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Governor Ramsey's Swedish Servant Identified

James E. Erickson

On 28 June 1860 the household of Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey was enumerated in the federal census by Jno. M. Lamb. Since the original document is very dark and quite difficult to read, it is transliterated (in part) below.

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Schedule 1.—Free Inhabitants in 4th Ward, Saint Paul in the County of Ramsey State of Minnesota enumerated by me, on the 28th day of June 1860. Jno. M Lamb Ass't Marshal. Post Office Saint Paul.

Alex. Ramsey	44	M	Governor of State	200,000	7,500	Penna
Justus C. "	35	M	Gentleman			d ^o
Christopher Armendson	25	M	Coachman			Norway
Ann E. Ramsey	32	F				Penna
Marion "	7	F				Minn
Matilda Hoffstine	21	F	Servant			Sweden
Cecelia Blonquist	31	F	d ^o			d ^o

Seven years ago I discussed Governor Ramsey's two Swedish servants—Matilda Hoffstine [*sic*] and Cecelia Blonquist [*sic*—in the context of the Scandinavian Methodist Episcopal Church.¹ At that time, I was unable to positively identify either one of these women in the Swedish records. Last year, with the help of EMIBAS, the searchable database located at the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, Sweden, I was able to uncover Cecilia's parentage.

Simultaneously searching just two data fields in EMIBAS—the birth date (4 January 1828) and the surname (Blomqvist)—produced the printout shown in figure 1. It implies that the maid (*piga*) Cecilia Endora Blomqvist was born in and emigrated from Västra Skrukeby (Östg.).

A comparison of the data in figure 1 with her actual birth record,² which is rather difficult to read, revealed some interesting differences. It spells her name as Cecilia Eudora (not Endora!), lists her father as *Pappersm[akare] Gesällen* (the journeyman papermaker) Israel Bolmqvist (not Blomqvist!), and notes that her mother (Anna Ed?) lived at Skrukeby Lillegård but was officially recorded in Norrköping. The moving out record for Västra Skrukeby (see figure 2) corroborates that her name was Cecilia Eudora Bolmqvist.³

¹ See James E. Erickson and Laura J. Erickson, "Scandinavian Methodist Episcopal Church, St. Paul, MN, Members, 1853-1860," *SAG XIV* (December 1994): p. 193, Notes 15-18 and 26.

² *Födelse- och Doplängd*, Västra Skrukeby, C:3A (1827-1873), p. 3., 4 January 1828.

³ *Uttflyttningslängd*, Västra Skrukeby, 15 May 1858, No. 2.

Svenska Emigrantinstitutet Växjö UTFLYTTNING TILL UTRIKES ORT 2001-03-14			
Efternamn	BLOMQVIST		
Förnamn / Yrke	CECILIA ENDORA	PIGA	
Född/Församling/Län	1828-01-04	VÄSTRA SKRUBEY	E
Destination	N. AMERIKA		US
Utflyttat från/Datum	HULJE ÖSTERGÅRD		1858-05-15
Ålder-CS-E/F-H-akt	30 OG E		
Emigrantbeteckning	VÄSTRA SKRUBEY	E 1858 002 K	

Fig. 1. Printout from EMIBAS, the searchable database at the Swedish Emigrant Institute (*Svenskaemigrantinstitutet*) in Växjö, Sweden. This result appeared after searching just two data fields—the birth date (4 January 1828) and the surname (Blomqvist).

Utflyttade från V. Skrukeby församling d. 1858.	
Ålder 30. Pigan/Cecilia Endora Blomqvist	Utflyttad till N. Amerikas
Ålder 30. Pigan/Cecilia Endora Blomqvist	Utflyttad till N. Amerikas

Fig. 2. Moving out record (*Utflyttningslängd*) for Västra Skrukeby (Östg.) 1858. Emigrant number 2, *Pigan* Cecilia Eudora Bolmqvist, left Hulje Östergård for North America on 15 May 1858.