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Notes on Bror Emil Cederström

Harry H. Anderson*

This is a response to a request for information about Bror Emil Cederström, which appeared in *Swedish American Genealogist* in Dec. 1987. That source indicated that Cederström took up residence in Milwaukee in 1888, was employed as a draftsman, married Louise Sophia Dorothy Vullman (born in Germany) in 1894 and had a son named Bror Harold, born 6 Jan. 1897.

This information is essentially confirmed by local sources, although additional data also came to light, to clarify, correct and amplify the above outline.

Cederström, or Cederstrom as he spelled his name in America, is first listed in the Milwaukee City directories in 1890 as Emil B. Cederstrom, draftsman, employed by the Wilkin Manufacturing Company (sawmill machinery). His residence was on Milwaukee's near south side, where most of the Scandinavians lived. On 30 Oct. 1890 he was a witness at the wedding of Sven August Ekehorn and Anna Magdalena Swartz, both born in Sweden. The service was performed by a Norwegian Lutheran clergyman, the Rev. O.H. Lee. Sven A. Ekehorn was also a draftsman. In 1891 and 1892 Cederstrom's occupation remained the same, although the name of the employer is not recorded. The Ekehorns resided at the same address as Cederstrom in 1891 and 1892.

In 1894 Cederstrom is listed as a draftsman at the E.P. Allis Company (a forerunner of Allis-Chalmers). His name does not appear in the city directory for either 1894 or 1895, although there is a record of his marriage on 8 Feb. 1894. That source gives his occupation as draftsman, his place of birth as Kalmar, Sweden and his parents as Bror P. Cederstrom and Bettie Ladergren (sic!).

The woman Cederstrom married is identified as Dora L.S. Boers, born in Bremen, Germany. She was a recent widow, with one child, a daughter. Her deceased husband, William G. Boers, had been a principal of a local primary school. He passed away on 17 Feb. 1893. Mrs. Boers-Cederstrom's maiden name had been Vullmahn (*not* Vullman). Her father, Christian Vullmahn, is listed as a saloonkeeper in the 1894 city directory. The marriage was a civil ceremony, performed by a local lawyer and court commissioner, Julius E. Roehr. The witnesses were two Norwegians, George E. Huseby, a patternmaker, and Albert Monsen, a tailor. The wedding seems to have been very much of a local affair, all of

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the participants except Cederstrom having lived or worked within a house or two of Papa Vullmahn's saloon.

The birth record of Bror Harold Cederstrom, dated 6 Jan. 1897, lists the father's occupation as mechanical engineer. Delivery was by Carrie Gabrielsen, a Norwegian midwife, who served the area in which the Cederstroms resided. The record lists another "issue" in the household, a daughter named Flora. The 1897 Milwaukee school census locates a 12 year-old girl, Laura, in the Cederstrom household. She was evidently his wife's child in her first marriage.

Cederstrom is listed as Emil Cederstrom in the city directories as a draftsman for 1896, 1897 and 1898. In 1898, his employer is the Filer and Stowell Company, manufacturers of sawmill equipment. Beginning with 1899, no further record of Bror Emil Cederstrom has been found in the Milwaukee sources.

Ockelbo Opens Emigrant Register

The most recent institution to be founded in Sweden, dealing with emigration research, is the *Gävleborg Emigrant Register* in Ockelbo.

Located north of Stockholm and Gävle, Ockelbo (formerly known as Ugglebo), can be reached by train from Stockholm in three hours and by automobile from Arlanda Airport in two hours. The entire stretch of road is freeway, except for the last ten miles.

Emigration to America from Gävleborg County began with the huge exodus of Erik Jansson and his followers, beginning in 1846, and continuing up to the beginning of World War II.

The scope of this huge emigration study will begin with the registration of all emigrants from the more than fifty parishes in the county as well as their parents. The center will be operated by members of the Ockelbo Genealogical and Emigration Research Society known as *Ugglan* (The Owl). The city of Ockelbo has provided the organization with headquarters as well as seed money.

The Ockelbo Center was opened 20 August 1988 with addresses by the Governor of the county, Lars Ivar Hising, and by the Director of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Rock Island, IL, Dag Blanck.

The address of the Center is—Gävleborgs Emigrantcenter, Skolgatan 5, 816 00 Ockelbo, SWEDEN.