermark had received instruction in ministering to the sick. Maybe he should have studied medicine instead of theology?

In the parish archives of the Linde church<sup>15</sup> is a note that Reutermark "by means of proper use of techniques" had brought to life a 25-year old girl, who seemingly had died. This took place just before she was to have been placed in a coffin, after having been found in an attic, where she had been missing for two weeks.

### Reutermark - Root

In the register of enrolled students of the Västmanland-Dala Nation at the University of Uppsala the Reutermark entry is amended by the following note—"left the ministry in August of 1847, went to America and is supposed to have been killed in a skirmish with the Indians." A later entry, written in another hand has this notation—"went to sea (according to Åmark); is supposed to have enrolled in the U.S. Army and have been killed in the war between Mexico and the U.S."<sup>16</sup>

The Åmark referred to above is probably Carl Petter Åmark or his younger brother Fredrik, who like Carl Johan Reutermark and his younger brother Lars August, had attended the high school in Västerås and later became clergymen.

It is probably correct that Carl Johan Reutermark, after his desertion in New York, volunteered for service in the War with Mexico, but under a different name. That he died in battle is probably not correct since very few skirmishes took place after the Americans had captured Mexico City in Sept. 1847. The peace negotiations were under way when Reutermark arrived in New York in March of the following year. The United States Army enrolled soldiers for this war almost up to the time that Mexico ratified the peace treaty at the end of May; witness the enrollment of Carl P. Liljedahl, a Swede, as late as 10 May 1848.<sup>17</sup>

Much speaks for the fact that Reutermark took the name of Root, such as the time periods for Reutermark's disappearance and Root's appearance, the stories of both of them participating in the War with Mexico, Reutermark's interest in the care of the sick and Root's hatred of "doctor" Foster.

Is there another piece of evidence we can muster? Yes. Carl Johan Reutermark had a name which was quite difficult for Americans to pronounce. Shortened to Johan Reut would give us the English version John Root, since "reut" is pronounced as "root."

Finally, I wish to state that the above account represents an attempt to penetrate the John Root mystery. There are many unanswered questions which must be solved. For the time being and until more plausible answers can be advanced, I have advanced this theory as a contribution to clearing up the enigma of John Root's identity.

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## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Root's account before the County Court of Henry County, IL on 14 May 1850. —Records of the County Clerk, Henry County, Cambridge, IL.

<sup>2</sup>Paul H. Elmen, *Wheat Flour Messiah* (Carbondale, IL and Edwardsville, IL 1976), pp. 149-151; *En skånsk banbrytare i Amerika. Trued Granville Pearsons självbiografi* (Oskarshamn 1937), p. 49. Pearson, who spent a day at the trial, writes: "Roth was still in his best years and looked fine, where he sat on a chair next to his lawyer."

<sup>3</sup>Nels Hokanson mentions in his book, *Swedish Immigrants in Lincoln's Time* (New York 1979) that 22 Swedes participated in the War with Mexico, among them John Root. Unfortunately Hokanson does not name his source.

<sup>4</sup>Gustaf Unonius, *A Pioneer in Northwest America 1841-1858*, I-II (Chicago 1950-1960), II, p. 211.

<sup>5</sup>Elmen, op. cit., pp. 151-152.

<sup>6</sup>Ulf Beijbom, *Utvandrarna och Svensk-Amerika* (Borås 1986), p. 65.

<sup>7</sup>Karin Ankarberg, "Några avsnitt ur Bishop Hill koloniens historia" in *Historiska studier tillägnade Folke Lindberg* (Stockholm 1963), p. 129.

<sup>8</sup>Unonius, op. cit., p. 208.

<sup>9</sup>Op.cit.

<sup>10</sup>Emil Herlenius, *Erik-Janssens historia* (Jönköping 1900), p.75.

<sup>11</sup>When Root was aware that his death was near, he called upon the Methodist clergyman, Erik Shogren (Sjögren) and asked him to commit his body to the grave. According to a letter from Shogren published in Victor Witting's *Minnen från mitt lifsom sjöman* (Worcester, MA 1904), p. 242, Root is quoted as saying: "I believe that you fear God. There are other ministers but I don't like the way they live. Follow me to the grave." Root died 18 March 1856 according to information from Dale Peterson of Moline, IL who quotes the late Edla Warner, archivist at the Bishop Hill Heritage Association.

<sup>12</sup>Nils William Olsson, "Swedish Seamen Who Deserted in U.S. Ports 1841-1858" in *Swedish American Genealogist*, Vol. III, No.4, p. 151. The reference to the ship in question has been taken from the archives of the Stockholm Hiring Hall, kindly researched by Peeter Mark, archivist in the City of Stockholm Archives (*Stadsarkivet*).

<sup>13</sup>The information concerning Reutermark's various movements in the Västerås Diocese and his case before the Consistory of Västerås has been furnished by the Committee in Västerås writing the definite history of the clergy of the Västerås Diocese (*Herdamneskommittén*).

<sup>14</sup>Johan Didrik af Wingård, *Minnen af händelser och förhållanden under en lång lifstid*. Fascicles I-XII (Stockholm and Uppsala 1846-1850), fascicle XII, p.32.

<sup>15</sup>Parish Records of Linde (Öre.), F 1:5, notes 71-72.

<sup>16</sup>*Westmanland-Dahla nations album 1761-1833* in the Carolina Rediva Library of the University of Uppsala.

<sup>17</sup>Nils William Olsson, "Swedish Enlistments in the U.S. Army Before 1851" in *The Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly* (now *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*), Vol. I, No. 3, p. 23.

# Who Was the Father of Carlos J. Stolbrand, Civil War General?

Tom Risbecker\*

In a book published in 1951, written by Axel Paulin, a former Swedish diplomat, and entitled *Svenska öden i Sydamerika*, a history of early Swedes in South America, I came across a brief note, when reading about Swedes in Venezuela. It referred to a report by the Swedish consul general in that country to the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated 1844, referring to a total of eighteen Swedish subjects who resided in his district. Among these was a certain Carl Gustaf Tornérhielm.<sup>1</sup> He had been born on the Tunbyholm estate in Smedstorp Parish (Krist.) 27 Nov. 1809, the son of Adolf Fredrik Tornérhielm, later a lieutenant colonel in a Swedish regiment, and his wife, Erika Catharina von Engeström. In 1831 he became a lieutenant in the Skånska Husar Regiment, later in 1837 he transferred to the Skånska Infantry Regiment. Two years later he resigned his commission and left for the U.S. Later he continued on to Venezuela, where he is to be found in 1844.<sup>2</sup>

During my research on the life of the Swedish-born brigadier general Carlos J. Stolbrand, the name of Tornérhielm comes to mind in a significant way and I'll explain why.

The father of Carl Gustaf, i.e. Adolf Fredrik, had left the Swedish military service in 1799 and had settled down on the Dömestorp estate on the border between the Swedish provinces of Halland and Skåne. He owned this estate from 1799 to 1810. A subsequent owner of the same estate, Peter von Möller, said of Adolf Fredrik Tornérhielm, that "he was a man with a very sharp mind, but was very inconsiderate and one of the first to go into the business of real estate as a profession."

From Dömestorp Adolf Fredrik and his family moved to Tunbyholm, which he had bought in 1809, and where his son Carl Gustaf was born that same year. He kept this property until 1816, when he exchanged it for another estate. In the meantime, his mother, Baroness Christina Eleonora Silfverskiöld, had died in 1811 and had left the lovely estate of Össjö for her son to inherit. Össjö is located in the province of Skåne, not far from the city of Ängelholm. As a matter of fact,

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the present main building of the estate was built by Adolf Fredrik during the years 1814-1815 after a fire had destroyed the previous building. His inability to deal with money matters or affairs of the heart caused him to have to sell Össjö in 1828 because of heavy debts. He sold to his brother, Gustaf Tornérhielm, whose son later exchanged this property with the owners of the Wrams Gunnarstorp castle, which still to this day is in the hands of the Tornérhielm family.

There are two things of particular interest in what just has been said. First of all is the fact that Adolf Fredrik Tornérhielm lost his wife 15 Dec. 1821—the same year in which Carlos Stolbrand was born. The second fact deals with Tornérhielm's hopelessly irregular affairs. These facts certainly carried a negative impact, among other things, they must have influenced the life of his son, Carl Gustaf. The bad economy of the father probably more or less forced the son to emigrate, first to North America and then later to South America and Venezuela. But Carl Gustaf also had another handicap in life—he was not blessed with the rights of primogeniture, i.e. being the firstborn in the family.

Now, what has all of this to do with our Civil War general Carlos Stolbrand? In order to properly answer this question, we must elaborate a little bit on Adolf Fredrik Tornérhielm and his interest in women. We know that he had an affair with Gunhild (Gunilla) Fredrika Cronhamn (1781-1856), which resulted in a son being born—Johan Peter Cronhamn—in 1803. The latter became a famous professor of music at the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in Stockholm.<sup>3</sup> His mother later was married to an overseer at the Össjö estate, Jöns Andersson. The Tornérhielms owned Össjö at this time.

Another servant at Össjö soon caught the eye of Tornérhielm, namely young Christina Möller, born in Örkelljunga Parish (Krist.) in 1798, and who became involved in a lengthy love affair with Adolf Fredrik Tornérhielm, which resulted in no less than nine children. The eldest of these was Carl Johan, perhaps named in honor of Carl XIV Johan, the new king on the Swedish throne, who ruled from 1818 to 1844. Carl Johan was born in Össjö and was later to become the famous Civil War officer, who rose through the ranks to become a brigadier general in the U.S. Army. But for the sake of good order, let me list all of the nine children born to Adolf Fredrik and Christina Möller:

1. Carl Johan, born at Össjö 11 May 1821.
2. Gustaf Ferdinand, born at Össjö 15 March 1823.
3. Erik Abraham, born at Össjö 11 April 1825.
4. Christjern Lambert, born at Rössjöholm, Tåssjö Parish (Krist.)
5. Aurora Helena, b. at Lundegård 26 April 1829.
6. Christina , born and died at Ugglarp.
7. Adolfine, born and died at Ugglarp.
8. Eleonora Sigrid, born 19 Nov. 1835.
9. August Leonard, born 19 Nov. 1835.

My wife happens to be a descendant of the fourth son, Christjern Lambert, who later in life became the founder and the principal owner of an insurance firm, *Svenska Lifförsäkringsbolaget* (The Swedish Life Insurance Company). He changed the spelling of his name and became the progenitor of the Swedish family Lambert-Meuller.<sup>4</sup>

Christjern Lambert joined his older brother, Carl Johan, when the latter emigrated to the U.S. in 1850. Also on this voyage were Carl Johan's wife, Maria, and their son Adolf.<sup>5</sup> In this connection, one wonders what impact the departure for North America ten years earlier by Carl Gustaf Tornérhielm could have had on his two half-brothers, when they contemplated the same journey a decade later.

Through the courtesy of my wife's uncle, Lieut. Col. Fredrik Lambert-Meuller, I have been able to borrow two hand-written diaries as well as a family Bible. The latter was a Christmas gift to Christina Möller from Adolf Fredrik Tornérhielm in 1833, on the fly leaf of which he tells her of his love.

The two diaries were written by Christjern or Christiern (as he wrote his name later) Lambert when he was working as a surveyor's assistant in Åstorp near Össjö. A few entries from 1844, when he was but 18 years old, demonstrate aptly how the son felt about his father.

On 5 January Christjern walked to the city of Ängelholm and was "met by the sad news that his father's property was being sold at an executive auction to satisfy some debts."

On 11 January the auction was held, but everything "worked out well since Adolf Fredrik's brother and a friend were the successful bidders."

On 7 April, which was Easter Sunday, "Father, Gustaf (his brother) and I were invited for lunch with the splendid old man Ehrencrona.<sup>6</sup> In the afternoon at the exhortation of my honored father to return to him whenever I could, I left for Össjö."

On Christmas Eve 1844 Christjern writes: "Dad gave a shaving kit including a razor strop, which the old man had bought in 1798 and which had been along in the Finnish War. My father gave a little speech in which he expressed the wish that I would keep this as a remembrance of him."

These samples constitute incontrovertible evidence of the warm relationship which existed between father and son.

Carl Johan Möller, the eldest son of Christina Möller, assumed the name of Ståhlbrand in 1838 when he entered Swedish military service. On 15 Jan. 1845 he married in Kristianstad Maria Sofia Petersson, born in Kristianstad 6 Dec. 1825, the daughter of Carl Ludvig Petersson, a staff sergeant (*styckjunkare*) in the Swedish Army and his wife, Margareta Lovisa Werner. Scarcely a month later Maria gave birth to twin sons—Carl and Gottfrid Ludvig, who both died, however, as infants.

On 10 July 1847 another son was born to the couple, Adolf, who was to accompany the parents to America and who was later married in the U.S. and who died in Cincinnati, OH 20 Jan. 1881. His death caused his younger brother Vasa Edvin some serious problems, but that is another story and will not be dealt with here. Adolf supposedly left a wife and two children, but I have not managed to find out what happened to them.

The Ståhlbrands had the following children in the U.S.—

1. Fannie, born in Cook Co., IL in 1851. Not traced.
2. Vasa Edvin, born in Cook Co., IL in 1856; died in New York City after 1917. Colonel.
3. Alma, born in Cook Co., IL in 1858, died in the great fire in Grand Central Station in New York in 1911.
4. Gertrude, born in 1867. Not traced.

After his military successes in the Civil War, Carl Johan Ståhlbrand (or Stolbrand as he now wrote his name) and his appointment as brigadier general by President Abraham Lincoln, the Swedish newspapers were filled with stories about him. This prompted an anonymous writer to send an article to the newspaper *Nya Christianstadsbladet*, printed 15 April 1865, in which the writer felt moved to give “closer and accurate information” as to Stolbrand’s antecedentia. The article claimed that Stolbrand was the natural son of the former Lieutenant Colonel Tornérhielm, now deceased.

In 1904 a quite famous book, *The Art of Heraldry* by Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, was published in England. This book includes among other things certain genealogical musings. The author states in his book, referring to illegitimacy, that “the social status of an offspring of a given person depended little upon the legal legitimacy of birth, but rather upon the amount of recognition the bastard received from his father.”

If we examine the household examination rolls of the parishes in which Adolf Fredrik Tornérhielm resided in the 1830’s and the early 1840’s, we are not surprised to find that several of the Möller sons were registered in the household of Adolf Fredrik. The diaries of Christjern Lambert Möller cited above, also furnish us with frequent references to the excellent relationship which existed between the lad and his father.

Another indication of the closeness of the family is the pattern of names, which have been passed on from one generation to the next. This is certainly evident so far as the main personalities in this article are concerned. It is interesting to note that the first-born son of Christjern Lambert Meuller was named Charles Adolf and his second son was given the name Fredrik. General Stolbrand, carried the name of Charles early in his career and it was not until much later in life that he changed it to Carlos.

## Postscript

Since we are in the midst of a jubilee year, marking the 350th anniversary of the coming of Swedish settlers to the Delaware Valley, it is only proper to remember some of those Swedes who aided the American nation in achieving greatness. One of these was Carlos Stolbrand. Though his kinsman, John Ericsson, made enormous technical contributions to the victory of the Union forces, very little could have been achieved without the bravery and fighting spirit of such men as Brigadier General Stolbrand. Let us keep the memory of this great warrior alive! Maybe it is time for the city of Kristianstad to do something to commemorate this great son. And why not Chicago?

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Axel Paulin, *Svenska öden i Sydamerika* (Stockholm 1951), P.A. Norstedt & Söner, p.533.

<sup>2</sup>Gustaf Elgenstierna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor 1-IX* (Stockholm 1925-1936), VIII, pp. 327-328.

<sup>3</sup>*Svenskt Biografiskt Lexikon*, IX (Stockholm 1931), pp. 158-164.

<sup>4</sup>For a complete genealogy of the Lambert-Meuller family see *Svenska slüktkalendern*, Vol. 24 (Stockholm 1984), pp. 232-234.

<sup>5</sup>Nils William Olsson, *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York 1820-1850* (Stockholm and Chicago 1967), pp. 248-251.

<sup>6</sup>Johan Gustaf Gammal Ehrencrona (1755-1851), resided in Ängelholm. At the time of the diary entry he was 89 years old. See Elgenstierna *Svenska adelns ättartavlor*, II, p. 428.



Vasa E. Stolbrand, son of Brig. Gen. Carlos J. Stolbrand. Photo taken in Ft. Leavenworth, KS in 1882 where young Stolbrand was stationed as second lieutenant in the 13th U.S. Infantry Regiment. Picture was sent to his uncle, Christjern Lambert-Meuller in Stockholm.

# August Wetterman and His Fellow Musicians

Erik Wikén\*

The activities of August Wetterman and his musical companions in California have been described earlier.<sup>1</sup> The background of these persons in Sweden, however, is less well known and needs to be clarified.

I shall begin with the person who took the initiative to organize this journey on board the vessel *Jackin*, Gustav Norman. He was born in the parish of Sankta Maria in Ystad 16 June 1806, the illegitimate son of Juditha Norman. Early in life he went to sea, is said to have deserted in Valparaiso, Chile and then to have become the skipper of a vessel, owned by a Swedish carpenter in Valparaiso by the name of Apelgren. He made a number of voyages to many ports, including San Francisco.<sup>2</sup> In April of 1850 he returned home from California,<sup>3</sup> bought the newly built vessel, *Jackin*, and employed as its captain, E.P. Lindqvist of Helsingborg.

The latter had received his certificate as a master mariner, something which Norman did not possess.

Lindqvist hired a crew of eleven men in Sundsvall, where the vessel was to take on its cargo.<sup>4</sup>

In July and August of 1850 an advertisement could be found in the Stockholm newspapers with the following wording:

“ Very Good Opportunities exist

for four or five musicians who desire to go to California and who can perform with brass instruments and can furnish good music. Free transportation is provided, with the stipulation that they furnish music during the journey whenever the captain so desires.”

The advertisement ends with an address, to which answers were to be directed.<sup>5</sup>

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The result of the announcement was that five musicians were employed to go on the *Jackin*. These were:

August Wetterman was born in Kumla, Sankt Ilian Parish (Väst.) 16 Aug. 1829, *not* 1828, the illegitimate son of Anna Lovisa Åström. The father is supposed to have been a Norwegian major posted to Stockholm. The surname Wetterman was taken after his maternal grandmother, Hedvig Ulrica Wetterman, married to a merchant by the name of Johan Åström. He became a musician in the Västmanland Regiment but was discharged in Sept. 1849. He is also supposed to have studied at the Royal Musical Conservatory in Stockholm.

August Wetterman married in Sacramento, CA 2 Nov. 1855 Edla Charlotta Augusta Törngren, whose journey to America Wetterman is said to have paid. She was born in Eskilstuna 4 Aug. 1826, the daughter of Per Törngren, an industrialist, and Johanna Charlotta Ungericht. She received a passport to America in Stockholm 6 June 1855 and arrived in Boston aboard the vessel *Samuel Appleton*. She stayed for a while with her father in Boston, to which he had emigrated the previous year.<sup>6</sup> She then left for California via Panama.

Carl Johan Carlsson was born in Krogen, Björkvik Parish (Söd.) 6 Aug. 1823, the son of Carl Larsson, a farmer, and Greta Lisa Andersdotter. At first he was a musician with the Royal Svea Life Guards in Stockholm, later at the Skaraborg Regiment. He departed from the Hedvig Eleonora Parish in Stockholm and received a passport in Stockholm 19 Aug. 1850 for travel to Copenhagen.

Carl Johan Eklund was born in the Hedvig Parish in Norrköping 15 April 1824, the illegitimate son of Anna Ulrica Eklund, a servant. He first became an oboist in the Royal Göta Life Guards in Stockholm, later transferred to the Skaraborg Regiment. He was married in Maria Magdalena Parish in Stockholm 1849. He also received a passport in Stockholm 19 Aug. 1850 for travel to Copenhagen. He left the party in Valparaiso in Chile and enrolled as a clarinetist aboard an American man-of-war.<sup>7</sup> When he did not communicate with his wife, she sued for divorce in 1855, which was granted after the usual period of one year, during which time efforts were made to locate him.<sup>8</sup>

Christian Hildor Skånberg was born in Hedvig Eleonora Parish in Stockholm 23 Oct. 1824, the premarital son of Christian Skånberg, a sadler, and Maria Christina Hallberg (they were married in the Svea Artillery Regiment Parish in Stockholm 11 Dec. 1824). He also volunteered as a musician with the Royal Göta Life Guards in Stockholm and later played at the Royal Opera in the capital. On 23 Aug. 1850 he received a passport in Stockholm for travel to a foreign destination. According to Kullgren, he left California in November 1855 for New York. He returned to Sweden and was married in the Hedvig Eleonora Parish in Stockholm in 1858. He died in Stockholm 7 June 1910.

Carl Johan Gustaf Sundgren was born in the parish of the Royal Mounted Life Guards in Stockholm 15 June 1826, the son of Carl Gustaf Sundgren, a trumpeter, and Hedvig Charlotta Lindberg. He received a passport to a foreign destination in Stockholm 23 Aug. 1850, when he was listed as a musician. According to Kullgren, he subsequently married a Chilean woman.

Finally a few additional data.

The *Jackin* left the port of Sundsvall 4 Sept. 1850<sup>9</sup> and reached San Francisco in the beginning of April 1851. In August-September 1852 when the Swedish naval vessel, the *Eugenie* visited San Francisco, the *Jackin* was anchored there for repairs.<sup>10</sup> In 1853 the vessel is said to have sailed under the Chilean flag.<sup>11</sup>

Gustaf Norman died in Guayaquil, Ecuador 29 Nov. 1854.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to the notes below, the pertinent parish records in the City Archives of Stockholm (*Stockholms stadsarkiv*), Lund District Archives (*Lunds landsarkiv*), Uppsala District Archives (*Uppsala landsarkiv*), Vadstena District Archives (*Vadstena landsarkiv*) have been consulted as have the pertinent regimental archives in the Royal War Archives (*Kungliga Krigsarkivet*) and passport records of the Stockholm County Administration (*Överståthållareämbetet*) in the Stockholm City Archives.

<sup>1</sup>Ruby Lindberg, "August Wetterman—California Pioneer" in *American-Swedish Historical Foundation Yearbook*, 1959, pp. 14-32; Ernest Ekman, "Wetterman and the Scandinavian Society of San Francisco" in *The Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*, 1974, pp. 87-104.

<sup>2</sup>Carl Allvar Kullgren, *Dagbok* (Diary) in the City Archives of Göteborg (*Göteborgs landsarkiv*) (Copy in the California State Library, Sacramento, CA). See also Axel Friman, "Two Swedes in the California Goldfields: Allvar Kullgren and Carl August Modh, 1850-1856" in *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, (formerly *The Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*), 1983, pp.102-130.

<sup>3</sup>*Skånska Telegrafén* (Ystad), 27 April 1850.

<sup>4</sup>The Archives of the Sundsvall Hiring Hall (*Sundsvall sjömanshus*) in the District Archives of Härnösand (*Härnösands landsarkiv*).

<sup>5</sup>As an example *Aftonbladet* and *Stockholms Dagblad* 30 July 1850 and subsequent days.

<sup>6</sup>He received a passport in Stockholm 14 July 1854 and arrived in New York aboard the vessel *Magda* 30 Sept. He supposedly was a blacksmith.

<sup>7</sup>Letter from an anonymous Swede residing in San Francisco, dated 21 Aug. 1851 and published in *Post-och Inrikes Tidningar (PIT)* 1 Dec. 1851.

<sup>8</sup>Divorce decree issued by the Stockholm Consistory 20 Aug. 1856 in the City Archives of Stockholm.

<sup>9</sup>*Allvar och skämt* (Sundsvall) 12 Sept. 1850.

<sup>10</sup>Report from the commanding officer of the vessel, later Rear Admiral Christian Adolf Virgin, published in *PIT* 15 Jan. 1853.

<sup>11</sup>Report from the Swedish-Norwegian consul in San Francisco, Johan Jakob Ludvig Herrlich, published in *Aftonbladet* 7 April 1854.

<sup>12</sup>*PIT* 26 Jan. 1855.

### Additional on *The Swedes in Illinois*

In response to the article, "A Bibliographical Note on The Swedes in Illinois," in SAG, Vol.VII, No.4, pp.166-167, Harry H. Anderson, the Executive Director of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, has offered an ingenious solution to the mystery of why two editions of the same work, published in the same year, should eliminate certain biographies in one version and replace them with others in the second. Mr. Anderson offers the explanation that it was the non-payment of the subscription fees. Mr. Anderson cites a Milwaukee case in 1909, where a publisher sued over non-payment of subscriptions to a Milwaukee "mug history." "Perhaps something similar was experienced by the compilers of *The Swedes in Illinois*, and the editors made substitutions and replacements before the total press run was completed," conjectures Mr. Anderson.

## St. Ansgarius (Chicago) Marriages 1867-1879 (Continued from p. 46)

Date	Names	Place of Marriage	Witnesses
1871			
388. 17 Aug.	Otto Johnson from Ulricehamn and Christine Hanson from Göteborg	126 Sedgwick St.	L.O. Linder and wife; the father of the bride; Carolina Olson and Mr. Hokanson
389. 19 Aug.	Anton Christian Joach. Rudolph from Norway and Annie Margarete Benson of Chicago	122 Ohio St.	N.P. Loberg; Benno Benson; Carolina Erikson; Mrs. Gustafson
390. 21 Aug.	Johan Alfr. Larson and Anna Carol. Mathilda Lundgren, both from Östergötland <i>län</i>	Rectory	Clara Tolin
391. 23 Aug.	Carl Fred. Magnuson from Karlshamn and Betty Westergren from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	"	Peter Swenson and Nils Mattson
392. 28 Aug.	Gustaf Johnson from Örebro <i>län</i> and Anna Olsen from Norway	"	- - -
393. 1 Sept.	Otto Wilh. Hasselquist and Mrs. Carolina Maguson, both from Göteborg	"	Mrs. Acharius; Mr. Leed; Mr. Wensioe
394. 11 Sept.	Carl August Henryson and Anna Brit. Svenson, both from Halland	"	- - -
395. 12 Sept.	Gylfe Wolyn from Karlskrona and Augusta Falkman from Stockholm	80 Chicago Ave.	Mr. Morström and wife; Mr. C. Lindgren and wife; Mr. C.J. Stenquist; Mr. Sylwan and wife
396. 14 Sept.	Theodor Thompson from Trondhjem, Norway and Josephina Hanson from Luleå	152 Des Plaines St.	Mrs. Svenson; Peter and Axel Hanson; Mary Ruth
397. 16 Sept.	Per Fredr. Brevitz and An. Charl. Johnson, both from Jönköping <i>län</i>	Rectory	Gust Brevitz and wife

398.	21 Sept.	Joh. Peter Strand of Chicago and Sophia Carlson from Jönköping <i>län</i>	”	Josephina Strand
399.	22 Sept.	Samuel Danielson and Mary Anderson, both from Jönköping <i>län</i>	”	Alfred Wiselius and wife
400.	22 Sept.	John Lindgren from Halland and Nelly Peterson from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	”	Mrs. Bredberg
401.	22 Sept.	Hans Anderson and Maria Carol. Österlin, both from Ystad	181 Chicago Ave.	Mr. Rhodin; Mr. Liljeström; Annie Anderson; Sophie Anderson
402.	23 Sept.	Anders Martin Carlson from Göteborg and Johanna Olson from Stockholm	257 Green St.	E. Miller and wife; Mrs. Carlson; Mr. Carlson and wife
403.	25 Sept.	Gustaf Malcolm Peterson and Olena Sophia Swenson, both from Halland	Rectory	Mrs. J. Bredberg; Mrs. Christine Boo
404.	26 Sept.	Nils Stenberg from Kristianstad <i>län</i> and Carolina Schön from Malmöhus <i>län</i>	”	Swen Stenberg
405.	28 Sept.	Gustaf Söderholtz and Christina Maria Forsberg, both from Stockholm <i>län</i>	37 Archer Avenue	Mr. Lindbergson and wife; G. Wolyn and wife; Mr. Broms and wife; Thilda Johnson
406.	30 Sept.	Bengt Peter Nicholson from Halland and Thilda Carlson from Jönköping <i>län</i>	Rectory	Christine Gjertz
407.	30 Sept.	Anders Gustaf Larson from Skaraborg <i>län</i> and Johanna Carolina Lindberg from Jönköping <i>län</i>	”	Mrs. Carin Peterson
408.	2 Oct.	August Carlson from Örebro and Fredrika Olson from Askersund	”	John Levin and wife

	Date	Names	Place of Marriage	Witnesses
	1871			
409.	4 Oct.	Nils Erik Johnson and Carolina Peterson, both from Kronoberg <i>län</i>	Rectory	Mrs. Boo
410.	7 Oct.	Magnus Holmquist from Helsingborg and Anna Maria Thompson from Christiania (Oslo), Norway	"	- - -
411.	22 Oct.	Charles Eskel Tunelius from Gästrikland and Eva Mathilda Peterson from Jönköping <i>län</i>	49 North Sangamore Street	E. Tunelius; Mr. Blixt and wife
412.	31. Oct.	August Peterson from Östergötland <i>län</i> and Nelly Runberg from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	116 Sophia Street	- - -
413.	18 Nov.	Carl Fredr. Julin from Värmland <i>län</i> and Johanna Mathilda Anderson from Amnehärad Parish (Skar.)	"	Albert Julin; Mrs. Augusta Fritze
414.	6 Dec.	John August Wahlgren and Mrs. Sophia Larson, both of Chicago	113 Jefferson Street	G. Hellström and wife; Mrs. Erikson; Mr. Erikson; Mr. Breck
415.	9 Dec.	Johan August Carlstein from Västergötland and Olivia Margreta Bergström from Sundsvall	310 South Park Avenue	G. Hellström and wife; Mrs. Haden; Miss Sophia Anderson; Thilda Anderson
416.	9 Dec.	Swen Paulson from Malmöhus <i>län</i> and Betty Paulson from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	231 South Park Avenue	Mr. Olson and wife
417.	11 Dec.	Charles John Johnson from Västmanland and Sophie Fors from Östergötland <i>län</i>	116 Sophia Street	C.G. Bredberg

418.	11 Dec.	John Almin and Mary Peterson, both from Kalmar <i>län</i>	"	Mrs. Carin Johnson
419.	16 Dec.	Charles Lind and Josephine Westerström, both from Kalmar <i>län</i>	45 Fourth Street	C. Lindgren and wife; Mr. Swenson and wife
420.	28 Dec.	Carl August Holm from Strömstad and Carolina Nilson from Kalmar <i>län</i>	116 Sophia Street	August Palmer; Mrs. Helena Johnson
1872				
421.	7 Jan.	Edward Peterson of Chicago and Charlotta Carlson from Eksjö	1480 State Street	Mr. Urelius; Herm. Peterson; Thilda Carlson; Mr. Wetterström and wife
422.	16 Jan.	Charles Nahlin from Kopparberg <i>län</i> and Mrs. Anna Peterson from Jönköping <i>län</i>	116 Sophia Street	C. Gust. Jacobson
423.	19 Jan.	Louis Wicklander from Ångermanland and Clara Mathilda Lindgren from Motala	"	Parents of the bride
424.	27 Jan.	John Fredrik Peterson and Johanna Christina Root, both from Stockholm	245 20th Street	G. Hellström and wife; Mr. Westberg and wife; Mr. Sjölander and wife; Mrs. Hallen
425.	30 Jan.	Swen Stephen Danielson from Kalmar <i>län</i> and Maria Christina Peterson from Jönköping <i>län</i>	116 Sophia Street	Mrs. C. Peterson; C.G. Bredberg
426.	1 March	Carl Ferdinand Malmgren from Göteborg and Hilda Fagerlund from Blekinge	"	John Johnson and wife
427.	16 March	Swen Lindgren from Kristianstad and Carolina Peterson from Göteborg	94 Chicago Avenue	- - -

	Date	Names	Place of Marriage	Witnesses
	1872			
428.	6 April	Anders Holmgren from Varberg and Mathilda Peterson from - - -	116 Sophia Street	Hanna Winquist; Hanna Johnson
429.	8 April	Hans Enoch Bohlin from Älvsborg <i>län</i> and Mathilda Paulina Carlson from Östergötland <i>län</i>	"	Gustaf Bengtson; Augusta Carlson
430.	16 April	Gustaf Isakson from Jönköping <i>län</i> and Mathilda Nilson from Östergötland <i>län</i>	"	- - -
431.	20 April	Carl Fredr. Mogren of Chicago and Mrs. Clara Ulrika Lindberg from Stockholm	"	- - -
432.	1 May	Carl Fredr. Johnson from Skaraborg <i>län</i> and Wendela Swenson from Kronoberg <i>län</i>	"	Joh. Söderström and wife
433.	11 May	Gustaf Ohsfeldt and Anna Catharina Holmberg, both from Skaraborg	968 North Clark Street	- - -
434.	12 May	Emil Öhrwall and Ida Mathilda Liljedahl, both of Chicago	42 Sloan Street	Parents of the bride; Isak Stohle and wife; Hilma Howe; Mr. Bökman
435.	14 May	Jonas Malmgren from Stockholm and Edla Christina Strang from Motala	- - -	Mrs. C. Peterson; G. Bredberg
436.	15 May	Anders Gustaf Elm and Mathilda Carlson, both from Skaraborg <i>län</i>	- - -	- - -
437.	18 May	Olof Olson and Johanna Person, both from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	968 North Clark Street	Mrs. J. Bredberg; Mrs. J. Peterson

438.	18 May	John Johnson of Chicago and Johanna Anderson from Jönköping <i>län</i>	13 Bremer Street	Mr. Sylwan and wife; Mr. Norman and wife
439.	27 May	Frans Reinhold Lindroth and Maria Wallin from Jönköping	968 North Clark Street	August Johanson and wife
440.	29 May	Lars Joh. Sandin from Skaraborg <i>län</i> and Hedda Lovisa Johnson from Öster- götland <i>län</i>	"	- - -
441.	31 May	Johan Magnuson from Kristianstad and Maria Olson from Markaryd	"	Mrs. Emelie Anderson; Miss Hulda Nilson
442.	10 June	Georg Swenson and Mrs. Catharina Peterson, both of Chicago	"	Mrs. J. Peterson; Mrs. J. Bredberg; Gustaf Bredberg
443.	15 June	Lars Herman Rydberg from Stockholm and Augusta Wilhelmina Grönvall from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	222 South Park Avenue	Sw. Anderson and wife; Mr. Carlslund and wife; Mr. Olson and wife; Sophie Anderson; Ida Anderson
444.	16 June	Carl Gustaf Winkrans from Falköping and Caroline Johnson from Älvsborg <i>län</i>	285 Market Street	Aug. Kinberg and wife; Lotta Johnson; Captain White; Erik Erikson
445.	22 June	Albert Theophil Davis and Lena Johanna Anderson, both from Bohuslän	128 Sedgwick Street	J.A. Davis and wife; Mr. Eklund and wife; Mr. Larson and wife; Mr. O. Björn
446.	23 June	Alfred Johnson and Emma Peterson, both from Kalmar <i>län</i>	153 Vesson Street	Chas. Olander and wife
447.	23 June	Charles Alfred Ohlander from Bohuslän and Amanda Sophia van der Kodde from Kalmar <i>län</i>	"	Alfred Johnson and wife



	Date 1872	Names	Place of Marriage	Witnesses
448.	29 June	Charles Roos from Stockholm and Amalia Mathilda Nygren from Motala	968 North Clark Street	- - -
449.	30 June	Carl Oscar Ferdin. Beckström from Alingsås and Anna Lovisa Cesar from Östergötland <i>län</i>	"	- - -
450.	6 July	John Utter and Sophia Charlotta Anderson, both from Göteborg	"	Aron Johanson; Mary Bertha Bergström
451.	7 July	Johan Gustaf Stephanus Tollstam and Augusta Octavia Johansdotter, both from Östergötland	"	- - -
452.	16 July	Carl Rundquist from Malmöhus <i>län</i> and Carin Anderson from Gävleborg <i>län</i>	"	- - -
453.	20 July	Nils Larson and Ellen Olson, both from Kristianstad	"	Andrew Nilson and wife; Per Olson; Hanna and Johanna Olson; Betsy Olson
454.	21 July	Peter Cederberg and Anna Carolina Ekwall, he from Helsingborg, she from Halland	90 Sedgwick Street	Peter Johnson; Per Lundquist
455.	23 July	Swen Swenson from Blekinge and Eva Christina Lundquist from Kronoberg <i>län</i>	94 Chicago Avenue	Sven Lindgren and wife
456.	3 Aug.	Birger Anderson and Anna Anderson, both from Älvsborg <i>län</i>	968 North Clark Street	Mrs. Bredberg

457.	4 Aug	Louis Foss from Drammen, Norway and Hilda Hedström from Örebro <i>län</i>	"	Carl Edv. Spångberg; Aug. Wilh. and Augusta Wilhelmina Anderson; Mathilda Larson
458.	10 Aug.	Oscar Johnson from Gotland and Charlotta Christina Sundberg from Örebro	"	Oscar Wiss and wife; Hanna Kullbom
459.	10 Aug.	Sven Joh. Melin from Växjö and Augusta Amalia Pierre from Helsingborg	"	Gustaf Anderson; Nils Nilsson; Amanda Johnson
460.	12 Aug.	Anders Carlson and Mrs. Christine Simonson, both from Jönköping <i>län</i>	"	- - -
461.	17 Aug.	Johan Olson from Stockholm and Charlotta Wilhelmina Elggren from Norrköping	193 West Chicago Avenue	Mr. Swedberg and wife; Mr. Nordquist and wife
462.	19 Aug.	Johan Gustaf Sundell from Stockholm and Ida Peterson from Jönköping <i>län</i>	968 North Clark Street	- - -
463.	24 Aug.	Nils Larson and Nelly Pederson, both from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	"	Sven Larson and wife; Per. Anderberg and wife; Nelly Nilson
464.	24 Aug.	Anders Nilson and Agneta Person, both from Malmöhus <i>län</i>	184 Larrabee Street	Mrs. Bengtson
465.	31 Aug.	Aron Johnson from Jönköping <i>län</i> and Mary Bergström from Kronoberg <i>län</i>	968 North Clark Street	Elias Madison; Maria Martinson
466.	4 Sept.	Frans Oscar Peterson and Edla Sophia Engmark, both from Östergötland	113 South Jefferson Street	Mr. Wahlgren and wife; J.R. Lilja and wife; Mr. Engmark; Augusta Johnson

Date 1872	Names	Place of Marriage	Witnesses
467. 5 Sept.	Lars Fredrik Lilly from Stockholm and Johanna Christ. Johnson from Kronoberg <i>län</i>	968 North Clark Street	Mrs. Bredberg; C.G. Bredberg
468. 7 Sept.	Andrew Johnson and Rika Johnson, both from Jönköping <i>län</i>	”	Mrs. Bredberg; C.E. Bredberg
469. 7 Sept.	John Peterson from Norrbotten and Mathilda Paulson from Malmöhus <i>län</i>	”	Mr. Swenson and wife
470. 8 Sept.	Andrew Nilson from Skaraborg <i>län</i> and Ellen Pehrson from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	”	Mrs. Bredberg; C.E. Bredberg
471. 12 Sept.	Charles Hellström and Josephine Strid, both from Skaraborg <i>län</i>	”	- - -
472. 14 Sept.	Gustaf Andreen from Stockholm and Amanda Johnson from Göteborg	”	S.J. Mellin and wife
473. 20 Sept.	Pehr Johnson and Julia Henrikson, both from Östergötland	”	Carl Pet. Lindblom; Mrs. J. Peterson
474. 21 Sept.	John Freeberg from Skaraborg <i>län</i> and Hedda Gustava Olson from Kalmar <i>län</i>	318 Carpenter Street	Alb. Segerstedt and wife; Mr. Lagerquist and wife; Mr. Johnson
475. 21 Sept.	John Oscar Anderson from Örebro <i>län</i> and Johanna Sandberg from Jönköping <i>län</i>	968 North Clark Street	Mrs. Osterberg; Axel Larson

476.	22 Sept.	Gustaf Wilhelm Carlson and Nellie Thursie, both from Jönköping <i>län</i>	"	The parents of the bride
477.	25 Sept.	Charles Hanström from Motala and Hanna Borgström from Helsingborg	442 Butterfield Street	Erik Erikson; Mr. Hellborg; Nelly Borgström
478.	26 Sept.	Martin Rudolph Rhode and Josephine Marie Birsto, both from Norway	968 North Clark Street	- - -
479.	28 Sept.	Carl Joh. Emil Larson of Chicago and Christina Eugenia Larson from Kalmar <i>län</i>	"	C.G. Anderson
480.	28 Sept.	Carl Joh. Hallman and Johanna Maria Samuelson, both from Jönköping <i>län</i>	"	L.J. Samuelson; Mrs. Joh. Swenson
481.	28 Sept.	Anders Wedelius from Skara and Christina Werner from Stockholm	319 Market Street	F.W. Broms and wife; Miss Tornquist; Mrs. Anderson
482.	3 Oct.	Olof August Anderson from Kalmar <i>län</i> and Augusta Christina Löfgren from Uppsala	968 North Clark Street	Gustaf Carlson; Per Anderson; Julia Lejon; Håkan Nelson
483.	3 Oct.	Laurents Hesselroth and Mathilda Sophia Blom, both of Chicago	151 Chicago Avenue	A. Larson and wife; Mr. Morström; Mr. Swenson; Mr. Blomquist
484.	5 Oct.	Anders Magnus Nilson and Emma Christina Carlson, both from Hobart, IN	968 North Clark Street	J.P. Blomquist and wife
485.	5 Oct.	John Pet. Blomquist and Annie Lundquist, both from Hobart, IN	"	A.M. Nilson and v
486.	5 Oct.	Gustaf Johanson and Sophia Anderson, both from Jönköping <i>län</i>	"	A.P. Peterson; A.P. Johnson; Mary Mathilda Anderson

Date 1872	Names	Place of Marriage	Witnesses
487. 5 Oct.	William Johnson from Skaraborg <i>län</i> and Johanna Charlotta Gren from Östergötland	968 North Clark Street	- - -
488. 5 Oct.	Elias Olsen from Norway and Betsy Nielson from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	"	Martin Peterson and wife
489. 5 Oct.	Benjamin Hawkinson and Betsy Johnson, both from Kristianstad <i>län</i>	"	Martin Peterson; Christine Olson; Anna Peterson; Olivia Anderson
490. 7 Oct.	Carl Carlson from Jönköping <i>län</i> and Nilla Christ. Nilson from Halland	"	Aug. Peterson and wife
491. 7 Oct.	August Peterson and Emma Beckström, both from Jönköping <i>län</i>	"	Carl Carlson and wife
492. 11 Oct.	Ludvig Brewitz from Jönköping <i>län</i> and Christina Holm from Värmland	"	Gustaf Brewitz
493. 12 Oct.	Carl Fredr. Sjöberg from Göteborg and Johanna Carlson from Eksjö	968 North Clark Street	Thorwald Olson and wife; Joh. Ludv. Sjöberg; Anna Kullgren
494. 14 Oct.	Charles Fredrik Hedbom of Chicago and Annie Pehrson from Helsingborg	"	Henrik André; Peter Johanson and wife; Julia Henrikson; Mrs. Bengtson
495. 16 Oct.	Peter Bergquist from Örebro <i>län</i> and Anna Johnson from Värmland	"	- - -
496. 18 Oct.	Alfred Nyrén from Stockholm and Bertha Hanson from Göteborg	"	C.O. Peterson and wife

(To be Continued)

# Additional Notes on Early Swedes in Mobile, AL

Nils William Olsson

In connection with the article "Declarations and Naturalizations of Swedes in Mobile, AL 1840-1906," published in *Swedish American Genealogist* in Sept. 1986, pp. 107-119, it is now possible to add new material concerning some of these Swedes, thanks mainly to two volumes of the marriage records of Mobile County, AL 1813-1875, published by Clinton P. King and Meriem A. Barlow.<sup>1</sup> Though some of this material was incorporated in the original article, a closer scrutiny of these fine lists has unearthed new information concerning the marriages of some of these early Swedes. The list given below enumerates the Swedes about whom more information has been garnered by the number they held in the original article. The reference to the King and Barlow volumes is provided in the right hand column, where the numeral I refers to the marriage list 1813-1855 and the numeral II refers to the second volume 1856-1875. The page numbers follow the referenced works, thus providing the reader with a ready reference guide. The author expresses his deep appreciation to Mr. King and Ms. Barlow for permission to make use of this valuable material. Warm thanks also go to the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, MD for its kind permission to use the first volume, which was published by this firm.

w = widowed at the time of the marriage.

No.	Name	Spouse	Date of Marriage	Source Vol./ Page
33.	BODELSON, Andrew	JOHNSON, Bridget	26/4 1848	I,13
35.	BROWN, Andrew	SWEET, Mary	25/1 1866	II,21
41.	CAMPBELL, John E.	JONES, Magdeline	27/12 1865	II,29
43.	CAMPBELL, Joseph J.	MELDON, Maggie	19/5 1875	II,29
45.	CAMPBELL, Thomas J.	MEYERS, Redia E.	23/5 1855	I,23
56.	CEDER, Andrew	FEIST, Philipine	30/12 1857	II,32
61.	COLBOURN, Charles S.	KENNEDY, Ann, w	15/6 1867	II,37
65.	DUPER TUIS, George	DEFFIN, Rebecca	8/3 1853	I,48
77.	FREEMAN, Charles E.	MOORE, Margaret Eliza	7/7 1875	II,71
82.	GREEN, Andrew	GIRARD, Laura L.	16/1 1855	I,67
107.	JACOBSON, John S.	RICE, Eliza J., w	11/10 1886	II,104
117.	JOHNSON, Samuel	VINCENT, Bridget, w	7/8 1864	II,104

134.	LAWSON, Lewis	GARNER, June	26/10 1844	I,95
143a.	LINDSTROM, Nicholas P. <sup>2</sup>	JOHNSON, Caroline	30/1 1860	II,121
165.	MILLER, Francis W.	THOMPSON, Jane	26/7 1845	I,114
176.	NELSON, John	DOBSON, Elizabeth	21/6 1853	I,121
180.	NICHOLSON, Charles D.	LOGAN, Elizabeth J.	12/11 1855	I,122
185.	OBER, Peter G.	KERLINGER, Elizabeth	24/2 1864	II,152
195.	PAUL, James	LAWSON, Catherine Lena <sup>3</sup>	24/4 1857	II,158
235.	ROHNEVICK, John	SNELMAN, Wilhelmina, w	19/2 1874	II,175
235.	ROHNVICK, John <sup>4</sup>	LYONS, Geneva	10/5 1866	II,175
256.	SMITH, Isaac	BRATHARD, Ruthy	27/2 1824	I,154
257.	SMITH, Lawrence	REINHART, Rosalie	5/3 1872	II,189
258.	SMITH, Lorens	SCANLIN, Mary	17/4 1845	I,154
260.	SMITH, N.Henry	KILFIR, Sarah	21/10 1850	I,155
267.	STALL, Frederick	McREE, Catherine	3/9 1853	I,157
269.	SWAIN, Isaac	SCULLY, Mary	14/7 1847	I,161
273.	THOMPSON, Andrew	SIMS, Mary J.	21/10 1853	I,164
275.	THOMPSON, Solomon	FARLEY, Anna	4/2 1856	II,203
293.	WILLIAMS, Charles	HURSTED, Ann	10/6 1841	I,176
293.	WILLIAMS, Charles	PINKHAM, Hannah	10/7 1851	I,176
293.	WILLIAMS, Charles	STRILL, Barbara	10/2 1845	I,176
296.	WILLIAMSON, Charles	DAVIS, Elizabeth A.	23/8 1870	II,220
296.	WILLIAMSON, Charles	KEENAN, Margaret Ann	15/2 1871	II,220

The material cited above may be helpful in further identifying some of the early settlers in Mobile. Much of it should be used with caution, however, since many Swedes assumed common Anglo-Saxon names, which are difficult to trace. Without further evidence it therefore becomes a hazardous task to separate Swedes who adopted such surnames as Smith, Thompson and Williams, to name but a few, from Mobile residents who had an Anglo-Saxon origin.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Clinton P. King & Meriem A. Barlow, *Marriages of Mobile County, Alabama 1813-1855* (Baltimore, MD 1985), Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.; Clinton P. King & Meriem A. Barlow, *Marriages of Mobile County, Alabama 1856-1875* (Mobile, AL 1986), Alabama Ancestors.

<sup>2</sup>The bridegroom is probably Nils Petter Jonasson Lindström, a journeyman shoemaker from Stockholm who left Sweden for America 1859, at the age of 31. The bride is possibly Carolina Jonsson, also from Stockholm, 39 years old, who departed from Sweden at the same time as her husband-to-be. —*Personregister till Statistiska Centralbyråns i Stockholm förteckningar över emigranter 1851-1860* (Index of emigrants 1851-1860 from the Collection of the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics) (SCB).

<sup>3</sup>Possibly Cajsa Lena Larsdotter, a servant from Madesjö Parish in Kalmar län, who departed for America in 1854. —*SCB*.

<sup>4</sup>Behind the un-Swedish name of Rohnvick may be the name of Rohnqvist, which would be difficult to use in America. We know that members of the Rohnqvist family on the island of Gotland came to the U.S. as early as 1852, when a Swedish immigrant, Johannes Petersson from Gotland, writing from San Francisco 15 Jan. 1852, states that "the lads Höglund and Rohnqvist from Visby greet their friends and relatives from San Francisco." —*Gottlands Läns Tidning*, No.13, 26 March 1852, courtesy Dr. Erik Wikén.

# Genealogical Queries

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 the question to conform to the general format. As announced recently, a major change is herewith instituted. Because of complaints that unauthorized persons have made use of the names and addresses of searchers listed in this column, such names and addresses will no longer be carried. The code to each question is the listed number. Readers who can help solve some of these genealogical problems may submit answers to the editor, referring to the number, who will forward them to the appropriate party. At the same time, the answer will also be printed in issues of *SAG*. This may prove to be of benefit to other readers. It is hoped that this change will help us all.

## Westberg

I am tracing Swedish American communities in the last half of the 19th century in KS, NE and IA. The surname Westberg is my particular interest.

494

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## Sandelin

I am trying to locate descendants of Gustaf Johansson Sandelin and Elna Larsdotter Sandelin who emigr. from Pjätteryd Parish (Kron.) to Kittson Co., MN 1888 or 1889. Their children were—Christian, b. 23 July 1869; Carl, b. 26 Jan. 1874; Julia, b. 25 Dec. 1876, m. Ole Garrison; John Edward, b. 4 June 1879, m. Susanna Johnson in 1915; Lars Oscar, b. 20 May 1885; Nels Gustaf, b. 1 Dec. 1887, m. Elise Michels in 1912 and Erik Reinhold, b. 9 March 1892, who m. Hilda Byquist. I am Nels Gustaf's granddaughter.

495

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## Persson

Looking for information concerning two brothers, both b. in Trökörna Parish (Skar.). Anders Magnus Persson was b. 25 Sept. 1856 and his brother Johan Alfred was b. 22 Nov. 1869. They emigr. to the U.S., but unknown in what year.

496

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## Pohlson

In a copy of *The New National Reader*, published in New York and Chicago in 1883 is a notation by "Miss Ellen Othelia Pohlson, 1076 South 15th Street,



Denver, Colorado." The book has probably belonged to a Swedish immigrant girl, who attempted to learn the English language. I should like to know what happened to the girl and her family.

497

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**Ölander**

I am seeking information about my great grandfather, Adolph Ölander, b. in Borås 28 April 1861, who emigr. to the U.S. in 1881. I know that he had a brother named Emil Ölander and a sister Ammy Ölander. There may have been more siblings. Adolph Ölander m. 7 Dec. 1890 in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Minneapolis Anna Martina Holmberg, who had emigr. from Sweden 13 April 1888.

498

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**Höglund**

We are looking for possible descendants of two brothers named Höglund, b. in Högsby Parish (Kalm.), who emigr. to the U.S.

1. Axel Victor Höglund (Hoglund), b. 21 March 1864 and d. in Chicago or Evanston, IL 22 Aug. 1926. He had the following children—Myrtle, b. 20 July 1902; George Axel, b. 20 Feb. 1905; Hulda Maria, b. 14 Nov. 1906; Virginia, b. 12 Feb. 1910 and Robert Almin, b. 23 June 1912.
2. August Nicolaus Höglund (Hoglund), b. 11 July 1859 and d. in Chicago 18 Jan. 1941. He res. at 1736 Berwyn Ave., and was bur. in Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago. He had three children—Gust., b. 1901; Joseph, b. 1903 and Jane, b. 5 March 1908.

499

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**Julin, Ekholm, Johnson**

I am looking for information concerning my great-great grandfather, Andrew Julin, b. 2 Nov. 1834, the s. of Per Ekholm. He m. Catharina Jonsdotter (Johnson) 7 May 1864. She was also b. in Sweden, 12 May 1837.

500

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**Frisk**

My maternal grandfather's mother, Kerstin Ersdotter, who was m. to a chap named Tärnström had a half-brother who emigr. to Bishop Hill, where he was employed as a shoemaker. We believe that his surname was Frisk, but we don't know his Christian name. He is said to have emigr. to the U.S. between 1825 and 1830 from Maxgarn (?) in Voxna Parish (Gävl.).

501

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**Adamson, Gran, Peterson**

My husband's maternal grandfather named Adamson, Christian name unknown, b. in Malmö, came to Chicago to work in the John Deer Plow Works. He was killed in a plant accident in 1892 or 1893 before his family could join him

from Sweden. His wife, Ulrica Gran, b. in Malmö in 1870, arr. in America just after her husband's death, with two dau., Marie Ann, b. in Stockholm 9 Dec. 1891 and Elsa. Ulrica Gran remarried Nils Peterson, who adopted the girls, and then homesteaded in Wausau, NE. Later he bought land in Evans, CO. Can anyone help with information about the Adamsons in Sweden?

502

### Engdahl, Jones

Searching for American descendants of Jonas Magnus Engdahl, b. in Åseda Parish (Kron.). His children—sons Jonas Viktor Engdahl, Erland Gustaf Engdahl, Johan Algot Engdahl and daughter Mathilda Carolina Engdahl—emigr. to Jamestown, NY in the 1880s. Jonas and Erland changed their surnames to Jones.

503

### Johannesdotter

I am looking for information concerning Betty Johannesdotter, b. in Frykerud Parish (Värml.) 6 April 1877 and who emigr. to Iowa 1909 and worked on a farm. She probably m. a farmer and d. ca. 1940.

504

### Hellsten, Hallstone

My grandmother's grandfather, Mos Anders Olsson Hellsten, emigr. to the U.S. 8 June 1888 together with his family. He was b. in Ål Parish (Kopp.) 4 April 1829 and d. in Turlock, CA in Dec. 1914. He had the following family:

Wife—Emma Kristina Hellström, b. in Kopparberg *län* 24 Feb. 1851.

Children—Eric Gustaf, b. in Sundborn Parish (Kopp.) 14 Aug. 1875.

Victor Emanuel, b. in Sundborn 11 April 1879.

Kristina Lydia, b. in Falun 24 Nov. 1881; m. in Seattle, WA a man named Kilsey.

Emma Maria, b. in Falun 29 July 1884; m. in Seattle a man named Andrews.

Hilddur Johanna, b. in Falun 12 Oct. 1887; m. in Seattle a man named Tubbs.

Johannes (Johan) b. in the U.S. in the autumn of 1891.

Arthur, b. in the U.S. 19 Jan. 1895.

The destination in the U.S. was Bark River, MI, but between 1889 and 1892 the family lived in Warren, MN, and from 1892 to 1903 in Seattle. From Seattle the family moved to Turlock, CA, where the last letter was posted in 1915. I am anxious to know where descendants are living today.

505

### Larsson, Claesson

I would appreciate help in locating descendants of the following siblings who emigr. to America:

1. Claes Gustaf Larsson, b. in Skogen, Jäla Parish (Skar.) 1 Jan. 1848; res. at Erikstorp, Grolanda Parish (Skar.) when he emigr. 1883. He had the following sons:
  - a. Johan Sanfrid Claesson, b. in Erikstorp, Grolanda 14 Dec. 1870; emigr. 1887.
  - b. Claes Fridolf Claesson, b. in Erikstorp, Grolanda 21 Jan. 1873; emigr. 1890.
2. Tilda Charlotta Larsdotter, b. in Jäla Parish 4 Oct. 1860; emigr. to Minnesota 1886.
3. Johan Alfred Larsson, b. in Jäla Parish 25 Sept. 1864; emigr. 1883.

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### Johansson

I am looking for information regarding my mother and her family. I am told that her name was Nina Johansson and that she was named so because she was the ninth child in the family. She was b., probably 27 April 1886 near Göteborg and left for America sometime between 1904 and 1907.

She m. Olof Anton Abrahamsson, born 19 Jan. 1883, probably in Tegneby Parish (Göt.). Customs officials in Houston, TX changed his name to Arlie Theodore Abrahamson. My father and mother were m. 16 Nov. 1907, either in Texas or Chicago. In Chicago they had five children—Ethel, Arline Rose, Lillian, Arlie and Robert Donald. My mother d. in Chicago in 1922.

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of the home,  
the church  
and the lawcourts.*



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to security  
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