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The Search for Sven from Småland

Joyce Miller Scott*

Successful at last! After years of fruitless search, I vowed to sing Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” if Sven was ever found. However, in deference to the County Recorder’s Office in Chisago County, Minnesota, where proof for our “lost Sven” was found, the singing was withdrawn.

Sven was the one missing sibling of the Möller/Miller family in North America. Their patronymic was Petersson. The family emigrated from Kronoberg län, Småland, to North America between 1864 and 1869. Five siblings—Magnus, Johan, Anna, Sven and Anders—came to America. Eventually, their mother and her second husband also emigrated.

The first brother to come to America was Johan who, with his wife Inga and their three children, settled in Sycamore, Illinois. They later moved to Muskegon, Michigan. His permanent residence after 1876 was a farm near Fremont, Newaygo County, Michigan. The property is now a Michigan Centennial Farm, continuously farmed by the Miller descendants for over one hundred years.

In 1866, Johan’s three brothers (Magnus, Sven and Anders) arrived. Magnus, the oldest brother, came from Linneryd Parish (Smål.) with his wife and child. After a few years in Muskegon, Michigan, he settled in Cokato, Wright County, Minnesota. Anders, the youngest and unmarried, also stopped briefly in Michigan. He finally settled near his brother, Magnus, in Cokato.

In 1869 the rest of the family arrived in North America. Their sister, Anna, had married in Sweden and came with her husband and baby. They settled in Muskegon, Michigan, and remained there throughout their lives. The mother of the family, Ingrid Cajsa Magnusdotter, also came in 1869. She arrived with her second husband, Daniel Persson, and the two daughters from her second marriage. They also settled in Cokato, Minnesota, near her two sons, Magnus and Anders, from her first marriage to Per Persson. In their old age they left for Menominee, Michigan, to live with their daughter. They both died and are buried in Menominee.

Nothing was known of Sven, also single, who came with his brother Anders in 1866. By the process of elimination, it was found that Sven evidently did not settle where any of his siblings did. Where did he settle in America? It still remained a mystery after many years of searching.

Sven’s life in Sweden was well documented. He was born in Vederslöv Parish (Smål.) on 3 August 1842, the son of Per Persson Möller and Ingrid Cajsa

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Magnusdotter. He was recorded with his family in Odenslanda Thoragård in the household examination rolls. His father had died when he was six years of age. His mother soon remarried, so he actually lived longer with his stepfather, Daniel Persson, than with his father.

In 1859 Sven moved to the Odensjö area of Skatelöv Parish (Smål.). Meanwhile, his parents moved to Hovmantorp Parish (Smål.). Sven left Skatelöv in 1865 and went to Klintalycke in Hovmantorp. He left from there with his brother, Anders, on 25 April 1866 to go to Hull, England, on the ship Despatch. They were en route to North America. Their port of entry in America is still unknown.

Sven’s siblings used the surname Möller (Miller in North America), which was his father’s soldier name. He seemed to usually use his patronymic, Petersson, in Sweden. It was not known which name he used in America, so both names were searched. The search for him went on for many years, centering first on the areas where his siblings settled—western Michigan and Wright County, Minnesota. Since he came as a single man, marriage records from those areas were searched for anyone with the correct name and year of birth. Many names were found for a Sven Möller/Miller and a Sven Petersson/Persson, but none of them matched “our Sven.” Church membership records and minutes were read at the Swenson Center, Augustana College, for both the Michigan and Minnesota areas.Only a record of a visit to the Swedish Baptist Church in Cokato, which his mother attended, was found. However, it was the first hint that he may have settled in Minnesota.

The federal censuses for Wright County, Minnesota, and Muskegon County, Michigan, were searched for the years 1870, 1880, 1900 and 1910. The Michigan state census records for Muskegon County for the years 1874, 1884 and 1894 were also searched, as were the Minnesota state census records for Wright County for the years 1875, 1885, 1895 and 1905. Many possible Svens were noted and followed up, but none proved to be “our Sven.” Cemeteries relating to other family members and surrounding ones were searched. Newspapers in both the Michigan and Minnesota locations were scanned. Fortunately, some had locally produced indexes. The Library of Michigan’s many resources were often visited. Two libraries in the Twin Cities—at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society—were also utilized. It was at the latter where the break finally came that led us to “our lost Sven.”

He was not found in the incomplete nominal census index for the Minnesota Federal Census of 1880. The Soundex index to the same census was also checked. It included only people having children under ten years of age.

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1 Vederslöv Parish (Smål.), Birth Records, 1842, p. 343.
2 Vederslöv Parish (Smål.), Household Examination Rolls, 1838-1855.
3 Hovmantorp Parish (Smål.), Moving Out Records, 1866, p. 303, No. 10.
Fortunately, Sven qualified for this index. A Sven Miller, close in age to “our Sven” was located in Chisago County, Minnesota, which borders the St. Croix River. With only limited time in Minnesota, the “Scott Search Squad” (three members of our family) went into action, each researching one type of record for Chisago County. Husband Charles searched the census records for the years following 1880 and found the family. Son Michael checked the maps, especially plat maps. He found one for 1888 showing Sven’s property, then in his wife Christine’s name. I researched the history of the area and especially focused on Franconia, the place of residence listed on the census. It is a very small place and difficult to find on current maps, since it is in very tiny print. The Minnesota Historical Society had a copy of the Franconia Cemetery burials in their MS Collection, but no Sven Miller was found in this burial record.

Fig. 1. Southeast corner of 1888 Outline Map of Chisago County, Minnesota, showing the townships of Chisago Lake, Shafer and Franconia. Note the towns of Lindstrom, Centre (now Center) City, Shafer, Franconia, Taylors Falls, and St. Croix (WI).

After visiting relatives in Foley, Minnesota, we realized that we could squeeze in a day in Chisago County en route home to Ontario. The county is well known for its large number of Swedish settlers, both real and the fictional Karl Oscar and Christina of Vilhelm Moberg’s books. The county seat at Center
City conveniently houses all the county offices in one building. We first went to
the Recorder's office to get a death record. Sven's record was soon found in
1886. It listed Sven's exact age in years, months and days in the original record.
A quick check with his Swedish birth record matched his age exactly!
(Ironically, if his death record had been obtained by mail, the age in years,
months and days would have been omitted from the certificate and the proof that
this was the Sven we sought would have been inconclusive!). Sven only lived
twenty years after his immigration, so there were fewer records for him than his
other siblings. He had died suddenly at forty-three years of age.

![Fig. 2. Portion of 1888 Plat Map of Franconia Township, Chisago County, Minnesota. Christine Miller is listed as the owner of 110.75 acres in section 9. The town of Franconia and the St. Croix River are on the eastern edge.](image)

Next we found a marriage record for a Swan Miller and Johanna Christina
Petersdotter for 1872 in the old town of Marine on St. Croix, Washington
County. The six children of the family were listed in the census records.
Michael located a later (1914) plat map for Franconia Township, showing the
Sven Miller farm of 110+ acres with a different owner—Sven's son, Joseph. The
farm was bordered by Highway 95 on the east. It was located on the bluffs
above the river flats. Johanna Christina managed the farm and six small
children, ages twelve to one, after her husband's death. Son Joseph took over
when he was grown. The farm was sold in 1916 and Johanna and her son Joe
moved into nearby Shafer, where they both died in 1917.

The library in Lindstrom, Minnesota, was the next stop for the "Search
Squad." It was rather small and, judging from my librarian's experience, I

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4 Johanna Christina was born to Peter Johanesson and Ingrid Cathrine Niclausdotter in Väckelsång
Parish (Smål.).
doubted that they would have local newspapers on microfilm. But, they had something better—the original newspapers! In them we found the 1917 obituaries for both Johanna Christina and her son Joseph. The obituaries were replete with information! None was found for Sven, who died in 1886. The Taylors Falls, Minnesota, newspaper during that time period, The Journal, was searched with no result.

The obituaries led to the burial place, as well as the church where they worshipped. It was the Chisago Lake Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church, about five miles from their farm. This picturesque church is situated on a bluff in Center City and is reflected in Chisago Lake—a lovely setting. In the graveyard east of the church in the sixth row from the last, stood a large stone emblazoned with MILLER. Beneath it were the stones for Sven (3 Aug. 1842-22 May 1886), Johanna Christina (1 July 1843-20 Nov. 1917), and Joseph (25 Feb. 1879-18 June 1917). One other child had died previously. The remaining four children went to the Twin Cities to seek their fortunes. They are yet to be researched. No descendants remain in Franconia.

One thing remained for us—to see the elusive settlement of Franconia itself. Driving along Highway 95 several times, we could find no way down to the river where it was located on the map. Finally we spotted a sign on a dirt road leading toward the river that read “Franconia Trail.” Following the winding trail down the bluff toward the river, we located the interesting, historic, and small settlement situated below the bluff and along the St. Croix River. It was a delightful surprise! Again we experienced the bonus from a genealogical search. The path often leads to a delightful small place one would not otherwise discover. Such was the case with Franconia.

Our time to leave for home had arrived. We were amazed that after years of fruitless searching we three could accomplish so much in two days—one day in St. Paul at the Historical Society Library and the other in Chisago County. American records we need are often difficult to get from Canada. Many resources are not available on inter-library loan. So we’ve learned to maximize our time on our annual trip to Minnesota and more frequent forays for research into Michigan.

After arriving home, I was musing about our success in locating Sven Miller from Småland. I began to put the data together for Sven’s account to fill the gap in the Miller genealogy.\(^5\) Now the accounts for all five Miller siblings are complete—three in Minnesota and two in Michigan, with descendants spread as far as the West Coast. Looking down from my chair, I saw my often-used book, Swedish American Landmarks. There on the cover was an illustration of the very church where Sven and his family worshipped. Behind it is the graveyard where our lost, and now found, Sven lies. So near; yet so far!

\(^5\) The Miller genealogy will be published in the coming months. If interested, please contact the author. Contacts with Sven and Anders Miller’s descendants would be welcomed.
The Story Mother Used
To Tell About Her People

Judie Lundgren* and James E. Erickson

What follows is an intriguing account of the life and times of a Swedish immigrant family beginning a new life in the Midwestern states of Illinois and Iowa immediately following the Civil War. It is filled with family lore and written in a free, rambling style that has the feel of a taped interview that was later transcribed.

The original manuscript was found among the papers of Bruce A. Lundgren. Mother, as described in the story, has been identified as Kerstin Danielsdotter, the daughter of Daniel Carlsson and Brita Olsdotter. After immigrating to the United States with her family, she married Carl Peter Danielsson (Carlson) Lundgren and went by the name Mary Christine Lundgren. “The Story” was written by one of her children, probably Carrie.

We present this story not only to chronicle an interesting family during an interesting period of American history, but also to illustrate one fundamental tenet of genealogical research—namely, that undocumented information, while often tantalizing and potentially valuable, must be checked against primary source material to ensure its veracity. To that end, a variety of undocumented statements included in this particular family history—whether names, dates, places, or events—were selected and researched for accuracy and/or truthfulness. Note that these statements are highlighted in italic and bold type throughout the original text and are accompanied by footnotes, which provide further information that either corroborates or refutes the original assertion. Some minor grammatical changes were made to improve the readability of the text.

It seems that in mother’s family there must have been some wanderlust on the father’s side. Sometime around the revolution in France, his people had left France.1 Mother did not know where they came from or what their name was in France. On the mother’s side all mother knew was that the

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* Judie Lundgren is the great-granddaughter of Bettie (Brita) Danielsdotter Carlsson Lundgren. Her e-mail address is <jude55@home.com>.
1 Whether grandfather’s people came from France has not yet been determined. What is known with certainty is that grandfather, i.e., Daniel Carlson, was the son of Carl Jacob Phragmén, whose lineage can be traced back to Worms Jonsson, a smith who came to Sweden from Germany. — Ivar Wallenius, “Släkten Phragmén (Phragmenius),” Personhistorisk Tidskrift 40 (1939-40): 218-236.

grandmother was German\textsuperscript{2} and that she had dark eyes and dark hair and her name was Bertha, and that was all she ever knew.

Mother said that they were well-to-do in Sweden and her father owned two sawmills and one flour mill, or was it two flour mills and one sawmill, probably the latter. She did not know how many men worked for her father, but she did remember that they had three milkmaids that took care of the cows. In summer they took them up into the mountains or hills and the maids lived in huts there. Once mother went with them as they had to watch the cows so they would not run away. She became lost so she laid \textit{[sic]} down by the cow with a bell as the bell would wake her up if the cow moved. One of the maids ran home and told them she was lost so the men came and hunted all night for her and did not find her until morning.

Their Sabbath began at sunset on Saturday night and all food had to be cooked and ready for Sunday. Everyone had to have had baths and clean clothes on as no work was allowed on Sunday until sunset. The house had to be in order, spick and span. It seems grandmother took care of the family and had girls do the work.

Some men came back to Sweden to where the family lived and told tales about America and that "it was a land that flowed with milk and honey." Then the Mormons came and wanted grandfather to come to America and they also told tales of great abundance. He almost joined the Mormons until he found they wanted him to throw all he owned into the "common kitty" and that he refused to do. He was well-to-do and did not feel like it was fair to give up what he had earned. However, he had America fever so bad that he just had to go there. He sold all his property and did not even stay long enough to settle everything, so left the two sons by his first wife, Olof and Louis, to take care of this for him and it was two years before the two sons came to America. Aunt Clara told me some of this.

Mother used to tell about some of the people on the ship that brought them to America. In steerage were the very poor and the women wore black kerchiefs on their heads and had huge woven baskets with food, and there were many children. Mother did not know just where they came from. Mother and the other children in the family used to go down and watch them. [I] do not know how long it took them to come to the U.S. in 1865. They finally made it to New York and mother was eleven years old two days after they landed at Ellis Island.\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{2} This description of grandmother suggests that she may have descended from a Walloon. For more information on the Walloons consult the following sources: Kjell Lindblom, \textit{Vallonsläktet under 1600-Talet} (Stockholm, 1992); Karl Kilborn, \textit{Vallonerna: Valloninvandringen stormaktstiden och den Svenska järnhanteringen} (Stockholm, 1958); and Bernt Douhan, "The Walloons in Sweden," \textit{Swedish American Genealogist} II (March 1982): 1-17.

\textsuperscript{3} This statement is incorrect for the simple reason that Ellis Island did not open until 1892. During the years 1855 to 1890, Castle Garden served as New York's receiving station for immigrants. For more information about Castle Garden see Nils Kolle, "Castle Garden Revisited," \textit{Swedish American Genealogist} V (June 1985): 59-64.
From there they went to Illinois. [I] think to Galesburg or Galva or maybe both. There were so many poor that came from Sweden to Illinois and they seemed to think grandfather should feed them all. He said if he had to that his own family would be out of food, clothes, etc., themselves, so he moved on to Boone County, Iowa. Mother never did say how he decided to go there as they were the first Swedish people to come to what was later called Pilot Mound, as that place was built on the land grandfather bought. Mother said *grandfather had a sister and family that came with them to America.*⁴ I believe it was Alfred Sundberg’s folks. Anyway, the sister hated it so much she decided to learn to read and write and tell people in Sweden not to come as it was terrible in Iowa. By the time she learned to write (and she did), she did not care to go back to Sweden. Girls did not need an education in those days, so the old-timers thought. The Tornell family is related to mother,⁵ but [I] never did know or remember how; only that they were cousins, like Carrie, Olof, Peter, and Anna Tornell.

In the family of Olof and Louis was an *infant girl who died.* [She] belonged to the first marriage.⁶ According to Aunt Clara, *their mother was a first cousin of grandfather,*⁷ and it was not legal to marry a cousin without the permission of the king. [S]o grandfather said he went courting the king to get married and used to sing a Swedish song about it. Aunt Clara said he was such a sweet person and did not even smile very much. Mother told about going to church where there was a visiting preacher and he made terrible faces and on the way home grandmother said, “Girls, were you able to keep from laughing? It was all I could do to keep from doing so!” And that was almost shocking to the girls that their mother would laugh in church. Probably was a schoolhouse. Mother told about how expensive everything was after the Civil War. When they went to church they walked barefooted and carried their shoes and a cloth to wipe their feet off. They sat on the steps of the church and wiped their feet off and put on shoes and stockings. When services were over they sat down and took them off and walked home barefooted, as shoes cost too much money. Once a year, a shoemaker would

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⁴ This statement is incorrect. It was the *grandmother,* not the grandfather, who had a sister and family that came with them to America (see footnote 5 for details).

⁵ Grandmother, i.e., Brita Olsdotter, had a sister, Carin Olsdotter, who married Olof Tornell. The Daniel Carlsson and Olof Tornell families left Tömängn, Skog Parish (Häls.) for North America on 11 July 1865. See figures 1 and 2 in the Appendix.

⁶ The “infant child” in question was named Brita. She was the daughter of Daniel Carlsson and his first wife, Margta Olsdotter. Brita died at Tömängn on 4 October 1851. See figures 3 and 4 in the Appendix.

⁷ This statement is true. Daniel Carlsson and Margta Olsdotter were not only husband and wife but also first cousins. Daniel Carlsson’s mother was Brita Larsdotter, who was born at Håkanbo, Hanebo Parish (Häls.) on 6 November 1775. Margta Olsdotter’s mother was Anna Larsdotter, who was born at Håkanbo, Hanebo Parish (Häls.) on 5 November 1777. Brita and Anna Larsdotter were sisters, the daughters of Lars Nilsson and Margta Ersdotter. See figures 4 and 6 in the Appendix.
come and make the shoes they needed and the tailor would come and make clothes. [They] would stay with the family until they were done with shoes and clothes. Stockings they knit at home.

Mother used to tell about all the snakes—king snakes, rattlesnakes, blue racers, etc.—and [that] all her life she was very scared of them. Mother said the snakes would roll up into balls and when someone came they would unroll and scatter and scare them to death almost. Twice blue racers chased Mother and Uncle Pete home to the house. Once her mother sent her to borrow a flatiron so grandmother could iron something as there was only one flatiron in the whole neighborhood. When they went shopping in those days it took two days to get to Des Moines and they used a wagon with the sideboards as whoever went bought for as many as needed things. They would stay overnight in a small house halfway to Des Moines and Mother said she and Carrie Tornell slept on a cob pile with a buffalo robe over the cobs and one on them. Some coming home! Mother needed a new dress and there was not enough [material] for a whole dress of one pattern so [she] had to have the blouse of one kind and skirt of another. If I remember correctly the wood for the house grandfather built came from Des Moines sixty miles away.

Food was no problem in those days as there were plenty of wild animals they could hunt, dig for roots the Indians used, wild plums, strawberries, chokecherries, and other things to eat. Grandfather built a house that had, I think, three rooms and an upstairs. But they did not have room for bedsteads so [they] slept on real low ones and wintertime the snow would blow in and cover the beds so they all had to wear nightcaps. Not only that, they had to go outside to get upstairs to go to bed. The Tornells had a log cabin that later they put siding on and that might still be there.

[I] forgot about the family, the second one. There was Peter W. Carlson, who owned a hardware store in Pilot Mound until he sold it and moved to Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He might even have farmed once as it seems the boys in the family farmed. [I] think mother, Mary Christine, came next; then Daniel Carlson, who lived in West Point, Nebraska, a

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8 The "second family," consisted of Daniel Carlsson, his second wife, Brita Olsdotter, and their children, who are listed in correct birth order (along with Daniel's two sons, Olof and Lars, from his first marriage) in figure I in the Appendix.

9 Identical with Per Danielsson Carlson, b. Skog Parish (Hals.) on 1 April 1852. He was, indeed, the oldest child of the second marriage. He married Elida Durrell.

10 Identical with Kerstin Danielsdotter Carlsson, b. Skog Parish (Hals.) on 11 August 1853. She was, indeed, the second child born in the second marriage. She married Carl Peter Danielsson (Carlson) Lundgren.

11 Identical with Daniel Danielsson Carlsson, b. Skog Parish (Hals.) on 26 May 1858. He and his twin, Brita, were actually the fourth and fifth children born in the second marriage. He married Ada Petty.
while until he moved to Milburn (?) Kansas. **Charlie Carlson**\(^{12}\) [came] next and he left home quite young and lived with some other people and later went out west. They did not hear from him for about twenty years, when he came back to Iowa. He said he went partners with some man as he, Uncle Charlie, had the money and the man had the experience. Later Uncle Charlie had the experience and the man had the money. Then Uncle Charlie became ill and was ill a long time. Someone sent the grandparents a clipping about a Chas. Carlson who had died in Montana so they assumed he was gone [and] were very surprised when he returned to Iowa. The grandparents were long gone then, though.

Then there was Carrie,\(^{13}\) I think, and she married Ed Fay, who lived there in Iowa. But she was a Catholic and that was not being done in those days. It seems Carried wanted an organ and grandfather did not think she needed one so she got married. They moved to Denver, Colorado, as there was tuberculosis in the Fay family and only Ed Fay lived. Carrie died of cancer and by that time they had moved to Greeley, Colorado, where they are both buried [along with] Alice Fay Ketcham and Charlie Fay, son and daughter. Then there is Tom Fay.

There was a son named Willy and when he was three years old he fell into a small creek and was found too late by Pete. There was only a plank across the stream.

**Uncle John**\(^{14}\) was one year old when he came to the U.S. He usually lived near Mother until he moved to Hamill, South Dakota. His wife died and left three small girls—Edna Sophie, Evelyn Edith, and Lila Aurora. John is buried at Oakland, Nebraska. His wife was Sophie Person.

[I] forgot **Bettie Carlson**,\(^{15}\) who married John Lundgren. [S]he had a twin, **Daniel Carlson**.\(^{16}\) Mother came to visit Bettie and married Carl Peter Lundgren from West Point, Nebraska. [I] might add [that] his name, when he came from Sweden, was Danielsson and he and John Lundgren picked out the name of Lundgren and had it made legal. Grandfather Carlson's

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\(^{12}\) Identical with Karl Danielsson Carlson, b. Skog Parish (Hälsl.) on 24 February 1855. He was actually the third, not the fourth, child born in the second marriage.

\(^{13}\) Identical with Catharina Danielsdotter Carlson, b. Skog Parish (Hälsl.) on 6 January 1862. She was actually the sixth child born in the second marriage.

\(^{14}\) Identical with Anders Johan Danielsson Carlson, b. Skog Parish (Hälsl.) on 15 April 1863. He was actually the seventh child born in the second marriage. He married Sophie Person.

\(^{15}\) Identical with Brita Danielsdotter Carlson, b. Skog Parish (Hälsl.) on 26 May 1858. She and her twin Daniel were the fourth and fifth children born in the second marriage. She married Johannes Magnus Carlson (later Lundgren), son of Carl Jakob Svensson and Ulrika Jonasdotter, in Pilot Mound, Boone Co., Iowa, on 9 September 1879. Bettie died in Idaho Falls, Bonneville Co., Idaho, on 20 April 1898 and was buried in New Sweden Cemetery near Idaho Falls. Interestingly, Bettie died in childbirth with child number fifteen. One of her eight surviving children (and the only male) was JL’s grandfather, Arthur Carl Lundgren. In the next generation (Judie’s father’s) there was also only one male who survived to produce offspring— Family Bible in possession of Mabel Wackerli of Idaho Falls, Idaho; Lundgren family tombstones at New Sweden Cemetery.

\(^{16}\) Identical with Daniel Danielsson Carlson, b. Skog Parish (Hälsl.) on 26 May 1858.
name in Sweden was also Daniel[s]on and he took the name of Carlson when he came to [the] U.S. There was another daughter named Rosa, but she died as an infant and was born at Pilot Mound, Iowa.

Uncle Peter's wife was Elida Durrell and her people came from New York, I think. In their family there was Myrtle, Wallace, Earl, Florence and Frances. They are all gone. Wallace was killed in a car accident on the way to Minnesota to attend his parents' golden wedding [anniversary].

Daniel Carlson was married to Ada Petty who also lived in Pilot Mound and her people came from the East someplace. There was Blanch, Clifford, Raymond and Daniel in their family.

Charlie Carlson married the niece of Olof's wife after he came back to Iowa. They had Frances and Raymond. [They] lived in Des Moines and are all gone. Frances had two daughters. Olof\(^17\) and his wife did not have any family. They lived in Pilot Mound. Uncle Olof had nineteen buildings on his place, just out of town; one for calves, cows, pigs, chickens, etc., all kept apart. His wife's name was Louise. Olof liked to play the organ evenings for hours before retiring.

Mother said Des Moines was about 3,000 population when she lived in that place. Where the capitol is there was a cornfield. Des Moines was once a forest but all that remains of forest is Union Park. In our family\(^18\) there was Alma Evelyn, Victor Emanuel, Ellen Marie, Carl Emil, Walter Clifton, Albin Irenius, Esther Mathilda, Charles Frank, and Mildred Naomi. Alma, Frank and Esther [are] still around, Alma being ninety-one years now.

Mother used to say when her folks came to [the] U.S. her father knew only two words—yes and no—but that he did not know when to use them. They came to [the] U.S. in August 1865, the year Abraham Lincoln was killed in April. Times were not very good then. The first song the children learned was "John Brown's Body Lies a Moldering in His Grave." Mother spelled down the whole school and the word was "ere." [The] only reason was [that] she had seen it in a book days before.

\(^{17}\) Identical with Olof Danielsson Carlson, b. Skog Parish (Hils.) on 26 May 1844. He married a woman named Louise.

\(^{18}\) That is, the family of Mary Christine Danielsdotter Carlson and Carl Peter Danielsson (Carlson) Lundgren.
Appendix

Fig. 1. Household examination roll (*husförhörslängd*) for Tännånger, Skog Parish (Häl.); AI:12B (1861-1870), p. 201. Here we find the family of farm owner (*bonde*) Daniel Carlsson (*2 gr gift = 2 gånger gift = married twice*) and his second wife, Brita Olsdotter, as listed prior to leaving for North America on 11 July 1865. Note that sons Olof and Lars are offspring from Daniel's first marriage (*m. f. g. = med första gift = from first marriage*). Son Daniel and daughter Brita are listed as twins (*tvillingar*).
Fig. 2. Household examination roll (husförhörslängd) for Tönnånger, Skog Parish (Häls.), AI:12B (1861-1870), p. 207. Here we find the family of farm owner (bonde) Olof Törnell and his wife, Carin Olsdotter (see her also in figure 3), as listed prior to leaving for North America on 11 July 1865.
Fig. 3. Household examination roll (*husförhörslängd*) for Tönnånger, Skog Parish (Häls.), AI:10B (1851-1855), p. 102. At this time, the household for farm owner (*bonde*) Daniel Carlsson included his second wife, six children (three from the first marriage), three farm hands (*drängar*) and four maids (*piga*). For a time, Daniel was a widower (note the word *Enkl.* = änkel = widower). Note also that *piga* Brita Olsdotter *flyttade till supra*, i.e., was moved up to line two, where she is listed as Daniel’s new wife.
Fig. 4. Household examination roll (*husförhörslängd*) for No. 4 Tönnänge, Skog Parish (Häls.), AI:10A (1846-1850), p. 102. At this time, the household of farm owner (*bonde*) Daniel Carlsson included his first wife, Margta Olsdotter, who died 6 August 1850; three children (Olof, Brita and Lars); two farm hands (*drängar*); and two maids (*pigar*), including Brita Olsdotter, who became Daniel’s second wife following Margta’s death.
Fig. 5. Household examination roll (husförhörslängd) for No. 8 Södra Kyrkbyn (known as Phragmén gård), Hanebo Parish (Häls.), A166B (1809-1814), p. 55.

At this time, the household of farm owner (bonde) Carl Jacob Phragmén included his wife, Brita Larsdotter; his six children, including son Daniel [Carlsson]; his mother, Cajsa Andersdotter, who died in 1811; and his sister, Babba Greta Phragmén. Note under the column heading Omstänigheter (Circumstances) that Carl Jacob is listed as a mail carrier (postförare).
Fig. 6. Household examination roll (husförhörslängd) for No. 1 Håkanbo, Hanebo Parish (Häls.), A12 (1773-79), p. 24. Here we find Lars Nilsson, his wife Margta Ersson, and their four daughters. In addition, we find Lars's father, Nils Larsson, listed with his third wife, Karin Nilsdotter. Daughter Brita Larsdotter, born [6 November] 1775, was the mother of Daniel Carlsson. Her sister Anna Larsdotter, born 5 November 1777, was the mother of Margta Olsdotter, Daniel Carlsson's first wife. Thus, Daniel and his first wife Margta were first cousins.
John Wilson was born 7 July 1827 in Jönköping län, Småland, Sweden, and come to America to become a “forty-niner” in the California Gold Rush. My father told me his grandfather John Wilson’s last name had been Wigelius in Sweden and that he had been extremely poor there. Wigelius is an elegant name for such a person. Researching and documenting the mystery/history of my paternal line’s name has been a lengthy and challenging education in Swedish naming patterns, records and history.

John Wilson used the name Wigelius only twice during his fifty years in the United States—when he arrived at the port of New York on the Zebra 19 November 1850 and when he gave his eleventh child the middle name of Wigelius. The 1846 records of the parish of Jakob and Johannes in Stockholm document his first use of the name Wigelius at age nineteen by showing the addition of Wigelius to his patronymic Johannes Fredriksson.

These same records indicate Fröderyd as the parish he left to move to Stockholm and the parish of his birth. (Other church records also reveal that his
first address in Stockholm was 51 Regeringsgatan. Though the building no longer stands, the location was just behind the current NK store and the Jakob church stands just across from the island of the king’s palace and the old city, Gamla Stan).

Four years later, the Jakob and Johannes moving out records of 7 August 1850, the passport of 8 August 1850 to Göteborg, and the passport of 14 August 1850 from Göteborg document the twenty-three-year-old’s emigration from Sweden to the United States. His written memoirs recall his 11 August departure from Stockholm. He may have traveled via the Gota Canal.

Fröderyd is located in the county (län) of Jönköping and the province (landskap) of Småland. Church records there document the 7 July 1827 birth of Johannes Fredriksson to Fredrik Nilsson and Lisa Catrina Abrahamsdotter in Hökhult Södergård. Fredric Nilsson of Myresjö and the widow Lisa Catrina Abrahamsdotter of Ryd at Fröderyd had married in Fröderyd 13 July 1821. Household examination rolls document the family’s frequent moves within the parish. One finally records that the father had left soon after 1835 and had died in Stockholm 23 November 1840 and that the mother died 1 May 1841. Johannes Fredriksson was first abandoned by his father and then orphaned at the age of twelve.

Fredrik Nilsson, baptized Fredrik Johansson Wigren, was born 27 August 1793 at the soldier’s house Grupple, Bjädesjöholm, Myresjö, the son of Nils Johan Wigren and Maria Carlsson. The baptismal use of the father’s middle

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6. Birth and Christening Record (Födelse- och Döplingslångd), Fröderyd Parish (Smål.), C:3-5, 7 July 1827.
7. Marriage Record (Vigsellångd), Fröderyd Parish (Smål.), C:3-5, 13 July 1821.
8. Household Examination Roll (Husförhörslångd), Fröderyd Parish (Smål.), A:10-12, 79.
name probably is an indication by which name the father was called. This was my first encounter with the Swedish custom/policy of renaming persons who became soldiers. Wigren would not be the surname of the soldier’s father!

Fig. 3. Household examination roll from Fröderyd Parish (Småland), 1840-1844. Transliteration and Translation: Line 1: Notteryd B[ack]st[uga]; Line 2: Fredrik Nilsson, [Born] 27/8 [1793], Myresjö; Död (Died) Stockholm, 23/11 [1840]; Line 3: Enk. [= Änka] (widow), H[ustru] (wife) Lisa Abrahamsdotterjr, [Born] [1778], Sandsjö; Död 1/5 [1841]; Line 4: S[on] Johannes, [Born] 7/7 [1827] Har (here, i.e., in Fröderyd); [Moved in] [1841] [to page] 86.

Before I was able to search Swedish records myself, I sought professional research assistance by writing to the Archives at Vadstena, where the records of Småland are kept. I was given the name of a woman who, for a reasonable fee, would do the research I requested. She sent her research finding on the parents and ancestry of Nils Wigren and her conclusion that there was no truth to the family story that our paternal family name is Wigelius. In 1985 I went to Sweden for the first time, participating in a genealogical trip sponsored by the Swedish-American Historical Society. At Vadstena, I located and had photocopied the original records cited by the Swedish genealogist in her research report. I found the parents of Nils Wigren to be incorrect, but I was not there long enough to do additional research. Per-Gösta Lindquist, a Swedish genealogist who was working with us throughout our trip, agreed to continue the research for the soldier Nils Wigren’s ancestry.

Soon after my return home, Per-Gösta Lindquist’s initial report arrived containing baptismal records of some of the soldier’s children and two women name Wigelia who were witnesses. Witnesses are sometime relatives and usually live nearby. Wigelia is the Latin feminine form of the name Wigelius! A
search of parishes near Myresjö was undertaken and, in neighboring Näsby, the minister was Knut Wigielius. Näsby records revealed that the women were his daughters and that he had a son named Nicolaus Johannes Wigielius born 29 January 1756, the same day as Nils Wigren.

Fig. 4. Birth record from Näsby Parish (Smål.), 29 January 1756. Transliteration and Translation: [Child] 4; 29 [January] föddes (born); 1 feb. (February) döptes (baptized); Nicolaus Johannes Wigielius; Witnen (Witnesses): Herr (Mr.) Mag. Palm, Fru (Mrs.) Baronessan på (from) Hultaby, Herr (Mr.) Gudmund Blom(?), Madame ib(ide)m (from the same place), J[ung]fr[u] (Miss) Harman.

Per-Gösta Lindquist advised me that the name Nicolaus Johannes Wigielius would have been considered inappropriate for a low-ranking soldier and that he may have begun to use the more common form of Nicolaus Johannes—Nils Johan. The mystery of the source of the name Wigielius was, most likely, solved. My subsequent research into the marvelously complete Swedish records resulted in documentation, thanks to the written statement by the minister at Myresjö (see figure 5) that the soldier Nils Johan Wigielius or Wigergren was the son of the assistant minister at Näsby.

Knut Wigielius and Margareta Catharina Harman were the parents of Nicolaus Johannes Wigielius, alias Nils Johan Wigren. The church books of Näsby gave me much information and, with the identification of a minister in my ancestry, my research expanded into an additional Swedish resource—the histories of the ministers (clergymen) serving within each diocese (stift) written in books known as Herdaminnen (The Shepherd Memorials). The account of Knut Wigielius provided me with information and with the test of a genealogist. No, no one was illegitimate; but in 1757 he had been tried in court, convicted, imprisoned and for two weeks provided only bread and water. After one year he was given his frock back, at which time he also resumed his duties at Näsby.

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10 Birth and Christening Record (Födelse- och Döplings), Näsby Parish (Smål.), C:1-4, 29 Jan. 1756.
11 Household Examination Roll (Husförhörslängd), Myresjö Parish (Smål.), A1:1-4, 141.
12 Gotthard Virdestam, Växjö Stifts Herdaminne. VI, Västra och Östra Härad (Växjö: Smålandspostens Boktryckeri AB, 1932), 360.
Additional research, now in Latin, located Canutus Vigelius at the University of Uppsala with his brother, Carolus Vigelius.\footnote{Uppsala Universitets Matrikel, II. 1700-1751 (Uppsala: Akademiska Boktryckeri AB, 1995), 187.}

![Fig. 5. Household examination roll from Myresjö Parish (Smål.), 1774-1778. Transliteration of bottom half: Sold[at] Nils Johan Wigeli[us et]er[ler] Wigelius, son of assistant minister at Näsby, [born] 1756, 29 January.]

Translation: Sold ier Nils Johan Wigelius or Wigergren, son of assistant minister at Näsby, [born] 1756, 29 January.

The book of ministers also provided the information that Knut Wigelius, born 15 October 1704 at Malmåck, was the son of the parish minister, Nils Wigelius, and Helena Ternera. The Malmåck church books were excellent and especially interesting, for they appear to be in Nils Wigelius's handwriting. This is certainly evident in his recording and underlining the birth of his first son, Knuth (see figure 6).\footnote{Birth and Christening Record (Födelse- och Dödsregistar), Malmåck Parish (Smål.) B:1-4 (1689-1797), 15 October 1704.} The *Herdaminne* citation gave even more data. Nils Knutsson Wigelius was born 30 March 1663 in Villands härad in Skåne, son of farmer Knut Hansson and Botil Svensdotter.\footnote{Växjö Stifts Herdaminne. VI, 10.} Villands härad is an area, not a parish. The authors of the *Herdaminne* apparently did not know the parish.

My research now moved on to Skåne, whose original records are held at the archives in Lund. History and additional records would become very important and interesting. Knut Hansson and Botil Svensdotter of Villands Härad were almost certainly born Danes. Just five years before their son Nils Knutsson was born, the 1658 Treaty of Roskilde transferred this land from Denmark to Sweden. Fighting in the area would continue for many more years. Knowing from the citation in the book of ministers that Nils Knutsson Wigelius had attended school in Kristianstad, when he was seven years old, and had later graduated from the University at Lund, I delved into *matrikel* (directory) records...
for the University. Nils Knutsson had become Nicolaus Wiguelius and was one of five “Scani” (individuals from Skåne) at the University 5 February 1683.\textsuperscript{16}

![Fig. 6. Birth record from Malmbäck Parish (Smäl.) noting the birth of Knut[h], son of the parish minister, Nils Wiguelius, and Helena Ternera on 15 October 1704.](image)

Continuing my search, I at last found the birth parish of Nils Knutsson, alias Nicolaus Canuti Wiguelius. It was “Vigby in Villands härad.”\textsuperscript{17} Perhaps the name of his parish was the reason the young man took the similar sounding Wiguelius as his name. Vigby/Viby still exists and is very near Kristianstad, where the boy Nils Knutsson attended school, but the parish name was changed in 1778 to Gustav Adolf.\textsuperscript{18} My search had been successful back to the earliest days of mandated written church records, but the original church records of Nils Knutsson’s birth and parents were not available.

Kristian IV, King of Denmark, had built a glorious church in Kristianstad and the city of Lund had belonged to the Danes for 600 years. The treaty of 1658, which formally established that Skåne no longer belonged to Denmark but to Sweden, did not end the fighting. Sweden even had to close its new University at Lund, opened in 1666 and closed in 1668, until shortly before Nils Knutsson Wiguelius enrolled there in 1683 as the thirty-second student from Skåne.\textsuperscript{19} Later, he would be assigned to serve a parish in northern Småland, not in Skåne.

My search for more information about Knut Hansson and Botil Svensdotter will continue despite the few original records that have survived and the fact that I was told at Lunds landsarkiv (provincial archives) that the castle near Viby was the focus of many skirmishes and that church books there were used to light guns! Family history research certainly is never dull. Note how my paternal surnames have changed over the generations because of patronymics, careers (church and military) and emigration to a new land and language:

\textsuperscript{17} Carl Sjöström, Skånska Nationen, före Afdelnings Tid 1682-1832 biographiska och genealogiska anteckningar jemte historic (Lund: Carl Sjöström, stadsfogde i Lund, 1897), 42.
\textsuperscript{18} Nils-Gustaf Rosenberg, Gustav Adolfs Kyrka (Kristianstads Boktryckeri AB, 1995), 3.
\textsuperscript{19} Sjöström, Skånska Nationen, 42.
Hans ---;
Knut Hansson;
Nils Knutsson, alias Nicolaus Canuti Wigelius;
Knut Wigelius;
Nicolaus Johannes Wigelius, alias Nils Johan Wigren;
Fredrik Johansson Wigren, alias Fredrik Nilsson;
Johannes Fredriksson, alias Johannes Wigelius, alias John Wilson;
Victor Emanuel Wilson
Allan Marshall Wilson
Bernice Ann Wilson

I have learned far more than just the family's name(s) while searching those centuries.

Fig. 7. Gustav Adolf's (formerly Viby) Kyrka in Kristianstad. The church was built in the 1100s; the tower was added in 1784.
Anna Oleson Heighstedt:
Early Minneapolis Photographer

Joanne Halsey*

In an article written by Barbara Flanagan about photography in Minneapolis in the last half of the nineteenth century, my grandmother, Mrs. John H. Oleson, was listed among the photographers.1 Barbara wondered if she was "a liberated woman photographer." So did I! Thus began my research and interest in the life of Anna G. Johnson.

Anna was born in Sweden in 1856. She came to the United States when she was thirteen years old to be with uncles who were building row houses in the Saint Anthony area of Minneapolis. She attended private school in Minneapolis and married John H. Oleson when she was eighteen years old.

John H. Oleson was born in Norway in 1850 and came to the United States in 1866, at the age of sixteen. When he was twenty years old, he started to work for W. H. Jacoby Gallery, an early Minneapolis photographer. Four years later, in 1874, John Oleson opened his own establishment at 305 Washington Avenue South, specializing in card and cabinet photography. That same year, John and Anna were married.

According to a listing in the Minneapolis Directory, John Oleson moved his gallery to a larger one at 307 Washington Avenue South, because he needed more space. As the young couple prospered, so did their family. Three sons—Willie, Gustave and Albert—were born to Anna and John. In 1880 John Oleson built his own gallery at 226-228 Washington Avenue South, across from the Milwaukee Depot. The following article describes his gallery:2

WHO MAKES OUR PICTURES

AN ARTIST WHO HAS TAKEN 11,500 NEGATIVES IN THIS CITY

A Reporter Visits the Palatial Apartments of
John H. Oleson, Photographer
226, 228 Washington Avenue South

* Joanne Halsey resides at 1235 Yale Place, #1006, Minneapolis, MN 55403.
1 Minneapolis Star, 2 March 1972.
2 Minneapolis Evening Journal, 16 April 1881, 1.
This gentleman commenced business here as a photographer in 1874, at 305 Washington Avenue South, and in 1876 removed to 307, where he became generally known as a superior artist and was favored with such an extensive patronage that larger and more commodious rooms became a necessity, and in 1880 he erected the elegant yellow brick block he now occupies, corner of Third and Washington avenues, although he still maintains his former rooms, which are used as a tin type gallery, being the only exclusive tin type establishment in the city. Mr. Oleson's new building is 44 x 75 feet, three stories high, with a fine basement. The ground floors are leased for stores, while the other floors, except the capacious apartments occupied in connection with his gallery, are used for offices. At the head of the first stairs we enter, through an elegantly ornamented plate glass door, the reception room about twenty-five feet square, with inlaid walnut and ash floors. The walls and ceiling were gorgeously frescoed by the well-known artist, S. P. Christensen, and hung with an elegant mirror and massive frames containing life-size, life-like photos of well-known citizens. The large center table is filled with views of many of the thousand points of interest in our city and state, and numerous easels are laden with fine pictures. An elegant silver mounted show case, standing on a handsomely finished counter, is filled with an endless variety of the excellent card and cabinet work which has made Oleson's gallery a household word all over the city and surrounding country. The operating room, 18 x 42, and the printing room, 20 x 21, besides store room for negatives, of which he has 11,500, the largest number in the city, and several other rooms all conveniently connecting, and the immense sky and side lights, built with the latest improvements, all combine to make this by far the most complete and perfect photographing establishment in the city. Mr. Oleson gives his personal attention to his entire establishment and no work is ever permitted to leave the office without passing his inspection and approval. Of course quite a number of assistants are required to enable this establishment to fill all orders promptly, and there can be no doubt but that this gallery ranks among the very best west of New York in every particular. Prices are always as low as good, honest, first-class work can be done for, and the courteous treatment of visitors, patience with children, and invariable success in his efforts to give satisfaction, continues to attract not only Mr. Oleson's Scandinavian friends in this city and St. Paul, but all classes of our people, none of whom fail to go away fully satisfied that of all the excellent photographic establishment[s] here, none can equal that of J. H. Oleson, 226, 228 Washington avenue south, for first-class photographs in all styles and sizes; crayon and India ink work, in the highest style of art; and in copying and enlarging.
In June of 1881, Anna's third child, Albert, died of typhoid. He was one and one-half years old. Two months later, her husband, John, also died of typhoid. Her two remaining sons were only six and four years old.

Fig. 1. Photograph of Anna taken by her husband, John Oleson, ca. 1874. The studio logo on the back states the following: John H. Oleson, / Photographer, / Nos. 226 & 228 Washington Ave. S. / Minneapolis, Minnesota / Duplicates may be had at any time / by giving name.

Thus Anna was thrust into the task of running the gallery and she proceeded to become one of Minneapolis's first successful female photographers. It was necessary for her to supervise the staff, who worked at the gallery, as well as do the actual photography. She also negotiated leases for a confectionery store and
rented out other space in the building. Miller Publishing Company had offices in her building at one time.

When Anna took over the gallery, the name on her photographic work became Mrs. John H. Oleson. However, sometimes it remained Oleson's. Why, I don't know. One interesting cartes de visites, which bears her name on the back, is that of her future son-in-law, Dr. Clyde A. Undine, taken in 1885 when he was a baby (see figure 3).

Fig. 2. Business logo on back of photograph that reads as follows: Mrs. John H. Oleson, / Photographic Gallery / 226 and 228 Washington Ave. South, / Minneapolis, Minn. / Duplicates may be had by giving name.
Fig. 3. Photograph of Dr. Clyde A. Undine as a baby taken by his future mother-in-law, Anna Oleson. Clyde married Anna’s daughter Effie.

Many interesting things turn up when one is doing research on families. For example, I have a deed, dated 1882, of goods sold to Anna Oleson from Andrew Hogstedt. The goods were from 307 Washington Avenue South, John Oleson’s second gallery site. Andrew Hogstedt was to become Anna’s second husband. Apparently, he was in the photography business, too, perhaps as an assistant or associate of John Oleson or possibly he had a gallery of his own.
In 1889 Anna married Andrew Högstedt, who had changed his name to Heighstedt. Andrew was born in Carver County, Minnesota, in 1857, the son of Anders F. and Anna Maria Högstedt, Swedish immigrants from Stenberga (Smål.) who settled near East Union in Carver County in the 1850s. East Union was the first site of Gustavus Adolphus College. A family tale tells that during the Sioux Uprising in 1862, a five-year-old Andrew ripped his pants on barbed wire in Carver as he escaped by raft on the Minnesota River to St. Paul.

Fig. 4. Anna and Andrew Heighstedt ca. 1890. This may be their wedding photograph.

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Soon after Andrew and Anna were married in August of 1889, the gallery name was changed to Heighstedt. My mother was born in June 1890. From pictures we have, I believe these were happy years for Anna. She was less active at the gallery and content to stay home and raise her daughter and teenaged sons and enjoy her lovely home at 1702 Elliot Avenue South.

She enjoyed beautiful clothes and jewelry. I recall my mother telling me that Anna had lunch at Christina Turnblad’s new home at 2600 Park Avenue (now the American Swedish Institute). In 1893 Anna went to the Chicago Colombian Exposition and she later visited Yellowstone Park with my mother. They stayed at Old Faithful Inn and traveled by stagecoach in the park.

However, this happiness was not to last forever. Anna’s son Gustave died in 1899 at the age of twenty-one and Will died in 1903. Both of the boys had tuberculosis. Anna died 20 October 1916 and was survived by her husband and daughter.

Fig. 5. Interior of Anna’s home at 1702 Elliot Avenue South, Minneapolis.
Destination: La Brassa.
A Research Anecdote from the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City

Ronald J. Johnson

For some time I have sought to catalogue Swedish immigrants in Waseca County, Minnesota. The method of operation is straightforward: first, cull the local resources, including church records, naturalization records, census reports, county vital records, and newspaper notices and obituaries for persons described as born in Sweden. Then, trace as many of these Swedes as possible back to the Swedish parish records to verify their identities and their places of birth and/or emigration.

Among the American sources for identifying Swedes in Waseca County the records of the Swedish-American churches have been the most informative. Because the early records of both the Lutheran and the (Mission) Covenant congregations were kept more (Lutheran) or less (Covenant) in the same fashion as the Swedish church books, the early records usually give the parish of birth, exact birth date, the parish of emigration, and a mostly unanglicized name for Swedish immigrants. To the extent that these records are accurate, it is then an easy matter to find the emigrating Swede in the parish birth (C-book), household examination (A-book), or moving out (B-book) records during the period of time for which these records have been microfilmed and made available through the LDS Family History Library system.

Since 1995, I have pursued this project during the annual weeklong Swedish American Genealogist Workshop in Salt Lake City. Each year at the Family History Library I have been working down a long list of inquiries, concentrating on a parish or two at a time. In 1999, my task-list brought me to Gränna Parish in Vista härad and Jönköping län. Most of the earliest settlers of the core Swedish settlement in Waseca County came from the parishes of Gränna, Ölmstad, and Skärstad in Vista härad, and they gave the name "Vista" to their rural community and its new Swedish Lutheran church in 1858. The Vista area in Sweden continued to supply emigrants for a modest chain of emigration to its namesake in Minnesota for half a century. One of the links in this chain was my wife's great-grandfather, Carl Hokanson, whose origin was in Gränna.

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1 Vista Evangelical Lutheran Church, founded 1858; Vista Evangelical Covenant Church, established 1876/1877, incorporated 1885; both in rural New Richland, MN; Waseca Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waseca, MN, 1885-1923.
2 All three parishes are located in the province (landskap) of Småland.
The records of the Vista Lutheran Church had told me that Carl Håkansson was born in Gränna on 2 January 1828, and that he and his wife, Sara Jönsdotter, and her son, Emil Carlsson, had been received at the Vista Lutheran Church from Rogberga Parish (Smål.) in 1869. Sara's sister, Johanna, and their mother, Cathrina Johansdotter, also entered the Vista Lutheran congregation from Rogberga in 1869. Another sister, Maja Stina, her husband Johannes Lundqvist, and their four children had already come into the congregation from Rogberga in 1868. Having previously confirmed these exits in the Rogberga husförhörslängd (A1:12), I now wished to document the family more completely, including whatever information could be found about the departure and emigrant journey of the five members who left in 1869. The moving out records (B:2) augmented the A book exit notation by recording the date that the emigrants received their moving out permits. On 28 June 1869, Carl Håkansson, his wife, and an unnamed male (her son, Emil) are recorded under certificate No. 50, while the widow Cathrina Johansdotter and the maid Johanna Jonsdotter, all from Häljaryd Uppegård, were issued Nos. 51 and 52 on the same day.

With the date of their parish exit certificates in hand, I next looked for the five emigrants from Rogberga in the port departure records which, for the main emigration port, Göteborg, begin in 1869. Thanks to my "next door neighbor" at the microfilm readers, Elisabeth Thorsell, I had at hand for the first time Databasen Emigranten, the CD-ROM database of such emigration records. The database can be searched in various ways, and the combination of "Håkans[son], C, Rogberga, 1869" did indeed return a forty-year-old C. Håkanson from Rogberga leaving Göteborg on 2 July 1869. A further query on his contract number (2:19: 850) showed that he was not traveling alone (see figure 1). But there were also a few surprises. One was that the party traveling under the same contract number consisted of three persons, not five—and the third person was not Sara's son, Emil, but her sister, Johanna. Where were Emil and his grandmother, Cathrina? The bigger surprise was the destination given for the party: La Brassa. I had expected that the destination would be New York or perhaps Boston, so where or what was La Brassa? Could this be an obscure French port somewhere, perhaps on a Caribbean island? I fantasized momentarily that perhaps Carl had said to Sara, “We're not likely to ever have another big trip like this, so let's ditch the kid and go to Club Med on the way to Minnesota!”

Given the anachronism of the sybaritic resort and the pietistic character of my wife's ancestors, I could not dwell long on that thought. Instead, I searched

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1 Databasen CD-Emigranten lists about 1.3 million emigrants who departed from the ports of Göteborg 1869-1930, Malmö 1874-1930, Stockholm 1869-1930, Norrköping 1859-1919 and Kalmar 1880-1893: emigrants from the central parishes of Göteborg from the mid-1700s to 1930; and seamen who left their ships outside of Europe between 1812 and 1930. It also contains the catalogue of microfilmed Swedish-American church records. Issued in 1996 by Göteborgs-Emigranten (Box 53066, 400 14, Göteborg), the original CD is not currently available, pending revisions under development. See Swedish American Genealogist, XIX (March 1999): 56-57.
the CD for the destination “La Brassa” and found that out of 1.3 million emigrants in the database only five were headed for La Brassa when they left Sweden. The other two, listed as Karin Janson, age fifty-four, and son Emil, age nine, travelling under the next contract number, 2:19:851, from Göteborg on 2 July 1869, proved to be the missing grandmother and grandson from Häljaryd Uppegård in Rogberga.

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</table>

Fig. 1. Printout from the CD-ROM Databasen Emigranten based on a search for the contract number 2:19:850. Note the puzzling (and incorrect) destination “La Brassa” listed in this index. The letter “F” listed under the column heading “Län” is an abbreviation for Jönköping County.

Thus, the members of a single family departing Sweden on one day, 2 July 1869, were the only Swedish emigrants ever bound for the puzzling destination of La Brassa. The singularity of the destination now made it seem likely that La Brassa was some kind of error in the records rather than an alluring foreign port. It was time to move from the indexed emigrants in the CD database to the microfilm of the original police records of emigrant departures from Göteborg. Here was the original listing of the five family members under their two contract numbers for their departure on the vessel Nero to Hull in England on 2 July 1869 (see figure 2). For their destination stood the single entry of “La Brassa” followed by four ditto marks. But, was that indeed a “B” or was it another letter? Was it perhaps “C”? Light-bulb!—the mystery destination was “La Crossa,” which had been misread as “La Brassa” when the record was indexed. When they were leaving Sweden, the emigrants apparently had through tickets on the railroad as far as La Crosse, Wisconsin, on the other side of the Mississippi.

*Göteborgs poliskammare inkomna uppgifter om utvandrade personer, 1869 1/7 - 24/12.
Destination: La Brassa.

River from their ultimate destination with their kinsmen in southeastern Minnesota. From La Crosse, the passengers could continue on the Winona & St. Peter Railroad to the new village of Waseca.\(^5\)

![Image of police record]

Fig. 2. Photocopy of the original Göteborg police record of emigrants aboard the Nero bound for Hull, England on 2 July 1869. Note that the destination for the five individuals listed under contract numbers 850 and 851 is correctly read as “La Crossa,” not “La Brassa”!

The mystery was solved, and I was ready to leave Salt Lake City, because I realized the physical proof of this itinerary was in my own house in Madison, Wisconsin. When my wife’s mother moved a few years ago, we had rescued a plain, unpainted, but paint-splattered wooden trunk (see figure 3) from storage in the house on the farm where the Hokanson family had lived since the emigrant generation. Carved into the lid of that trunk was an inscription, I knew, but I did not remember it exactly. Upon my return home, I found it to read: “C Håkanson Ckago, Lakross, Wainona Waceka Wilton Nort Amirka.” One hundred thirty years later, Carl Håkansson’s emigrant trunk still had its built-in baggage routing: Chicago, La Crosse, Winona, Waseca, Wilton,\(^6\) North America.

\(^5\) The railroad had been built to Waseca and passenger service was extended there from the east on 2 September 1867. - Wilton Weekly News, 5 September 1867.

\(^6\) The last leg of the journey would have taken place by stagecoach from Waseca to Wilton, the village closest to the Swedish settlement in Otisco Township. After the railroad reached Waseca, a stage line ran from Waseca to Wilton, which was the county seat at that time. - Wilton Weekly News, 5 September 1867.
Later querying of the *Databasen Emigranten* also fortified that “La Brassa” was a transcription error for La Crosse, Wisconsin, as two departures are recorded for the destination of “La Brosse,” and one for “La Brosse WI.”

All in all, the solving of this little puzzle about “La Brassa” serves to demonstrate both the usefulness of the *Databasen Emigranten* and the error potential in relying upon such database compilations, indexes, and other secondary sources. It is best to check the original record.

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**Fig. 3.** Carl Håkansson’s emigrant trunk. The inscription carved into the lid reads “C Håkanson Ckago, Lakross, Wainona Waceka Wilton Nort Amirka.”
Ahnentafel XLVII.

Elin Soderquist

Wayne Gustav Ohlsson*


   I.


   II.

   4. **Johan Andersson Soderqvist** (alias John Soderquist), b. Avesta (Dala.) 30 November 1851; farmer; d. Bates Township, Iron County, Michigan, 20 December 1937; m. Dalarna July 1874


   6. **Enoch's Anders Ersson**, b. By (Dala.), 2 July 1840; d. Husby (Dala.) 21 September 1897; m. Dalarna 14 July 1867


   III.


   9. **Sara Catherina Persdotter**, b. Karbenning (Västmanland) 8 June 1821; d. 16 November 1913.

---

* Wayne Gustav Ohlsson, son of Elin Soderquist, resides 3 Poker Hill Road, Underhill, VT 05489.

10. Jan Ersson, b. By (Dala.) 26 December 1822; d. 29 September 1900; m. 1855
11. Anna Andersdotter, b. Österfärnebo (Gästrikland) 21 February 1833; d. 6 February 1907; bur. Gävle, Sweden.
12. Rei’s Erik Ersson, b. Valla, By (Dala.) 4 December 1791; landbonde; d. 11 May 1863; m.
13. Margareta Jansdotter, b. By (Dala.) 14 November 1800; d. 1 September 1867.
14. Laxe’s Jan Jansson, b. 9 September 1811; m. 1843
15. Laxe’s Margreta Jansdotter, b. 12 January 1821; from Eret, Husby (Dala.).

IV.
24. Erik Andersson, b. Boderna, By (Dala.); dräng; m.
25. Margareta Andersdotter, b. Valla, By (Dala.) 1755.
26. Jan Jansson, b. Valla, By (Dala.) 1 June 1770; bruksbonde; d. 1 October 1816; m. October 1796
27. Maria Nilsdotter, b. 25 February 1771; d. 21 March 1842.
28. Jan Jansson, b. 1781; m.
29. Stina Erssdotter, b. 1782.
30. Jan Jansson, b. 1791; d. 1829; m.
31. Anna Görssdotter, b. 1789.

V.
50. Anders Andersson, b. Valla, By (Dala.) 1723; brukskarl; d. 1771; m.
51. Margretha Andersdotter, b. 1721.
52. Jan Larsson, b. Maskbo, By (Dala.) 1724; landbonde; d. 1801; m. 1748.
53. Margareta Jonsdotter, b. 1724; d. 1801.
54. Nils Hansson, b. 1741; brukskarl; d. 1814; m. 1766.
55. Elisabeth Fransdotter, b. 1748; d. 1808.
58. Anders Ersson, b. 1731; d. 1819.
62. Jan Jonsson, b. 1769; d. 1819; m.
63. Catharina Andersdotter, b. 1763; d. 1824.

VI.
100. Anders Hansson Höna, b. in Valla, By (Dala.); soldat; m.
101. Margareta Erssdotter.
103. [?] Dandanell.
104. Lars Johansson, b. Maskbo, By (Dala.) 1696; dräng; d. 1743; m. 1721
105. Kerstin Ersdotter, b. 1695.
108. Hans Nilsson, b. 1690; from Norberg (Västmanland), also lived in Folkärna (Dala.); d. 1741; m. 1728
109. Margareta Olofsdotter, b. 1704; d. 1764.
110. Frans Vellamsson; m.
111. Elisabeth Ersdotter.

VII.
206. Daniel Dandanell, b. 1663; d. 1740.
207. Margaretha Andersdotter, b. 1669.
208. Johan Ersson, b. Maskbo, By (Dala.) 1636; d. 1718; m.
209. Anna Johansdotter, b. 1655.
210. Erik Mickelsson, b. Ingeborgbo, By (Dala.) 1649; m.
211. Kerstin Ersdotter, b. 1660.
216. Nils Olsson; from Norberg (Väsm.); m.
217. Brita Olsdotter.
222. Carin’s Eric Ersson, b. 1696; d. 1752; m.
223. Brita Olsdotter, b. 1692; d. 1768.

VIII.
412. Johan Dandanell; makmöaste; m.
413. Barbro Johansdotter.
416. Eric Ersson, b. Maskbo, By (Dala.) ca. 1595.
434. Olof Ersson, b. 1667; from Vansjö & Folkärna, By (Dala.) d. 1733; m. 1694.
435. Brita Olofsdotter, b. 1670; d. 1747.
444. Eric Ersson.
446. Olof Ersson; m.
447. Anna Persdotter.

IX.
868. Erik Jönsson; m.
869. Kerstin; from Vansjö & Folkärna, By (Dala.).
870. Olof Hansson; m.
871. Marina Göransdotter.
Genealogical Workshop

James E. Erickson

Of the various Swedish court records available to genealogical researchers, the inventories of the estates of deceased persons, or bouppleckningar, which are basically equivalent to U.S. probate court records, are among the most important. "At the death of a person a legal inventory and appraisal of the death estate was made, so that it could be properly divided between the heirs. This was done by court appointed appraisers (värderingsmän), who turned the list of inventory over to the court for probate, which took place at the next court session. There were held between two and four sessions a year—winter, spring, summer and fall."¹

Ideally, a bouppleckning comprises a preamble, a list and appraisal of the estate inventory, a closing statement and a record of how the estate was distributed among the heirs. The three bouppleckningar featured below collectively illustrate the typical contents of these documents, such as 1) date of inventory; 2) name, occupation and place of residence of deceased; 3) date of death; 4) spouse’s name; 5) name(s), age(s) and occupation(s) of child(ren); 6) name(s) and occupation(s) of in-law(s); 7) name(s) of appraiser(s); 8) list of the estate inventory; 9) value of the estate inventory; and 10) the record of the distribution of the estate. Such information can be invaluable as you try to “flesh out” your family history, for it either enhances, complements or completes the information gleaned from parish registers and the household examination rolls.

To successfully complete the following “assignment”—which involves transliterating and (if necessary) translating each of the three original documents—it will once again be imperative that you have at your disposal the appropriate dictionaries and handbooks.²

Please note that the featured documents represent three different time periods and three different parishes. Also note that they are incomplete as presented. For example, document 1 illustrates only a portion of a preamble written in 1771, whereas documents 2 and 3 each illustrate a preamble and a portion of the list of inventory/appraisal written in 1808 and 1842, respectively.

¹ Carl-Erik Johansson, the well-known author of Cradled in Sweden, kindly gave SAG permission to publish material associated with documents 1 and 3, which first appeared in his book Thus They Wrote: A Guide to the Gothic Script of Scandinavia (Provo: BYU Press, 1970). Priscilla Sorknes and Elisabeth Thorsell provided the translation of the preamble to document 2. Special thanks to Elisabeth Thorsell and Ted Rosvall for their transliteration skills.

² For example, Carl-Erik Johansson, Cradled in Sweden (1995) or Clemensson and Andersson, Slaktforska: Steg för Steg (1997).
Document 1. Preamble of the probate record (bouppteckning) of the deceased merchant Nordlin’s widow, Merta Netszelia, dated 18 January 1771.
Transliteration of Document 1:

Anno 1771 den 18 Janua[ri] hafwa under­
teknade efter Wållof[liga] Magistratens an­
ordning följande Inventarium upprättat
efter afledne Handelsman Nordlins änka
Madame Merta Netszelia som den 12
Junij med döden aflidit, Lemnandes
efter sig älsta Sonen Ingenieuren Herr
Erick Nordlin, samt andra Sonen
Buntmakaren i Stockholm H[er]r Elias
Nordlin, dottren Catharina gift med
Borgaren H[er]r Jonas Edsberg ifrån
Sundsvall, dottren Cristina gift med
Fabriqueuren och Linväfwaren Herr
Isac Sellstedt, närwarande å egen
och H[er]r Elias Nordlins wängnar war
H[er]r Ingenieuren Nordlin, samt å des
Hustrus wängnar H[er]r Jöran [sic] Edsberg,
jämte H[er]r Isac Sellstedt och des hustru,
som haft egendommen under sin wård,
hwilka förmantes om des riktiga
upgifwande enligit Lag, sedan
företogs som följer.
In the year 1771 on 18 January the undersigned have according to the order of the worthy Magistrate made the following inventory after the deceased merchant Nordlin's widow Mrs. Merta Netszelia, who on 12 June succumbed to death, leaving behind the oldest son, the Engineer, Mr. Erick Nordlin, and the second son, the Furrier in Stockholm Mr. Elias Nordlin, the daughter Catharina married to the Burgher Mr. Jonas Edsberg from Sundsvall, the daughter Cristina married to the Manufacturer and Linenweaver Mr. Isac Sellstedt. Present on his own and Mr. Elias Nordlin's behalf was Mr. Engineer Nordlin, and Mr. Jöran Edsberg on behalf of his wife, also Mr. Isac Sellstedt and his wife who have had the property in their care, who were admonished to declare its correct content according to law. Then proceeded as follows:
Document 2. Portion of the probate record (bouppteckning) of Ola Bengtsson's deceased wife, Ellna Sonasdotter, from Ivetofta (Skåne) dated 11 July 1808.

Enkläningen förmantes att Boets tillstånd redeligen upgifta, hvarefter följande förrevistas som värderade af Nämmedemnen Jöns Jönsson och kronofjerdingsman Jöns Jönsson och kronofjerdingsmannen Pål Månsson här af Byen—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silfver</th>
<th>Lotten</th>
<th>Lotten</th>
<th>Lotten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banco</td>
<td>Barne</td>
<td>Fördel</td>
<td>lingens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>värde</td>
<td>graf</td>
<td>Enkläning</td>
<td>Enkläning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Polerad Bägare 8 lod gifwen till dotter Kjersti
wäger 6 lod å 24 sk 3
wäger 5 lod gifwen till dotteren Olu 2.24
wäger 3 lod 1.24
wäger 3 1/2 lod 1.36
Stop, wäger 1 1/2 lod 0.36
Tumlare, wäger 1 1/2 lod 0.36
Skjed, wäger 3 lod 1.24
Dito wäger 1 1/2 lod 0.36
*Ding 3
*med länck gifven till dottern Karna 1
*med dito gifvet till dottern Bengta 1
utom länck med löf och (?) 1
majör gifvet till dottern Olu 1
Silfver gifvet till dotteren Kjersti 2 24.24 2

In the year 1808 on the 11th of July was conducted probate for Åbo (farmer/lease holder) Ola Bengtsson’s deceased wife Ellna Sonasdotter at [farm] number 11. in Ivetofta [Parish], who [in the] previous month of March died and in addition to the widower left after herself 5 [stycken = literally items/pieces] children: the son Anders 8. years, daughters Kjersti 19. years, Olu 17. years, Karna 14. years, and Bengta 12. years, at which appeared the guardian Åbo (farmer/lease holder) Bengt Larsson in [the village of] Allarp — The widower was exhorted to honestly report the condition of the personal property, after which the following was exhibited as appraised by Juryman Jöns Jönsson and constable Pål Månsson of this village —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>No. 1</th>
<th>No. 2</th>
<th>No. 3</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Ensum of Gifts to the</th>
<th>Portion to the Widower</th>
<th>Portion to the Widower’s Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.16.28</td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
<td>zł.3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polished chalice, 8 lod given to daughter Kjersti</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weight 6 lod &amp; 24 sk</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ditto, weight 5 lod given to the daughter Olu</td>
<td>2.24</td>
<td>2.24</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weight 3 lod</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weight 3 1/2 lod</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pot, weight 1 1/2 lod</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumbler, weight 1 1/2 lod</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoon, weight 3 lod</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ditto weight 1 1/2 lod</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*ding with chain given to daughter Karna</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ditto given to dau. Bengta</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>except chain with leaf and (?)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*aljor given to dau. Olu</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver given to dau. Kjersti</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24.24</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>zł.5.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pewter**
Document 3. Portion of the probate record (bouppteckning) of Sven Jönsson from Tunge (Västergotland) dated 4 September 1842.
År 1842 den 4 September, blev på anmodan Bouptekning för rättad efter afledne Undantagsmannen Sven Jönsson under Tunge, som med döden afled den 31 Augustii innevarande år, och efterlemnad dess Hustru Enkan Anna Pettersdotter; och voro tillstädes Namndemannen Sven Häkansson i Tunge och Lars Andersson i Elekärr, hvilka biträdde undertecknad Bouptekningsman. —

Enkan som var försedd med Testament af den afledne Makan, upgaf Egentomen i följande Ordnning:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undantags Jord</th>
<th>Banco</th>
<th>RD</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>t³</th>
<th>Transport</th>
<th>Banco</th>
<th>RD</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>t³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enligt Undantags Handling af den 9 Julij 1825 uplyses</td>
<td>Then</td>
<td>1 St[ycce]:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Dreck stop</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arr Enkan skall åtnjuta undantags jorden, med dervarande</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Tallrik</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mannhus och Ladugård uti</td>
<td>Gläs &amp; Porselain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sin och efterkommande arvingars lifstid. Uptages</td>
<td>2nd halfstop flasker &amp; 1 Glas</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till ett värde af</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Silfver</td>
<td>Silfver beslagen Pipa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 St[ycce]: särre Porsellainsfat</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>222</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 St[ycce]: Flata Tallrikar</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Krage Knapp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 St[ycce]: The fat med 3 koppar</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Silfver beslagen Pipa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bläck Saker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Dricke Tappe Skål wäger] 3 tt³</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 d[it]o d[it]o [Trä] Målad</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Sämre Koppar Kettel wäger] 15 tt 2 24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Köks och HusgerädsSaker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 d[it]o d[it]o 20 tt a 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Liten särre Gryta</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ These three abbreviations refer to the following monetary units: RD = riksdaler = 48 skilling; s = skilling = 12 run(d)stycken; and r = run(d)stycken. - Johansson, Cradled in Sweden, 217.

² This abbreviation represents a unit of weight known as a skål/pund, which equals 32 lod or 0.425 kilos. - Johansson, Cradled in Sweden, 218.
Translation of Document 3:

In the year 1842 on 4 September was on request inventory taken after the deceased farmer on exemption Sven Jönsson under Tunge, who died 31 August this year and left behind its [his] wife, the widow Anna Pettersdotter: and were present the jury man Sven Håkansson of Tunge and Lars Andersson of Elekärr, who assisted the undersigned appraiser.

The widow who had a will of the deceased mate, stated the property in the following order:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monetary value</th>
<th>Monetary value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exemption Land</strong></td>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RD</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>According to the Exemption document of 9 July 1825 it was stated that the widow shall have the use of the exemption land with home and barn in her lifetime and that of her descendants. Appraised at a value of 222 21 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pewter 1 Piece: Pewter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pewter 1 Drinking cup</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pewter 1 Plate</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass &amp; China 2 Pint bottle &amp; 1 Glass</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass &amp; China 1 Quarter Bottle</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver 1 Piece: Worn china plate</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver 5 Pieces: Flat plates</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver 5 Pieces: Tea plates with 3 cups</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin Items 1 Tea tray</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper 1 itto ditto [Wood] Painted</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper 1 Worn copper kettle weighing 15 tt 2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper 1 Small, worn kettle</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper 1 ditto ditto 20 tt a 12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Carl-Erik Johansson  
1917-2000

Nils William Olsson

Genealogists in Sweden and Swedish-America are mourning the death of Carl-Erik Johansson, who died in Salt Lake City 20 March this year at the age of 82. The cause of death was diabetes and heart failure. With the demise of Carl-Erik, Swedish-America has lost its most eminent genealogist and student of family history.

Carl-Erik was born in Malmö, Sweden, on 21 October 1917, the son of Carl I. E. Johansson, a saddler and manufacturer of leather goods, and his wife Syster Emilia. After elementary and secondary schools, Carl-Erik volunteered for service in the Swedish Army, where his ability and knowledge soon caught the attention of his officers. They recommended him for further studies, from which he was graduated with honors as number one in his class. He next received an appointment to the elite Royal Svea Life Guards in Stockholm, where he eventually, through exemplary service, reached the rank of captain. In 1948 he resigned his commission and immigrated to America.

Carl-Erik had grown up in a family of devout Mormons, which aroused his interest in going to Salt Lake City, where he hoped to gain employment. He did not have to wait long. His schooling in Sweden proved useful to the Mormon church authorities, who engaged him in its translation service. Thus began a career that spanned twenty years and resulted, among other achievements, in a translation of the Book of Mormon into Swedish. But Carl-Erik’s passion was genealogy and family history and he entered Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where he not only received his degree but was offered employment as assistant professor in genealogical research, with a specialty in the genealogical records of Sweden.

As he honed his skills, his fame as a researcher spread and he soon had clients who sought his services, not only in Swedish research but also in adjacent Scandinavian countries. The paucity of guides in English dealing with Swedish genealogical research inspired him to rectify this situation by publishing his now famous guide and study named Cradled in Sweden, Rev. Ed. (The Everton Publishers: Logan, UT, 1995). The volume immediately became the Bible of Swedish genealogical research, blessed by researchers in every part of the United States.

* Nils William Olsson, Ph.D., F.A.S.G., and Editor Emeritus of Swedish American Genealogist, resides in Winter Park, FL.
Though he ranked high as an author, educator and scholar, it was as a very personable and compassionate human being that Carl-Erik won plaudits for himself wherever he went. He believed passionately in justice and freedom and would go out of his way to help persons in need. He felt it was his duty to make calls on the ill, the needy and shut-ins, particularly the elderly citizens of Swedish background. To many of these he was a ray of sunshine in an otherwise drab existence.

Carl-Erik believed deeply in the mission of the Mormon Church, where he had been active his entire lifetime. He held a number of important positions within the church body, being Branch President, Stake High Council Member, and serving two temple missions at the Stockholm, Sweden, Temple in Västerhaninge together with his wife Maja, née Ellström.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed his friendship over a period of more than thirty-five years. It all began, as so many other friendships involving Carl-Erik, with a genealogical query. As a college student I once received a letter from my paternal grandfather in Sweden who asked me to find out whatever happened to his uncle, Nils Pehrsson. As a converted Mormon in Skåne, he had immigrated to Utah in 1870 with his family. I began the hunt and was able to find a number of Nels Pearsons but never the correct kinsman. I even corresponded with the venerable historian of the Mormon Church, Andrew Jenson, but always came up short.

Somehow I was given the name of Carl-Erik Johansson, a rising star on the genealogical firmament, contacted him and in short order I was given the life story of the correct Nils Pehrsson as well as the names and addresses of living relatives.

I attended the World Conference on Records in Salt Lake City in the summer of 1969 where I not only met Carl-Erik for the first time but he also helped me plan a lunch for a dozen new-found relatives.

In 1991 Carl-Erik was a key player in planning the first SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City. He not only took an active role in the execution of the seminar but put himself and his automobile at the disposal of the group by personally meeting the arriving attendees at the airport. Each year thereafter he would ask what dates had been set aside for the workshop so that he could cancel all other engagements, thus devoting full time to help searchers find answers to their genealogical problems.

As time approaches for the tenth annual SAG Workshop this fall, we shall sorely miss Carl-Erik, his wisdom, his humor and, more than anything else, his warm friendship.
Books


Many of the individuals in this study were closely related. They came from an agricultural community in Sweden dominated by a large estate. The pioneers came in search of "free" land, and they found it in Goodhue County. Former neighbors settled close to one another. Many of the descendants are still tied to the land. The author has endeavored to trace the immigrants from cradle to grave to find out how they fared in their new homeland. But she did not stop there. Whenever possible she continued her search among the descendants. There are extracts from official records in Sweden and in America for about 320 immigrants. Including their families, the study encompasses more than one thousand individuals. Explore the intricate kinship within the group, name-changes, moves, occupations, farm locations, family members, and much more. This book is a continuation of Minnesota Swedes: The Emigration From Troll Ljungby 1855-1912 (1996).

• 1671 Census of the Delaware by Peter Stebbins Craig. ISBN: 1-887099-10-7; hardcover; 102 pages; U.S. $22.50 plus $4.00 shipping payable to the "Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania" and mail to GSP, 1305 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-5405. Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax.

This valuable new hardcover volume is virtually an updated "first English census of the Delaware." Based on handwritten seventeenth-century census documents by Matthias Nicolls and Walter Wharton (transcriptions by Berthold Fernow (1877) and by Dr. Charles T. Gehring (1977), the book includes all recorded heads of households in 1671 from Matinicum (Burlington) Island on the north to New Castle on the south.

Craig presents his interpretation of the entry and the number assigned by the census taker. After the listing, each of the neighborhoods and each of the heads of household is discussed, in numerical order. Known settlers not specifically named by Wharton are also named. Originally published in the Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, this new version contains a few corrections and a new index.
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.

Svensson, Johnson

Five of my maternal grandfather’s (morfar) siblings immigrated to either Leadville, Colorado, or Wellsville, Ohio, between 1886 and 1900. Some of them have been located and I have made contact with several second cousins in the U.S. An address book from one of the siblings in Leadville, CO, contained some addresses that may help in the search for the remaining two siblings.

Erik Hjalmar Svensson, b. 11 November 1867, immigrated to Leadville or Wellsville in 1886. His brother-in-law, John F. Berg, had an Elmer Svanson, 313 Liverpool Street, Wellsville, Ohio, listed in his address book. I found Elmer Swenson listed in the 1900 Federal Census (with a wife and son) but, since his birth date is given as August 1868, it is not likely that Elmer and Erik Hjalmar are one in the same.

Gerda Emerentia Svensson, b. 9 September 1882, immigrated to Leadville in 1900. She was probably not married or living in Leadville as of 1905. In the above-mentioned address book, a Mrs. Gerda Johnson, 5430 Stanard Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, is listed under the letter “S” in the address book. Although it seems reasonable to assume that this is Gerda Emerentia, I have been unable to locate her in the Cleveland census.

Any assistance/suggestions that may help me locate either Erik Hjalmar Svensson or Gerda Emerentia Svensson would be greatly appreciated.

Robert Samuelsson
Back Pers V. 8
SE-78041 Gagnef
SWEDEN
E-mail: <robert.samuelsson@swedenmail.com>

Hansson, Carlson

My grandmother’s name was Johanna Carolina Hansson. She was b. Korsnäs, Finland, 25 May 1880 and immigrated with her mother to Timrå (Mede.) when she was a child. Her mother, Emma Sofia Henriksdotter, was b. Övermark, Finland, 27 April 1855 and d. Timrå 2 May 1938. Her father, Adrian Hansson, who was b. in Finland 5 September 1849, had immigrated to the U.S.
in 1883. In June 1904 Johanna Carolina traveled to Trondheim, Norway, to live with relatives. In August 1904 she left Trondheim aboard the SS Casso bound for the U.S.

In 1920 Johanna was living with her husband, Charles G. Carlson, and three children (Carl, Ester, and Edith) in Hay Brook Twp., Kanabec Co., MN. Charles had emigrated from Västergötland in 1904. From 1933 to 1948, Caroline (now using her Americanized middle name!), and Charles, a cabinet maker, lived at 2618 McKinley St., N.E., Minneapolis, MN. Another address that may be of significance is F. W. Stodieck, 5344 10th Avenue S(?), Minneapolis, MN.

Johanna Carolina and her daughters Edith visited our family in Sweden in 1934. Edith was then about twenty years old; I was seven. My mother didn’t care to have further contact because she was very disappointed in her mother, who had abandoned her when she was a little baby. We then lost touch with our American relatives.

Now my mother is dead and my siblings and I want to know more about Johanna Carolina and her life in America. When did she get married? When and where did she die? Are any of her descendants still living? I would like to get in touch with relatives in the U.S., and I would be very obliged if someone could help me. Kindest regards.

Bror Nykvist
Hornsgatan 135
11728 Stockholm
SWEDEN
E-mail: <bror@mbox310.swipnet.se>

Johnson, Åkermark

I am trying to locate the sister of a William Johnson (deceased) of Hinckley, Minnesota. William Johnson was the translator of a book (Eld-cyklen eller Hinckley-branden) written by Swedish immigrant and journalist Gudmund Åkermark (see editor’s note below) about the great Hinckley forest fire of 1894. The Companion Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, published the original Swedish version in 1894. It was translated into English and republished in 1976 for The Pine County Historical Society by the American Publishing Company, Askov, Minnesota. In 1978 it was reprinted by The Hinckley Fire Museum. I was very taken by the original book as well as the translation and would like to know more about both Gudmund Åkermark and William Johnson. I am particularly interested in locating descendants of either one of these men.

With only the surname Johnson (and not even a middle initial!) to go by, finding the sister may be a difficult task. Her maiden name may have been Johnson, but what surname is she currently using? Where does she live? Does she have any living descendants?

I thank you for any efforts that you may be able to make to help.
Winberg

Alfrid Johansson Winberg was born in 1859 in Holsljunga Parish in Alvsborg län. He lived in Borås for a short time, but in 1882 he moved to Malmö where he married Josefina Charlotta Johansson. By 1890 the couple is found in Norrtälje Parish in Stockholm län with three small children—Augusta Wihelmina, born 1885, Karen Viola, born in 1886, and Johan Arvid, born in 1889. Johan Arvid may later have been known as “Arnie.”

Are there living descendants of Alfrid and Josefina Winberg in Sweden today? Any information about this family would be greatly appreciated.

Hal Bern
2341 E. Lynnwood Dr.
Longview, WA
E-mail: <Halby5443@aol.com>

Wahlbom, Lund(h)

Harald Wilhelm Wahlbom was born in Växjö (Småland) 10 May 1857, the son of Fredrik Magnus Wahlbom and Gustava Carolina Lund(h). He immigrated to Russia in 1883 and died in Donetsk in the Ukraine 7 February 1905. I am seeking information about his life, his descendants and the ancestry of his mother, Gustava Carolina Lund(h).

Judy Swenson
9622 Royal Palm
Garden Grove, CA 92841-1749
E-mail: <JudyofPBS@aol.com>
New Policies for Genealogical Research at the Swenson Center

Beginning in January 2000, the Swenson Center will implement new policies for visitors doing genealogical research on the premises. Following the practices of other privately funded archives in both the U.S. and Sweden, there will be a daily, non-member admission fee of $10 for the use of the Center’s facilities for genealogy. There will be no fee for Swenson Center members or for Augustana College students (or their parents), faculty, staff and alumni. People who are currently only SAG subscribers can add an Associate membership for $15 more. If you know someone who is interested in supporting the Swenson Center or subscribing to SAG, please show them the membership form below.

The hours for genealogical research will be 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Hours will continue to be by appointment. To schedule your visit, please call 309-794-7204 or e-mail <sag@augustana.edu>. This is especially important if you are an out-of-town visitor.

We make these changes in policy because the number of researchers and research requests has doubled over the past few years, even as we have significantly expanded our source materials. The new policies will allow Swenson Center staff members to focus more efficiently on both genealogical and archival work and will provide needed funds for the work. Genealogy is important to us. We welcome all those who wish to use our resources for Swedish-American genealogical research, and we remain committed to providing these resources to you.

Please enroll me in the following category of support for the Swenson Center:

- Swenson Center Associate (annual contribution of $25 or $_______)
- Swenson Center Associate with one-year subscription to Swedish American Genealogist (annual contribution of $40 or $_______)
- Swenson Center Scholar (annual contribution of $100 or $_______)
- Swenson Center Circle (annual contribution of $250 or $_______)
- Swedish American Genealogist (one-year subscription for $25)
- Other Amount $_______
- Please send information on endowment possibilities.

Payment by:
- check
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Return this form to:
Swenson Center
Augustana College
639 38th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201-2296

Account #: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________
Exp. Date: ____________________________
Name: ____________________________
Street: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
State: __ Zip: __ Telephone: (____)_______.
Welcome to the tenth annual SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City.
We are pleased to announce the return of our genealogists of 1999.

**Norman Bergstrom**
from Iowa and Salt Lake City. He has been a long time supporter of the SAG workshops in SLC, always willing to help solve genealogical problems from his well known desk in the rear of the Scandinavian room.

**Peter Stebbins Craig**
from Washington, DC, an expert on the early Swedes in Delaware, also a specialist with American immigrant records. He is a contributing editor to the SAG quarterly.

**James (Fritz) Erickson**
from Minneapolis, teaches Biology full time yet manages to edit the quarterly, "Swedish American Genealogist." Fritz Erickson will be with us for the latter half of the week.

**Chris Olsson**
from Minneapolis, former executive director of Swedish Council of America, now is on the editorial committee for the SAG quarterly and does Swedish genealogy part-time.

**Jill Seaholm**
from Rock Island, IL - otherwise known as M5, Jill Seaholm is the expert on immigrant records, indexes and what is available in the U.S. Jill also knows what is happening at the Swenson Center in Rock Island, IL.

**Ulla Sköld**
from Västerås, Sweden - a Swedish genealogist who teaches full-time and does genealogy in her spare time. Ulla came in 1999 for the first time and by the end of the week had impressed everyone. She has agreed to come back this October.

**Priscilla Sorknes**
from Minneapolis, MN - an American genealogist who specializes in Swedish & Norwegian genealogy and has years of experience unraveling records here in the US and in Scandinavia. Priscilla has been with SAG for many years and is very much respected.

**Ulla Thorsell**
from Jarfalla, Sweden - a well known Swedish genealogist who edits a publication for the Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies (Statskistorisk Forum), and conducts her own research. Elisabeth has been with SAG for a very long time.

Two top Swedish genealogists from Sweden & six very efficient Scandinavian-American genealogists make for one great group to help you with your genealogy quests.

**Fees:**
A. Two people sharing a room and both doing SAG Workshop research is $1120.00.
B. Two people sharing a room, one doing SAG Workshop research and one not doing SAG Workshop research is $1000.00.
C. One person doing SAG Workshop and staying alone in a room is $900.00.

The fee includes:
- Seven nights at the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel...right next to the Family History Library.
- Welcome and Farewell receptions for the group.
- Welcome Dinner.
- Daily lectures at the Family History Center and some evening activities.
- Hands on assistance with your research by some of the best Swedish family history researchers available.

To reserve a space please
call (207) 866-2202 or
write to Kama Olsson, 15 Sunrise Terrace, Orono, Maine 04473
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