

# Swedish American Genealogist

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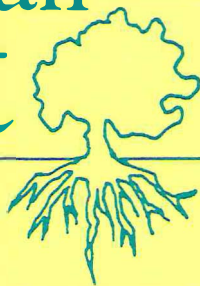
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# Swedish American Genealogist



*A journal devoted to Swedish American  
biography, genealogy and personal history*

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# Don't Look Too Close— You May Find a Horse Thief! A Genealogical Exposé

Robert P. Anderson\*

The search for one's roots can lead to unexpected findings. Modern technology has made genealogical searches extraordinarily easy, but one must be steeled against finding historical data that do not fit the concept of what old family should be like. My maternal great-grandpa, Carl Johan Danielsson, is a case in point. He immigrated to America in 1890 with great-grandma and daughter Elsa, who was my great Auntie Elsa. The other children in the family, including my grandfather, arrived at various times between 1880 and 1890. They all came from south central Sweden. This was the time of the great emigration from Sweden.

The Swedes emigrated for various reasons. Most people came because times were tough in rural Sweden. America was seen as the land of opportunity. Many folks came because they wanted freedom to worship outside of the boundaries set by the state church. Belonging to a free church or congregation set one in a somewhat precarious social position. But what about great-grandpa Carl Johan? What motivated him to follow his eight children to America? Because he died in 1916, there is no family oral tradition of what motivated him to emigrate. The only remaining method of interpreting possible motivation is to go back to historical data available in archival records from Sweden.

Obtaining the records of births, deaths, and marriages is not difficult, if one has a starting point such as the name of the parish where the relative was born or the location from which he/she emigrated. Prior to 1890, all of the population vital statistics were maintained in local parishes by the pastors and clerks of the parish. Since Sweden had a state church—the government supported the pastors—part of the parish obligation was to keep family records. The format for record keeping was well organized, consistent from parish to parish, and very complete in terms of names, dates, and occupations. In modern times these old parish records are maintained in regional, government-supported archives. What is not readily available in formalized records is the history of a person or family prior to emigration. That takes some digging and, in many cases, plain luck. If one is fortunate to locate family members who remained in Sweden, one may discover an oral tradition or history of family members who came to America.

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The only word from mother's side of the family was that great-grandpa and his family came from Hultsfred, Vimmerby, or Mariannelund, all towns within a few miles of each other on the east side of Sweden near the larger city of Kalmar. The area is called Kalmar *län* (county). No one in the family, including Carl Johan's children or their spouses or his grandkids could supply any further information. The family lived in one of these towns over a fifteen-year span, somewhere around 1875 to 1890. The first attempt to find information about the family drew a blank. The second attempt met with success. Success came during a visit to the regional archive in Vadstena, Sweden, where the parish records for Kalmar *län* and Hultsfred were maintained.

"I'm looking for records on my great-grandpa."

"Oh, let me get Birgitta (an archivist); she speaks good English."

To Birgitta: "His name was Carl Johan Danielsson and we think he came from Hultsfred or at least that is what my Uncle told me."

"Okay, lets get the microfilm records of Hultsfred Parish." Oh boy; microfilm records for a ten- or twelve-year period contain a lot of data. Pictures were taken of each page of the church records and then placed on microfilm. The script was in Swedish and in the old-style, cursive handwriting of the parish minister. Going through years of records could take a lot of time. It is like finding a needle in a haystack. With persistence it can be done. The first try at finding his name in parish records didn't work out.

Birgitta: "Do you know what kind of work he did?"

"Well, I think he was a blacksmith. That's what my mother and uncle told me."

"Let's go down to the vault where they keep the original records. Maybe we can find something in the books that lists people by occupation."

The archive was located in an old castle and the microfilm readers were in the main reading room on the first floor. The vault was in the castle cellar area that seemed like the bowels of the old building. It wasn't difficult to locate the Hultsfred Parish books, because Birgitta knew exactly where to go. She pulled down a book from the shelf—each one covered a span of six to ten years—and moved immediately to the period 1885-1890.

The Swedish accent can't be communicated but, "There are ten blacksmiths listed here...No...No...that isn't the name." And so it went through nine names. At number ten, "Here he is, Carl Johan Danielsson." Success! Great-grandpa really existed in Sweden! From the information given in the record, it was relatively easy to backtrack to his home parish.

Minor shock number one. Carl Johan didn't start out in Hultsfred or Vimmerby. His original home was in the village of Nissafors in Källeryd Parish, some distance west of Hultsfred. No one in the family ever mentioned Nissafors. This was a new one. Since time was short and it was necessary to keep to a travel schedule, it was not possible to spend more time at the archive. Birgitta was contacted by mail some time later. Archivists can moonlight and carry out genealogical searches for individuals. The fee is negotiated with the archivist.

Birgitta was asked if she would try to research more about Carl Johan and his family. Before too long, she came up with data about Carl Johan, his wife (my great-grandma) the kids born in Nissafors and their ancestors. Why did they leave the farm, Kämpabo, and move to Hultsfred? Rural folks didn't usually move very far from their home base and Hultsfred was a considerable distance in the 1880s from Nissafors and Kämpabo farm.

Swedes are into the genealogical search game. They were involved in researching family histories long before the "roots" phenomenon became popular in America. Many communities have genealogical societies, composed of local volunteers, who gather and publish data about families in their local parishes. The unsophisticated, American "roots" seeker often doesn't know about these goldmines of family history. Tapping into these data banks is a chance occurrence.

The material on the Danielsson family was sent to Manne Engstrand, my wife's first cousin, who lived in a town about eighty or ninety miles from the Nissafors area. Manne was the genealogical expert who had done extensive research on the Swensson family. It was his retirement hobby. Amateur genealogists are curious folk. They are akin to detectives who get on a trail and can't give up the hunt until they solve the mystery. Manne went to his local genealogy center and searched out data on Källeryd Parish. He came up with four volumes published by the local genealogical society in the Nissafors area (see a complete list at the end of the article). These books presented detailed histories of families in several parishes near Nissafors. The records went back as far as the late 1500s. These narrative accounts were, of course, written in Swedish. Manne located the history of Carl Johan's family and Johanna's family in the volume titled *Kämpabo o Gunillabo i Källeryds socken: 1538-1993* (1994). The history of great-grandma's family went back to the 1600s. Carl Johan lived in Källeryd Parish. Reading the narrative was a major task. It was written in Swedish and plowing through the pages was not easy, especially when one can't read Swedish without the aid of a dictionary. But, the story behind the motivation for immigration became clear after reading the records.

The Clementssons, great-grandpa's parents, lived and farmed acreage halfway between Anderstorp and Nissafors. Halfway means one Swedish mile (about six English miles) from each community. The parish church, Källeryd, was located in Nissafors. Carl Johan's father, Daniel Clementsson, died a tragic death. Legend has it he was kicked in the head by a horse during a shoeing job. He never regained consciousness. The funeral was on the day of the wedding party for his daughter, Anna Catharina. Apparently Daniel's estate was substantial. His wife, Cajsa, inherited it. She made a decision to sell her part of the inheritance to her two children, Carl Johan and Anna Catharina. The sale was made with the provision that she was to get an allowance for the rest of her life. Thus, it came about that the farm Kämpabo, or the part owned by Daniel, was divided into two parts. Carl Johan got one share and Anna Catharina and her new husband got the other share.

The village genealogical publication is not very complimentary of Carl Johan. The translation is as follows: “If Carl Johan was a good-for-nothing (*en slarver*) we do not know, but in contrast to his brother-in-law [Anna Catharina’s husband] who was doing very well, it seemed like he was going downhill.”

Källeryd Parish records show that a parish meeting was held on 13 March 1868 regarding Carl Johan and his family. At the time they were still owners of the land at Kämpabo. Things must have gone from bad to worse. Carl Johan must not have been a very good farmer. Everything indicates that he didn’t have his heart and soul in farming. But, he also developed a secondary occupation as a blacksmith. Actually his best crop was in developing a family. Five children were born in Kämpabo. My grandpa, Donatus Albin, was the oldest. There is also some hint that Carl Johan hit the bottle heavily. It was enough of a problem that the community was aware of his “problem.” The record stated that he had no lodging for his family and no possibility of supporting the many mouths he and Johanna had to feed. The parish committee decided he was to go to Squire Björk from Spexhult in Nässjö Parish in order to negotiate a crofters holding. This town was over forty miles from Nissafors and Kämpabo. Carl Johan’s brother-in-law, Peter Magnusson of Elghult, was commissioned to go with him. Committee members agreed they would decide how to help the Danielsson family after they heard from Squire Björk from Spexhult, i.e., what kind of conditions he set out for Carl Johan. Another local government committee from the parish was assigned the job of giving the family relief from the “poor family” relief fund. For all intents and purposes, Carl Johan and his family were on welfare; but, instead of funds supplied by the federal or state government, the local church parish took on the obligation of helping their own.

The family moved to Nässjö and settled down, but, three months later, on 10 May 1868, Carl Johan wrote back to the home parish and asked for a loan of 100 crowns for the house he planned to build for his family. The Källeryd Parish committee was hard-nosed. They decided not to make the loan unless he showed them the plans and contract. The committee also asked Joseph Alexandersson to go to the building site and make sure the house was built properly. Apparently, the parish committee decided not to make the loan and they also declared that no further help would be forthcoming. That didn’t stop Carl Johan. On 13 September 1868, he wrote again requesting help in his “distressed condition.” He indicated that it was next to impossible for him to engage in his occupation of horseshoeing—he was a farrier and blacksmith—because he didn’t have the money to buy materials. After a long committee meeting he was granted one *skeppund* (170 kg) of bar iron on credit. The iron could be obtained in Jönköping and the parish took responsibility for payment if Carl Johan defaulted on the credit purchase. Again, it was decided not to make any further loans to Danielsson. The genealogical record’s final statement noted: “this is the last sign of life that can be traced to Carl Johan; according to other statements he and his family have immigrated to America.” However, a little later in the record it was noted that Danielsson sold the property in Kämpabo. The transaction must have

been complicated because it lasted for a couple of years. Feelings were running pretty high; the record indicated that Carl had a “finger in the pie” of the transactions.

There are no indications in the available records of what happened in Nässjö. Apparently the family didn't do very well. They moved to Hultsfred, in Kalmar *län*, a bit farther east. There are indications Carl Johan didn't pay back the loans or make any attempt at restitution. In current parlance, we would describe his condition as bankruptcy. To be blunt, the implication is that Carl Johan skipped town and cut off communication with family and friends in Källeryd Parish.

Hultsfred was a larger town; the railroad went there and it even had a railroad station. The Danielsson family settled on Railroad Street, down from the station. Carl Johan and his wife opened a bakery and he became involved in blacksmithing again. The couple also produced some more children. In all there were about nine children. Donatus Albin, the oldest, was restless. He emigrated in 1880. The day before he left Sweden, he married Ida, my grandmother, who was a servant girl.

She was from the Vimmerby area, which is why our family always heard about Vimmerby. Carl Johan apparently never lived there, but it was the home area for grandma. Vimmerby is about one Swedish mile from Hultsfred. The “kids” immigrated to Illinois and the Chicago area. During the 1880-1890 period most of them moved to a Swedish community on Chicago's south side. The lure of Chicago was great, and Carl Johan and Johanna decided to leave Sweden—and their unpaid debts to the parish. The genealogical history also suggests that after the Hultsfred move there was little or no contact with the family remaining in Kämpabo. In 1890 Carl Johan, his wife and youngest daughter, Elsa, immigrated to America. They went to Chicago and the south side Swedish community.

Carl Johan and Johanna moved in with their daughter, Elsa, and her new husband. The flat was in the vicinity of a newly established Swedish mission church. The immigrants who had rejected the state Lutheran church frequently established their own non-denominational churches based loosely on a Pentecostal, congregational model. The doctrine was conservative and there was no church hierarchy beyond the local church. A generic term, which described these congregations, was Mission Friends (*Missionsvänner*). Carl Johan became a member. Apparently he was “saved” and turned over a new leaf. However, he made no attempt to communicate with his family back in Sweden. He did write a few letters to Johanna's family; two of these letters were preserved in Sweden and came into my possession in 1997. The first was written in 1906 and the second in 1911. Carl Johan found the Lord. He quoted Bible verses and sounded like a committed convert. He not only praised the Lord in his letters, particularly the first one, but he bragged about all the wonders of Chicago and about all the money he and Johanna received at their fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration.

These letters were not discovered by the descendants of Carl Johan's sister,



who remained in Sweden, until sometime in the 1990s. The letters had been sent to Johanna's relatives who lived in Källeryd Parish. My inquiries about the Danielssons apparently stirred up some interest in the local genealogical society, which led to the discovery of the letters. Our living relatives in Sweden (descendants from Carl Johan's sister) were surprised and aghast at the tone of the letters. First, his emphasis on religion was described as "crazy." Second, bragging about money and the wealth of America (Chicago particularly) was discrepant from the staid, conservative cultural norm of folks who still live in rural Sweden. The question remained, however—why the total loss of contact from 1890? The living family in Sweden had no idea and Carl Johan's descendants in America certainly had no concept of what went wrong.

The following explanation is based on speculation and some strong circumstantial evidence. The first hypothesis is that Carl Johan left Sweden with "bad" feeling on his part and his family's part. Who disowned whom is not clear. The speculations about the reasons for the family split did not come to light until 1996. I visited Sweden and found distant relatives, i.e., the branch of Carl's family from his sister Anna Catharina. Her grandson, Axel, indicated that his father, Johannes (Anna Catherina's son), had lived in the United States for some years prior to 1911. He came back to Sweden and never really talked about his reasons for not finalizing his immigration. Axel brought out two photographs his father had brought back from America. Axel stated that one was a picture of Elsa and her sister. "Elsa? Do you mean Auntie Elsa?" The photograph had been taken at a studio in the vicinity of 63rd and Halsted Street in Chicago! The second photo was from another studio in the same vicinity. Halsted and 63rd was about three streets from the flat where Carl Johan lived with his wife and daughter and just a short distance from the Swedish church the Danielsons attended. Conclusion: Axel's father (Carl Johan's nephew) either visited or lived by his uncle. There was no way he could have obtained the photos of the Danielsson girls without spending some time in Chicago. The mystery continues. Why did neither side acknowledge the other and pass this meeting down through family folklore?

The second hypothesis is that Carl Johan and his nephew had a battle royal. It was probably a knockdown-dragout affair. It is likely that there were two issues: the debt owned by Carl Johan to Källeryd Parish in Sweden and religion. Carl Johan had broken with the state church of Sweden and had embraced, as a born-again Christian, an evangelical "free" church.

The effect of this split was that neither side talked anymore about the other. The lesson to be learned is that, when one digs into a genealogical history, the events that unfold may not present as nice a picture of family as one might wish. People are people and families are families. Fortunately, now that we have discovered each other after one hundred years of silence, the struggles of our ancestors have been set aside; and, while not forgotten, they have resulted in new bonds of friendship and family ties.

In spite of the circumstances surrounding Carl Johan's immigration to

America, his descendants did very well in the land of opportunity. He would have claimed bragging rights for his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even great-great-grandchildren. Family members are diverse occupationally. There are physicians, psychologists, teachers, counselors, university professors, engineers, businesspersons, school administrators, clergymen, and even one politician. All in all, the Danielson part of the gene pool contributed to a lot of successful people.

### Appendix

Titles of nine books published by Källeryd *Hembygdsförening*, 335 92 Nissafors, Sweden:

- *Källeryd Socken: betraktad genom utdang ur sockenstuve-och kommunal-stämmeprotokoll, 1669-1951* (1991)
- *Beskrivning över Elghult: samt underliggande torp* (1993)
- *Beskrivning över Hjulftult: samt underliggande torp* (1993)
- *Beskrivning över Algustorp och Skog: med underliggande torp* (1993)
- *Beskrivning över Näs, Göhestra: med tillhörande torp* (1993)
- *Hagelstorps-By i Källeryds socken: 1414-1992* (1992)
- *Protokollen berättar om Källeryd Församling under 130 år från 1863-1993; emigrationen från Källeryd till Amerikas Förenta Stater*
- *Beskrivning över Stora o Lilla Bäckhult och Stora o Lilla Svalås* (1993)
- *Kämpabo o Gunillabo i Källeryds socken: 1538-1993* (1994)

# Revelations of a Homestead File

Ann Johnson Barton\*

Swedish American genealogists with homesteaders in their ancestry have a rich source of information not duplicated anywhere. A homesteader's file—available to the public for a nominal fee from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.—provides a panoramic view of his farm and a peek into his personality. There are several documents per file, each with its own perspective on the farmer and his family. The modern-day researcher becomes privy to where, when, and how that farmer lived.

The *Application* tells the exact date that the man claimed his parcel of homestead land as well as the specific address of that land recorded as section, township, and range. Homesteaders were allowed only a part of a 640-acre section. Sections were divided into quarters. Some homesteaders could claim a full quarter (160 acres) while those who chose land near the railroad were entitled to just 80 acres or half of a quarter section. The homestead application records the specific portion of a particular section. As an example, my paternal great-grandfather claimed 80 acres in the eastern half of the southwest quarter of Section 8, Township 14 North (of the baseline at the Kansas border), Range 3 West (of the 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian). This address is unique to John Peterson, my great-grandfather, and tells me that his property was located in Polk County, Neb. It also tells me that he valued proximity to the railroad. He registered his claim on 6 December 1876 when he was sixty years old. To me, that indicates tremendous courage.

How, you may ask, could he find homestead land still available fourteen years after passage of the Homestead Act? Another homestead document, *Homestead Proof-Testimony of Claimant*, reveals the answer. John Peterson testified that “there was a house on said land when I took possession.” A prior homesteader who had not made a go of it had abandoned this land. [Note: When I examined the property, I could see why. It was largely gully. But John Peterson wanted to be near his sons who had claimed better land in the area several years earlier.] The fact that John Peterson received a U.S. Patent Deed for the property tells me something of his determination and, perhaps, the patience of his wife.

In his homestead proof, John Peterson testified that he had been naturalized and that he, his wife, and one child had lived continuously on the land since 6 December 1876. He claims to have built a sod house, a fence, barn, corn crib, and granary, and planted both forest and fruit trees in addition to cultivating 60

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acres upon which he raised five crops—all conditions of the Homestead Act. He estimated that his farm was worth \$700 (about \$11,500 in current dollars). John Peterson was an industrious man, eager to meld into American society.

The number on John Peterson's original application was 15,944. His final certificate of entitlement to a patent for the tract of land he claimed was numbered 10,472. In other words, only two-thirds of those who expected to own a homestead had persevered to the completion of its requirements. That says something of the harshness of the conditions for farming and adds to the stature of those who earned their patent.

One of the bonuses of the homestead papers is a glimpse of the signature of the claimant. The homesteader was obligated to sign several of the documents. From this requirement, I learned that John Peterson could write, although his hand was shaky.

John Peterson's eldest son, John P. Johnson, could not write in 1873 when he applied for homestead land. His documents were signed with his mark. However, by the time John P. Johnson applied for Timber Culture land in 1886, he was able to sign his own name. All of John Peterson's other sons could write in the 1870s.

Yet John P. Johnson, of all the family members, received the most public land from the U.S. government. Like everybody else, he could claim only one homestead. On 3 March 1873, however, Congress passed the Timber Culture Act which enabled settlers who planted 40 acres of trees to claim an additional 160 acres of public land (or 80 acres if that land were located near the railroad tracks). The intent of this act was to temper the climate and provide future building material. The task was so difficult that Congress was compelled to amend the act to require only ten acres to be planted with trees.

In order to earn a patent on timber culture land, a settler had to keep his trees alive for eight years. After the Nebraska grasshopper scourge of 1874-75 destroyed many young trees, a further amendment was passed by Congress stating that if two witnesses could support a claim that grasshoppers destroyed trees of a particular age, the time for planting and growing trees and the making of the final proof "shall be extended the same number of years as the trees planted on said claim were destroyed."

That many farmers experienced real misfortunes with this act is evidenced by the fact that John P. Johnson's original application for timber culture land was numbered 964 and his final certificate was 230. Proofs similar to those required by the Homestead Act were also required of Timber Culture Act claimants. John P. Johnson planted mostly cottonwood trees and box elder, as they were easy to grow and keep alive. And how did John P. Johnson know how many acres of trees he had planted? In his proof of qualification for a patent deed, he stated that he "measured the ground with a rod pole."

John Peterson's second son Charles (anglicized from Carl)—the first to come to the United States—made his 80-acre homestead claim on 16 October 1871. In his final proof, he describes his house as being a frame structure

measuring 12' x 16' with one room, two doors, and two windows. He had also built a sod kitchen 12' x 18' with one room, one door, and two windows. He constructed a stable of lumber and sod measuring 12' x 40', a frame granary 8' x 16', and a frame corn crib 8' x 32'. He cultivated 60 acres of land and planted 8,000 forest trees. He bored a well 96' deep. We don't have a photograph of this early farm, but such specific descriptions invite visualization.

Two of John Peterson's sons bought railroad land in Polk County, Nebraska, under the Union Pacific Railway Act passed by Congress in 1862, just six weeks after the homestead provisions were enacted. The warranty deeds for these sales are nowhere near as descriptive as the homestead papers, but they do give the location of the land, the amount paid for it, and the date of purchase.

In the 1880s, another John Peterson—this one my mother's uncle by marriage—claimed homestead land in Minnesota. In 1888 he signed an affidavit stating that he could not produce his original receipt for the land he claimed as it was destroyed by fire at the time his house burned down in December 1885. He was, however, the same person who laid claim to the northeast quarter (160 acres) in Section 30, Township 129 North, Range 46 West. It was signed by both John Peterson in his own hand, and the register [registrar]. Unlucky John Peterson had made an affidavit the previous year before the same register, that time declaring that his name on his naturalization certificate had been misspelled, but that he was, in fact, the same person who had been granted citizenship. Despite all the problems this immigrant homesteader had, he went on to receive a U.S. patent on his land, dated 13 March 1890.

In his final homestead proof, John Peterson describes the rebuilding of his house. With the help of his neighbors, it took but two weeks. A brand new baby—the fourth—had arrived the previous month. Time was, quite literally, of the essence. Peterson's homestead proof gives the dimensions of each of his buildings and the depth of his three wells. It lists his household furniture (which he states was all necessarily new in 1886) and his farm implements. His crops and his animals were also identified.

Because citizenship, or at least the filing of naturalization papers, was required of both homestead and timber culture applicants, an individual immigrant's file will contain an *Affidavit* of intention to become a citizen, *Naturalization—1<sup>st</sup> Papers*, wherein the immigrant renounces allegiance to all foreign powers and particularly the sovereign of his country, and a *Certificate of Naturalization* or *Certificate of Citizenship*.

Locating specific homestead papers takes a bit of perseverance, but the rewards are well worth the effort. They draw you right into the lives and the homes of your ancestors.

First of all, you need to know the names of your homesteading ancestors, both man and wife, and the state and county they lived in. The courthouse, located in the various county seats, has records dating back to the founding of the county. Go to the Recorder's Office and ask to see the early deed index. Find your farmer's name, and note the description of the land (Section, Township,

Range) as well as the date. Then find the actual U.S. Patent Deed in the appropriate deed book. Verify that the name of the purchaser is your ancestor. But don't stop there.

The patronymic naming system prevalent in Sweden at the time the farm immigrants arrived in this country resulted in many people having the same name. This is why you need to know the farmer's wife's name and why you need to locate the deed of sale for this same property. While only the farmer signs the deed of purchase, the deed of sale also contains the wife's name. If both names match those of your ancestors, you have probably found the correct deed. Make a photocopy of both deeds. They are precious treasures.

Now you can write to the National Archives for a copy of your ancestor's homestead (or Timber Culture Act) file. You will need to supply the following information:

- Homesteader's name (man only)
- Type of land entry, i.e., homestead or timber culture
- Certificate number on the deed of purchase
- Legal description of the land by section, township, and range
- Land office where the papers were originally filed.

The above information may all be found on the purchase deed. Then write to  
 National Archives Records Administration  
 Civilian Records Branch - Land  
 9<sup>th</sup> & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20408

and request a copy of your ancestor's papers. Do not send money as prices vary depending on the number of papers in the file. The minimum charge is \$10.00. If you wish to make any inquiries by telephone, call the Civilian Records Branch at 202-501-5395. Ask for the land records office.

It takes two to ten weeks to process your order, depending on the backlog. When you receive your papers, a part of history will become personalized.

oOo

*Editor's Note:* Reproductions of John Peterson's homestead documents, which are described herein, could not be included. According to the author: "Although I possess copies of the homestead papers I allude to, they are legal size and *already difficult to read* [emphasis mine]. The required reduction for *SAG*, it seems to me, would result in total frustration for the reader."<sup>1</sup>

Fortunately, more legible documents from another individual's homestead file—my great-grandfather, John Erickson—are illustrated in the article "Genealogical Workshop: Records of an Immigrant Family. Part 3," which appears on pages 37-54 of this issue.

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<sup>1</sup> Ann Johnson Barton to James E. Erickson, 4 April 2000.

# The Andersson-Larson Family of Söder Mark, Svartå

Dorothy Kellstrand<sup>1</sup>  
revised and edited by Joan Foss<sup>2</sup>

In the village of Svartå, parish of Kvistbro and county of Örebro, was a farm called Söder Mark. It was located about fifteen miles south of the city of Örebro. To the east was Lake Hjälmaren and to the west the largest lake in Sweden, Lake Vänern. It was here that Lars Fredrik Fredriksson and his wife, Clara Lovisa Jonsson, set up housekeeping after their marriage in 1874.

Söder Mark was a farm that had living quarters for two families and also some outbuildings for the farm animals. Fredrik Andersson, who was born in 1821 in Kvistbro Parish, had leased this farm. He died in 1872 at the age of fifty-one from a serious foot injury suffered while chopping wood at the farm. After his death, his oldest son, Lars Fredrik Fredriksson, assumed responsibility for the family. Lars Fredrik also became a tenant farmer; the land on which he made a living belonged to the ironworks company in Svartå.

This was part of the feudal system, which was common throughout Europe, where the peasants were expected to give service in various forms to the landowners in exchange for living privileges on the land. Lars Fredrik made an agreement with the owners of the property that his widowed mother, Christina

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<sup>1</sup> This article first appeared in *SARA Journal*, Vol. 4 (1999) and is reprinted with permission of Mrs. Kellstrand and the board of the Swedish Ancestry Research Association, Inc., P.O. Box 70603, Worcester, MA 01607-0603.

Dorothy Kellstrand, daughter of Anna Victoria Larson and Karl Knut Karlson and the second youngest grandchild of Lars Fredrik and Clara Lovisa Larson, wrote the original history and genealogy of these families in 1980. She decided to write this history and genealogy, because of the many family stories and information given to her by her mother and father. Also, after visiting Söder Mark in 1947 and 1977, she felt the history and heritage should be recorded and shared with all members of the greatly enlarged family.

Dorothy's half-brother, Carl Evert Olson, had done much research in compiling a record of births, marriages and deaths of family members, since their immigration to the U.S. He and Dorothy planned to write this history and genealogy together, but Carl became ill and died in 1977. With the encouragement of her other half-brother, Francis Bernard Olson, she continued this project for the sake of the younger generations, before the Swedish traditions disappeared and the Swedish language was no longer heard in their homes. It was also her hope that the courage, determination, and initiatives that began at Söder Mark would continue throughout future generations.

Information in the history portion is, of course, remembrances, but she believes they are quite accurate. Information in the genealogy portion is taken from obituary notices, church and cemetery records, and information given by living relatives. The spelling of the names of the children of Lars Fredrik and Clara Lovisa Larson are the way Clara Lovisa had written them down for her grandson, Carl Evert Olson.

<sup>2</sup> Joan Foss resides at 32 Old Colony Drive, Westboro, MA 01581.

Catherine, and her unmarried children were to live in the other living quarters and share the farm with him and his wife, Clara Lovisa. Fredrik Andersson never saw his last child, Bida, who was born five months after his death.

Lars Fredrik, or *Fredrik i Marke* (Fredrik of the Mark or living on the land), as he was known, had very little or no schooling. His wife taught him to read and to write his name. He had worked with his father in the woods all his life.

The house (called a *stuga*) where they lived consisted of two rooms. There was a kitchen with a stove, which had a brick base and an iron top known as a *spis*. The stove was used for cooking and heating. The other room was called a *kammare* or chamber, which was used for sleeping. The *stuga* had no cellar and was built of logs with vertical boards on the outside. The inside was plastered. The roof was made of sod and in the summer wildflowers grew upon it.

Lars Fredrik and Clara Lovisa had ten children, six sons and four daughters, all born in the *stuga* and delivered by a midwife. The oldest daughter, Anna, died in infancy. Both Lars and Clara were tall people. Lars was six feet tall and weighed almost two hundred pounds. His sons all grew to be six feet tall and Oscar Fredrik, the oldest son, was the biggest, being six feet two inches and well over two hundred pounds. Their daughters were also tall women. All the children had long, thin faces, a trait inherited from Clara Lovisa's side of the family.

Lars Fredrik was very versatile and made everything he needed to run the farm and maintain the household using manual labor and hand tools. He made items such as iron shoes for his oxen and large wooden baskets in which to haul charcoal. Rye, wheat, potatoes, beans, and root vegetables were raised for food. The rye and wheat were taken to a miller to be ground into flour, with a portion of the flour kept by the miller for his labor. Clara used the flour to make bread. She also made wheels of hardtack that were approximately a foot in diameter, with a hole in the center. These wheels of hardtack were threaded on a long pole and hung from the beams of the ceiling and stored in this manner.

They also raised pigs and bull calves for meat. Every part of the slaughtered animal was used. The head was made into headcheese known as *prest sylta* and the intestines were used for sausage casing. The calfskins were taken to the tanner and later used to make wooden shoes with leather uppers for the family. They also had cows that gave them milk, cream, and butter, which was made in a churn by Clara Lovisa. Wool was sheared from sheep and Clara Lovisa hand-carded the wool and spun it into woolen yarn that was knitted into stockings. The wool was also woven into cloth on a hand loom and used for clothing. They seldom had money and almost everything was obtained by the barter system. It was a meager existence and hard work. The girls learned to card wool and to knit stockings on four needles. It was a common thing for them to have a ball of yarn under their arm, knitting while they walked to school or while taking care of the younger children. The boys worked in the woods, learning the tasks taught to them by their father.



The children did attend school but on a limited basis, as their help was often needed at home. Also, walking a distance of almost three miles each way during the long Swedish winter was a detriment to regular attendance in the classroom. Religious classes for confirmation were required in their early teen-age years. These classes were usually held in the spring of the year and they would walk a distance of almost seven miles from their home to the Kvistbro Parish Church to attend them. They had little opportunity for formal education.

They were fearful of the things they did not understand and were very superstitious. When one of the children became ill or perhaps had a toothache, they would contact the *trollkvinna* (a troll woman or witch who presumably possessed supernatural powers) to come to the home and treat the afflicted child. One method the *trollkvinna* used was to take a lock of hair from the afflicted child and wrap it in a piece of cloth. Then she would go outside, whereupon she and Clara Lovisa would walk to a small pond nearby. The *trollkvinna* would murmur some enchantments as she deposited the bundle in the water. It was assumed that when they returned to the house the afflicted child would be free of the illness or toothache. Although the family had little or no wealth, Clara Lovisa wore gold earrings. As a child she had suffered from headaches, had her ears pierced and wore the earrings to cure the headaches. In spite of their lack of knowledge and the unavailability of medical attention, nine of the children were relatively healthy and eventually came to the U.S. and prospered.

Lars Fredrik's chief occupation was making charcoal. This was the service he had to provide to the landowners in exchange for the privilege of living at Söder Mark. He was responsible for a designated amount of charcoal annually to be delivered to the ironworks for use in the smelter. This paid his rent on the farm and he also may have received a small amount of money.

In the summer he would work in the woods, chopping down trees to be made into charcoal. He had a reputation for being a good charcoal maker. The trees were cut into logs approximately ten feet in length and then raised in a pyramid and covered with dirt and rubble. The trick was to stack the logs in such a fashion that they would smolder and not flare up. The pyramid was ignited from the top. Once ignited, the kiln had to be watched night and day so that it would not go up in flames. A cabin was usually erected near the charcoal kiln and there the father and the children who were old enough took turns watching the kiln. If the kiln did flare up and they were unable to put out the flames with water buckets, it would take two to three weeks for the kiln to burn out and it would be a total loss. Of course this meant more work to produce the needed amount of charcoal for payment to the ironworks company. After the snow came, Lars Fredrik would haul the charcoal out of the woods and to a smelter in baskets on a sleigh drawn by oxen.

Lars Fredrik was a gregarious individual and, upon meeting someone in the woods or in town, it was not unlike him to get to chatting and forget the time. He enjoyed socializing and it was a common occurrence for him to be gone for several days when bringing rye and wheat to the miller, a distance of a few

miles. Lars Fredrik was also very imaginative and, after hearing stories about America, he named one of his oxen *Vitatjärna* (White Star) after the steamship line that took many of the emigrants to the United States. When he plowed the fields, he referred to them as *Atlanten* (the Atlantic Ocean).

Sometimes in the fall of the year, the family would have a special dinner treat of elk meat. Since Lars Fredrik was not a landowner, he was not allowed to hunt but, spending so much time in the woods, he knew where the game was. He would act as a guide for the baron and his hunting party. He would be paid for his services by being allowed to have some of the elk meat. There is an anecdote told about a cousin of the family nicknamed *Gustav i kammare* (Gustav in the chamber or parlor) who was too lazy to do the work on his farm or raise animals for food. He would feed his family by poaching on the baron's land at night and spend the rest of his time resting in the *kammare*. He was also somewhat of an entrepreneur and he made up tonics or medicines, which he also bartered for food. He was not held in high esteem by the rest of the family, whose values were based on the work ethic.

Christmas was a time to celebrate and, in spite of their lack of material goods, they might enjoy a rice pudding or perhaps a few oranges to celebrate the holiday. The rice and oranges would be purchased with the few funds Lars Fredrik probably had received in partial payment for the charcoal.

All of the children were baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church of Sweden. As citizens of Sweden, they were automatically considered members of the state church. Lars Fredrik and Clara Lovisa, however, had become interested in the mission church movement that had become popularized by the Wesley brothers' Methodist movement from England. They attended meetings of the mission church even though it was unlawful for them to participate in this type of religion at that time in Sweden. These meetings were held in the homes and in secret. They were always fearful that the baron or minister of the state church would find out about the meetings and make things difficult for the family attending through economic, social, or ecclesiastical pressures. Because of the difficulty of making a living in Sweden, the bondage of the feudal system still in use and their desire to see that their children might have a better life, it became advantageous for them to consider immigrating to America.

For twenty-five years Lars Fredrik had eked out a living at Söder Mark. In the spring of 1899 Lars Fredrik made a decision. He went to the ironworks company and told those in charge that he was going to give up tenancy of Söder Mark and move to the United States. They laughed at him and mocked him, questioning how he and all his children were going to get enough money to travel to the United States. His younger brothers, Carl Hjalmar and John Emil (they used the surname Andersson), had emigrated from Sweden to Wisconsin in 1892. Carl Hjalmar returned to Sweden and immigrated again in 1895 to Worcester, taking his nephew, Oscar Fredrik Larson, along with him. Another son of Lars Fredrik, Carl Hjalmar Larson, and a daughter, Maria Lovisa Larson, had also emigrated. Maria Lovisa was working as a live-in maid. Oscar Fredrik,

Carl Hjalmar, and Maria Lovisa saved their money and sent it home to the family in Sweden. With these funds and what they were able to obtain from the sale of the few household goods that they owned, the family in Sweden was able to pay for steerage passage for eight. They packed a large basket with enough food to last the entire trip, a period of at least two weeks. This was a big undertaking for Lars Fredrik and Clara Lovisa, who were both fifty years old. The remaining children, Adolph Albert (twin to Maria Lovisa), Anna Victoria, Axel Herman, Gustaf Hazekiel, John Bernard, and Emma Amalia, accompanied their parents.

In June 1899 they left their homeland. First they traveled to the west coast of Sweden, a distance of approximately one hundred and fifty miles, probably to the city of Göteborg. They crossed the North Sea by ship to the east coast of England, then crossed England by train to the seaport of Liverpool, where they boarded a ship bound for Boston. They arrived in Boston on a Saturday morning and were met by Oscar Fredrik and Carl Hjalmar.

An apartment had been rented and furnished for the family in a three-decker at 27 Esther Street in Worcester. Gustav Birath, who was married to Clara Lovisa's sister, Selma Maria, owned the house in which the apartment was located. There was a big celebration that weekend and it must have been a wonderful family reunion for all nine of the sisters and brothers and their parents. Clara Lovisa's brothers, Carl Johan (Charlie) and Adolph, who had come to the United States sometime earlier, brought food from the grocery store that they owned. They ate food that they had never tasted before, such as bologna, summer fruits, and vegetables that were not grown in Sweden. After all the celebrating, the long ocean voyage, plus the emotions involved in arriving in a strange country, they did not feel so well after the celebration.

Lars Fredrik Fredriksson changed his name to Lars Fredrik Larson so that he would have the same surname as his sons, who had preceded him to the United States. After the family was settled, Lars Fredrik and his son, Adolph, went to work at the American Steel & Wire Co. in Quinsigamond Village in Worcester. They started to work in the yard of the steel mill, but before long they were working in the die foundry, Lars making dies and Adolph hand charging the furnace. This was hot, tiring work ten hours per day, five days a week and eight and one-half hours on Saturday. This must have been very difficult for Lars, who had never worked inside or on fixed hours in his life.

Anna Victoria, who turned seventeen in July 1899, worked as a nursemaid taking care of children of Swedish families. Later, after she learned English, she worked as a seamstress. Axel, Gustaf, John, and Emma attended Upsala Street School. Axel was unable to continue attending school, as he was not well. He died on his fifteenth birthday, 15 August 1900, probably from heart problems brought on by rheumatic fever. Gustaf and John both left school at fourteen years of age. Gustaf worked as a milkman for a while and then ran a grocery store with his brother, John, on Granite Street in Worcester and also at 6 Greenwood Street in Worcester from 1915 to the outbreak of World War I in

this country. After closing the store, Gustaf went to work with his father and his brother, Adolph, in the die foundry. Later, he and Adolph started their own firm, making dies for wire drawing. John continued to work as a grocer, which he did all his life. Emma was the only one of the Larson family to complete grammar school. Upon finishing school she went to work as a seamstress at Richard Healy Company, a women's apparel store on Main Street in Worcester. Carl Hjalmar opened a grocery store of his own and operated it until he died. Oscar Fredrik worked in the steel mill in Quinsigamond Village until 1906, when he moved to Roebing, New Jersey, to work at the new J. A. Roebing's Sons Company steel mill. He was the only one of the nine children to leave the Worcester area after their move to the United States.

In 1900 the widow Christina Catherine Andersson, mother of Lars Fredrik, age seventy-two and speaking no English, arrived in Worcester with her grandson, Richard. Christina (called Stina) evidently was very determined to go to America. She lived with her daughter, Bida Amalia Berggren, in Worcester and died 24 September 1911. Five of Christina's children, a son and four daughters, remained in Sweden. They were all still alive in 1913.

Lars Fredrik died in Worcester, Massachusetts, on 10 May 1913, twenty days before his sixty-fourth birthday. Clara Lovisa died 12 July 1922 at the age of seventy-three. They were both members of the First Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church in Quinsigamond Village, Worcester, and are both buried in the Old Swedish Cemetery, Worcester.

## Genealogy of the Andersson-Larson Family of Söder Mark, Svartaå

**Fredrik Andersson:** b. in Kvistbro Parish in the province (*landskap*) of Närke, Sweden, 16 Jan. 1821.<sup>1</sup> He worked as a tenant farmer and d. at Svartsjöbäck on Mark lands in Nysund Parish (Närk.) 16 Dec. 1872 at the age of fifty-one.<sup>2</sup>

Wife: **Christina Catherine Larsdotter** (also known as Stina Cajsa): b. in Kvistbro Parish 12 Dec. 1828.<sup>3</sup> She emigr. from Nysund to Worcester, MA, on 29 June 1900 (accompanied by her grandson, Richard Richardsson, age 16, from Degerfors).<sup>4</sup> There she lived with her dau. Beda. She d. in Worcester 24 Sept. 1911 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Children:

I. **Lars Fredrik Larson** (alias Lars Fredrik Fredriksson): b. in Nysund 30 May 1849.<sup>5</sup> He worked as a tenant farmer at Söder Mark, also known as Svartsjöbäck, taking over after the death of his father. He immigr. to Worcester in 1899 with his wife and six children. They left the port of Göteborg on 2 June 1899.<sup>6</sup> Three other children had preceded them to Worcester. He used the surname Larson in the U.S. He d. in Worcester 13 May 1913 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Wife: **Clara Lovisa Jonsson:** b. in Nysund 14 June 1849. She d. in Worcester 12 July 1922 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Clara Lovisa's father, **August Jonsson**, was b. in Finnerödja Parish (on the shores of Lake Skagern in Västergötland) 15 Sept. 1824.<sup>7</sup> He was a tenant farmer and leased a farm called Svartsjömark in Nysund. Her mother, Maria Stina Nilsson, was b. in Nysund 10 Jan. 1824.<sup>8</sup>

August and Maria Stina had six children, all probably b. at Svartsjömark, Nysund.<sup>9</sup> **Clara Lovisa**, b. 14 June 1849, was the oldest. **Augusta**, b. 9 June 1853, m. on 8 June 1878 Anders Gustaf Andersson, b. in Nysund 26

<sup>1</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:17c, 55.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 1 for source citation.

<sup>3</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:20b, 551.

<sup>4</sup> According to the database CD-Emigranten 1 (1996).

<sup>5</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:20b, 552.

<sup>6</sup> According to the database CD-Emigranten 1 (1996).

<sup>7</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:20b, 542.

<sup>8</sup> See footnote 5 for source citation.

<sup>9</sup> For all children, see footnote 5 for source citation.

Dec. 1847.<sup>10</sup> In 1881 this family moved to Kvistbro. **August Augustsson**, b. 3 Aug. 1856, m. on 2 May 1887 Josefina Karolina Gustafsdotter, b. 13 Sept. 1863 in Nysund.<sup>11</sup> He was a tenant farmer living at Björnbråtenstorp. In 1892 he moved with his family to Ödetorp, Nysund, his wife's family home. **Carl Johan Augustsson** (known as **Johnson** in the U.S.) was b. 10 Feb. 1860 and emigr. from Nysund 1 July 1881, accompanied by his niece, Maria Lovisa Larsson.<sup>12</sup> He m. Wilhelmina Finne and lived at 12 Ekman St., Worcester, by 1908. During the 1890s he ran a meat market and grocery store with his brother, Adolph, at the intersection of Millbury and Ballard Streets, Worcester. Around 1912 he opened another market at 6 Greenwood St. in Quinsigamond Village. He and his wife were among the founders who signed the charter for Emanuel Lutheran Church in 1896. He was the first one in the family to own an automobile, a Velie touring car, ca. 1914. He also purchased a summer cottage on Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury, MA. He d. in 1921. **Adolph**, b. 23 May 1863, emigr. to the U.S. in 1893 with his nephew, Carl Hjalmar. He ran the meat market and a grocery store with his brother, Carl Johan, in the 1890s and then moved to Brockton, MA. **Selma Marie** was b. 28 Feb. 1867 and emigr. 7 June 1886. She m. Gustaf Birath (brother to Hilda Alexana, who m. Adolph Albert, Clara Lovisa's son). She lived on Esther St. and later at 180 Vernon St. in Worcester.

In 1880 August and Maria Stina and their children moved to Kvistbro, where he leased a tenant farm called Nala Mark. Maria Stina d. 2 Apr. 1883.<sup>13</sup> In Nov. 1884 August moved back to Nysund to another tenant farm called Björnbråtenstorp. His son, August, and dau., Selma Maria, went with him. On 23 June 1886 August m. a second time to the widow Fredrika Jakobsdotter, b. 20 Feb. 1831 in Nysund.<sup>14</sup> There were no children from this second marriage. August d. at Björnbråtenstorp 5 Apr. 1902.

Children of Lars Fredrik Fredriksson/Larson and Clara Lovisa Jonsson:<sup>15</sup>

i. **Oscar Fredrik Larson**: b. at Söder Mark, Kvistbro 21 Mar. 1875. He immigr. to Worcester in 1895. In 1900 he lived at 30 Esther St. and, by 1906, was a steelworker living at 9 Ekman St., Worcester. He was one of the first nine skilled steelworkers at the American Steel & Wire Co. in Worcester recruited to move to Roebing, NJ, in 1906 to work at John A. Roebing's Sons Co., a new

<sup>10</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:20b, 543.

<sup>11</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:22b, 145.

<sup>12</sup> According to the database CD-Emigranten 1 (1996).

<sup>13</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:21b, 148.

<sup>14</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:22b, 145.

<sup>15</sup> All the children were born in Nysund, according to the Household Examination Rolls (*Husförhörslängder*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:20b, 552 and AI:21b, 552.

steel mill, and live in the new company town created for the workers.<sup>16</sup> In Roebing he became a foreman and lived at 15 Fourth Ave. The family members were Methodists. He d. 18 Mar. 1937 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Wife: **Fredrika (Frida) Berggren**: Her brother, Nils Berggren, m. her husband's aunt, Beda Amalia.

Children:

a. **Rodje Phillip (Rodger)**: b. in Worcester 1900. He d. in 1903 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

b. **Ruth Elsa**: b. in Worcester 5 July 1904. She was a piano teacher. She m. **Hugo Reinhold Ahlgren** of Roebing, NJ. In Roebing the family resided at 5 Sixth Ave. and 14 Sixth Ave. She d. 14 Jan. 1972 and is bur. in the Odd Fellows Cem., Burlington, NJ. They had two children, Robert Hugo (1933-1951) and Frederick Larson Ahlgren, who resides in Maine.

c. **Paul Oscar**: b. in Worcester 15 Apr. 1907. He d. in Roebing, NJ, 9 Apr. 1915 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

ii. **Carl Hjalmar Larson**: b. 10 Jan. 1877. He was the first of the siblings to emigr., coming to America in 1893 with his uncle, Adolph Johnson. He worked in his uncle's grocery store and later owned his own store on Esther St., Worcester. He d. 22 Feb. 1915 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Wife: **Hilma Marie Gruman**

Children:

a. A son who d. in infancy

b. **Clara M.**: b. in Worcester 6 July 1901. She was the third grandchild of Lars Fredrik and Clara Lovisa and the first to survive and reach adulthood. She attended Post Business School in Worcester and worked as a cook for many years. She m. **Arthur Ullstrom** and had a son, Robert Arthur, who now resides in Fort Pierce, FL. She d. 11 July 1958 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

c. **Ethel M.**: b. in Worcester 19 Aug. 1904. She worked in nursing in the state of New York. She m. **Calvin Gilbreath**. She d. in New York City 12 July 1942 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

iii. **Anna**: b. 26 Feb. 1879; d. in Nysund 8 Mar. 1879.

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<sup>16</sup> Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Co. (est. 1889) was bought by American Steel & Wire Co. in 1899 and American Steel & Wire Co. became a part of U.S. Steel Corp. in 1901. The business was still conducted by the American Steel & Wire Co. under its own name. There were two plants in Worcester, the North Works on Grove St. and the South Works in Quinsigamond Village, where members of the family worked. - Charles Nutt, *History of Worcester and Its People*, Vol. II (1919). See also "Roebing and the Hot Mill Swedes," *SARA Journal*, Vol. III, Issue I, 1998.

iv. **Adolph Albert Larson:** b. 19 Feb. 1880 and a twin to Maria Lovisa. After his arrival from Sweden with his parents in 1899, he went to work at the American Steel & Wire Co. in Quinsigamond Village, Worcester. In later years he and his brother, Gustaf, formed their own firm, which was located in Worcester and produced dies for drawing wire. He d. 15 Feb. 1941 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Wife: **Hilda Axelena Birath:** b. in Karlskoga 17 Aug. 1879.<sup>17</sup> She was a sister to Augusta Birath, who was m. to Adolph Albert's uncle, Carl, and a sister to Gustaf Birath, who m. Adolph's aunt, Selma Maria Jonsson.

Children:

a. **Walter Adolph:** b. in Worcester 4 Aug. 1902. He worked with his father for a while and then worked at Norton Co. as a foreman in the machine division. He m. **Edith Elvira Nelson**, who d. in 1965. They had two daughters: Doris Elvira and Virginia Edith, who d. 18 Apr. 1993. He m. a second time to Astrid (Carlson) Nystrom. He d. 24 Nov. 1986 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

b. **Axel Hugo:** b. in Worcester 28 Aug. 1907. He lived in Paxton, MA, and was a foreman at Wyman Gordon Co., Worcester. He m. **Bertha S. Anderson**. He d. 5 Aug. 1963 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

c. **Milton Fredrick:** b. in Worcester 6 Feb. 1914. He lived in Shrewsbury, MA, and was employed in the abrasive department of Norton Co., Worcester. He had an extensive collection of guns and owned and operated the Milton Larson Gun Shop in Shrewsbury. He graduated from the Worcester Boys Trade School and served in the Massachusetts National Guard. He m. **Rose E. Gardella**. He d. 3 Oct. 1961 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

v. **Maria Lovisa Larson:** b. 19 Feb. 1880 and a twin to Adolph Albert. She emigr. from Nysund to Worcester 28 July 1897, accompanied by her Uncle Adolph.<sup>18</sup> She worked as a maid in the Worcester area. She d. 4 June 1950 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Husband: **Carl Hendrickson:** a widower with several children.

Children:

a. **Mildred M. Hendrickson:** b. in Worcester 17 May 1910. She m. **Victor Giard** and had three children: Claire L., Victor J., Jr., and Richard T. She d. 11 Dec. 1972 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

b. **Robert Wesley Hendrickson:** b. in Worcester 16 Feb. 1914. He attended the Worcester Boys Trade School and served in the artillery branch of the U.S. Army during World War II. He was employed as a toolmaker and worked at Worcester Pressed Steel Corp. He m. **Constance Mielech** and had

<sup>17</sup> According to the "Index of Emigrants from Örebro län," at Örebro Stadsarkiv.

<sup>18</sup> According to the database CD-Emigranten 1 (1996).



two children, Robert Bruce and Amy Susan. He d. 18 Sept. 1978 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

c. **Margaret Elizabeth Hendrickson**: b. in Worcester 4 Jan. 1917. She was a twin to Marjorie Clara. She graduated from the H. S. of Commerce in Worcester and was employed in the Worcester School Dept. She m. **Thomas Domenic Renihan** and had two children, Patricia Mary and Thomas Domenic, Jr. She d. 12 Oct. 1951 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

d. **Marjorie Clara Hendrickson**: b. in Worcester 4 Jan. 1917. She was the twin to Margaret Elizabeth. She graduated from the H. S. of Commerce in Worcester and was employed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a junior clerk in the division of employment security. She m. **Fredrick Joseph Connolly** and had two sons, Mark Frederick and Stephen Joseph. She d. 15 Feb. 1980 and is bur. in the Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton, MA.

e. **Albert A. Hendrickson**: b. in Worcester 20 Feb. 1918. He attended the H. S. of Commerce in Worcester and served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He was a foreman for J. Frank Sims Cab Co., Rutland, MA. He m. **Elizabeth Bordash** of Nashwak, MN. Their children were Mary Helen (uses the name Hendricks), Barbara Jean, David Paul, Michael Albert, James Philip, and twins, Susan Lee and Laura Ann.

vi. **Anna Victoria Larson**: b. 13 July 1882. She emigr. from Nysund to Worcester 2 June 1899.<sup>19</sup> After her marriage, she and Carl returned to Sweden, where they lived for a short time. She became a widow after they returned to the U.S. She worked in various industries in the Worcester area. During World War I, she worked in Framingham, MA, in the production of army uniforms. She d. 13 Feb. 1954 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Husband (#1): **Carl H. Olson**

Children:

a. **Carl Evert (Avy) Olson**: b. in Worcester 20 July 1907. He suffered from tuberculosis of the spine as a child, which left him with a curvature of the spine. His health was poor and he stopped attending grammar school. In later years he attended the Worcester Boys Trade School, where he graduated in 1927. He worked as a mechanical draftsman at Morgan Construction Co., Coppus Engineering Co., and Riley Stoker Co., all in Worcester. He retired in 1972. He became interested in antiques at an early age and, as a hobby, he restored and made reproductions of antiques and also acquired an extensive collection of antiques. He m. **Mary Sawyer Smith** and had two children, Stephen Sawyer and Wendy Marie. He d. 22 Jan. 1977 and is bur. in Silver Lake Cem., Athol, MA.

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<sup>19</sup> According to the database CD-Emigranten 1 (1996).

b. **Francis Bernard Olson**: b. in Worcester 22 Jan. 1911. He attended Worcester Boys Trade School and Worcester Junior College and took courses at Worcester Polytechnic Inst. and the Univ. of Connecticut. He worked at Norton Co. as a quality control engineer. After retirement he repaired and restored antique clocks and also collected antiques. He m. **Ellen Marie Anderson**, dau. of his grandfather's brother, Carl Anderson. They had two children, Richard Francis and Roger Kenneth. (See Carl Anderson)

Husband (#2): **Karl Knut Karlson**

c. **Dorothy Lillian Karlson**: b. in Worcester 26 Feb. 1926. She graduated from the H. S. of Commerce in Worcester and also attended the St. Augustine Inst. for continuing education at Assumption College in Worcester. She was employed on a part-time basis as a bookkeeper for Carlton Trucking, Inc. in Worcester. She m. **Eric A. Kellstrand** and had three children by adoption: Norman Eric (1951-1966), Marjorie Ann, and Louise Marie. She and her husband still reside in Quinsigamond Village, Worcester.

vii. **Axel Herman Larson**: b. 27 Aug. 1885. He d. in 1900 on his fifteenth birthday, a little over a year after his arrival in the U.S. He is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

viii. **Gustaf Hasekiel Larson**: b. 10 Apr. 1888. After his arrival in the U.S., he attended Upsala Street School in Worcester until he was fourteen years old. He worked as a milkman and then ran a grocery store with his brother, John, until 1917. He then went to work in the steel mill in Quinsigamond Village, Worcester. Later he and his brother, Adolph Albert, established a business making dies in which to draw wire. He continued to run this business after the death of Adolph. He d. 16 Dec. 1960 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester. He was the last survivor of the children of Lars Fredrik and Clara Lovisa.

Wife (#1): **Hilma Marie Gruman Larson**: She was the widow of his brother, Carl Hjalmar.

Children:

a. **Philip Gustaf**: b. in Worcester 18 Jan. 1922. He attended the Worcester Boys Trade School and was a seaman, first class, in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. He was a carpenter. He m. **Louise Baker** and had an adopted dau., Cynthia Louise. He d. 15 Apr. 1982 and is bur. in Howard Cem., Sutton, MA.

Wife (#2): **Esther E. Wivagg**

ix. **Johan Bernhard (John Bernard)**: b. 15 May 1891. He attended Upsala Street School in Worcester. He left school at age fourteen and then later worked in a grocery store, which he owned and operated with his brother, Gustaf. When

this store closed, he continued to work as a grocer all of his life. He d. 11 Oct. 1941 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Wife: **Helen A. Lund**

Child: **Albert Bernard**: b. in Worcester 2 Jan. 1921. He served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Hawaii during World War II. He graduated from the H. S. of Commerce and the New England School of Accounting. He also took courses at Boston Univ. and was employed at Norton Co. in production control. He m. **Vera Baker**. His second marriage was to Louise (Baker) Larson, widow of Philip Gustaf Larson. Albert resides in Ocala, FL.

x. **Emma Amalia Larson**: b. 29 June 1894. She attended Upsala Street School in Worcester. She completed grammar school and went to work as a seamstress. She d. 17 Jan. 1950 and is bur. in the Old Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Husband: **Victor H. Pratt**

Children:

a. **Bernice Emma Pratt**: b. in Worcester 23 Oct. 1920. She m. **Neal Jarvis** and had four children: Sandra Olga, Paul Neal, Richard, and David.

b. **Raymond Paul Pratt**: b. in Worcester 1 Oct. 1923. He worked as a bakery route salesman. He d. 15 Feb. 1955 and is bur. in West Ridge Cem., Charlton, MA. He m. **Muriel Tenny** and had a dau., Linda Muriel.

c. **Russell Bernard Pratt**: b. in Worcester 9 Jan. 1926. He served in the U.S. Marines during World War II and worked as a plasterer. He m. **Brenda Ann Borden** and had three children: Shirlee Ann, Sharon Lee, and Debra Sue. He d. 8 Sept. 1960 and is bur. in St. John's Cem., Worcester.

d. **Roger William Pratt Swedberg**: b. in Worcester 31 Dec. 1929. After his mother's death, he was adopted and took the surname of his adoptive family—Swedberg. He was a maintenance foreman at the Univ. of Maine. He m. **Arlene Mary York** and had a son, Roger William, Jr.

II. **Carolina Lovisa**: b. in Nysund 10 Oct. 1851. Moved from Svartsjöbäck to Kvistbro (Närk.) 16 Oct. 1874.<sup>20</sup> She remained in Sweden. Her married name was Freedell.

III. **Christina Sophia**: b. in Nysund 23 May 1853. In 1895 she still lived with her mother.<sup>21</sup>

IV. **Augusta Mathilda**: b. in Nysund 15 Aug. 1856. She remained in Sweden and did not marry.

<sup>20</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), A1:17c, 55.

<sup>21</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), A1:22b, 522.

V. **Johanna Amanda**: b. in Nysund 27 Nov. 1858. She remained in Sweden. Her married name was Svensson.

VI. **Ida Maria**: b. in Nysund 6 July 1862. She remained in Sweden. Her married name was Carlsson.

VII. **Carl Gustaf Fredriksson/Anderson**: b. in Nysund 6 July 1864. He immigr. to the U.S. and went to Wisconsin. He returned to Sweden and re-emigrated (with the name Fredriksson) on 9 Mar. 1893, accompanied by his nephew, Oscar Fredrik (Lars Fredrik's oldest son).<sup>22</sup> He settled in Worcester. He d. in 1927 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Wife: **Augusta Wilhelmina Birath**: b. in Karlskoga 9 Mar. 1877.<sup>23</sup> Sister of Hilda Axelena Birath, who m. Adolph Albert Larson, Carl's nephew.

Children:

i. **Edith Wilhelmina**: b. in Worcester 17 Apr. 1901. She became a widow at an early age. She worked at Norton Co. as an inspector. She d. in 1960 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Husband: **Anders Samuelson**

Children:

a. **Robert**: d. of leukemia at the age of twelve in 1941. He is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

b. **Phyllis**: b. in Worcester 29 Sept. 1931. She m. **Herbert Krumbeigle**. She graduated from the H. S. of Commerce and by 1980 was employed at Cincinnati Milacron, Heald Division, in Worcester. They had a son, Robert Herbert. She now resides in Holden, MA, and works at Anna Maria College

ii. **Carl Arnold**: b. in Worcester 7 Aug. 1903. He graduated from Bates College and worked for Norton Co. as a sales representative. He lived in Connecticut and, upon his retirement, moved to New Hampshire. He d. Feb. 1978.

Wife: **Jean Waring**

Child: **Earl**; by adoption

iii. **Ellen Marie**: b. in Worcester 27 June 1910. She attended the H. S. of Commerce in Worcester and worked at Norton Co. prior to her marriage. She d. 27 Dec. 1991 and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

Husband: **Francis B. Olson**: He was Lars Frederik Larson's grandson.

Children:

<sup>22</sup> According to the "Index of Emigrants from Örebro län" (Örebro Stadsarkiv).

<sup>23</sup> According to the "Index of Emigrants from Örebro län" (Örebro Stadsarkiv).

a. **Richard Francis**: b. in Worcester 18 Feb. 1939. He graduated from Wachusett Regional H. S., Holden, MA, and Wentworth Tech. Inst. in Boston. By 1980 he was vice president in charge of paving at the asphalt plant of Henley Lundgren Co., Shrewsbury, MA. He m. **Tanja Hamburger** and had two children, Jonathan Richard and Erika Lynn. He resides in Holden, MA.

b. **Roger Kenneth**: b. in Worcester 19 Apr. 1944. He graduated from Wachusett Regional H. S., Holden, MA, Clark Univ., Worcester, and the Univ. of Maine. In 1980 he was employed by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in the field of geological soil conservation. He m. **Donna Moyer** and had two sons, Eric Kenneth and Jeffrey Francis. His second marriage was to **Barbara Forbes**. He resides in Wheaton, IL.

iv. **Stanley G.**: b. 19 May 1914; d. 13 Jan. 1997. He worked at Norton Co.  
Wife: **Stella Burns**

Child: **Nancy**: b. in Worcester 21 June 1943. She graduated from Shrewsbury H. S., Shrewsbury, MA. She m. **Dale Pettijohn** and has a son, Andrew. She resides in Oakham, MA.

VIII. **John (Johan) Emil Fredriksson/Anderson**: b. in Nysund 5 Oct. 1866. He emigr. on 18 Mar. 1892 with a ticket for West Superior and settled in Wisconsin.<sup>24</sup> He lived in Superior and Douglas Counties, WI, until his death 14 Feb. 1941. He was a farmer.

Wife: **Emma Charlotta Olson**

Children:

i. **Edith Emalia**: b. in Wisconsin, 12 Aug. 1897.

Husband: **Anton Pearson**

Child: Mae Elvine: b. in Superior, WI, 27 May 1916. She m. **Woodrow Bolk** and had three children: Bonnie Mae, Patsy Lee, and Dale Leroy.

IX. **Axel Alfred**: b. in Nysund 10 May 1869. He remained in Sweden. He lived at Svartsjöbäck, Nysund in 1895.<sup>25</sup>

X. **Beda Amalia**: b. in Nysund 28 May 1873. Her husband was the brother to Fredrika (Frida) Berggren, who m. her nephew, Oscar Fredrik, Lars Fredrik's oldest son. She d. in Worcester in 1939.

Husband: **Nils August Berggren**

Children:

i. **Einar**: b. in Worcester. He worked at Norton Co. He d. in Worcester and is bur. in the New Swedish Cem., Worcester.

<sup>24</sup> According to the database CD-Emigranten 1 (1996).

<sup>25</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Nysund (Närk.), AI:23b, p. 518.

Wife: **Agnes A. Nelson**

Children:

a. **Edna F.:** m. **William Doyle** and had three children: William, Jr., Barbara, and Matthew. She now resides in Sun City, FL.

b. **Shirley A.:** m. **Kenneth Stidsen** and had three children: Kenneth, Jr., Brian, and Gregory.

c. **Jean O.:** m. **Edward Welch** and had three children: Bonnie, Marilyn, and Charles.

ii. **Henry:** b. in Worcester. He worked at Norton Co. prior to his death.

Wife: **Elsie Lindgren**

Children:

a. **Curtis:** m. **Jean Hayden** and had two children, Curtis, Jr. and Christina Lynn.

b. **Janet:** m. **George G. Smith** and had three children: Gregory C., Steven (1960-1978), and Lori.

c. **Carol:** m. **Robert Elwell** and had three children: Sharon, Robert, Jr., and David.

d. **Kenneth:** m. **Nancy Hassell** and had three children: Sandra, Jodei, and Jennifer.

iii. **Edna:** b. in Worcester.

Husband: **Fred Anderson**

Children:

a. **Fred, Jr.:** His children were Crystal, Deborah, and Sonja. He was a syndicated national newscaster on TV based in Los Angeles. He d. in California 3 July 1996.

b. **Calvin:** m. **Mary O'Callahan** and had two children, Maureen and Brian.

c. **Elain E:** m. **Douglas Moore** and had two children, Douglas, Jr. and Christine.

iv. **Paul Harold:** He was b. and resides in Worcester.

Wife: **Esther Widing**

Children:

a. **Linda:** m. **Raymond Bergman, Jr.** and had two children, Deborah Marie and Kristen Louise.

b. **Diane:** m. **Mark Murray** and had a son, Ryan Erik.

c. **Bruce:** m. **Susan Blassey** and had a dau., Allison Ann.

This article withheld from the digital repository per the author's request.

# Genealogical Workshop: Records of an Immigrant Family. Part 3.

James E. Erickson

This article, which represents part three of a four-part series featuring documents associated with my paternal great-grandparents, John E. and Ida C. Erickson, focuses on materials obtained from the National Archives that were included in John Erickson's homestead case file.<sup>1</sup> The paperwork in the file—comprised of over twenty separate items/pieces—had originally been sent by the local General Land Office in Marquette, Michigan, to the General Land Office headquarters in Washington, D.C., in support of John Erickson's application for homestead land in Iron County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The following documents, selected from his homestead case file, are illustrated below: his homestead application and affidavit, his naturalization papers (i.e., declaration of intention and certificate of citizenship), final-proof documents (i.e., final affidavit of claimant, testimony of claimant, and testimony of witness), and the final certificate that authorized issuance of a patent. The documents are arranged chronologically and cover the period 1889-1901.

The documents highlighted herein lend support to the contention that paperwork contained in a claimant's homestead case file is a rich genealogical source. They proved invaluable to me for reasons both obvious and subtle. First, they provided specific dates for major events in John Erickson's life (e.g., declaration of intention, citizenship, homestead application, etc.). While mundane, this kind of information is always noteworthy. Secondly, four of the documents (numbers 10, 11, 13, and 15) contain John Erickson's signature. Thirdly, I know unequivocally that the Declaration of Intention (document 9) and the Certificate of Citizenship (document 12) shown are associated with "my" John Erickson. Lacking this context (i.e., being placed in one individual's homestead file), such documents, which contain common names with no additional identifying information, would be much more difficult (impossible?) to unambiguously assign to a particular individual. By far the most exciting and

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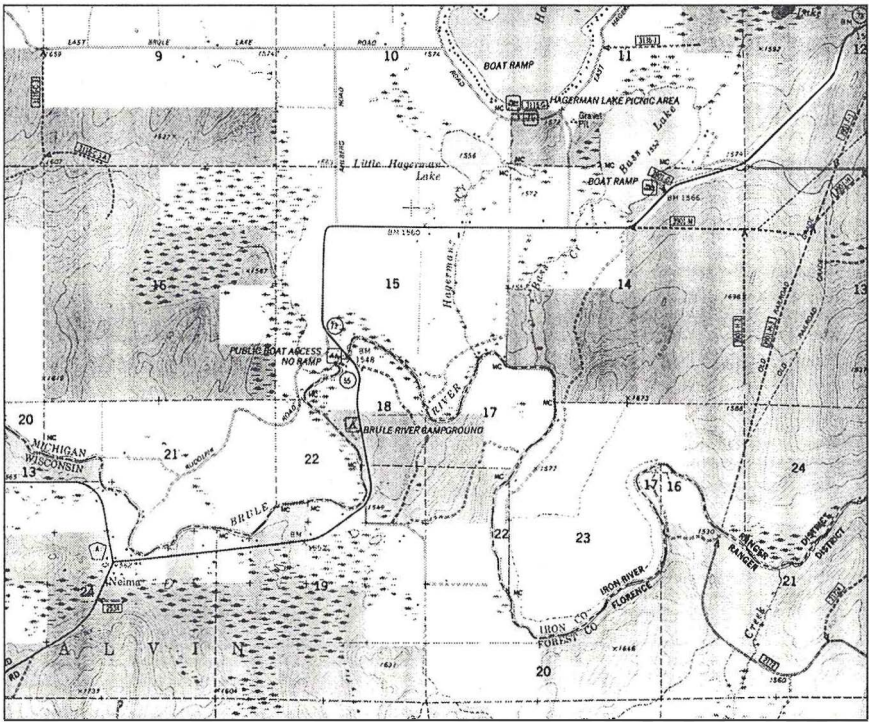
<sup>1</sup> Specific details on how to obtain such case files from the National Archives are summarized in Anne Johnson Barton's article, "Revelations of a Homestead File," featured on pages 8-11 of this issue of *SAG*. In the late 1980s, when I requested the paperwork contained in John Erickson's case file, I was able to provide the National Archives not only a legal description of the land but also the original application number and the final certificate number, both of which were taken from the final homestead certificate (see document 16) that was originally sent to John Erickson and later became part of the collection of documents handed down through successive Erickson generations.

For an in-depth discussion of homestead records see Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds., *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, Rev. ed., (Ancestry Inc.: Salt Lake City, UT, 1997).



interesting information came from two documents— Testimony of Witness and Testimony of Claimant (documents 14 and 15). Until I had these documents in hand, I knew next to nothing about the Erickson homestead. What a thrill it was to discover when the first “shanty” was built; when the family moved onto the land; the amount of land that was cultivated; and the number, size and value of “improvements” on the land.

The Erickson homestead was located on the oxbow of the Brule River in Stambaugh Township, approximately seven miles southwest of the villages of Iron River and Stambaugh, Iron County, Michigan (see figure 4). It consisted of 104.9 acres of land comprising Lots 4 and 5 of section 23, T 42N, R 36W (see figure 4).



**Fig. 3.** Topographical map showing the southeast portion of the Hagerman Lake, Mich.-Wis. quadrangle (scale 1:24,000). The Brule River, which meanders through the landscape from west to east, forms the boundary between Iron County, Michigan, and Forest County, Wisconsin. Note that a significant part of section 23 is enclosed within an oxbow, a U-shaped bend in the Brule River.

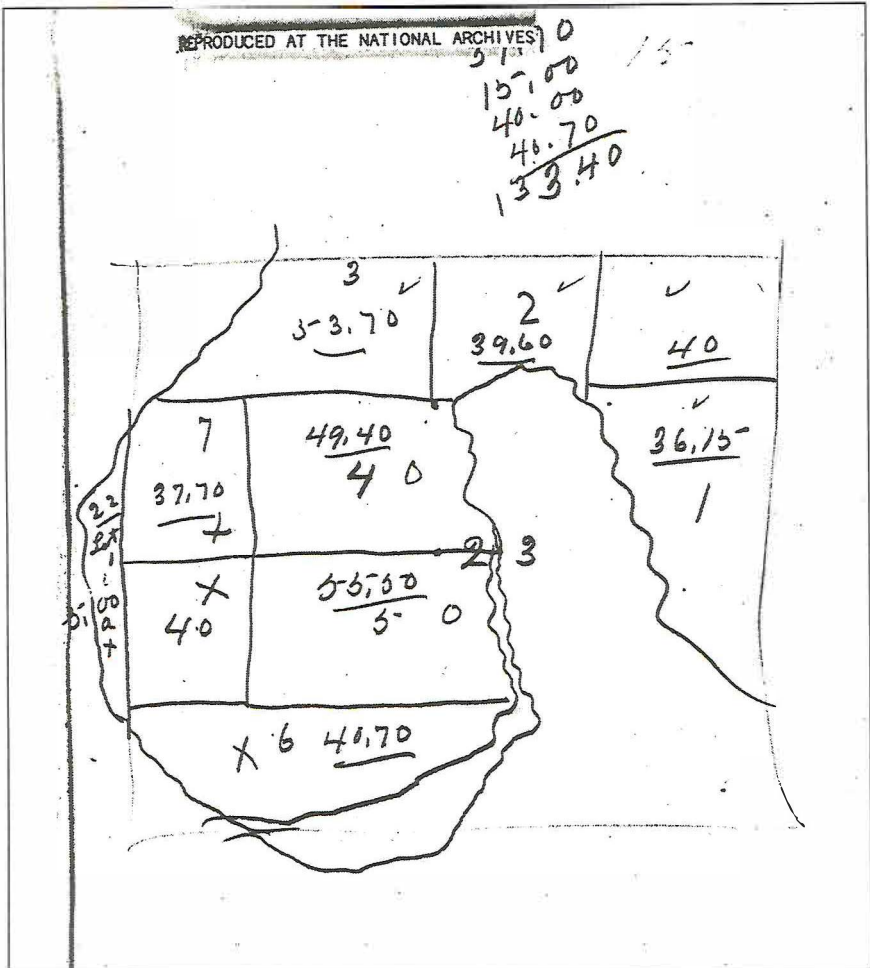



Fig. 4. Hand-drawn map of section 23 that was included in the Erickson homestead case file. The homestead covered a total of 104.9 acres —49.40 acres within Lot 4 and 55.50 acres within Lot 5.

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• DECLARATION OF INTENTION, 25-6-88 [88] The Richmond & Backus Co., Stationers, Detroit, Mich.



(COPY.)

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss. The Circuit Court for said County, to wit:  
 County of Iron } J. John Erickson

Solemnly swear that it is bona fide my intention to become a **CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES**, and to RENOUCE FOREVER, all Allegiance and Fidelity to each and every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly the King of Sweden & Norway of whom I have been a subject.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, at Crystal Falls this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May A. D. 1889. [SIGNED] John Erickson

P. E. Dunn Clerk.

**Document 9.** Copy of John Erickson's Declaration of Intention dated 4 May 1889.

Transliteration of document 9

STATE OF MICHIGAN,  
 County of...Iron...,

The Circuit Court for said County, to wit:

I,...John Erickson...

Solemnly swear that it is bona fide my intention to become a **CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES**, and to RENOUCE FOREVER, all Allegiance and Fidelity to each and every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly the...King of Sweden & Norway...of whom I have been a subject.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, at

...Crystal Falls...this...4<sup>th</sup>...day

of...May...A.D. 1889

[Signed]...John Erickson...

...P. E. Dunn...

Clerk.

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[4-007.]

HOMESTEAD.

APPLICATION

No. 7388

Land Office at Marquette, Mich.

November 16, 1893

John Erickson, of Marquette,

Michigan, do hereby apply to enter, under Section 2289,

Revised Statutes of the United States, the Lots 4 and 5

of Section 7 1/2, in Township H 4 N of

Range 36 W, containing 10 1/2 acres.

John Erickson

Land Office at Marquette, Mich.

November 28, 1893

I, John Primm

REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE,

do hereby certify that the above application is for Surveyed Lands of the class which the applicant is legally entitled to enter under Section 2289, Revised Statutes of the United States, and that there is no prior valid adverse right to the same.

John Primm

Register.

*has a pending application for*

12 <sup>62</sup>

Document 10. John Erickson's Homestead Application dated 16 and 28 November 1893.

☛ Transliteration of document 10

## HOMESTEAD

### APPLICATION

No....7388...

**Land Office at...Marquette, Mich....**  
 ...November 16, 1893...

I, ...*John Erickson...*, of...*Stambaugh, Michigan...*, do hereby apply to enter, under Section 2289, Revised Statutes of the United States, the...*Lots 4 and 5...* of Section...23..., in Township...42N...of Range...36W..., containing...104.9...acres.

...*John Erickson...*

-----

**Land Office at...Marquette, Mich....**  
 ...November 28, 1893...

I, ...*Peter Primian...*, Register of the Land Office, do hereby certify that the above application is for Surveyed Lands of the class which the applicant is legally entitled to enter under Section 2289, Revised Statutes of the United States, and that there is no prior valid adverse right to the same.

...*Peter Primian...*  
 Register.

held awaiting additional fee  
 12<sup>62</sup>

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

(4-063.)

**HOMESTEAD AFFIDAVIT.**Land Office at Marquette Mich.November 16, 1893

I, John Erickson, of Stambaugh, Mich. having filed my application No. 7388 for an entry under section 2289, Revised Statutes of the United States, do solemnly swear that I am not the proprietor of more than one hundred and sixty acres of land in any State or Territory; that I am ci civitate et conditione natus,

~~twenty-one years of age~~  
and have made and filed my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States

that my said application is honestly and in good faith made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not for the benefit of any other person, persons, or corporation, and that I will faithfully and honestly endeavor to comply with all the requirements of law as to settlement, residence, and cultivation necessary to acquire title to the land applied for; that I am not acting as agent of any person, corporation, or syndicate in making such entry, nor in collusion with any person, corporation, or syndicate to give them the benefit of the land entered, or any part thereof, or the timber thereon; that I do not apply to enter the same for the purpose of speculation, but in good faith to obtain a home for myself, and that I have not directly or indirectly made, and will not make, any agreement or contract in any way or manner, with any person or persons, corporation or syndicate whatsoever, by which the title which I might acquire from the Government of the United States should inure in whole or in part to the benefit of any person except myself, and further that since August 30, 1890, I have not entered under the land laws of the United States, or filed upon, a quantity of land, agricultural in character, and not mineral, which, with the tracts now applied for, would make more than three hundred and twenty acres.

That I have not been held in bondage or in slavery under the Homestead laws of the United States; and that owing to the distance I am unable to attend the said Land Office to make this affidavit

I hereby certify that the foregoing affidavit was sworn to and subscribed before me this 16 day of November, 1893, in the County of Iron, State of Michigan, a which the land applied for is situated; and that this affidavit is personally known to me.

John Erickson  
County of Pi. Court of U.S. for Eastern Dist. of Michigan

\* Here insert statement that affiant is a citizen of the United States, or that he has filed his declaration of intention to become such, and that he is the head of a family, or is over twenty-one years of age, as the case may be. It should be stated whether applicant is native-born or not, and if not, a certified copy of his certificate of naturalization, or declaration of intention, as the case may be, must be furnished. (See page 45, circular of January 1, 1893.)

† Here add an exception, if any, of land settled upon prior to August 30, 1890, giving date of settlement commenced, and describing improvements, and that the party has not heretofore made any entry under the homestead laws.

Forms by HENRY N. COVE, Washington, D. C.

 Transliteration of document 11
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**HOMESTEAD AFFIDAVIT.**

Land Office at...*Marquette, Mich.*...  
...*November 16*..., 1893...

I,...*John Erickson*..., of...*Stambaugh, Mich.*..., having filed my application No....7388..., for an entry under section 2289, Revised Statutes of the United States, do solemnly swear that I am not the proprietor of more than one hundred and sixty acres of land in any State or Territory: that I am\*...*a married man, twenty-one years of age and upward, and have made and filed my Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States*...that my said application is honestly and in good faith made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not for the benefit of any other person, persons, or corporation, and that I will faithfully and honestly endeavor to comply with all the requirements of law as to settlement, residence, and cultivation necessary to acquire title to the land applied for; that I am not acting as agent of any person, corporation, or syndicate in making such entry, nor in collusion with any person, corporation, or syndicate to give them the benefit of the land entered, or any part thereof, or the timber thereon; that I do not apply to enter the same for the purpose of speculation, but in good faith to obtain a home for myself, and that I have not directly or indirectly made, and will not make, any agreement or contract in any way or manner, with any person or persons, corporation or syndicate whatsoever, by which the title which I might acquire from the Government of the United States should insure in whole or in part to the benefit of any person except myself, and further that since August 30, 1890, I have not entered under the land laws of the United States, or filed upon a quantity of land, agricultural in character, and not mineral, which, with the tracts now applied for, would make more than three hundred and twenty acres.

†...*That I have not heretofore made an entry under the homestead laws of the United States; and that owing to the distance I am unable to attend the District Land Office to make this affidavit*...  
...*John Erickson*...

*I hereby certify that the foregoing affidavit was*...Sworn to and subscribed before me this...*16<sup>th</sup>*...day of ...*November*..., 1893, in the County of Iron being the County in which the land applied for is situated; and that the affiant is personally known to me...  
...*Edward P. Latt*...  
...*Com. of Cir[cut] Court of U.S. for Western Dist[ri]ct of Michigan*...

\*Here insert statement that affiant is a citizen of the United States, or that he has filed his declaration of intention to become such, and that he is the head of a family, or is over twenty-one years of age, as the case may be. It should be stated whether applicant is native-born or not, and if not, a certified copy of his certificate of naturalization, or declaration of intention, as the case may be, must be furnished. (See page 45, circular of January 1, 1889.)

†Here add an exception, if any, of land settled upon prior to August 30, 1890, giving date of settlement commenced, and describing improvements, and that the party has not heretofore made any entry under the homestead laws.





☞ Transliteration of document 12

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Certificate of Citizenship

State of Michigan,  
County of Iron.

Circuit Court for the County of Iron.

**Be it Remembered,** That at a session of the Circuit Court for the County of Iron, held at the Circuit Court Room, in the Village of Crystal Falls, County of Iron, on the...*eighteenth*...day of...*February*...in the year One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety...*five*...*John Erickson*...a Native of...*Sweden*...exhibited a Petition, praying to be admitted [*sic*] a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and it appearing to the said Court that he had declared on his oath before the...*Clerk of the Circuit Court of Iron Co., Mich.*...on the...*fourth*...day of...*May*..., A.D. 1889..., that it was bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the UNITED STATES, and to renounce forever, all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever; and particularly to...*the King of the Sweden and Norway*...of whom he was at that time a subject; and the said...*John Erikson [sic]*...having also made proof by competent testimony of...*Erick Renberg and Thomas Ball*...citizens of the United States, that he has resided in the State of Michigan upwards of one year, last past, and within the United States of America upwards of five years immediately preceeding his application; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that during that time he had behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; ~~and that he arrived in the United States of America under the age of eighteen years,~~ and has declared on his solemn oath before the said Court, that he would support the Constitution of the United States, and that he did absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to...*the King of the Sweden and Norway*...of whom he was a subject; thereupon the said Court admitted the said...*John Erikson [sic]*...to become a Citizen of the United States, and ordered all the proceedings aforesaid to be recorded by the Clerk of said Court, which was done accordingly.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal for the Circuit Court for the County of Iron (the same being a court of Record, having Common Law jurisdiction), at Crystal Falls, this...*18<sup>th</sup>*...day of...*Feb[ruary]*..., in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety...*five*...and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America, the One Hundred and...*nineteenth*...

...*D. R. Brown*...,  
Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County of Iron

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the claimant before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 10th day of September, 1900, at my office at Empire Falls in Clatsop County, Maine.

*John Hall*  
County Clerk

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]

NOTE.—The officer before whom the testimony is taken should call the attention of the witness to the following section of the Revised Statutes, and state to him that it is the purpose of the Government, if it be ascertained that he testifies falsely, to prosecute him to the full extent of the law.

Title LXXX.—CLAIMS.—Ch. 4.

SEC. 4372. Every person who, having taken an oath before some patent tribunal, officer, or person, in any case in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose, or certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate by him subscribed is true, willfully and contrary to such oath states or subscribes any material matter which he does not believe to be true, is guilty of perjury, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment, at hard labor, not more than five years, and shall, moreover, become forever incapable of giving testimony in any court of the United States until such time as the judgment against him is reversed. (See § 4750.)

(4-300.)

**HOMESTEAD PROOF.**

LAND OFFICE AT

*Marquette, Mich.*

Original Application No. 7388

Final Certificate No. 3584

Approved Sept. 14-1900.

*Marquis C. [unclear]* Registrar.

*John [unclear]* Receiver.

FINAL AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED OF HOMESTEAD CLAIMANTS.

SECTION 2291 OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES.

I, John Erickson, having made a Homestead entry of the 20th 1/4 Section No. 23 in Township No. 42 of Range No. 36, subject to entry all Marquette, Mich. under section No. 2289 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, do now apply to perfect my claim thereto by virtue of section No. 2291 of the Revised Statutes of the United States; and for that purpose do solemnly swear that I John Erickson a citizen of the United States; that I have made actual settlement upon and have cultivated and resided upon said land since the 10th day of February, 1894 to the present time; that no part of said land has been alienated, except as provided in section 2286 of the Revised Statutes, but that I am the sole bona fide owner as an actual settler; that I will bear true allegiance to the Government of the United States; and, further, that I have not heretofore perfected or abandoned an entry made under the homestead laws of the United States, except

(Sign plainly full christian name.) John Erickson

I, John Wall, of Empire Falls, do hereby certify that the above affidavit was subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of September, 1900, at my office at Empire Falls in Clatsop County, Maine.

*John Hall*  
County Clerk

Document 13. Cover page for John Erickson's Homestead Proof dated 10 and 14 September 1900.

<p>☞ Transliteration of document 13</p>
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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the claimant before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this...*tenth*...day of...*September*...~~189~~ 1900, at my office at...*Crystal Falls*...in...*Iron*...County,...*Mich*.

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE]

...*John Wall*...

...*County Clerk*...

NOTE.—The officer before whom the testimony is taken should call the attention of the witness to the following section of the Revised Statutes, and state to him that it is the purpose of the Government, if it be ascertained that he testifies falsely, to prosecute him to the full extent of the law.

**Title LXX.—CRIMES.—Ch. 4.**

SEC. 5392. Every person who, having taken an oath before a competent tribunal, officer, or person, in any case in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose, or certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate by him subscribed is true, willfully and contrary to such oath states or subscribes any material matter which he does not believe to be true, is guilty of perjury, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment, at hard labor, not more than five years, and shall, moreover, thereafter be incapable of giving testimony in any court of the United States until such time as the judgment against him is reversed. (See §1750.)

-----  
*John Erickson*

(4—369.)

HOMESTEAD PROOF.

LAND OFFICE AT

...*Marquette, Mich*...

Original Application No....7388...

Final Certificate No....3587...

Approved:...*Sept. 14, 1900*...

...*Thomas Scadden*..., Register.

...*John Jinn*..., Receiver.  
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**FINAL AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED OF HOMESTEAD CLAIMANTS.**

Section...2291...OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES.

I, ...*John Erickson*..., having made a Homestead entry of the...*Lots 4 & 5*...Section No....23...in Township No....42...of Range No....36..., subject to entry at...*Marquette, Mich*...under section No. 2289 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, do now apply to perfect my claim thereto by virtue of section No....2291...of the Revised Statutes of the United States; and for that purpose do solemnly...swear...that I...*John Erickson*...a citizen of the United States; that I have made actual settlement upon and have cultivated and resided upon said land since the.....day of...*February*..., 1894...to the present time; that no part of said land has been alienated, except as provided in section 2288 of the Revised Statutes, but that I am the sole *bona fide* owner as an actual settler; that I will bear true allegiance to the Government of the United States; and, further, that I have not heretofore perfected or abandoned an entry made under the homestead laws of the United States, except.....

(Sign plainly full christian Name.) ...*John Erickson*...

I, ...*John Wall*..., of...*Crystal Falls*..., do hereby certify that the above affidavit was subscribed and sworn to before me this...10<sup>th</sup>...day of...*September*..., ~~189~~ 1900, at my office at...*Crystal Falls*...in...*Iron*...County,...*Michigan*...

...*John Wall*...

...*County Clerk*...



☞ Transliteration of document 14

**HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.**

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...*Charley A. Lindblom*..., being called as a witness in support of the Homestead entry of...*John Erickson*...for...*Lots 4 & 5, [Section]23, [T]47, [R]36*..., testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your name, age and post-office address?

Ans....*Charles A. Lindblom*...Age 36...*Stambaugh, Mich*...

Ques. 2—Are you well acquainted with the claimant in this case and the land embraced in his claim?

Ans....*Yes*...

Ques. 3—Is said tract within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade or business?

Ans....*No*...

Ques. 4—State specifically the character of this land—whether it is timber, prairie, grazing, farming, coal, or mineral land.

Ans....*Hardwood timber land suitable for farming*...

Ques. 5—When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon?

Ans....*Commenced working & built a shanty in February 1894, moved family on land Sept. 30, 1894*...

Ques. 6—Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon? (If settler is unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans....*Yes, is married*...

Ques. 7—For what period or periods has the settler been absent from the land since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did claimant's family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans....*None, always lived on the land*...

Ques. 8—How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated and for how many seasons did he raise crops thereon?

Ans....*About 11 acres, cropped all part of the land for 6 years, all in 1900*...

Ques. 9—What improvements are on the land and what is their value?

Ans....*1 Log house 18 x 22, 2 stories shake roof & board floor, \$200<sup>00</sup>; 1 Barn 22 x 24, \$50<sup>00</sup> and 1 Barn 16 x 20, \$50<sup>00</sup>; 1 Root House 8 x 10, \$10<sup>00</sup>; 1 Log Shanty 14 x 17, \$15<sup>00</sup>; 75 rods pole fence \$7<sup>50</sup>; 11 acres cleared land, \$275<sup>00</sup>; 2 miles road, \$30<sup>00</sup>*...

Ques. 10—Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the homestead? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.)

Ans....*No mineral indications, only valuable for agricultural use*...

Ques. 11—Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said homestead?

Ans....*No*...

Ques. 12—Are you interested in this claim; and do you think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry?

Ans....*No*...

(Sign plainly with full christian name.)

...*Charly [sic] A. Lindblom*...

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the witness before being subscribed and was sworn to before me this...*tenth*...day of...*September*..., ~~189~~ 1900, at my office at...*Crystal Falls*...in...*Iron*...County,...*Mich*...

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]

...*John Wall*...

...*County Clerk*...

(The testimony of witness must be taken at the same time and place and before the same officer as claimant's final affidavit. The answers must be full and complete to each and every questions asked and officers taking testimony will be expected to make no mistakes in dates, description of land, or otherwise.)

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

(4-385.)

## HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

John Erickson being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of homestead entry, No. 7388, for 2542.5 Acres Sec 23, T42, R. 36. testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your name, age, and post-office address?

Ans. John Erickson Age 50 years Stambaugh, Mich

Ques. 2.—Are you a native-born citizen of the United States, and if so, in what State or Territory were you born?

Ans. No. (Born in Sweden)

Ques. 3.—Are you the identical person who made homestead entry, No. 7388, at the Stambaugh, Mich land office on the twelfth day of November, 1893, and what is the true description of the land now claimed by you?

Ans. 2542.5 Acres of Section 23, Town 42, Range 36

Ques. 4.—When was your house built on the land and when did you establish actual residence therein? (Describe said house and other improvements which you have placed on the land, giving total value thereof.)

Ans. I built a shanty in February 1894, a house in September 1894. Established my residence in February, married my family on the land Sept 30, 1894.

Ques. 5.—Of whom does your family consist; and have you and your family resided continuously on the land since first establishing residence thereon? (If unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans. Myself, wife, and 6 children (5 boys & 1 girl, have always lived continuously on the land.)

Ques. 6.—For what period or periods have you been absent from the homestead since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did your family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans. Not been absent.

Ques. 7.—How much of the land have you cultivated each season and for how many seasons have you raised crops thereon?

Ans. 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722, 2723, 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2890, 2891, 2892, 2893, 2894, 2895, 2896, 2897, 2898, 2899, 2900, 2901, 2902, 2903, 2904, 2905, 2906, 2907, 2908, 2909, 2910, 2911, 2912, 2913, 2914, 2915, 2916, 2917, 2918, 2919, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925, 2926, 2927, 2928, 2929, 2930, 2931, 2932, 2933, 2934, 2935, 2936, 2937, 2938, 2939, 2940, 2941, 2942, 2943, 2944, 2945, 2946, 2947, 2948, 2949, 2950, 2951, 2952, 2953, 2954, 2955, 2956, 2957, 2958, 2959, 2960, 2961, 2962, 2963, 2964, 2965, 2966, 2967, 2968, 2969, 2970, 2971, 2972, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2977, 2978, 2979, 2980, 2981, 2982, 2983, 2984, 2985, 2986, 2987, 2988, 2989, 2990, 2991, 2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3015, 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3020, 3021, 3022, 3023, 3024, 3025, 3026, 3027, 3028, 3029, 3030, 3031, 3032, 3033, 3034, 3035, 3036, 3037, 3038, 3039, 3040, 3041, 3042, 3043, 3044, 3045, 3046, 3047, 3048, 3049, 3050, 3051, 3052, 3053, 3054, 3055, 3056, 3057, 3058, 3059, 3060, 3061, 3062, 3063, 3064, 3065, 3066, 3067, 3068, 3069, 3070, 3071, 3072, 3073, 3074, 3075, 3076, 3077, 3078, 3079, 3080, 3081, 3082, 3083, 3084, 3085, 3086, 3087, 3088, 3089, 3090, 3091, 3092, 3093, 3094, 3095, 3096, 3097, 3098, 3099, 3100, 3101, 3102, 3103, 3104, 3105, 3106, 3107, 3108, 3109, 3110, 3111, 3112, 3113, 3114, 3115, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3119, 3120, 3121, 3122, 3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140, 3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149, 3150, 3151, 3152, 3153, 3154, 3155, 3156, 3157, 3158, 3159, 3160, 3161, 3162, 3163, 3164, 3165, 3166, 3167, 3168, 3169, 3170, 3171, 3172, 3173, 3174, 3175, 3176, 3177, 3178, 3179, 3180, 3181, 3182, 3183, 3184, 3185, 3186, 3187, 3188, 3189, 3190, 3191, 3192, 3193, 3194, 3195, 3196, 3197, 3198, 3199, 3200, 3201, 3202, 3203, 3204, 3205, 3206, 3207, 3208, 3209, 3210, 3211, 3212, 3213, 3214, 3215, 3216, 3217, 3218, 3219, 3220, 3221, 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3388, 3389, 3390, 3391, 3392, 3393, 3394, 3395, 3396, 3397, 3398, 3399, 3400, 3401, 3402, 3403, 3404, 3405, 3406, 3407, 3408, 3409, 3410, 3411, 3412, 3413, 3414, 3415, 3416, 3417, 3418, 3419, 3420, 3421, 3422, 3423, 3424, 3425, 3426, 3427, 3428, 3429, 3430, 3431, 3432, 3433, 3434, 3435, 3436, 3437, 3438, 3439, 3440, 3441, 3442, 3443, 3444, 3445, 3446, 3447, 3448, 3449, 3450, 3451, 3452, 3453, 3454, 3455, 3456, 3457, 3458, 3459, 3460, 3461, 3462, 3463, 3464, 3465, 3466, 3467, 3468, 3469, 3470, 3471, 3472, 3473, 3474, 3475, 3476, 3477, 3478, 3479, 3480, 3481, 3482, 3483, 3484, 3485, 3486, 3487, 3488, 3489, 3490, 3491, 3492, 3493, 3494, 3495, 3496, 3497, 3498, 3499, 3500, 3501, 3502, 3503, 3504, 3505, 3506, 3507, 3508, 3509, 3510, 3511, 3512, 3513, 3514, 3515, 3516, 3517, 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3522, 3523, 3524, 3525, 3526, 3527, 3528, 3529, 3530, 3531, 3532, 3533, 3534, 3535, 3536, 3537, 3538, 3539, 3540, 3541, 3542, 3543, 3544, 3545, 3546, 3547, 3548, 3549, 3550, 3551, 3552, 3553, 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3720, 3721, 3722, 3723, 3724, 3725, 3726, 3727, 3728, 3729, 3730, 3731, 3732, 3733, 3734, 3735, 3736, 3737, 3738, 3739, 3740, 3

☞ Transliteration of document 15
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**HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.**

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...*John Erickson*..., being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of homestead entry, No. ...7388..., for...*Lots 4 & 5, Sec. 23, T42, R36*..., testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your name, age and post-office address?

Ans....*John Erickson*...*age 50 years*...*Stambaugh, Mich*...

Ques. 2—Are you a *native-born* citizen of the United States, and if so, in what State or Territory were you born?

Ans....*No. (Born in Sweden)*...

Ques. 3—Are you the identical person who made homestead entry, No....7388..., at the...*Marquette, Mich*...land office on the...*twenty-eighth*...day of...*November*..., 1893, and what is the true description of the land now claimed by you?

Ans....*Lots 4 and 5 of Section 23, Town. 42, Range 36*...

Ques. 4—When was your house built on the land and when did you establish actual residence therein? (Describe said house and other improvements which you have placed on the land, giving total value thereof.)

Ans....*I built a shanty in February 1894 & a house in September 1894. Established my residence in February[;] moved my family on the land Sept. 30, 1894*...

Ques. 5—Of whom does your family consist; and have you and your family resided continuously on the land since first establishing residence thereon? (If unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans....*Myself & wife and 6 children (5 boys & 1 girl), have always lived continuously on the land*...

Ques. 6—For what period or periods have you been absent from the homestead since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did your family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans....*Not been absent*...

Ques. 7—How much of the land have you cultivated each season and for how many seasons have you raised crops thereon?

Ans....*1 acre in 1894, 3 acres in 1895, 5 acres in 1896, 7 acres in 1897, 7 acres in 1898 & 1899, & 11 acres in 1900*...

Ques. 8—Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade and business?

Ans....*No*...

Ques. 9—What is the character of the land? Is it timber, mountainous, prairie, grazing, or ordinary agricultural land? State its kind and quality, and for what purpose it is most valuable.

Ans....*Hardwood timber land only valuable for agricultural purposes*...

Ques. 10—Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the land? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.)

Ans....*No mineral indications*...

Ques. 11—Have you ever made any other homestead entry? (If so, describe the same.)

Ans....*No*...

Ques. 12—Have you sold, conveyed, or mortgaged any portion of the land; and if so, to whom and for what purpose?

Ans....*No*...

Ques. 13—Have you any personal property of any kind elsewhere than on this claim? (If so, describe the same, and state where the same is kept.)

Ans....*No*...

Ques. 14—Describe by legal subdivisions, or by number, kind of entry, and office where made, any other entry or filing (no mineral), made by you since August 30, 1890.

Ans....*None*...

(Sign plainly with full christian name.)

...*John Erickson*...

\*(In case the party is of foreign birth a certified transcript from the court records of his Declaration of Intention to become a citizen, or of his naturalization, or a copy thereof, certified by the officer taking this proof, must be filed with the case. Evidence of *naturalization* is only required in final (five-year) homestead cases.)

6-404

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas There has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Marquette, Michigan, whereby it appears that pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of John Erickson has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law, for the lot numbered one and one-half of section twenty three in township forty two north of range thirty six west of Michigan, Marquette in Michigan, containing and adjacent land of one and one-half acres more or less

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General:

Know YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said John Erickson the tract of Land above described; To HAVE and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said John Erickson and to his  heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, Theodore Roosevelt President of the United States of America, has caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed. GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, this 23rd day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty eighth.

By the President: T. Roosevelt

John H. Brown Secretary of the General Land Office.

Recorded Oct 23 1901 174 23rd page 111

**Document 16.** Final certificate, dated 23 October 1901, authorizing the issuance of a patent to John Erickson.

☞ Transliteration of document 16

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No....3587...  
Application...7388...

Whereas There has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at...*Marquette, Michigan*..., whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of...*John Erickson*...has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law, for



the...*Lots numbered four and five of Section twenty-three in Township forty-two North of Range thirty-six West of Michigan, Meridian in Michigan, containing one hundred and four acres and ninety hundredths of an acre...*according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General:

**Now know ye**, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said...*John Erickson...*the tract of Land above described, To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said...*John Erickson...*and his heirs and assigns forever.

**In testimony whereof** I,...*Theodore Roosevelt...*, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed. GIVEN under my hand at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the...*twenty third...*day of...*October...*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred...*and one...*, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and...*twenty sixth...*

By the President...*T. Roosevelt...*

By...*F. M. McKeon...*, Secretary,

Recorded...*Michigan...*, Vol...*254...*, Page...*434...*

...*C. W. Bush...*, Recorder of the General Land Office

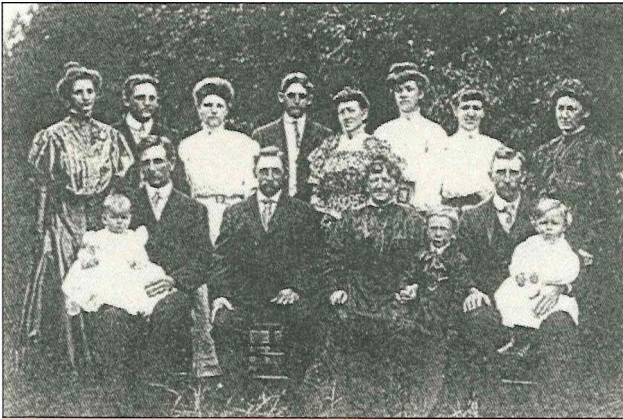
# Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a "space available" basis. The editor reserves the right to edit these queries to conform to a general format. The inquirer is responsible for the contents of the query.

## Andersdotter, Bergstedt

I am seeking information on the following three sisters born in Ryssby Parish (Smål.; Kronoberg *län*) and their niece (*systerdotter*) born in Kärda Parish (Smål.):

1. Brita Maria Andersdotter, b. 19 April 1848; emigr. date unknown.
2. Ingrid Greta Andersdotter, b. 5 May 1851; emigr. 1 September 1882.
3. Emma Kristina Andersdotter, b. 25 January (or 26 February) 1854; emigr. from Göteborg to Chicago 10 August 1888.
4. Tara Amalia Therese Bergstedt, b. 30 September 1883; emigr. 26 September 1899; married W. Larsson in the U.S.



**Fig. 1.** Photograph that accompanied the query. None of the individuals were identified. Does anyone recognize any of them?

Inga Mattsson  
Apelgatan 18  
33233 Gislaved  
SWEDEN

**Svensson, Schagelin, Carlsson**

I am interested in finding living descendants of two individuals on the maternal side of my family who immigrated to America.

My mother's aunt (*moster*), Hulda Maria Carolina Svensson, was b. 29 October 1866 in Jacob and Johannes Parish in Stockholm, the dau. of Carl Anton Schagelin and Emilia Charlotta Svensson. In 1895 she worked as a hospital assistant and may have later become a nurse. Hulda emigr. on 30 September 1897 from Stockholm via Malmö to Minneapolis, MN.



**Fig. 2.** Hulda Maria Carolina Svensson with her fiancé (*fästman*) (?).

My mother's brother (*morbror*), Carl Wilhelm Carlsson, was born 4 April 1885 in Maria Magdalena Parish in Stockholm. He was the oldest child in the family and had the nickname "Wild Willy." At the age of fifteen he signed on as a stoker on the steamship *Allegro*. Carl Wilhelm emigrated immediately after his mother's death in 1922. He wrote a letter from Chicago ca. 1922 in which he stated that he was a mechanic and had married an Irish woman with red hair. The family has had no contact with him since.

Bertil Sollerbrant  
Trevebovägen 29  
184 32 Åkersberga  
SWEDEN  
E-mail: <bertil.sollerbrant@beta.telenordia.se>

**Table 1.** Abbreviations for Swedish provinces (*landskap*) used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (as of March 2000) and Sveriges Släktforskarförbund (the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, Stockholm).

<i>Landskap</i> (Province)	SAG & SS Abbr.	<i>Landskap</i> (Province)	SAG & SS Abbr.
Blekinge	Blek.	Närke	Närk.
Bohuslän	Bohu.	Skåne	Skån.
Dalarna	Dala.	Småland	Smål.
Dalsland	Dals.	Södermanland	Södm.
Gotland	Gotl.	Uppland	Uppl.
Gästrikland	Gäst.	Värmland	Värml.
Halland	Hall.	Västerbotten	Väbo.
Hälsingland	Häls.	Västergötland	Vägö.
Härjedalen	Härj.	Västmanland	Väsm.
Jämtland	Jämt.	Ångermanland	Ånge.
Lappland	Lapp.	Öland	Öland
Medelpad	Mede.	Östergötland	Östg.
Norrbottn	Nobo.		

**Table 2.** Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by Statistiska centralbyrån (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

<i>Län</i> (County)	SAG Abbr.	SCB Abbr.	SCB Code	<i>Län</i> (County)	SAG Abbr.	SCB Abbr.	SCB Code
Blekinge	Blek.	Blek.	K	Stockholm	Stock.	Stlm.	AB
Dalarna <sup>a</sup>		Dlrn.	W	Södermanland	Söd.	Södm.	D
Gotland	Gotl.	Gotl.	I	Uppsala	Upps.	Upps.	C
Gävleborg	Gävl.	Gävl.	X	Värmland	Värml.	Vrml.	S
Halland	Hall.	Hall.	N	Västerbotten	Vbn.	Vbtn.	AC
Jämtland	Jämt.	Jmtl.	Z	Västernorrland	Vn.	Vnrl.	Y
Jönköping	Jön.	Jkpg.	F	Västmanland	Väst.	Vstm.	U
Kalmar	Kalm.	Kalm.	H	Västra Götaland <sup>c</sup>		Vgöt.	O
Kronoberg	Kron.	Kron.	G	Örebro	Öre.	Öreb.	T
Norrbottn	Norr.	Nbtn.	BD	Östergötland	Ög.	Östg.	E
Skåne <sup>b</sup>		Skån.	M				

<sup>a</sup> formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

<sup>b</sup> includes the former counties (*län*) of Malmöhus (Malm.; M) and Kristianstad (Krist.; L).

<sup>c</sup> includes the former counties (*län*) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).

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