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American Obituaries in
Falköpings Tidning
1893-1931

Nils William Olsson

Obituaries have always fascinated genealogists, since these newspaper notices often give clues and hints not found elsewhere. Naturally they have to be used with caution, since the writer of the necrology knowingly or unwittingly may have included material not germane to the subject nor consonant with the facts. When all of the excess verbiage and the panegyrics have been scaled away, however, we may find some of the basic information we are looking for. Once this has been found—perhaps a date or a name, it then becomes a simple task to correlate this material with original sources.

As we all know, the most challenging problem facing the genealogist searching his origin in Sweden, is to find the parish from which his immigrant ancestor came. Here is where the obituary may be helpful, whether this death notice is to be found in this country or in Sweden. Swedish newspapers are an often overlooked source of information. Local newspapers often printed news items concerning deceased Americans of Swedish origin, particularly for those persons, who originally hailed from the area where the newspaper was published. Thus hundreds of small town newspapers and weeklies furnished their readers with information concerning local Swedes who had departed for America and then died there.

Falköpings Tidning is a good example of this type of local newspaper. It is published in Falköping located in the county of Skaraborg and serves a fertile agricultural section of this part of the province of Västergötland. This province is composed of two counties, Skaraborg and Älvsborg. Since Falköping is located in the eastern part of Västergötland, one will find that the majority of the obituaries in Falköpings Tidning tend to focus on Skaraborg and the parishes surrounding Falköping. But also other parts of Västergötland are represented.

Many immigrants to the U.S. kept in touch with their kinsmen after emigrating and when a death occurred it was more or less natural to notify the next of kin in Sweden, who then in turn informed the local newspaper. In this manner the news was spread to the surrounding communities. In fact Falköpings
American Obituaries in Falköping Tidning

Falkoping Tidning maintained a standing feature, entitled "People From Västergötland Who Have Died in the U.S."

The obituaries are mostly brief news announcements dealing with the name of the deceased, his or her birth place, birth date, death date and place of death, as the year he or she emigrated to the U.S. Finally we also get information concerning the next of kin and where they are located, as well as relatives still living in Sweden.

Rune Gustafsson, a genealogist residing in Tidaholm, east of Falkoping, while combing the files of Falköping Tidning in his hometown library for information concerning relatives, who disappeared in the U.S., came upon the idea of listing all of the obituaries concerning Americans who had died in the U.S. He extracted this information for the years 1893 to 1931 and has made this list available to genealogists and libraries. He is now at work on an additional project, taking him from 1931 down to the present time. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Gustafsson for having furnished me with this list and for allowing me to use it for this presentation. I have sought to condense it, reducing it to the barest genealogical essentials. On a few occasions I have also used additional clarifying information from Conrad Bergendoff's excellent study of the Augustana clergy — The Augustana Ministerium (Rock Island 1980), indicating this source with the initials CB.

It is my hope and that of Mr. Gustafsson that this list may be useful to SAG's readers, anxious to make contact with their point of origin in Sweden.

Abbreviations

B. = Born
D. = Died
M. = Married
Y. = Year(s)
M. = Month(s)
D. = Day(s)
Emigr. = Emigrated
Nok = Next of kin
FT = Falköping Tidning

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RABENIUS, Svante Konrad Nathanael, d. Pontiac, RI 7 Aug. 1898, age 6 m., 3 d.

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HALLBERG, Ellen Maria Theresia, née Widell, d. Hartford, CT 26 Feb. 1901, age 26 y. B. Slöta Parish (Skar.). Nok - Bernhard Hallberg, husband, and two children; two sisters and one brother in America, two brothers in Sweden and one brother, officer in the Spanish-American War. — FT, 30 March 1901.


ANDERSSON, Anders Petter, d. Clearwater, NE 28 Feb. 1902, age 75 y., 8 m., 7 d. B. Brismene Parish (Skar.) 20 June 1826; m. 1850 Johanna Käll. Emigr. 1876; widower 1881 and moved to NE 1884. Nok - four daughters, two in Iowa and two in NE. — FT, 2 April 1902.


SÄRNER, Sven Johan, d. 1908, age 93 y. B. Tådene Parish (Skar.) and emigr. 1868. He owned considerable land in Isanti Co., MN. — *FT*, 27 May 1908.


FRISTEDT, Per Ferdinand, d. Chicago, IL Easter Eve 1910, age 82 y. B. Gingri Parish (Ålvs.) 9 Jan. 1828, son Peter Fristedt and Margareta Charlotta Lundahl. He emigr. 1852 and worked together with his brother Christian August Fristedt. — *FT*, 18 June 1910; Lekåsa Parish Household Examination Roll 1847-1853 in Göteborg District Archives.

ANDERSSON, Oskar, d. New York, NY 1911, age 19 y. He was the son of Alfred Andersson of Olofsgården, Kölaby Parish (Ålvs.). — *FT*, 14 Jan 1911.

KARLSSON, Emma Fredrika, d. Providence, RI 1911, age 40 ½ y. Emigr. from Böne Parish (Ålvs.) 1891. — *FT*, 18 March 1911.


CARLBOOM, Torsten Gustaf, engineer, d. Meadville, PA 22 March 1916, age almost 32 y. B. Gällstads Parish (Ålvs.) 27 Sept. 1884, son of Gustaf Emanuel Carlboom, engineer, and Gustava Mathilda Nilsson. He was graduated from


LAGERBERG, John, master mason, d. Providence, RI 24 March 1924; b. Heden, Flöby Parish (Skar.) 5 Dec. 1857; emigr. 1891. Nok - Selma Andersson, wife from Hössna; two sisters - Selma, m. Alfred Dag in Flöby and Amanda, m. to Albert Svensson, Hössna. —FT, 26 Apr. 1924.


JOHANSSON, Maria Kristina, d. Marinette, WI 1925, age 63 y. B. Broddetorp Parish (Skar.). —FT, 1 July 1925.


LARSSON, Gustaf, d. Omaha, NE in April 1926, age 67 y. B. Skaraborg län and emigr. 1881. Nok - four sisters in Sweden. — FT, 22 May 1926.


SWENSON, August, d. Hoquiam, WA recently; b. Skövde 1847 and emigr. 1866. Nok - two sons and a daughter. —FT, 3 March 1928.


BOGREN, John W., d. in the U.S. 2 March 1928; b. Falköping 1875. Nok - wife and three daughters. —FT, 28 April 1928.


ASP, John Gottfrid, d. Chicago, IL 18 April 1928; b. Bjurbäck Parish (Skar.) 1858 and emigr. 1885. Nok - wife, one son and a daughter. —FT, 27 June 1928.


JAKOBSON, Fritz, Lutheran clergyman and Ph.D., d. New York, NY 29 June 1928; b. Yllestad Parish (Skar.) 17 March 1863, s. Joseph and Maria Jakobsson. The father emigr. 1867 and a couple of years later the family followed. Educated at Augustana College and Yale University, he became pastor of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New York City. In 1910 he was decorated with the knighthood of the North Star. —FT, 28 July 1928; CB, pp. 46.


LARSSON, Oscar, d. in the U.S. 1 Aug. 1928; b. Karleby Parish (Skar.) 1870 and emigr. 1892. Nok - wife, two sons and a daughter. —FT, 26 Sept. 1928.


FLOBERG, August P., d. Chicago, IL recently. Well-known as industrial leader in Rockford, IL; b. Flöby Parish (Skar.) 1856 and emigr. at the age of 12 with his mother. Nok - wife, two sons and two daughters. —FT, 1 Dec. 1928.

FLODELL, Gustaf, well-known book dealer and ship's agent in Rockford, IL, d. there 11 March 1929, age 84 y. B. Ugglum Parish (Skar.) 1845 and emigr. to Rockford 1869. Ye was m. twice, the first time to Eva Pettersson from Gudhem Parish (Skar.). After her death he m. for the second time Ida Josefina Johnsson,
whose maternal grandmother had been a midwife in Kleva Parish (Skar.). Nok - wife and two daughters — FT, 20 April 1929.


OHAND, Julius, d. Detroit, MI accidentally recently, age 55 y. B. Västergötland and emigr. 1892. — FT, 19 June 1929.


SVENSSON, Anders Gustaf, d. Quincy, MA 14 March 1928; b. Öster-Bitterna Parish (Skar.) 14 June 1872, the son of Svante Svensson and Maja Kristina Andersdotter. His sisters were Anna Sofia, b. Saleby Parish (Skar.) 27 Sept. 1870 and Ida Maria, b. Öster-Bitterna 19 April 1874. — FT, 9 Nov. 1929.


WEEMAN, Charlotta, d. Ft. Worth, TX recently; b. Hova Parish (Skar.) 4 July 1858. Nok - husband, a son and three daughters. — FT, 14 Dec 1929.


ENGBERG, Emi C., d. Rockford, IL 26 Feb. 1930, age 66 y. B. Ålberg, Gökhem Parish (Skar.), the son of Jonas Larsson. Emigr. 1886 and m. twice. Nok - wife in second marriage, a daughter, three sisters and two brothers, all of them except a
sister, residents of Rockford. —FT, 29 March 1930.


PETERTON, Newton, d. Connellsville, PA recently, age 68 y. B. Erikstorp, Västergötland and emigr. 1890. —FT, 30 July 1930.


CHELLGREN, Carl August, d. Los Angeles, CA recently; b. Västergötland 1871 and emigr. 1892. Nok - wife and one daughter. —FT, 1 Nov. 1930.


JACOBSON, Henning, d. Belmont, MA 14 Oct. 1930; b. Yllestad Parish (Skar.) 15 Sept. 1856 and emigr. 1869. He was graduated from Augustana College 1880 and the Theological Seminary 1892; served the Augustana Lutheran Church in Cambridge, MA as pastor from 1892 to 1930. Nok - wife and two sons. —FT, 22 Nov. 1930; CB, p. 50.


HOLMBERG, Mathilda, née Westling, d. Austin, TX recently; b. Värsås Parish (Skar.) and emigr. 1871. Nok - husband and children. —FT, 22 Nov. 1930.


LUNDBLAD, August, d. Fitchburg, MA recently; b. Åsaka Parish (Skar.) 1862 and emigr. 1880. Nok - a daughter. —FT, 24 March 1931.


