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George A. Akerlof: Nobel Prize Winner with Roots in Dalarna!

Stenåke Petersson et al. and Elisabeth Thorsell*

The Bank of Sweden prize in economic sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel 2001 was shared by three American researchers. One of them, George A. Akerlof, is a descendent from Husby in Dalarna on his father's mother's side.

His roots have been traced by *Släktforskarnas Hus* (The House of Genealogy) in Leksand. As is evident from the genealogical table [see page 184], the roots are deeply buried in Husby's fertile soil.

The *proband* is Vilhelmina Gustafsdotter, who was born 18 December 1865 at the Baltzar farm in Koberga, Husby. Vilhelmina moved to Stockholm in 1887. She is listed as living in Johannes Parish in 1894. This is also where she was married, that same year, to the office janitor Karl Georg Alfred Åkerlöf of Adolf Fredrik Parish.

The newlyweds moved to Västmannagatan in Adolf Fredrik Parish. Georg advanced to become an office clerk for the state railroad system. Aside from his daily work, he was very interested in art. He created drawings and paintings and was also very good at copying.

Georg and Vilhelmina's children included two daughters, Constance Margareta Isab (b. Stockholm/Adolf Fredrik, 2 September 1895) and Siri, and one son, Gösta (b. June 11 1897).

Constance remained unmarried. She built a big house in Husby, which, after her death on 5 May 1975, went to the senior citizen's association in Husby. The house later became the start of an association. Siri married and made her home in Karlstad. Gösta traveled to the U.S. the first time in 1924. On his second trip, his title was "doctor."

The name Åkerlöf became Akerlof in the U.S. In 1940, a son George was born. Today, he is the [Goldman] Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, and it is he who will travel to Stockholm in December to accept his prize. Presumably, he will bring his wife Janet L. Yellen, also a professor of economics, as well as their twenty-year-old son Robert, a student at Yale University.

Släktforskarnas Hus sent a letter to the recipient of the prize congratulating him and inviting him to visit and personally accept the genealogical table. If he does not have the time to come here in person we will send it to him with greetings from Dalarna!

- Stenåke Petersson and colleagues

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Continuation by the Editor

As I am a curious person—the best (or worst?) characteristic of a genealogist—I wanted to know if it was possible to easily glean more information about the Åkerlöf family in Stockholm.

I did not find anything on [the CD] *Söder-skivan* but was successful using *Klara-skivan*.¹ Here I found Georg Åkerlöf, his parents, and siblings. The father, Karl Reinhold Åkerlöf, born 24 July 1842 in Yttergran (Uppsala *län*), worked as a gas lighter and carpentry journeyman. His wife's name was Wilhelmina Sandberg. She was born 2 December 1837 in Orkesta (Stockholm *län*), and died 4 May 1904 in Klara. On 6 March 1907, Karl Reinhold remarried the divorced wife of a brush maker, Emma Kristina Dahlgren, born 20 February 1860 in Källa (Kalmar *län*). The Åkerlöfs moved to Brännkyrka in 1911.

Two of Karl Reinhold's children—a daughter, Maria Georgina Wilhelmina (b. 2 July 1875), and a son, Carl Wilhelm Gustaf (b. 30 April 1882—emigrated to the United States on 15 April 1902, with New York as their destination. Unfortunately, they could not be found in the Ellis Island database.

But Gösta Åkerlöf's journey in 1924 was included and it is evident that he arrived in New York on 6 September, with plans to continue to a friend in Philadelphia. He is reported to be a chemist, Ph.D., and the recipient of a DuPont award. The father, Georg, is listed as living on Fleminggatan 37 in Stockholm.

Finally, we found Gösta Akerlof in the Social Security Data Index, listed as deceased in May 1966 in Princeton, New Jersey. We also found that on 5 March 1991, a woman by the name of Rosalie C. Akerlof of New Jersey and possibly Gösta's widow had passed away.

- Elisabeth Thorsell

¹ The CD *Söder-skivan* (the actual title is *Söder i våra hjärtan*) was published in 1998 by the Stockholm City Archives et al. The Stockholm City Archives published the CD *Klara-skivan* (*Klara. En databas med personuppgifter*) in 2000. *Söder-skivan* contains information on everyone living on Söder (parishes of Maria, Katarina, Högalid, and Sofia) for the years 1878-1926. The information is found in *Rotemanna-databasen*, which was a special system for keeping track of the people of Stockholm during a period when so many moved into the city that the church system could not handle them in a proper way. There was a *roteman* in every block who noted when people moved in (with dates of birth, etc.) and when they left and also if they had special needs (as, for example, for shoes or clothes). *Söder-skivan* also has maps of the area, hundreds of pictures of houses and businesses, hundreds of articles, and much more. *Klara-skivan* has only *Rotemannadatabasen* for 1878-1926 and a map, but that is what we basically need. — Elisabeth Thorsell, e-mail to editor, 14 November 2002.

Baltzars Gustaf Jansson	Baltzar Jan Ersson	Baltzar Erik, Jansson F. 1762-07-11 Köberga, Husbyfs D. 1806-03-10 Köberga, Husbyfs Bonde	Jan Ersson F. 1733-01-02 Husbyfs D. 1794-06-15 Husbyfs Bonde Anna Persdotter F. 1733-12-24 Mademora D. 1787-03-21 Husbyfs G. 1761	Erik Ersson 1704-09-17 Elisabet Matsdotter 1709-06-06
F. 1819-12-24 Köberga Husbyfs	(D. 1859-05-06 Köberga Husbyfs	Kerstin Ersdotter F. 1757-07-12 Köberga, Husbyfs D. 1841-12-20 Köberga, Husbyfs G. 1786-10-26	Erik Mattson F. 1731-05-15 Husbyfs D. 1805-07-03 Husbyfs	Mass Andersson 1686-02 Kerstin Andersdotter 1691-08-19
(D. 1905-11-26 Köberga Husbyfs	Kyrkövärd	Anders Andersson F. 1718-02-20 Husbyfs D. 1790-07 Husbyfs Bonde Lisa Andersdotter F. 1726-12-31 Husbyfs D. 1814-01-03 Husbyfs G. 1752-10-29	Margareta Mårtensdotter F. 1733-04-13 Husbyfs D. 1817-06-17 Husbyfs G. 1755-10-05	Måren Mårtensson 1695-08-26 Kerstin Johansdotter 1702-01-09
Hemmansägare, nämndeman	Stina Ersdotter	Erik Andersson F. 1734-04-19 Källbyen, Husbyfs D. 1832-03-02 Källbyen, Husbyfs	Anders Jansson F. 1718-02-20 Husbyfs D. 1790-07 Husbyfs Bonde Lisa Andersdotter F. 1726-12-31 Husbyfs D. 1814-01-03 Husbyfs G. 1752-10-29	Anders Jansson 1677-05 Margareta Larsdotter 1676 Anders Andersson 1687-03 Karin Andersdotter 1687-01-26
Vilhelmina Gustafs- dotter	F. 1783-10-24 Källbyen Husbyfs	Margareta Jansdotter F. 1737-03-23 Kördaviken, Husbyfs D. 1824-05-13 Källbyen, Husbyfs G. 1782-10-16	Johan Ersson F. 1723-02-24 Husbyfs D. 1802-07-02 Husbyfs Bonde Kerstin Matsdotter F. 1723-04-06 Husbyfs D. 1792-01-21 Husbyfs G. 1752-10-06	Erik Ersson 1688-10-31 Kerstin Johansdotter 1692-04-26 Mats Jansson 1682-03 Margareta Gårnsdotter 1686-05
F. 1865-12-18 Köberga Husbyfs	G. 1810-05-19	Karis Anders Jonsson F. 1759-04-30 Djusa, Husbyfs D. 1835-09-10 Djusa, Husbyfs Bonde	Jonas Persson F. 1717-10-04 Husbyfs D. 1773-03-18 Husbyfs	Pet Jonsson 1678-06 Anna Andersdotter 1673-06
D.	Karis Anders Andersson	F. 1794-09-17 Djusa Husbyfs	Lisbet Jonsdotter F. 1721-04 Husbyfs D. 1800-11-04 Husbyfs G. 1747-10-04	Jonas Andersson 1683-09 Brisa Kristoffersdotter 1681-12
	D. 1876-04-27 Djusa Husbyfs	Lisa Andersdotter F. 1767-03-15 Djusa, Husbyfs D. 1848-06-21 Djusa, Husbyfs G. 1786-11-02	Anders Andersson F. 1728-01-31 Husbyfs D. 1791-06-01 Husbyfs	Anders Persson 1687 Anna Andersdotter 1692
Greta Anders- dotter	Bonde	Stina Ersdotter	Kerstin Jansdotter F. 1727-04-27 Husbyfs D. 1798-09-05 Husbyfs G. 1760-12-26	Johan Danielson 1702-04-16 Margita Hansdotter 1702-06-05
F. 1825-09-05 Djusa Husbyfs		F. 1797-12-23 Myckelby Husbyfs	Erik Eriksson F. 1736-05-28 Husbyfs D. 1791-01-09 Husbyfs Bonde Anna Andersdotter F. 1735-01-19 Husbyfs D. 1799-02-23 Husbyfs G. 1762-10-05	Erik Andersson Myrberg 1704-01-31 Anna Hansdotter 1716-10-19 Anders Eriksson 1706-07-21 Kerstin Andersdotter 1701-12-23
D. 1870-02-26 Köberga Husbyfs		D. 1870-03-21 Djusa Husbyfs	Anna Jansdotter F. 1722-11-25 Husbyfs D. 1809-04-01 Husbyfs Bonde, Bergsman Anna Andersdotter F. 1722-10-16 Husbyfs D. 1788-03-19 Husbyfs G. 1753-10-21	Jan Mattson 1692-02-06 Elisabet Matsdotter 1690 Anders Gårnsman 1679 Måren Michélsdotter 1688-12-05
G. 1853-05-16	G. 1822	F. 1764-12-20 Myckelby, Husbyfs D. 1830-07-05 Myckelby, Husbyfs Bonde		

Vilhelmina Gustafsdotters antavla, utarbetad på Släktförskarnas Hus i Leksand

Fig. 1. Pedigree chart for Vilhelmina Gustafsdotter prepared by The House of Genealogy in Leksand.