Governor Ramsey's Swedish Servant Identified

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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.

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. 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, which is rather difficult to read, revealed some interesting differences. It spells her name as Cecilia Eudora (not Endora!), lists her father as Pappersmäcker Gesiillen (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.

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2 Födelse- och Dopåtgång, Västra Skrukeby, C:3A (1827-1873), p. 4, 4 January 1828.
3 Utbetaungstång, Västra Skrukeby, 15 May 1858, No. 2.
Governor Ramsey’s Swedish Servant Identified

Svenska Emigrantinstitutet Växjö UTFLYTTNING TILL UTRIKES ORT 2001-03-14

Efternamn    BLOMQVIST
Förnamn / Yrke CECILIA ENDORA PIGA
Föd/Församling/Län 1828-01-04 VÄSTRA SKRUKEBY E
Destination N. AMERIKA US
Utflyttat från/Datum HULJ ÖSTERGÅRD 1858-05-15
Ålder-CS-E/F-H-akt 30 OG E
Emigrantbeteckning VÄSTRA SKRUKEBY 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).

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