

# Swedish American Genealogist

---

Volume 20 | Number 3

Article 1

---

9-1-2000

## Full Issue Vol. 20 No. 3

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag>



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#), and the [Scandinavian Studies Commons](#)

---

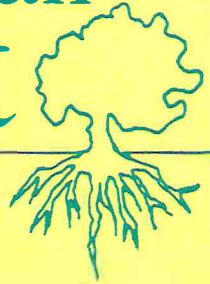
### Recommended Citation

(2000) "Full Issue Vol. 20 No. 3," *Swedish American Genealogist*. Vol. 20 : No. 3 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol20/iss3/1>

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Swedish American Genealogist by an authorized editor of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@augustana.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@augustana.edu).

# Swedish American Genealogist




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

## CONTENTS

<b>My Search for Carin Norquist: From Melrose (MN) to Forsa (Häls.)</b> <i>by Pamela J. Racey</i>	121
<b>A Twist of Fate</b> <i>by Ann Johnson Barton</i>	130
<b>The Clue Was on a Postcard</b> <i>by James E. Erickson</i>	133
<b>Hokey's Awful Secret</b> <i>by Paul G. Hayes</i>	145
<b>A Tale of Two Brothers</b> <i>by Shelly Dobbs Dooley</i>	151
<b>An Evasive Brood. The Sandgren Files. Part 2</b> <i>by Ted Rosvall</i>	158
<b>Genealogical Workshop: Records of an Immigrant Family. Part 1</b> <i>by James E. Erickson</i>	170
<b>Genealogical Queries</b>	180

# Swedish American Genealogist



Copyright ©2000

(ISSN 0275-9314)

## *Swedish American Genealogist*

**Publisher:** Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center  
Augustana College  
Rock Island, IL 61201-2296  
Telephone: 309-794-7204  
Fax: 309-794-7443  
E-mail: [sag@augustana.edu](mailto:sag@augustana.edu)  
Web address: <http://www.augustana.edu/administration/swenson/>

**Editor:** James E. Erickson, Ph.D.  
P.O. Box 390536, Minneapolis, MN 55439  
E-mail: [j.erickson@nr.cc.mn.us](mailto:j.erickson@nr.cc.mn.us)

**Editor Emeritus:** Nils William Olsson, Ph.D., F.A.S.G., Winter Park, FL  
**Contributing Editor:** Peter Stebbins Craig, J.D., F.A.S.G., Washington, D.C.  
**Editorial Committee:** Dag Blanck, Uppsala, Sweden  
Ronald J. Johnson, Madison, WI  
Christopher Olsson, Minneapolis, MN  
Ted Rosvall, Enåsen-Falekvarna, Sweden  
Elisabeth Thorsell, Järfälla, Sweden

*Swedish American Genealogist*, its publisher, editors and editorial committee assume neither responsibility nor liability for statements of opinion or fact made by contributors.

**Correspondence.** Please direct editorial correspondence such as manuscripts, queries, book reviews, announcements, and ahnentafeln to the editor in Minneapolis. Correspondence regarding change of address, back issues (price and availability), and advertising should be directed to the publisher in Rock Island.

**Subscriptions.** Subscriptions to the journal are \$25.00 per annum and run for the calendar year. Single copies are \$8.00 each. Swenson Center Associates are entitled to a special discounted subscription price of \$15.00. Direct all subscription inquiries to the publisher in Rock Island. In Sweden the subscription price is 200.00 Swedish *kronor* per year for surface delivery and 250.00 *kronor* per year for air mail. This subscription fee may be deposited in a *postgiro* account: No. 260 10-9, *Swedish American Genealogist*, Box 30222, 104 25 Stockholm, SWEDEN.

# My Search for Carin Norquist: From Melrose (MN) to Forsa (Häls.)

Pamela J. Racey\*

My interest in Swedish genealogy began when I was eight years old, in an unusual setting—the local cemetery. One beautiful sunny summer morning in the late 1950s, I accompanied my maternal grandfather, Arthur Youngquist, to the Lakeview Cemetery in Ludington, Michigan, in order to care for the flowers on the graves of his father and stepmother, John and Mary Youngquist. After we had finished, we drove around the cemetery, when suddenly Grandpa stopped the car. Directly in front of us was an unused portion of the cemetery and, beyond that, a densely wooded area. Grandpa took me by the hand and we walked towards the woods, and it was there that I first heard his sad story.

Arthur Youngquist was born September 1887 in Ludington, the first-born son of John and Carin (née Norquist) Youngquist. In January 1890, Carin gave birth to a second son, William Carl. Carin died three weeks later, due to childbirth complications. The baby died the following August. Both mother and son were buried side-by-side in this wooded section of Lakeview Cemetery. Because of costs involved, John was unable to purchase stone markers for the graves, but instead fashioned wooden crosses to mark the burial plots. Unfortunately, a fire later swept through this cemetery section and, afterwards, John was unable to remember precisely where his wife and son were buried. Not knowing the exact location of his mother's grave, as well as being denied the honor to care for her final resting place, always troubled my Grandpa Youngquist, and this caused friction between himself and his father for many years. After Grandpa finished his story, there were tears in his eyes. This episode in my young life marked the beginning of my interest in Swedish ancestors. Later in life I determined to learn all I could about Carin Norquist, my maternal great-grandmother, and her family, who came to America so long ago.

In March 1893, John Youngquist married his second wife, Mary Steinick, a godly Swedish woman. She was a very loving wife and a kind compassionate stepmother to Arthur. In later years Mary became a warm and gracious grandmother to Arthur's four children. Mary and John had no children of their own. Mary Youngquist died in December 1937 and, for the remaining fourteen years of his life, John lived with his son Arthur and wife Minnie and their four children (Vera, Elaine, Robert and Alice). As a young person, it was Robert who often quizzed his Grandpa John about life in Sweden and also about the Norquist family.

---

\* Pamela J. Racey resides at 1408 North Sherman, Ludington, MI 49431.

During the 1960s my fascination with Norquist family history deepened. Whenever the subject came up in conversations at Youngquist family gatherings, I always listened. Usually I found myself talking about genealogy with my Uncle Robert, who also shared a deep interest in his Swedish grandparents. Basically, Robert knew three things about Carin Norquist's family: 1) they had lived in Melrose, Minnesota; 2) Carin had at least two brothers who lived in/near Brainerd and Thief River Falls, Minnesota; and 3) the brothers worked for the Minnesota railroads.

Sometime during my early teen years, my mother (Alice) presented me with a very precious and meaningful memento that had belonged to my great-grandmother, Carin Norquist—a gold friendship ring. The story was told that Carin and her best friend in Sweden, Betty Werner, exchanged rings during their teenage years, probably in the mid 1870s. The ring has a delicate pattern etched around the outside and the initials "BW" engraved on the inside. There is an understanding that this ring is to remain within the Youngquist family, since it is the only personal item belonging to Carin still in existence.

It was not until 1995, however, that I actually began a serious, methodical search of my Swedish ancestry. I started reading many "how-to" books and also visited the local Family History Center on numerous occasions, hungry for any advice. Very soon it became apparent that the Norquist family history was going to be a challenge. Since my grandfather, Arthur Youngquist, had no personal recollection of his mother, he had depended upon his father to share what little information was known about the Norquists. Unfortunately, John never talked in much detail to his son; thus my grandfather knew precious few facts. Where in Sweden did the family live? What were the names of Carin's parents and siblings? When did the family come to America? These important questions filled my mind.

In December 1995, I became acquainted with the journal *Swedish American Genealogist* and subscribed in the hope of acquiring a better understanding of Swedish genealogy. Each time an issue arrived, I read the various articles and empathized with those people who, like me, were struggling for answers.

In summer 1996 my mother loaned to me a very special piece of Norquist memorabilia—a photo album that John had presented to Carin before they were married. It contains a wide variety of pictures, including photos of Carin's parents and brothers, a photo of Carin and Betty Werner, plus many pictures of friends both in Sweden and in America. Inside the front cover is John Youngquist's handwritten inscription: "Christmas Present To Carin Norquist Melrose 1884." What a priceless gem to have in our family's collection!

Beginning in August of 1996, I wrote a series of letters to the Stearns County (Minnesota) Historical Society, in an attempt to secure hard facts on the Norquists. They kindly searched many different sources, including obituary indexes, photo indexes, various census records, plus parish, biographic and subject files. Nothing was found. It was a most discouraging time, since I had confirmation that Carin was living in Melrose in 1884.



**Fig. 1.** Portrait of Peter and Helena Norquist, Carin Norquist's parents, taken in Melrose, Minnesota. Date unknown.

As previously mentioned, I was a subscriber to *Swedish American Genealogist* and one day in August I was casually glancing at a previous issue. After reading an article written by James E. Erickson (then associate editor and now editor of *SAG*), I noticed that his home address was listed. Since he lived in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, I knew he would have access to some Swedish-American genealogical repositories and I began to consider that perhaps he might assist me in my search. I composed a brief letter telling him of my plight, and sent it with guarded optimism.

Some weeks passed and then one evening I received a personal phone call from Dr. Erickson, saying he believed he had found my family. He briefly explained some of his discoveries and, much to my surprise, I learned that Carin's family had moved from Melrose, which is in Stearns County, to Elmdale Township, which is located in the adjacent county of Morrison. Several days later a packet of information arrived from him, which contained copies of four census records, information from the index of Göteborg police (emigration) records for 1883 and 1884, and a letter of explanation.

The 1885 Minnesota census of the city of Melrose proved to be interesting and yet somewhat surprising.<sup>1</sup> In reading it, I learned that Carin's parents were Peter and Helena. My first mystery was solved! Underneath their names were listed twenty-two-year-old "Kate" and her four younger brothers—Peter, John, Gustav and Emil. Lastly, and *most* unexpectedly, was the name of "Bessn Wenner," a twenty-two-year-old female, which I immediately concluded was Carin's good friend from Sweden. I had no idea that Betty had come to this country and, for a time, lived with Carin and her family. I always assumed they had parted forever in Sweden. This was such a unique piece of information to know!

The 1895 Minnesota census of Elmdale Township in Morrison County listed Pehr Norqvist, wife Helene [*sic*], and sons Gustaf and Emil.<sup>2</sup> It noted that the family had lived in this area for nine years, so their move must have taken place sometime in 1886. Pehr was a farmer, Helene a housewife, and their sons were farm laborers.

The 1900 U.S. census of Morrison County again showed Pehr and Helena Norqvist living as farmers in Elmdale Township.<sup>3</sup> It also noted their birthdays and year of marriage. Their two sons were no longer living with them.

The 1905 Minnesota census of Morrison County showed son Gustav Norquist as head, wife Anna, three young sons, brother Erik, plus parents Pehr and Helen living on a farm in Elmdale Township.<sup>4</sup> It appears that Gustav had taken over the farming operations.

---

<sup>1</sup> 1885 Minnesota State Census, Roll 42, Minnesota Historical Society (hereafter MHS), Stearns Co., Melrose, 20.

<sup>2</sup> 1895 Minnesota State Census, Roll 77, MHS, Morrison Co., Elmdale Twp., 28.

<sup>3</sup> 1900 United States Census, Roll 776, MHS, Morrison Co., Elmdale Twp., E.D. 98, 82A.

<sup>4</sup> 1905 Minnesota State Census, Roll 136, MHS, Morrison Co., Elmdale Twp., E.D. 26.

The following information was included in the indexes for Göteborg police (emigration) records for the years 1883 and 1884:<sup>5</sup>

- Nordqvist, Per, age, 50; son Erik, age 22; son Johan, age 11; from Forsa X [Gävleborg län] to Quebec, 25/5 1883; Contract Number 22:693:4904.<sup>6</sup>
- Nordqvist, Helena, age 48; daughter Carin, age 21; son Petter, age 17; son Gustaf, age 11; son Emil, age 10; from Forsa X [Gävleborg län] to Melrose, 18/7 1884; Contract Number 25:183:4062.<sup>7</sup>

This passenger list information was the most crucial in my research, because it opened the door to Sweden. I *finally* had a parish name for the Norquists and could move forward in finding birth and marriage records, as well as household examination rolls. In addition, it finally answered the nagging question as to when the family arrived in this country. It was also interesting to learn the entire Norquist family did not come to the United States at the same time. They all entered North America by way of Quebec, Canada, rather than through the port of New York. I will always be grateful to Dr. Erickson for providing me these significant facts.

He ended his letter by saying he had checked the membership registers of two Lutheran churches in/near Elmdale Township, hoping to find Pehr and Helena Norquist as members. Unfortunately, he did not locate them at either place.

After receiving all this pertinent information by January 1997, I began to make rapid progress. Because I knew the port of entry as well as the approximate arrival dates of the family, it was rather simple for the Family History Center to provide me microfilms of the ships' passenger manifests. Both of the ships were part of the British Allan Line, Royal Mail Steamers to Canada and the United States. Pehr Nordqvist and sons Erik and Johan left Liverpool, England, on 31 May 1883, after a six-day journey from Göteborg. They sailed to Quebec on the S. S. *Sardinian*. Helena Nordqvist, daughter Carin, and sons Petter, Gustaf and Emil left Liverpool, England, on 24 July 1884 and sailed to Quebec aboard the S. S. *Sarmatian*.

The Family History Center kindly provided me a partial photocopy of the book *Ships of our Ancestors* by Michael J. Anuta. On page 297 are pictures of the S. S. *Sardinian* and the S. S. *Sarmatian*. What an unforgettable moment it was for me to actually see pictures of the ships on which my ancestors sailed.

I then turned my attention to the Swedish records for Forsa Parish in Gävleborg län. Carin's birth and christening record is shown in figure 2 below.

---

<sup>5</sup> The Göteborg police (emigration) record information was extracted from microfiche at the archives of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.

<sup>6</sup> Poliskammaren GBG, Personregister Emigranter 1883, S1459, 17/17, p. 166.

<sup>7</sup> Poliskammaren GBG, Personregister Emigranter 1884, S1460, 12/12, p. 121.



Födde och Döpte år 1862.						
N:o	Namn.	Född.		Döpt.	Influtne Lasarettmedel.	Föräldrarne och deras hemort.
		Månad.	dag.			
	<i>N</i> Jonas. äkt.	Sept.	12.	Den 14 Sept. Aurivillius Döpt till Estling d. 17, 1862.		Hövd. <i>Häckas</i> Halfvarn Hall varstefors, frim. skolaung och Sara Mo, och H <sup>ö</sup> skant <i>Wid</i>
38	<i>C</i> Catharina. äkt.	Sept.	15.	Den 15 Sept. Aurivillius		Dagabst. <i>Wahr</i> <i>Wahrstefors</i> , i Hamre, H <sup>ö</sup> skant <i>Wahrstefors</i>
Äktenskap där.	Kyrkostig- ning m. m.	Faddrar.			Föräldrarnas och faddrarnas	
		a) Hövd. <i>Tadi</i> Anton <i>Wahrstefors</i> , H <sup>ö</sup> skant <i>Wahrstefors</i> , skolaung till <i>Wahrstefors</i> . b) Hövd. <i>Wahr</i> <i>Wahrstefors</i> , skolaung, skolaung och <i>Wahrstefors</i> . c) H <sup>ö</sup> skant <i>Wahrstefors</i> , skolaung, <i>Wahrstefors</i> .			Hövd. <i>Wahrstefors</i> , i Hamre.	
16.	Den 26 <sup>te</sup> Octob. Coffrin.	a) Dagabst. <i>Wahr</i> <i>Wahrstefors</i> , H <sup>ö</sup> skant <i>Wahrstefors</i> . b) Hövd. <i>Wahr</i> <i>Wahrstefors</i> , H <sup>ö</sup> skant <i>Wahrstefors</i> , skolaung och <i>Wahrstefors</i> .			Hövd. <i>Wahrstefors</i> , i Hamre.	

Fig. 2. Birth and christening record (födelselängd och doplängd) for child No. 38—Catharina (i.e., Carin Norqvist)—from Forsa Parish (Häls.). The top image is the left-hand part of the page; the bottom image, the right-hand part.

A complete transliteration and translation of figure 2 is as follows:

- Heading: Födde och Döpte år 1862 (born and baptized/christened in the year 1862)
- Column 1: N:o. (Number): 38 (the 38th child born in the parish in 1862)
- Column 2: Namn. (Name): Catharina / äkta (legitimate)
- Column 3: Född/Månad/dag. (Born/Month/Day): Sept. 15 (September 15)
- Column 4: Döpt. (Baptized/Christened): Den 15 Sept. (on September 15) / [by the minister] Aurivillius
- Column 5: Influtne Lasarettmedel. (paid to hospital):

- Column 6: Föräldrarna och deras hemvist. (The parents and their residence): *Sågarbet[are] Pehr Pehrsson i Hamre, H[ustr]u Hel[ena] Margr[etha] Ersd[otter]* (Saw[mill] worker Pehr Pehrsson from Hamre, Wife Helena Margretha Ersdotter)
- Column 7: Modrens Ålder. (Mother's age): 26
- Column 8: Kyrkotagning m. m. (Introduced into the church after childbirth): *Den 26<sup>te</sup> Octob[er]* (October 26 is the date that the mother, i.e., Helena Margretha, was "taken to the church and introduced anew to the congregation, signifying a cleansing sacrifice after the birth, which was considered unclean."<sup>8</sup>) / [by the minister] *J. Offrén*.
- Column 9: Faddrar. (Sponsors/Godparents): *a) Sågarb[etare] Pehr Ersson Lindh, H<sup>a</sup> [= Hustru] Karin Hedman, Hamre / b) Bond[e] Pehr Eric Ersson, H<sup>a</sup> [= Hustru] Lena Kajsa Olsd[otte]r, Harmånger och Vattlång.* (a) Saw[mill] worker Pehr Ersson Lindh, Wife Karin Hedman, [from] Hamre / b) Farm owner Pehr Eric Ersson, Wife Lena Kajsa Olsdotter, [from] Harmånger [a parish in Häls.] and Vattlång (a village in Harmånger).
- Column 10: Närverande vid förlossningen. (present/attending at this birth): *Sa Barmorska* (the same midwife), i.e., the same as mentioned for the previous child, namely, Husm[an](?) Wiklunds Hu[stru] i Hamre (the crofter Wiklund's wife from Hamre).

In the household examination roll (*husförhörslängd*) for Forsa Parish covering the years 1871-1880 (see top image of figure 3),<sup>9</sup> I found the Norquist family listed as follows: *Arbetaren* (the laborer/worker) Pehr Pehrsson Nordqvist [note the Swedish spelling], b. Ny (Värm.) 1832; *H[ustr]u* (wife) Helena Margretha Ersdotter, b. Harmånger [Häls.] 1835; *son* Eric, b. 1861; *d[otte]r* Catharina, b. 1862; *son* Petter, b. 1867; *son* Carl Johan, b. 1869; *son* Gustaf, b. 1871; and *son* Emil, b. 1874. Pehr and Helena Margretha were married in 1861. It is interesting to note that by this time (i.e., 1871-1880) Carin's father was using the surname *Nordqvist*, whereas at the time of her birth (i.e., 1862) he only went by his patronymic *Pehrsson*.

This household examination roll also provided valuable insights regarding the religious convictions of the Nordqvist family. On the right hand side of the page (see bottom image of figure 3) in the columns labeled 1871 through 1880 under the heading *Bevstat förhör och begått H. H. Nattvard* (attended examination and celebrated/partook of Holy Communion), the parish minister could indicate the date(s) when an individual attended the annual examination (under column F[örhör]) and/or communion (under column N[attvard]). Note

<sup>8</sup> Carl-Erik Johansson, *Cradled in Sweden*. Rev. Ed. (Logan, UT: The Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995), 101.

<sup>9</sup> Household Examination Roll (*husförhörslängd*), Forsa (Häls.), 1871-80, 183.

how many times the abbreviation *abs* (= *absens* = absent) is used to indicate that a family member did not attend the annual examination. Note also that none of the Nordqvist family members celebrated communion in the church during this ten-year period. Furthermore, in the column *Fräjd och särskilda anteckningar* (civil status and special notes/annotations), Pehr and his daughter Catharina are listed as "*Baptist.*" Eric is listed as being *Adm[mitterad]* (admitted) 1877, but the interpretation of this phrase is uncertain. Finally, in the same column, the two youngest children (Gustaf and Emil) are characterized by the comment "*Barnet ej döpt*" (the child isn't baptized). The Nordqvist family clearly belonged to the dissenting Baptist movement! This undoubtedly explains why they were not found in a Lutheran church register in Minnesota.

My focus then shifted back to Minnesota. I wrote a letter to the Morrison County recorder, requesting the dates of death for both Pehr and Helen Norquist. A response was mailed promptly stating that Helen had died on 23 August 1907 and Pehr on 18 October 1907. I have yet to learn where they are buried, but I assume it is in/near Elmdale. Years ago I remember my Grandpa Youngquist telling me that his maternal grandmother never stopped grieving over the death of her only daughter, Carin.

Genealogy is a never-ending hobby and I have much to discover regarding my Swedish ancestors. It has been rewarding not only to learn all that I have in the last few years but also to solve so many of the questions that have puzzled me for such a long time. It has also been a pleasure to meet other people who also share an interest in genealogy. Whether I find myself cranking a microfilm reader in a library or sitting in the back corner of a county clerk's office poring over old musty record books, there always seems to be a friendly face to offer help or share in my joy over a new discovery.

My ultimate goal is to provide my two sons an accurate and interesting family history of their mother's ancestors. I continue to enjoy this pursuit, knowing that many challenges and answers lay ahead of me. And this one valuable lesson I have learned from researching my Swedish great-grandmother, Carin Norquist, and her family—*never give up.*

183. *1867 William*

Personens namn, stånd, yrke och näringslag. (Öfversättning, inhyses- och fattighets), nationalitet (om öfversättelse), lysan (svaghet, blinda, döfsta).	Födelse.			Aktrenskon.	Fyrstad	År, månad och dag.	Död.
	År.	Mån. och dag.	Ort. (Svecken i Län, Stads.)	År. Mån. eller Sönd.			
<i>abbdaren,</i>			<i>Winnel. S.</i>				
<i>Ylva Ylva Nordqvist</i>	<i>1832</i>	<i>7/6</i>	<i>Sty</i>	<i>1861</i>			
<i>Helena Margaretha Swartzén</i>	<i>1835</i>	<i>11/10</i>	<i>Norrköping</i>				
<i>son,</i>	<i>1862</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1861</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1860</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1860</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1862</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1867</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1868</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1870</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1872</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1873</i>	<i>7/8</i>					
<i>son,</i>	<i>1874</i>	<i>7/8</i>					

Län	Fyrstad	Befväring Räkne och begagn i. H. Rättvärd.												Fräjd och särskilda anmärkingar.	Fyrstad År, månad och dag.	Död.	
		1877.			1878.			1879.			1880.						
		F.	N.	F.	F.	N.	F.	F.	N.	F.	N.	F.	F.				N.

Fig. 3. Household examination roll (*husförhörslängd*) for Forsa Parish (Häls.) 1871-80. The top image is the left-hand part of page 183; the bottom image, the right-hand part. Note that this document has been edited, i.e., material has been removed between the heading shown and the entries for the Nordqvist family.

# A Twist of Fate

Ann Johnson Barton\*

The fourth son of *arbetskarl* (workingman) Carl Petersson had little chance in the 1880s to use his God-given talents in his native Kalmar *län* in the province of Småland. His pockets were nearly empty when he borrowed his fare for steamship passage to America in 1882. Although a man of slight build who was physically unable to serve his compulsory military duty, Adolf Alfred Carlsson nevertheless intended to become a homesteader in Minnesota. First, however, he had both the obligation to repay his debt in Sweden and the need to earn sufficient capital to develop a homestead farm. He thus began his American experience in Chicago, where he found work as a factory laborer. As his industrial instincts matured, he lost all interest in farming and instead became a keen businessman beloved and respected by employees and customers, as well as those in his church and social circle.

In the 1893 collapse of Wall Street and the country-wide financial panic that accompanied it, Adolf Alfred Carlson saw opportunity. He had worked the past ten of his eleven American years in the manufacture of wooden tanks, accumulating a small savings even with a wife and four children to support. In partnership with two Chicago immigrants named Johnson, Alfred Carlson bought the tank-making machinery of his bankrupt former boss. It was a risky move.

The trio of would-be entrepreneurs named their fledgling enterprise Johnson, Carlson & Co. On 25 April 1895 Andrew Johnson withdrew from the business, selling his interest to the other two for \$325. The bill of sale confirmed Andrew Johnson's complete resignation. He sold "my share and interest in all material, machinery, tools, outstanding accounts and monies belonging to the firm of Johnson, Carlson & Co., doing business at 71 N. Union Street, including the good will of the said business."

After Andrew Johnson's retirement, the remaining partners changed the firm name to Johnson & Carlson. The business continued its operations at 71 N. Union Street until 1898, when the company relocated to 96-98 W. Lake.

One of its earliest products was railroad tanks with capacities ranging from 4,000 to 10,000 gallons. Fitted onto flatbed cars, the railroad tanks were primarily used to transport freshly-picked cucumbers in brine to pickle plants for processing. The low-maintenance railroad cars were economical to operate and

---

\* Ann Johnson Barton, 78 Brook Run Lane, Stamford, CT 06905, is the author of "Portrait of an Immigrant Nebraska Homesteader" published in the March 1996 issue of *Swedish American Genealogist*. She has published books on her two immigrant grandfathers, Adolf Alfred Carlson and Nebraskan Andrew Johnson.

boasted an early payback. Customers included pickle giants H. J. Heinz, Vlasic, Ma Brown, and Dean Foods.

According to company advertisements, other products were “all kinds of distillers’, brewers’, and vinegar tanks; cisterns; roof tanks; milk vats; water troughs, etc.” One of the company’s first customers was the Chicago Northwestern Railroad.

The young business grew steadily. On 6 September 1899, John Johnson and Alfred Carlson engaged the law firm of Deneen & Hamill to search the title to Lot 1 in Block 35 of Ogden’s Addition to the city of Chicago. The street address was 256-258 N. Halsted. The partners purchased the property and were doing business at that location in 1901.

In August of the following year, Johnson and Carlson commissioned a search of Lot 2 in Block 35 of Ogden’s Addition. Purchase of that land enabled the partners to double their factory size. The company address was 252-258 N. Halsted.

By the middle of the first decade of the twentieth century, business was booming. In 1906 the partners seriously considered incorporation and building a larger, more modern factory. The first step came on 13 July 1906 when Johnson and Carlson sold their two lots on N. Halsted, with the provision their company could occupy the premises free of rent until 21 May 1907.

On 25 September 1906, John A. Johnson and Adolf Alfred Carlson, as individuals, signed a warranty deed for Block 57 (139-155 Eastman Street) in the Elston Addition to the city of Chicago. This was to be the site of the new factory.

Architect Nils Hallstrom was commissioned to draw up plans for a two-story office and factory building, with basement and a two-story barn, to be situated on the corner of Eastman and Judson Streets. On 14 February 1907 the property owners contracted with Axel Peterson to construct the building and stable according to Hallstrom’s plans.

With the new factory building in place, partners Johnson and Carlson energized their plan to incorporate their growing company. They applied to the Illinois secretary of state for a license to issue stock. Authorization to incorporate was granted on 21 January 1908. In addition to the two founders, stockholders were John Johnson’s adopted son, Clas, Alfred Carlson’s two adult sons, Carl E. and Emil A., and his nephew, Carl J. Peterson.

One hundred shares were issued, each with a par value of \$100. John A. Johnson and Adolf Alfred Carlson split the shares equally. Johnson gave one share to his son and Carlson gave one share each to his two sons and his nephew. At the first stockholders’ meeting held on 2 April 1908, John A. Johnson was elected chairman of the board and Carl E. Carlson, secretary.

The stockholders passed a resolution to fully and immediately pay all the subscriptions to the capital stock of the corporation. To that end, John Johnson and Alfred Carlson proposed that payment be made by transfer of the merchandise, machinery, and fixtures of the former partnership, which had been

appraised at \$12,700. Since the value of these assets exceeded the par value of the capital stock of the new corporation, the offer was voted affirmatively and unanimously. Messrs. Johnson and Carlson finalized the act by delivering to Carl E. Carlson, the newly-elected secretary of the corporation, a duly executed conveyance of all the merchandise, equipment and fixtures of the partnership at the agreed-upon value of \$10,000.

With the capital stock fully subscribed and paid, petition was made to the Illinois secretary of state for legalization of Johnson & Carlson as a corporation. On 4 April 1908, the secretary of state certified that Johnson & Carlson was a legitimate corporation under the laws of the State of Illinois.

In addition to adopting by-laws for the corporation, the first board also embraced a mission statement: "To carry on the business of manufacturing generally, and particularly to manufacture, repair, buy, sell, deal in, set up, and install wooden tanks and vats, and to do any and all carpenter or other work connected therewith, or necessary or incidental thereto."

Dividends were regularly declared at the annual meetings, with the undivided profits passing to the private ledger account. At the annual meeting of 1910, note was made of the street number change from 139-155 to 848-864 Eastman Street, resulting from the Chicago city council's renumbering scheme.

At the 1912 annual meeting, John Johnson tendered his resignation. It was not unexpected and it was accepted. Alfred Carlson was elected president and treasurer and each of the younger stockholders had a position on the board, including John Johnson's son Clas. In 1915 Clas Johnson resigned from the company, leaving it solely in the hands of the Alfred Carlson family. Alfred's youngest son, Arthur B., joined the firm in 1916.

Business continued to be brisk. Each of the Carlson sons developed expertise in specific areas of the wooden tank business. Carl E. specialized in fire protection tanks on the tops of buildings; Emil A. oversaw the beer, pickle and other food processing orders; and Arthur B. interfaced with the tannery industry.

Johnson & Carlson had a one-hundred-year relationship with the Wisconsin-based vinegar manufacturing firm of A. M. Richter. Because the wooden tanks were long-lived, orders from Richter and the pickle customers turned to replacement of the metal hoops that had been corroded by vinegar. This after-market became a profitable adjunct to the primary business.

When Adolf Alfred Carlson died unexpectedly in mid-January 1920, people thronged to his funeral. In addition to friends and relatives, the family received condolences from customers who knew A. A. Carlson as a sound and honest businessman and from strangers with Swedish accents who recalled that Mr. Carlson had housed and fed them and helped them find a job when they first came to this country. A. A. Carlson was forever grateful for the opportunities his adopted country afforded him and it gave him great pleasure to help other Swedish immigrants get started in this bountiful, but sometimes bewildering, land.

# The Clue Was on a Postcard

James E. Erickson

When I first met Joanne Halsey in April of 1997, she told me the fascinating story of her grandmother, Anna G. Johnson Oleson Heightstedt, an early Minneapolis photographer. Although Joanne had compiled some interesting information about Anna from the typical assortment of family documents, she was not confident about the accuracy of the dates she had for Anna's year of birth, year of emigration and year of marriage. More significantly, she had failed to uncover any information concerning Anna's place of birth in Sweden.

I wrote a letter to Joanne in early August 1997 in which I asked her to consider writing an article for *SAG* that would focus on her grandmother—a strong, intelligent, artistic and *female* Swedish immigrant.<sup>1</sup> At the same time I confidently but, in retrospect, naively told her that I was also interested in helping her solve that “little problem” regarding her grandmother's Swedish origins. After all, how hard could it be to positively identify an individual with the name Anna Johnson and an uncertain birth date in the Swedish records? By the end of the month, Joanne and I got together, she provided me all the information she had, and I began my search for Anna.

What follows is a chronological account of my research effort over a one-year period. It is important to remember that this particular quest was never a priority for me but, rather, a peripheral issue that was casually addressed in “fits and starts” as time, circumstances and new leads allowed. In other words, during this period I continued to function as a typical genealogical researcher—juggling a large number of balls (i.e., addressing a number of unrelated research questions/problems) simultaneously.

## Lakeland Cemetery, Minneapolis, September 1997

My first step in the search for Anna involved a trip to Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis. A brief stop at the main office quickly resulted in a photocopy of the cemetery record associated with the Oleson/Heightstedt family plot. The information it contained, which is summarized in table 1, was significant for several reasons. First, it confirmed that Anna and her entire family—two husbands, three sons, one daughter and one son-in-law—were interred in the family plot. Second, from the age and date of death provided, I calculated Anna's year of birth to be ca. 1859. Third, it raised

---

<sup>1</sup> Read her account in “Anna Oleson Heightstedt: Early Minneapolis Photographer,” *Swedish American Genealogist*, Vol. XX (June 2000): 88-94.



questions about the identity of three individuals with the surname Johnson buried in the plot. Who were they? The most obvious connection to Anna was the surname Johnson, which was also Anna's maiden name. Was the Jennie G. buried in grave 12 Anna's sister? Were Jeffrey and John her nephews? These were certainly pieces of a larger puzzle, but precisely how they fit together was not yet clear.

**Table 1.** Individuals interred in the Oleson/Heighstedt family plot at Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.

Interment Number	Grave	Name	Age	Date of Death		
				Month	Day	Year
49116	1	Andrew Heighstedt	75	Sept.	25	1933
25984	2	Anna G. Heighstedt	57	Oct.	20	1916
13691	3	Ever W. Oleson	28	Dec.	10	1903
10523	4	*John H. Oleson	31	Aug.	26	1881
10433	5	Gustave H. Oleson		Apr.	24	1899
10524	6	*Albert J. Oleson	1 3/4	June	30	1881
87165	8	Clyde Albert Undine	73	Aug.	20	1959
132279	9	Effie H. Undine	93	Nov.	12	1983
50186	12	*Jennie G. Johnson	64	Aug.	12	1934
29536	13	Jeffery Johnson	26	May	29	1919
16046	14	John E. E. Johnson	36	Jan.	28	1907

\*From Layman's [Cemetery], June 7, 1899

\*From Willmar, Minn[esota]

**Table 2.** Inscriptions on tombstones located in the Oleson/Heighstedt family plot at Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.

Grave	Name	Died	Aged
1	Andrew W. Heighstedt	Sept. 25, 1933	75 Yrs, 9 Ms, 25 Ds
2	Anna G. Heighstedt	Oct. 20, 1916	59 Yrs, 11 Ms, 13 Ds
3	Ever W. Oleson	Dec. 10, 1903	28 Yrs
4	John H. Oleson	August 26, 1881	31 Yrs, 13 Ds
5	Gustave H. Oleson	April 24, 1899	21 Yrs, 3 Ms, 24 Ds
6	Albert J. Oleson	June 30, 1881	1 Yr, 9Ms, 22 Ds
8	Clyde A. Undine, M.D.	Aug. 20, 1959	73 Yrs, 5 Ms, 20 Ds
9	Effie H. Undine	Nov. 12, 1983	93 Yrs, 4 Ms, 31 Ds

Note: The main stone located in the middle of the plot contains the following two inscriptions: *On the west side of the stone:* OLESON / At Rest / John H. Oleson / BORN Aug. 13, 1850 / DIED Aug. 26, 1881; *On the east side of the stone:* Asleep in Jesus / Albert J. Oleson / BORN Sept. 8, 1879 / DIED June 30, 1881.

I then went out to the actual gravesites, where I collected additional information from the tombstones (see table 2). Anna's precise age at death was listed as 59 years, 11 months and 13 days, and from this information an exact date of birth of 2 November 1856 was calculated. Unfortunately, this did not jibe with the year of birth calculated from the information contained in table 1. Which year of birth—1856 or 1859—was correct?

### American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, October 1997

In an ideal world, this would have been my first stop, because the ASI archives has microfilm copies of the records of Swedish American churches in Minnesota. I was led to believe that Anna was a member of and/or attended Augustana Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. If I could locate her in one of Augustana's membership registers, I might be fortunate enough to see her birth date, birthplace and year of emigration listed. Unfortunately, my efforts to locate Anna in the Augustana records proved fruitless. What a disappointment to come up empty-handed on the most promising lead! What other records could be searched? The obvious answer was public records. That made my next stop the Minnesota History Center.

### Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, February 1998

I first located all relevant obituaries of family members in Minneapolis newspapers. As can be seen in the three included below, neither Anna's obituary nor those of her two husbands provided any additional useful information.

- The funeral of **John H. Oleson**, who died yesterday of typhoid fever, will occur tomorrow from the family residence, corner of Ninth Avenue South and Seventeenth Street, at 2 o'clock p.m.<sup>3</sup>

- **Heighstedt, Anna G.**, wife of A. W. Heighstedt, died Oct. 20 at the home, 1702 Elliot Av. Survived by husband and a daughter, Effie. Funeral private, Monday, 2:30 p.m. from the residence. Interment Lakewood, by auto. Please omit flowers.<sup>4</sup>

- **Heighstedt, Andrew William**. At the home of his daughter, Mrs. Clyde A. Undine, 3959 Lyndale Av. N. Funeral services will be held at Lakewood chapel Thursday at 12:45. Arrangement by Davies.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> *Minneapolis Journal*, 27 August 1881, Obituary, 4.

<sup>4</sup> *Minneapolis Tribune*, 22 October 1916, Want Ads, 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Minneapolis Journal*, 26 September 1933, Obituary Notices, 24.

Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful in locating an obituary for Jennie G. Johnson, who had presumably died in Willmar, MN (see note at the bottom of table 1). The bottom line: the obituaries proved to be a dead end.

Family members were then traced in Minneapolis City Directories starting in 1881. The names, occupations, work addresses and residence addresses that they contained corroborated the basic family story told by Joanne Halsey,<sup>5</sup> but shed no new light on the question of Anna's origins.

Finally, I turned my attention to information in state and federal census records, which proved to be valuable for two main reasons—the birth date of November 1856 was corroborated and an emigration date of 1869 was established. The pertinent information on Anna contained in three selected federal census records is summarized below:

- **1880 U.S. Census:** 1606 Sixth Street South; Olson, Annie G.; white; female; age 25; married; occupation, keeps house; birthplace, Sweden; father's birthplace, Sweden; mother's birthplace, Sweden.<sup>6</sup>

- **1900 U.S. Census:** 1702 9th Avenue South; Heightstedt, Annie J. [*sic*]; wife; white; female; born, Nov. 1856; age, 43; married, 11 years; mother of how many children, 4; number of living children, 2; birthplace, Sweden; father's birthplace, Sweden; mother's birthplace, Sweden; year of immigration, 1869; number of years in the U.S., 31; can read, yes; can write, yes; can speak English, yes.<sup>7</sup>

- **1910 U.S. Census:** 1702 Elliott Avenue South; Heighstedt, Anna G.; wife; female; white; age, 53; married (2nd), 20 years; mother of how many children, 4; number of living children, 1; birthplace, Sweden; father's birthplace, Sweden; mother's birthplace, Sweden; year of immigration, 1869; able to speak English, yes; occupation, none.<sup>8</sup>

### The Impasse

At this point I took stock of my research effort. I felt confident about the veracity of the following five pieces of information: 1) Anna's middle name started with the letter G, or possibly J; 2) Anna's maiden name was Johnson, or some variation thereof; 3) Anna was born in Sweden on 2 November 1856; 4)

<sup>5</sup> Joanne Halsey, "Anna Oleson Heightstedt: Early Minneapolis Photographer," *Swedish American Genealogist*, Vol. XX (June 2000): 88-94.

<sup>6</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, roll 622 (Minnesota Historical Society, hereafter MHS), Hennepin Co., Minneapolis, Ward 5, Enumeration District (hereafter ED) 251, p. 437, No. 35.

<sup>7</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, roll 767 (MHS), Hennepin Co., Minneapolis, Ward 5, ED 62, p. 121B, No. 62.

<sup>8</sup> 1910 U.S. Census, roll 702 (MHS), Hennepin Co., Minneapolis, Ward 5, ED 103, p. 152, No. 36.

Anna emigrated from Sweden in 1869; and 5) Anna probably had a sister, Jennie G. Johnson, who also emigrated from Sweden. However, in spite of the progress I had made, my goal to bridge the Atlantic and identify “my” Anna in the Swedish records remained an unrealized one. I had to admit that I was at an impasse!

### The Postcard

Some time during late spring of 1998, I received a phone call from Joanne Halsey. She had been going through some of her grandmother’s (i.e., Anna’s) “stuff” and had uncovered two postcards with photographs and Swedish writing. She asked if I would like to see them. Naturally, I said “Yes!”

One of the postcards (see figure 1) depicts thirteen individuals in front of two Swedish farmhouses. Six of the individuals are clearly in a group in the foreground (two seated and four standing) and the remaining seven are standing in a row behind them. The text on the back of the postcard read as follows:

- Transliteration: *Detta p[ost]kort / är Skjömilla / Frun å Jonson / Signe å Alfild / det husbondefolk / som mama å papa / bott i 15 år.*
- Translation: This postcard / is Skjömilla / Mrs. and Jonson / Signe and Alfild / the master and mistress / with whom mama and papa / lived for fifteen years.

Who wrote the postcard? Anna? Her presumed sister, Jennie G.? Other siblings who had not emigrated? I had a feeling that Skjömilla and the four individuals pictured in the photograph were somehow connected with Anna, but would this new clue turn out to be the missing piece of the puzzle I was trying to assemble?

The first order of business was to find out more information about Skjömilla. To my surprise and delight, there were only two places with that name in all of Sweden. They were described as follows:<sup>10</sup>

- *Sjömīlan. Gård med qvarn och såg i Stenberga s[ocke]n, Östra h[ära]d, Jönköpings län.* (Translation: Farm/estate with flour mill and saw[mill] in Stenberga Parish, Östra District, Jönköping County.)
- *Skjömīllan. By i Åsheda s[ocke]n, Uppvidinge h[ära]d, Kronobergs län, vid sjöarne Ljufven och Källesjön.* (Translation: Village in Åseda Parish, Uppvidinge District, Kronoberg County, by the lakes Ljufven and Källesjön.)

<sup>10</sup> C. M. Rosenberg, *Geografiskt—statistiskt handlexikon öfver Sverige*, (Stockholm, 1883; reprint, Göteborg, 1993), 3:529, 530.

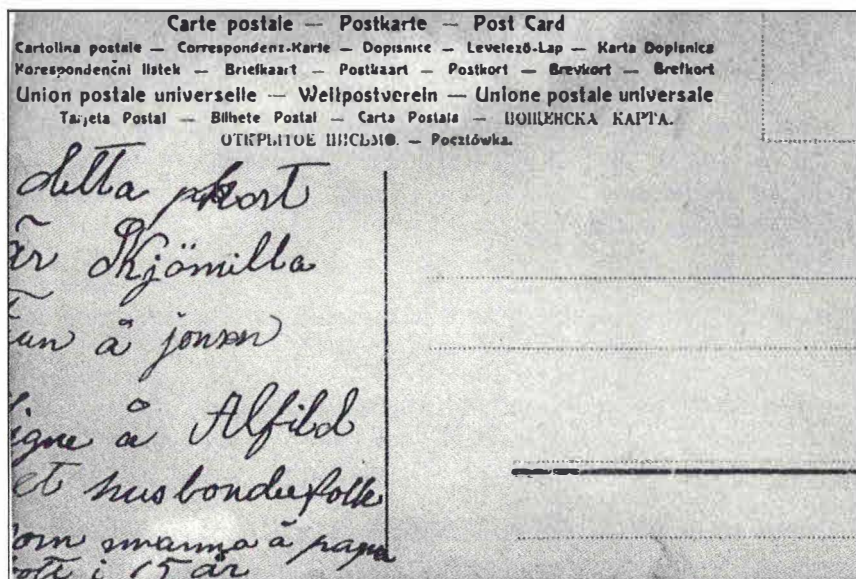


Fig. 1. The postcard on which the name Skjömilla was written. See text for a transliteration and translation of the writing. The edge of the postcard has obviously been trimmed, resulting in a loss of some letters in the written text.

I knew that the next time I had access to Swedish parish records and household examination rolls it would be reasonable to search for evidence of Anna and her family in one of these two places. But which one—Stenberg (Smål.) or Åseda (Smål.)? Since the Skjömilla in Stenberg was a farm/estate (as opposed to a village) and Stenberg was the same parish that Anna's second husband's parents came from,<sup>10</sup> I decided that, when the opportunity presented itself, I would begin my search in records from that parish.

### Family History Library, Salt Lake City, October 1998

During the eighth annual SAG Genealogical Workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah, I got my chance. Within minutes of entering the Family History Library, I placed a roll of microfilm containing the birth records for Stenberg Parish onto a microfilm reader. I knew that the odds of finding Anna's birth record in Stenberg Parish were slim but, after one year of work and no success, what did I have to lose? The only new lead that I had pointed to the parishes of Stenberg and Åseda. If I struck out in the Stenberg records, I would then try Åseda. If that didn't work, I would be back to square one.

After threading the film, I forwarded it to the year 1856. This took a while since 1856 was near the end of the roll. Then came the moment of truth. The final crank on the handle advanced the film one more page. I was now looking at birth records for October and November 1856. To my utter amazement and absolute delight, the twenty-ninth birth in Stenberg for the year 1856 was an Anna Gustafva born on 2 November to Johan Wilhelm Jonsson and Maria Andersdotter from Lilla Ulfarp (see figure 2).<sup>11</sup> A complete transliteration and translation of this record is as follows:

• Transliteration: *[No.] 28, [1856] November, [Födde] 2, [Döpt] 9, Anna Gustafva från Lilla Ulfarp, äkta dotter af Hemmans Eg. [Hemmansägare] Johan Wilhelm Jonsson och dess hustru Maria Andersdotter fr. Lilla Ulfarp. Faddrar: Hemmans Eg. Johannes Jonsson och dess hustru Johanna Kathrina Pehrsson i Lilla Ulfarp, Dr[ängen] Karl Joh. Johansson i St[ora] Högarf, Pig[an] Lena Maria Abrahamsdotter i Lilla Ulfarp.*

• Translation: No. 28, [born] 2 November 1856, [baptized] 9 November, Anna Gustafva from Lilla Ulfarp, legitimate daughter of farm owner Johan

<sup>10</sup> Soldat Anders Fredrik Johansson Högstedt, his wife Anna Maria Adamsdotter, and their son Carl Johan emigrated from Stora Högarf, Soldat Torp No. 92, Stora Weta in Stenberg Parish on 2 June 1852 and settled in San Francisco Township, Carver Co., Minnesota. - Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Stenberg Parish (Smål.), AI:11, 1851-1855, 18. See also James E. Erickson, "St. Ansgar's Academy, East Union, MN Students," *Swedish American Genealogist* XV (March 1995): 25, No. 148.

<sup>11</sup> Birth Record (*Födde*), Stenberg Parish (Smål.), C:4, 1817-60, No. 29, 2 November 1856.

Wilhelm Jonsson and his wife Maria Andersdotter from Lilla Ulfarp. Godparents: farm owner Johannes Jonsson and his wife Johanna Kathrina Pehrson from Lilla Ulfarp, the farmhand Karl Joh. Johansson from Stora Högarp, [and] the maid Lena Maria Abrahamsdotter from Lilla Ulfarp.

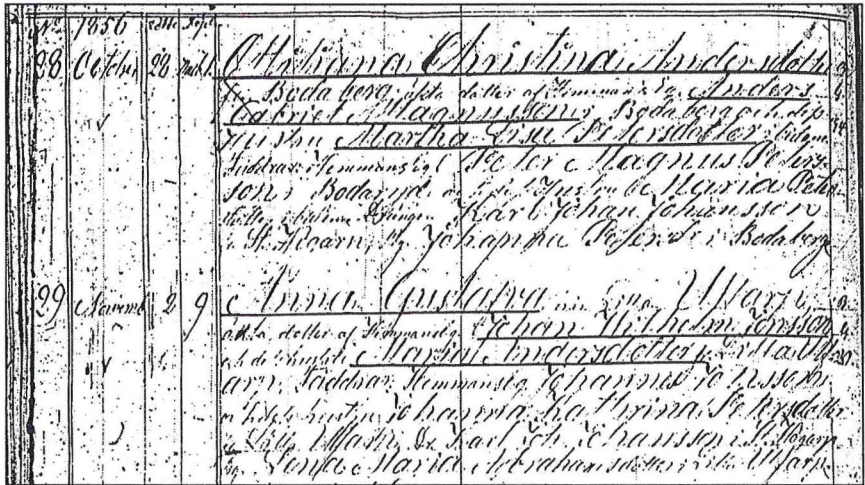


Fig. 2. Birth record of Anna Gustafva Johansdotter. See text for details.

This had to be “my” Anna! Everything fit—the Christian names, the surname and the date of birth were exactly what I expected. To be absolutely sure, however, I had to follow this particular Anna Gustafva through the parish registers and household examination rolls to see if she emigrated in 1869.

I discovered that during the next thirteen years, the Jonsson family resided in three parishes—Stenberga, Virserum and Åseda—but it was the household examination roll from Åseda Parish covering the time period 1867-72 that had the “smoking gun” I had hoped and expected to see (see figure 3).<sup>12</sup> On the left-hand side of the page the family of Arr[endantor] (tenant farmer) Johan Wilhelm Jonsson is listed as living at Borsås Östergård, Borsås Qvarn. Note that the name of Johan’s daughter, Anna Gustafva, is crossed out, which indicates that she is no longer living at home. On the right-hand side of the page a single remark explains where she is. In the column with the heading *Flyttat till* (moved to) is the notation “N[orr]a Amerika, 1869 21/6, [No.] 87.”<sup>13</sup> This was unquestionably “my” Anna!

<sup>12</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*), Åseda Parish (Smål.), AI:24, 184.

<sup>13</sup> Confirmed in Moving Out Record (*Utflyttningslängd*), Åseda Parish (Smål.), BI:2, 1869, No. 87.





Although I was confident in my identification of Anna, there were still two loose ends to tie up. One was the true identity of the woman named Jennie G. Johnson buried in the Oleson/Heighstedt plot in Lakeland Cemetery in Minneapolis. Was this Anna's sister? To answer this question I had to continue to "follow" Anna's family in the Swedish records.

Anna's family remained in Åseda Parish after her departure for North America. Here, on 19 June 1870, a daughter named Jenny Gustafva was born into the Jonsson family. The year of birth, the Christian names and the surname were a match. The woman buried in Lakeland Cemetery had to be Anna's younger sister! But did this particular Jenny Gustafva also emigrate?

In April 1878 the Jonsson family returned to Stenberga Parish, where they resided at Skjömilla. In November 1887 they moved to Virserum Parish, where they remained until at least 1895 (the year of the last record currently available on microfilm). In the household examination roll from Virserum Parish covering the years 1887-1895, the following two notations were written about Jenny Gustafva: 1) she emigrated to "*Amerika, 18/5 1888, No. 98*" and 2) "*Dödförklarad d[en] 31/12 1920 g.m. Aspelandes o[ch] Hanbrods Hr:s [Härad rätts], beslut[en] d[en] 18/1 1938*" (Declared dead on 31 December 1920 through Aspelandes and Hanbrods District courts, resolved on 15 January 1938).<sup>14</sup> Although the puzzle was now all but complete, one question still remained. Who exactly were the people in the photograph?

I started with the household examination roll for Stenberga Parish covering the years 1890-95, because it represented the most recent such record available on microfilm and, I guessed, was most closely aligned in terms of time with the postcard in question.

Finding the pages associated with the place Skjömilla was straightforward because there was an index. On page 155 I found what I was looking for—a husband with the surname Jons[s]on, his wife, and two daughters with the Christian names Signe and Alfhild (see figure 4).<sup>15</sup> The names circled on figure 4 match those on the postcard, i.e., "Mrs. and Jonsson, Signe and Alfhild" (see figure 2). This admittedly circumstantial evidence leads me to believe that four of the six individuals in the foreground of the photograph are *Egensman* (= *ägare* = owner) Sven Magnus Jonsson, his wife Anhtelia Theolricka Meurling and their daughters Signe Maria and Alfhild Mariana.

### Postscript: Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö, Sweden

My search for Anna's Swedish origins, which began in September 1997 and ended in October 1998, had taken me a little over one year to complete. My

<sup>14</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*) Virserum Parish (Smål.), AI:27, 1887-1895, 693.

<sup>15</sup> Household Examination Roll (*Husförhörslängd*) Stenberga Parish (Smål.), AI:18, 1886-1891, 155.

research effort did not set any speed records, but I was pleased that I had, indeed, successfully bridged the Atlantic. Success is success, right?

*Skjömilla Rote*

Företrädarens namn, stånd, ombete, yrke och utlösningslag, (beaktas ålder, inhyses- och fattiglagen), nationalitet (om främmande), lytan (svagblinda, blinda, dövstumma).	Födelse		Ort (Socken i Län, Stad)	Ålder Ehrl. eller Ejehl.	Husförhörslängd	Husförhörslängd		Husförhörslängd
	Ar.	Mån. och dag.				Ar.	Mån. och dag.	
<i>Mant</i>								
1. <i>Hjälpa Skjömilla, oförnu i Mant. förm. 4. Mant. Svärde</i>								
2. <i>1 1/2 Equ. Linn Magna Jansson</i>	1836	14	Kivitsala	75 1/2	N	Kivitsala	77 1/2	30
3. <i>H. Anttila Theodora Mursling</i>	1899	27	Do	75 1/2	N			
4. <i>H. Sigge Maria</i>	1875	8 1/2	Do		N			
5. <i>H. Knut Ejaum</i>	1877	1/2	Do		N			
6. <i>H. Gustaf Erik</i>	1879	2 1/2	Haga		N			
7. <i>H. Nyhild Mariana</i>	1882	3 1/2	Do		N			

Fig. 4. Page from the household examination roll (*husförhörslängd*) from Skjömilla in Stenberg Parish covering the time period 1886-1891. Four of the family members listed (Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 7) are most likely the individuals in the foreground in the photograph on the postcard (see figure 1). I have circled the names on this record that also appear on the postcard.

In June 1999, I found myself at the Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö, Sweden, working on a new research project—Swede Hollow (Svenska Dalen), St. Paul, MN—for which I had received a stipend. While at the institute, I was able to work with their searchable database called EMIBAS, which contains data (extracted from Swedish parish registers, household examination rolls, and emigration records) for almost one million Swedes who emigrated. It is a powerful research tool that, at the moment, is only available at the institute.<sup>16</sup>

One day, for fun, I decided to do a search for “my” Anna in EMIBAS. I already knew the results, of course, but I wanted to see how long it would take the computer to uncover the truth. I typed Anna’s birth date (1856-11-02) into the “Född-datum” field, which is just one of the two dozen fields, and hit the return key. Within seconds, the computer displayed the results of the search—34

<sup>16</sup> See how a Swedish genealogist used EMIBAS in Ted Rosvall, “Olphult? The Sandgren Files. Part 1,” *Swedish American Genealogist* XX (March 2000): 20-22.

individuals with that specific birth date were in the database. I then narrowed the focus of my search by typing the name “Anna G” into the “Förnamn” field and the name “Johansdotter” into the “Efternamn-1” field. After hitting the return key, the results of the search immediately appeared on my computer screen (see figure 5; although the field names are in Swedish, they and the data are more or less self-explanatory). Only one person in the entire database—“my” Anna—had that particular birth date and name!

```

FRÅN EMIBAS: ANNA GUSTAFVA JOHANSDOTTER                               99-06-16 Sid.1

Utfl-församl> ÅSEDA                                           Destination.> N. AMERIKA
Utfl-datum..> 1869-06-21   Län> G                             D-ort/region> .
H-akt /Aktnr> /123                                           D-Landskod..> .
Efternamn-1.> JOHANSDOTTER                                   Kön.....> K
Efternamn-2.>                                               Ålder.....> 12
Förnamn....> ANNA GUSTAFVA                                 Civilstånd..> OG
Gårdsnamn...>                                               Ensam/Fam...> E
Titel/Yrke...>                                               Född-datum..> 1856-11-02
Husförhl-sid> 184                                           Född-förs...> STENBERGA
Utfl-plats..> BORSÅS ÖSTREGÅRD                             Född-län....> F
                                                           F-ort/stat/region.>
                                                           Född-land.....>
                                                           Anteckningar>
                                                           Fri text.> memo

```

Fig. 5. Printout from EMIBAS when searching just two fields—the birth date 1856-11-02 and the name Anna G. Johansdotter.

The moral of this story is to remember that “there is more than one way to skin a cat.” As computerized indexes and databases become more readily available, it will be to your advantage to utilize them. While they are no substitute to going to the original records at some point in your research,<sup>17</sup> they can certainly be timesavers!

<sup>17</sup> As a reminder about the importance of original records, see Ronald J. Johnson, “Destination: La Brassa. A Research Anecdote from the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City,” *Swedish American Genealogist* XX (June 2000): 96-100.

# Hokey's Awful Secret

Paul G. Hayes\*

We had driven more than 500 miles that July day in 1977, leaving Rocky Mountain National Park, cruising down the Big Thompson Canyon, hurtling onto the treeless plains of eastern Colorado. Behind us were 5,000 miles of a camping trip that had taken us to the Pacific Coast. With three days remaining, there was to be one more stop: at Axtell, Nebraska, and an attempt to clear up the mystery of Hokey Holcomb.

Hokey was my great-grandfather and this would be another try at filling in a story for Hokey's descendants, including my mother, aunts, uncles and cousins, a few of whom remembered seeing the old man before he died, embittered and impoverished, in 1921.

Heading east on Interstate 80 at 10:30 p.m., I hoped to reach Axtell, where I intended to spend the next day at Bethany Lutheran Church and its cemetery and at the Kearney County Courthouse in Minden, to search for the clue that would explain a metamorphosis that had puzzled me for years. Suddenly, seven miles from the Axtell exit, the right wheel fell off our camping trailer. There was a terrifying grinding noise as I braked. In the mirror, I saw a comet's tail of sparks sent up by the steel axle dragging along the pavement at fifty-five miles an hour.

I managed to pull safely onto the shoulder. My wife, Philia, and I and our two sons, Nick and John, got out of the car, rummaged around for flashlights and surveyed the damage as semitrailers roared by in the night. Obviously the next day would be spent arranging repairs. My heart sank as this rare opportunity to clear up Hokey's secret slipped away.

"John," I said, looking into my younger son's face, which shone like a moon in the lights of passing trucks, "there's something out here that Hokey doesn't want us to know. Hokey did this. It's Hokey's curse." That scared the dickens out of John, then ten. Then I laughed and so did John.

Indeed, the next day was mostly taken up by getting the trailer unhitched and towed to Kearney, where a welder repaired the axle and reinstalled the wheel and tire, which we'd retrieved from the shoulder of the freeway. That left only an hour or so to prowl the roads separating the green, irrigated Nebraska cornfields around Axtell.

The prosperity of the scene collided with what I'd heard about the unimaginable hardships that had faced the pioneers here a century earlier,

---

\* Paul G. Hayes, a free-lance writer and retired science and environment writer for the *Milwaukee Journal*, resides at N63 W5795 Columbia Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012.

hardships that had contributed to the downfall of Hokey Holcomb and changed the fortunes of his family forever.

My great-grandfather had two names—Håkan Håkansson, his Swedish name, and Hokey Holcomb, the comical American corruption of it. He also seemingly had had two personalities. This is evident in photographs. The family had protected a photograph of Håkan Håkansson, the self-assured, lean twenty-four-year-old Swede taken on the day of his wedding, 19 August 1875, to eighteen-year-old Pernilla Nilsson, the blue-eyed, round-faced daughter of Swedish immigrants in Knoxville, Illinois. This was the man the family forgot.

There also is the snapshot of the twenty-five members of Hokey's extended family taken about 1913 in Estherville, Iowa, with Hokey looking far more gaunt and spent than a man aged sixty-two years should. He would be dead seven years later, having lived his last years ever more embittered, ever more complaining, sunk even deeper into poverty.

My grandfather, John Edward Holcomb, a gentle, dignified man, never spoke about his father except for the barest essentials. Hokey had been brought to the U.S. as an infant, the oldest child of John and Nilla Holcomb. He was brought up in Knox County, Illinois, working always as a farm hand. He homesteaded his own 160 acres in Nebraska for a time, then he resettled in northwestern Iowa, where again he worked as a farm hand. My grandfather, second oldest of what was to become a family of ten children, was still a boy when the family came to Iowa. His mother, Pernilla, who was called Nellie, and whose personality was submerged by her stern husband, was remembered for being gentle, quiet, tired, but enduring. She outlived Hokey by ten years.

According to family stories, Hokey arrived in Iowa a failed homesteader and a broken and bitter man. He even had quit being Swedish. My grandfather remembered that speaking Swedish was forbidden in the Iowa home and that Hokey had ceased being a Swedish Lutheran and now was a member of the Methodist Church. This was doubly curious because his younger brother, John Henry Holcomb, who helped bring Hokey and his family to Iowa, was a lifelong pillar of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Swea City, Iowa.

Hokey, his children and grandchildren told me years after his death, had claimed that his health was failing, and it was with this excuse that he had not worked and occasionally had gone "on the county." In stalwart Iowa, this was a disgrace deeply felt by Hokey's children. Obviously, something had gone disastrously wrong in Nebraska, but no one in the family knew what it was. Occasionally, fragments of the time would surface. Grandfather fondly remembered some childhood scenes that became family stories.

One day, for example, when Hokey was off somewhere, a strange group of armed riders approached the farm and demanded that Nellie feed them. Grandfather, possibly eight years old at the time, sat at the head of the table as Nellie fed the mysterious group. Before riding off, they gave her a gold coin.

Grandfather always wanted us to believe that he had presided at a supper of the Jesse James gang.

But there were no such interesting stories about Hokey. What is more, my grandfather either had forgotten or, more incredibly, he may never have known that the family name in Sweden had been Håkansson. Grandfather told his own children and grandchildren that an English family named Holcomb must have moved to Sweden and established there before immigrating to the U.S. That he believed this story, I never doubted. That it is false, I am now certain.

Long after grandfather's death in 1971, I visited a third cousin—the grandson of John Henry Holcomb, Hokey's brother—living near Seattle. My cousin had been given the family Bible that had belonged to John and Nilla Holcomb, the original immigrants. John had entered the names of his entire family, all in Swedish, including the oldest son, Håkan Håkansson, my great-grandfather.

The Bible revealed that Håkan was born 14 February 1851 in the county of Blekinge in southeastern Sweden. I learned later that Jons Håkansson was a crofter, or farmer of a small plot of land, and that in 1853, Jons, his wife, Nilla, and young Håkan joined a party of Nilla's relatives, boarded the *Jenny Pitts* and sailed to the U.S. They made their way to Knox County, Illinois, a gathering place for land-hungry Swedes during the great migration.

But they found the Illinois prairie already owned by Yankee farmers. The Swedish men became farm hands or joined railroad crews. The single women became domestic servants. Nonetheless, the Swedes quickly organized Lutheran churches and established themselves as industrious workers. Jons and Nilla moved frequently, settling onto various farms in northern Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa, before returning for good to Illinois.

Håkan married Pernilla Nilsson, or Nellie Nelson, on 19 August 1875 in Knoxville, Illinois, where she lived with her parents, Ola C. and Christina Nilsson. Their wedding picture says many things about this time. There is Hokey, seated stiffly, wearing a suit, probably loaned to him by the photographer, his bony, huge worker's hands grasping a pair of white gloves, his brown hair slicked down and his mustache neatly trimmed. To his right stands Nellie, a picture of gentleness, obviously unprepared for the harsh furnace of the unsettled Nebraska plains.

Shortly after they were married, the couple joined a group of Swedes from Illinois and Iowa and were led by Nellie's parents and their three strapping sons to Kearney County, Nebraska, where they settled the town of Axtell.<sup>1</sup>

They must have arrived in time to plant in the spring of 1876, breaking the prairie either by oxen or by hand and sowing the precious corn and wheat seed they brought with them. They built shelters in this treeless land. Some settlers

---

<sup>1</sup> See additional details in Paul G. Hayes, "Edward James Nelander 1855-1915," *Swedish American Genealogist* XVIII (September 1998): 151-160.

simply dug into the sides of hills, moved in such furniture as they had brought from Illinois and Iowa, and plugged the opening with sod bricks. Others built houses of sod, moving in with the vermin that came with the sod, including spiders and rodents. One day, grandfather recalled, his mother was carrying in an armful of sticks for the fire and one of the sticks came to life, a prairie rattlesnake.



**Fig. 1.** Wedding photograph of Pernilla Nilsson (Nellie Nelson) and Håkan Håkansson (Hokey Holcomb). The studio logo on the back reads: "C. Forell, Photographer, 59 East Main, Galesburg, Ill."

Each family was endowed with its own 160 acres, as granted by the federal Homestead Act. There must have been great hope in the little community that summer.

Then came the first scourge, rising like storm clouds in the south. Millions of grasshoppers arrived on Sunday, 6 August 1876, and left on 24 August, riding

a north wind. In those eighteen days, they consumed every blade of grass, every leaf and kernel of corn, and every onion shoot. The homesteaders were left with nothing to show for their first season of labor. On 4 September, as the summer waned, thirty-eight of the pioneers gathered at one farm where three traveling Swedish Lutheran clergymen were visiting. A service was held in Swedish, hymns were sung, and the Bethany Lutheran congregation was formally organized.

Ola C. Nilsson was one of seven founding trustees. Edward Nelson, Pernilla's oldest brother, was the first recording secretary, a job that Hokey assumed after the first year and held for three years. Later Ola and Hokey negotiated for the land for the first church, built of sod; later still, Ola built a wooden floor to cover the dirt. For two years, services were conducted by visiting clergymen or members of the congregation. In 1879, Pastor J. E. Swanbom arrived.

In the meantime, the Holcomb family grew. Emma was born 16 May 1876. She was three months old when the grasshoppers ate the crops. My grandfather was born 5 March 1878; Samuel, in 1880. That winter, the snow reached four feet deep. Cornstalks, pulled up through the snow, served as fuel for cooking fires. In October 1881, Anna was born. In the fall of 1883, fires swept the prairies. The children were kept inside under wet blankets while adults beat back flames with wet rags.

In 1884, Frank Oscar was born. That year, Hokey built the first frame house in Axtell, with lumber brought in by rail. On 2 February 1886, Henry, the sixth child, was born. Henry died of unrecorded causes in 1888. Shortly after the baby's death, the Holcombs left for Iowa, never to return. Five more children were to be born, but the dream of owning their own farm was gone forever and, for all practical purposes, the family had simply quit being Swedish. They spoke English, they attended Methodist churches, and they seldom talked about Axtell.

I knew the above facts from three sources—a centennial history published by Bethany Lutheran Church in Axtell in 1976, a history of Kearney County, Nebraska, written by Roy C. Bang and published in 1952, and conversations with my great aunt, Lulu Holcomb, the second youngest of Hokey's children.

The hardships of the plains were severe, enough perhaps to cause anyone to give up and leave the homestead. Indeed, most homesteaders did fail. The Congress that passed the Homestead Act did not consider that 160 acres were not enough land to support a family in the Great Plains, where rainfall was a fraction of the amount that fell east of there. Even so, in Kearney County, Nebraska, many Swedes flourished. How well they prospered was evident on that day in 1977, when we drove the roads between their huge, irrigated cornfields, and viewed their large white farmhouses and outbuildings. Well-being was also evident in Bethany Lutheran Church, handsome, well-kept and vibrant with use.

Why had Hokey failed? His secret was intact, but only for one more year.



In July 1978, a mysterious package arrived at our home from Stockholm, Sweden. It contained some family charts and a tape cassette. I remembered that a few years earlier, I had written to the House of Emigrants in Växjö, a library and archives devoted to the great Swedish exodus to America.<sup>2</sup> I inquired about the Holcombs, and I learned later that my letter had been referred to Agnes Wiren. I rushed to put the tape on our recorder. A man's voice, in a rich Swedish accent, began, "Dear Mr. Hayes. You must wonder what this recording has to do with you. It is not a message from the Mission Impossible...."

I was listening to Bo Björklund, who got my letter from Wiren. Björklund was studying emigration from Jämshög Parish in Blekinge, which included some of his wife's ancestors, but also included Jons, Nilla and Håkan Håkansson. He shared what he knew about the group that left Sweden in 1853 for the United States. Also, while visiting his American cousins in Kansas in 1976, Björklund had taken a side trip to Bethany Lutheran Church at Axtell, where he had read the early parish records, all written in Swedish.

Toward the end of the forty-five-minute tape, he said: "I don't know if you want to know what I know about Hokey Holcomb that I found out from the Bethany Church....He had been locked out from the congregation there. He had written his name for a petition for a saloon in Axtell and that happened 7 September 1884."

Hokey's secret was out. Pastor Swanbom, a stern and zealous Lutheran, had barred Hokey from the church because Hokey had supported bringing a saloon to Axtell. In that Swedish community, excommunication was tantamount to banishment from all society. Hokey endured another four years in Nebraska as an outcast and then, probably at his brother's invitation, he gave it up and settled in Iowa, where he became an English-speaking tenant farmer.

A century later, a great-grandson Hokey never knew frequently reflects that if Hokey hadn't wanted a drink or two to ease him through the harsh forge of the plains, his Swedish genes might today be walking around in a prosperous Nebraska farmer. As it is, my grandfather, who had forgotten his Swedish name, married the daughter of German immigrants. Their second daughter, my mother, married the fourth son of an Illinois couple whose ancestors had been Yankees and Virginians, and before that, Scotch-Irish and English colonists. My wife, Philia, was born in Greece, so our sons are half Greek, a quarter British, an eighth German and an eighth Swedish. Our older son's wife is mostly Polish and our younger son is engaged to an Albanian.

And so I conclude that Hokey's awful secret is just one of millions of examples of how the great American melting pot actually worked after the great nineteenth-century emigrations from Europe.

---

<sup>2</sup> For further information see Ulf Beijbom, "The Research Center at the Emigrant Institute in Växjö," *Swedish American Genealogist* II (June 1982): 49-64.

# A Tale of Two Brothers

Shelly Dobbs Dooley\*

How did a painting by a Swedish artist find its way to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Georgia? The story goes back many years, to Sweden, and touches the families of Thulstrup, Hahr, and Roos-Olivekrona.

Carl Magnus Thulstrup was adjutant to King Charles XV and Swedish minister to France. He married Hedvig Kristina Akrell; they had two sons: Henning (1836-1901) and Bror Thure (1848-1930).

Henning Thulstrup, Lieutenant and later Colonel of the King's Own First Grenadier Regiment, and aide-de-camp to King Charles XV,<sup>1</sup> married Zuleima Hahr in January 1863. Their child, a girl named Selma, was born 5 January 1864, and the young mother died a week later. Old family letters from Sweden reveal the following:

I have now in my hand Zuleima Hahr's journal and a multitude of letters, written 1860-1863 from her fiancé lieutenant Henning Thulstrup. I have them on loan from a daughter by his second marriage, who lives in England. They are highly interesting. In one letter Zuleima describes when Jenny Lind visited her and her parents in their summer home at Drottningholm!<sup>2</sup>

The letters have given me much information about the deep and sweet love between Zuleima and Henning Thulstrup. Zuleima was surely a sweetheart in its best sense, beautiful, intelligent, and musical! A sad fate, her death after the short marriage of only a year.<sup>3</sup>

A letter from Zuleima's mother, Charlotte Hahr, dated 2 February 1864 and addressed to Rosalie Roos Olivekrona,<sup>4</sup> shows her grief at the death of her daughter Zuleima, and also mentions her other daughter Hulda, who was experiencing the effects of the American Civil War in South Carolina.<sup>5</sup>

---

\* Shelly Dobbs Dooley, a cataloging librarian with Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, resides at 7550 Gunion Court, Indianapolis, IN 46237. E-mail: <RDooley868@AOL.com>

<sup>1</sup> See *Dir. Sw. Nob.*, VIII:272 b.

<sup>2</sup> Shelly Hahr Dobbs, ed., *The Stor Mor and the Colonel: the correspondence of Annie Hahr Dobbs and Gösta Hahr*. Privately published by Shelly Dobbs Dooley (Indianapolis, IN, 1997), 70.

<sup>3</sup> Dobbs, *The Stor Mor*, 78.

<sup>4</sup> Dobbs, *The Stor Mor*, 101.

<sup>5</sup> Letters from Hulda Hahr to Rosalie Roos are published in Shelly Dobbs Dooley, "Young Ladies' Boarding Schools in Sweden and South Carolina," *Swedish American Genealogist*, Vol. XVIII (December 1998): 193-207.

Dear Rosalie,

For your innermost sympathy from your heart expressed in your letter I thank you most sincerely and the depth of the sadness to which I have sunk words cannot describe, as she was all that I had. We were like sisters in everything; thoughts and deeds, all melted in one, and now it is all over—all the sunny thoughts for her future and the lovely little baby have now turned to deep sadness; I have been during these last weeks totally incapacitated to keep my mind on anything else, only her passing. Yesterday through you, you sweet friend, a glimpse of a different feeling entered my saddened heart, through my Hulda's unexpected letter, which informed me that the lovely children are alive and well, but it was written last September and therefore nearly five months old. She described the terrible war. Her husband is assigned to James Island near Charleston, and she says that should it last another year, they will be without clothing and food. Oh! How sad it is not to be able to be of any help to the poor child. She even informed me that she was expecting a baby in March. I cannot think about this coming event without the greatest worry as I just recently have experienced such a happening; and she asks if Mother could send her a box of little things! But I cannot see any way by which I could send her anything. I should love to send her what she needs but I do not know how to find a way to get it to her.

The little darling who so suddenly was left to my care is in good health and growing and we were fortunate to find a good wet nurse who is rich in milk. The little one was christened and her name is Selma. After the Christening her dead mother was taken to Solna Church to her last rest. She was in her bedroom as long as she remained home.

Thanks my dear friend for your kind offer to send the letter to Hulda. I have recently through Miss Hammerskjöld been able to send the sad news to Hulda. Now however I dearly wish that the sad news won't reach her before the months of March and April.

I wish you would give my heartiest thanks to your nice husband the good old Knut, who through the post script in your letter tries to comfort me by writing that even in Uppsala there is an epidemic and that death is not something rare; but only hard to understand, and just about the day my Selma left us, five young married ladies also died in the same circumstances.

Oh may God give me strength and comfort. I sincerely hope and wish that your two little ones may soon retain their health and yourself peace of heart.

Your devotedly and thankful friend,

Charlotte Hahr

Within two months, the baby, Selma, was also dead. Another letter gives the information on Zuleima, Selma and Henning's final resting place: "I have continued the walk to the old church of Solna, built about 1200. I wanted to find the grave of Aunt Zuleima Hahr Thulstrup. I was successful in my seeking and the grave was, I am glad to say, well maintained. The stone had only the inscription *Generallieutenant Thulstrup familje grav*."<sup>6</sup>

In 1868 Henning Thulstrup was married a second time, to Agnes Fleetwood.<sup>7</sup> Agnes was the daughter of the Colonel, Baron Abraham Georg Fleetwood and Anna Carolina Wolffram. They had two daughters, Ebba and Amalie.

Ebba's son was Åke Thulstrup, (1904-1989), an historian. His father was Jakob Peterson, for some years councilor of state and mayor of Södertälje near Stockholm. The son was permitted to take the name Thulstrup.<sup>8</sup>

Another letter, unpublished, dated November 1888, written by Hulda Hahr says: "...Mr. Henning Thulstrup is now at the head of the only military institution in Sweden, and quite a high position. You may be proud of him in every way."

Henning Thulstrup's younger brother, Bror Thulstrup, became known in the U.S. as Thure de Thulstrup. He was born 5 April 1848 in Stockholm, Sweden; died 9 June 1930 in New York City; and was knighted in 1910. He married Lucie Bavoillot in New York City on 3 June 1879. She died in 1915. There were no children.

Though all but forgotten by the end of his life and now generally unknown, Thure de Thulstrup was one of the leading illustrators of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. He graduated from the National Military Academy in Stockholm and was commissioned in the Swedish Army as an artillery officer. Soon after, he went to Paris, where he joined the French Foreign Legion and eventually saw service in the Franco-Prussian War. In 1872 he studied topographical drawing for a short time in Paris and then immigrated to Canada to work as a civil engineer. From Canada he was hired by the Prang Lithographic Company in Boston to prepare maps for an atlas. There he began sending illustrations to the *New York Daily Graphic* and was soon hired to the staff and moved to New York. In the late 1870s Thulstrup was hired by *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. His illustrations appeared in *Harper's Weekly* for more than three decades. In his own day he stood in the front rank of his profession and was held in high esteem by his colleagues.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Dobbs, *The Stor Mor*, 104.

<sup>7</sup> See *Dir. Sw. Nob.*, 11:731 b.

<sup>8</sup> Gösta Hahr, *The Hahr Family*, trans. Lennart Hahr (Norwalk, Conn., 1960); originally published as *Släkten Hahr* (Stockholm, 1954).

<sup>9</sup> Steven E. Smith, "American Book and Magazine Illustrators to 1920," vol. 188 of *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, ed. Steven E. Smith, Catherine A. Hastedt, and Donald H. Dyal (Detroit: Gale Research, 1998): 352-359.

Known as a “workhorse” with a “Viking constitution,” he was praised for both his versatility and dependability. He had a special knack for depicting crowd scenes. He was often assigned to cover presidential inaugurations and other important public events. Thulstrup was also considered a specialist in military illustrations, for which he was particularly well-suited due to his military background.<sup>10</sup>

My grandmother, Annie Hahr Dobbs, for about eleven years before her death in 1961, corresponded with a genealogist/historian/cousin in Sweden, Gösta Hahr. I have transcribed their letters, and privately published them as *The Stor Mor and the Colonel*. Annie wrote to Gösta in the 1950s about Thure de Thulstrup’s painting of the Civil War battle at Kennesaw.

In 1890 Cliff [Dobbs] and I married, and bought our home across the road from Governor Joseph M. Brown of Georgia. I saw a large oil painting, the “Battle of Kennesaw Mountain,” hanging in their home and recognized the name Thulstrup. Thus our correspondence. Many years have come and gone again and I have recently traced that painting which was sold when the Governor’s family moved. I am going to find it and if possible have it copied.<sup>11</sup>

I have a letter from him [de Thulstrup] in which he wrote me of a painting he made for Governor Joe Brown, our neighbor in Marietta, Georgia. I have located it in Atlanta very recently. It is in the First National Bank in Atlanta. He left Sweden for war service. The second wife of Uncle Henning was Agnes; she was fondly spoken of by Grandma [Charlotte Hahr], to whom she wrote often.<sup>12</sup>

I’ve found the Thulstrup painting! It is in the First National Bank of Atlanta. Marietta is at the foot of Kennesaw Mountain, and we lived in a beautiful picturesque section. The painting is still owned by Governor Brown’s family. A son, Charlie, placed it in the bank for safekeeping when he entered the army, World War I. Charlie since died, and two others of the family live in another state now. I went to the bank and saw it hanging in the art gallery with historical paintings of prominent scenes in the Civil War in Atlanta, and governors of the state, etc. I can secure permission to copy the painting only through the Browns, I was told. This I have started and will continue to find a way to get it made.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> Stephen E. Smith, “Smith Draws Attention to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Illustrator,” Summer 1997, Cushing Memorial Library, Texas A&M University, URL: <library.tamu.edu/cushing/press/6.html>

<sup>11</sup> Dobbs, *The Stor Mor*, 127.

<sup>12</sup> Dobbs, *The Stor Mor*, 107.

<sup>13</sup> Dobbs, *The Stor Mor*, 129.

Have at last succeeded in getting permission to secure a copy of the painting of "The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain," which hangs in the First National Bank gallery. To get a photographer to do the work caused a delay. Am sorry to send you a copy without color, but the price was exorbitant!<sup>14</sup>

Some time later the painting was moved to the Visitor's Center at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, about three miles north of Marietta, Georgia.

### Internet Resources

Many of the works of Thure de Thulstrup may be found on the Internet. The following websites will be of interest:

- "A Ball or A Strike: Which?" From *Harper's Weekly*, New York, 28 July 1888. Wood engraving.  
URL: <http://www.philaprintshop.com/images/harpbat.jpg>
- *The Day of Their Wedding: A Novel*, By William Dean Howells, Illustrated by T. de Thulstrup, 1895. (Full text online)  
URL: <http://eldred.ne.mediaone.net/wdh/day.html>
- "The Forlorn Hope."  
URL: [www.people.virginia.edu/~mmd5f/frederic.htm](http://www.people.virginia.edu/~mmd5f/frederic.htm)
- "Hoisting American Colors", Louisiana Cession, 1803."  
URL: <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/museum/painting/thulstrop.htm>
- "Keep the Windows Down."  
URL: <http://www.railroadextra.com/rtstbk03.html>
- "Sheridan's Ride."  
URL: <http://www.thewildgeese.com/pages/sheridan.html>
- "Today in History: June 2; Grover Cleveland Marries Frances Folsom: The President's Wedding."  
URL: <http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/today/jun02.html>
- "Wheeling On Riverside Drive." From *Harper's Weekly*, New York, 17 July 1886. Wood engraving.  
URL: <http://www.philaprintshop.com/images/hpc71786.jpg>

---

<sup>14</sup> Dobbs, *The Stor Mor*, 132.

- “William Ewing, Captain Of The New York Base-Ball Club.” From *Harper's Weekly*, New York, 9 November 1889. Halftone relief.  
URL: <http://www.philaprintshop.com/images/hpbl1989.jpg>
- “With the Squadron of Evolution.”  
URL: <http://www.acc.org/about/past/art/portraits/81.html>
- “Yale-Princeton Football Game.” Wood engraving.  
URL: <http://sothebys.amazon.com/exec/varzea/ts/exchange-glance/Y01X5964740X8951506/102-1865120-1951229#image>
- “The 5th New York Volunteer Infantry: Duryée’s Zouaves.”  
URL: <http://www.zouave.org/>

### Bibliography

*Dictionary of American Biography*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1964.

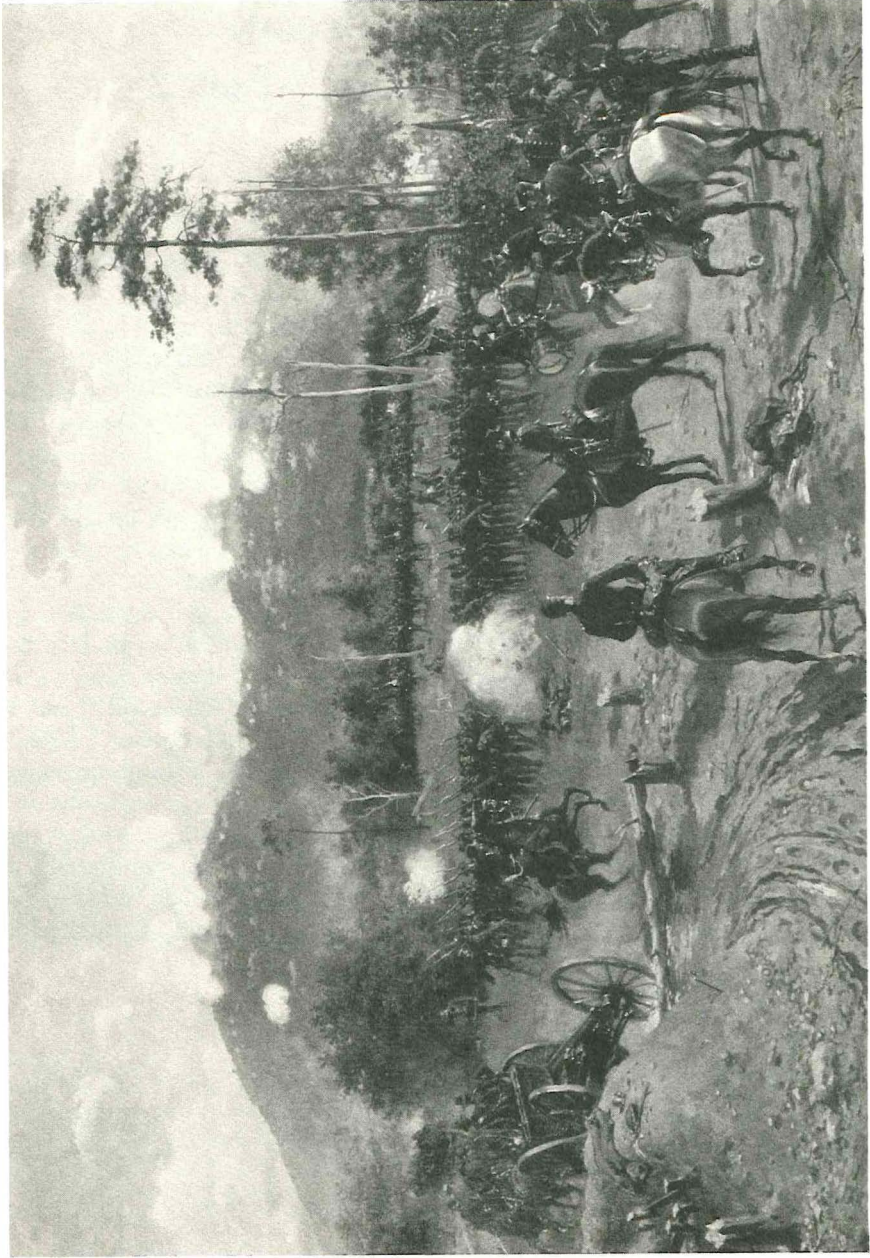
Dooley, Shelly Dobbs, ed. *The Stor Mor and the Colonel: the correspondence of Annie Hahr Dobbs and Gösta Hahr*. Indianapolis, IN: Privately published by Shelly Dobbs Dooley, 1997.

Hahr, Gösta. *The Hahr Family*, trans. Lennart Hahr (Norwalk, Conn., 1960); originally published as *Släkten Hahr* (Stockholm, 1954).

Obituary, *New York Times*, 10 June 1930.

Smith, Steven E. “American Book and Magazine Illustrators to 1920,” Vol. 188 of *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, edited by Steven E. Smith, Catherine A. Hastedt, and Donald H. Dyal. Detroit: Gale Research, 1998. Includes portrait.

*Who Was Who in America*. A component volume of *Who’s Who in American History*. Vol. 1, 1897-1942. Chicago: A. N. Marquis Co., 1943.



Thure de Thulstrup's *The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain*. Courtesy of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Kennesaw, GA.



# An Evasive Brood: The Sandgren Files. Part 2

Ted Rosvall\*

Johan Fredrik Sandgren was born in 1824 at Kroken, a farm located within Karleby Parish (Vägö.), east of Falköping. He was the youngest of eight children born to the farmer Sven Olofsson (1770-1850) and his wife Eva Sandgren (1783-1844). Eventually, all five sons born to this couple adopted their mother's surname—Sandgren. Johan Fredrik disappears from the Karleby records around 1850, but his marriage to Cajsa Lisa Johansdotter was found in the marriage book for Slöta (Vägö.) 1854. After that date there is no trace of either husband or wife; no clues in the migration books or in the household examination rolls; no address for Cajsa Lisa in the probate records following the deaths of her parents in the 1870s. This was the first obstacle that I encountered when I tried to trace this particular branch of the Sandgren family.

A well-known trick when trying to locate people that have wandered off is to check all the birth entries for their nephews and nieces. Chances are that they may have been witnesses (*faddrar*) at the christenings. I thus checked all the nephews and nieces of both Johan Fredrik and Cajsa Lisa Johansdotter; and, lo and behold, in 1865 they were noted as *faddrar* at the christening of Johan Fredrik's niece, Regina Fredrika Sandgren, in Karleby. Their address was shown as Hiared and a quick look in Rosenberg's geographical index<sup>1</sup> revealed that this is a farm and a mill located within the parish of Kölingared (Vägö.) some 30 km south and east of Karleby. The records of that parish, combined with the records of the nearby parish of Solberga (Vägö.), where the family had resided from 1854 to 1863, made it possible to put together the following family group sheet:

## **JOHAN FREDRIK SANDGREN**

\*1824 Oct. 20      Kroken, Karleby  
†1890 Jan. 30      Valshalla, Kölingared  
married 1854 Jan. 8 in Slöta to

## **CAJSA LISA JOHANSDOTTER**

\*1829 Oct. 6      Mellomgården, Falekvarna, Slöta  
†1897 Mar. 28      Valshalla, Kölingared  
Children: (1-10)

---

\*Ted Rosvall is a leading Swedish genealogist and a member of the editorial committee of SAG. He resides at Enåsen, Falekvarna, 521 91 Falköping, Sweden. E-mail: <ted.rosvall@telia.com>

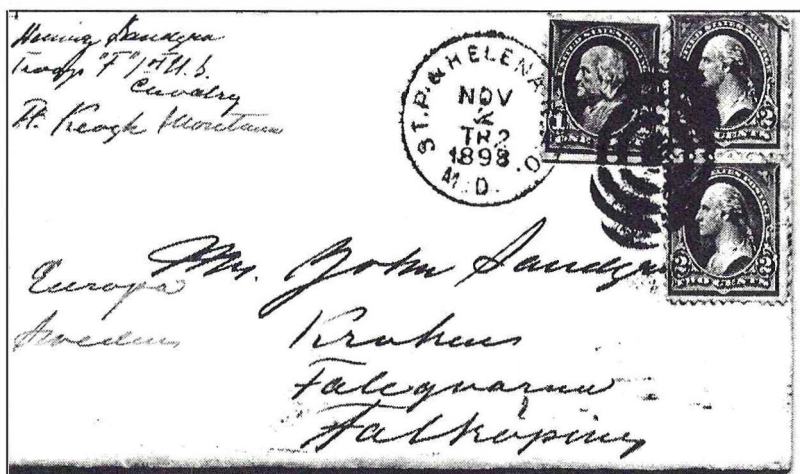
<sup>1</sup> C. M. Rosenberg, *Geografiskt—statistiskt handlexikon öfver Sverige*, (Stockholm, 1883; reprint, Göteborg, 1993), 2:702.

- 1/ **EVA CHARLOTTA SANDGREN**  
 \*1855 Jul. 10 Träbena kvarn, Solberga  
 †1884 Jun. 20 Valshalla, Kölingared
- 2/ **CARL FREDRIK SANDGREN**  
 \*1857 Jan. ? Träbena kvarn, Solberga  
 †1857 Dec. 27 Träbena kvarn, Solberga
- 3/ **JOHAN ALFRED SANDGREN**  
 \*1858 Nov. 23 Träbena kvarn, Solberga  
 (“Insane—at the asylum in Lund;” later returned to Kölingared and moved to Gothenburg/Kristine parish 1906)
- 4/ **MATHILDA JOSEPHINA SANDGREN**  
 \*1860 Sep. 25 Träbena kvarn, Solberga  
 (immigrated to the U.S. 1899 Feb. 13)
- 5/ **AUGUST SANDGREN**  
 \*1862 May. 19 Träbena kvarn, Solberga  
 (moved to Stockholm 1884)
- 6/ **MARIA WILHELMINA SANDGREN**  
 \*1864 May 23 Hiared, Kölingared  
 †1879 Dec. 3 Valshalla, Kölingared
- 7/ **ANNA SOFIA SANDGREN**  
 \*1866 Aug. 6 Hiared, Kölingared  
 †1953 Feb. 20 Ålderdomshemmet, Kölingared  
 (“Insane—at the asylum in Lund;” removed to an asylum in Vänersborg 1907 and in 1937 to an institution in Öster Korsberga. Eventually returned to the Old People’s Home in Kölingared and died there. The estate inventory lists no heirs.)
- 8/ **FRANS OSKAR SANDGREN**  
 \*1868 July 30 Valshalla, Kölingared  
 (immigrated to the U.S. 1889 March 11)
- 9/ **HENNING SANDGREN**  
 \*1870 Sept. 30 Valshalla, Kölingared  
 (immigrated to the U.S. 1893 March 22)
- 10/ **CARL SANDGREN**  
 \*1874 April 20 Valshalla, Kölingared  
 (immigrated to the U.S. 1893 March 22)

Time to follow up on all the clues and lose ends. I found a probate record (*bouppteckning*) for Johan Fredrik Sandgren, and it did list all the surviving children. Frans Oskar’s address was shown as “America” and August’s as “Stockholm.” A probate record for the widow, Cajsa Lisa Johansdotter, would have been a blessing for the continuation of this search but, alas, no such record was ever made.

I found **Johan Alfred Sandgren** in the records of Göteborg/Kristine parish, his occupation that of a *månadskarl* (= *gårdskarl* = odd-job man). He died there on 22 February 1914. I did find his probate record, but it listed no heirs.

I found **August Sandgren** in Stockholm working as a bookkeeper. A few years later he moved to Sundsvall in the northern part of Sweden. Here, too, he is listed as a bookkeeper, but in the household examination roll that starts 1892 that has been changed to “e.o. Police Constable.” According to the same book, and also to the corresponding migration roll, he moved to Stockholm/Jakob parish on 27 May 1893. In Stockholm there is, however, no trace of him; not in the St. Jakob records nor in any other church records, census records, address books or probate records. I even checked police records and jail records. I must have spent hundreds of hours trying to find August Sandgren in Stockholm, but he simply is not there. It is to be noted that his disappearance coincides with the emigration of his two youngest brothers, Henning Sandgren and Carl Sandgren, but he is not listed in the passenger lists or emigration rolls anywhere.



**Fig. 1.** The envelope that contained Henning Sandgren’s letter to his cousin John Sandgren. Henning’s return address provided an essential clue.

With no more clues to follow it was time to look around for other possibilities. Johan Fredrik Sandgren’s brother, Svante Svensson Sandgren (1817-1891) remained at the home farm, Kroken. At the time that I started this search, two of his grandsons, Einar and Arthur Svensson, were still living there. While visiting them in 1972 I asked if, per chance, they had any old family letters or documents. A quick excursion to an old secretary upstairs in the attic

produced a small bundle of torn papers and envelopes. In this treasure of old letters, wills and cards, I found a letter with U.S. stamps on it. My eyes grew larger as I saw the name of the sender—"Henning Sandgren, Troop "F", 1st U.S. Cavalry, Ft. Keogh, Montana". So, **Henning Sandgren** had joined the cavalry. There was not much information in the letter itself, and no mention of his siblings, but at least I had a clue with which to continue my search.

From the General Services Administration in Washington, D.C., I eventually received a thick envelope with copies of Henning Sandgren's enlistment records. It was fascinating reading. The first record showed that he had enlisted in Chicago, Illinois, on 20 August 1894. His place of birth was shown as "Gonkoping [i.e., Jönköping], Sweden," that being the closest larger city to Kölingared. His profession was that of a carpenter. He had brown hair, ruddy complexion and stood 5'9" tall. He was discharged on 19 August 1897 at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming. The next record showed that he re-enlisted 15 October 1897 at Chicago and was again honorably discharged 14 October 1900 at Fort Keogh, Montana, as a sergeant. This was the place from which he sent the letter to his cousin in Sweden. He re-enlisted a day later at Fort Keogh and was honorably discharged 14 October 1903 at the Presidio of San Francisco, California, as a quartermaster sergeant. He finally re-enlisted 14 November 1904 at Camp Stotsenburg, Philippine Islands, and died 30 December 1905 at Fort Bayard, New Mexico. At the time of his death, his residence was given as "San Francisco" and his next of kin as "**Carl Sandgren, brother, Moline, Illinois.**"

What a wealth of information! Not only could I follow Henning's entire life and career, but I also got a new clue, this time to his younger brother, **Carl Sandgren**. I immediately started a search in Moline, Illinois. The 1905-06 city directory for Moline revealed that Carl Sandgren, a carpenter, and his wife Anna were residing at 813 18th Ave., Moline. In the same directory was listed one Miss Mathilda Sandgren, a seamstress, living a few blocks away. Neither the Carl Sandgren family nor Miss Mathilda Sandgren were listed in any Moline directories prior to or after the 1905-06 one. Thanks to the efforts of Glen E. Brolander, at that time residing in Rock Island, Illinois, I also found out that Carl and Anna Sandgren had two children born to them in Moline—a son, Russel F. Sandgren, born 29 September 1902 and a daughter, Marjorie Irene Sandgren, born 25 February 1905. The birth certificate of the latter revealed that the mother's maiden name was **Anna Carlson**, that she was born in Iowa and that she was twenty-two years old at the time (thus born ca. 1882/83). The Sandgren/Carlson marriage did not take place in Moline though. Carl and Anna Sandgren did own the house on 18th Ave. in Moline, and so the deed records were checked. It was possible to conclude that Carl and Anna H. Sandgren bought the house in 1904 and sold it in 1906. The only extra clue received here was the middle initial for Anna Carlson, an "H."

With this, the search for the evasive Sandgren siblings had again come to a standstill. I made several attempts to find more clues in Moline, rounding up all

the Carlsons, checking cemetery records, vital records, obituary records and census records; but to no avail. I knew that Carl Sandgren had relatives on his mother's side in Moline, which may be why he came to this town. But where did he meet and marry Anna Carlson? Could the Iowa clue be of use? Suddenly, it struck me; Carl Sandgren had an aunt, Anna Maria Johansdotter, his mother's sister, who immigrated to the U.S. with her husband and five of her seven sons. Anna Maria was married to Carl Wilhelm Thorsson (1818-1888) and from previous research I knew that they had settled in Brooklyn, Poweshiek County, Iowa. I also knew that the five sons had emigrated before their parents and, thus, chances were that they were Carlsons rather than Thorsons. (Before the year 1900 the patronymic system was the predominant surname pattern in Sweden. The sons of Carl would call themselves Carlson.) Maybe Carl Sandgren went to his Carlson cousins in Brooklyn, Iowa, when he first came over to the U.S. What if he went so far as to marry one of them. Well, you tend to fantasize when you run into dead ends, but any action is better than no action at all. So, with the help of a hired gun in Des Moines, Mrs. Margaret Foster, I started to look for the Carlsons in Brooklyn, Iowa.

The only one of Carl Sandgren's first cousin Carlson relatives to remain in Brooklyn was Claus Theodor Carlson (1847-1916). He was married to his own first cousin, Josephine Fredrika Mattson (1854-1935), who was also a first cousin to Carl Sandgren. The C. T. Carlson family was found in the special 1895 Iowa Census. Claus and Josephine are listed with their children Hilda, John, Anna and Effie. Yes, there was indeed a daughter by the name Anna, and with a suitable age—12 years old in 1895. But could it be the Anna that Carl Sandgren later married? I urged the genealogist in Des Moines to please find the obituaries for Claus and Josephine. These were found and it was with trembling fingers that I read the 1916 obituary for Claus T. Carlson, with the heading "Esteemed Citizen Called by Death," in which the following family details were given: "He was united in marriage to Josephine Mattson, April 28, 1875. To this union were born five children, Hilda, who died in 1912, Carl who died in infancy, John of Brooklyn, **Anna of East Bakersfield, Calif.**, and Effa of Brooklyn."

" 20.20	G. T. Carlson	47	/	/	Sweden
" "	Josephine F.	40	/	/	" "
" "	Hilda H.	18	/	/	" Poweshiek Co. Ia "
" "	John H.	15	/	/	" " " "
" "	Anna H.	12	/	/	" " " "
" "	Effie H.	8	/	/	" " " "

Fig. 2. Portion of the 1895 Iowa State Census showing the C. T. Carlson family in Brooklyn, Poweshiek Co., Iowa. Note the initial "H" after the name Anna.

California, wow! Could this be where Carl and Anna ended up? I flipped to the next page, the obituary of Josephine. It listed the daughter Anna as “**Anna Hobson** of Bakersfield.” Oops! Hobson? What a disappointment! What had looked like ingenious thinking appeared to be yet another dead end.

A few weeks later, while enduring a sleepless night, I was going through the whole Sandgren puzzle—the letter from Henning, the next-of-kin bit, the Moline research, the Iowa attempt, the 1895 Iowa Census—in my mind. Wait a minute! Didn’t that census show the middle initials for the Carlson children in Brooklyn, Iowa? I jumped out of bed and into the den. I found the Iowa report and the census copy, looked at it, and my eyes filled up with tears. It said “**Anna H.**” That is just what it said. Too much of a coincidence! I immediately sat down and wrote another letter to the genealogist in Des Moines, begging her to continue the Brooklyn search at once. A few weeks later I had her reply. It so happened that she had a lawyer friend who lived in Bakersfield, California (of all places), and upon hearing the name Hobson, he immediately knew who the family was. He even knew that the eldest daughter, Marjorie Irene McCoy, was still living and residing in Bakersfield. I got the address and decided to call her at once.

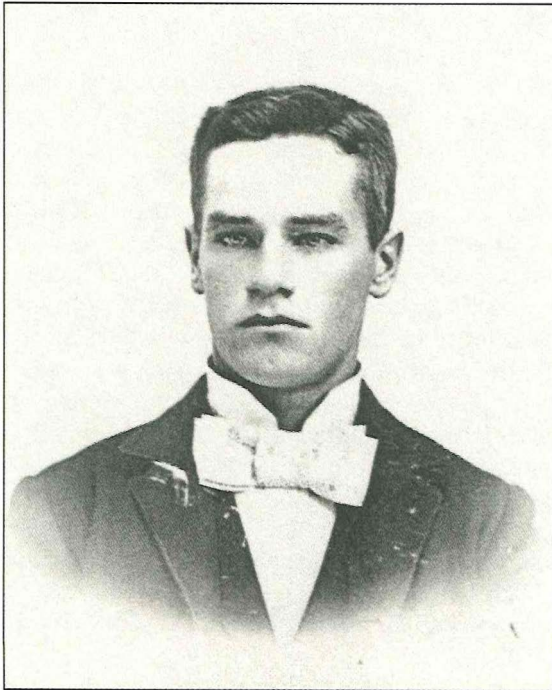


Fig. 3. Carl Sandgren (1874-1907).

Mrs. McCoy, who was around eighty years old at the time, was very kind and helpful and we had a long conversation over the phone but, alas, she did not know too much about the Sandgren family. Her father and brother had died when she was only two years old and, a few years later, her mother had remarried. The only two things that she had heard in regards to her father's siblings were that "an aunt died in Boston" and "an uncle went to Florida."

Let us save this for later and, instead, focus on the tragic Carl Sandgren family. Based on the recollections of Mrs. McCoy and her daughter, Mrs. Lynn Taylor, which were supported by various documents and newspaper clippings, the following family history emerged.

Carl Sandgren had come to live with his first cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, in Brooklyn, Iowa, in 1893. They had a little daughter, Anna, Carl's first cousin once-removed. Eventually Carl and Anna fell in love and wanted to get married, but Anna's parents would not hear of it. Their reasons for this are not known. It could possibly have something to do with the fact that Carl and Anna were too closely related. Carl and several of his siblings also seem to have been suffering from tuberculosis, a dreaded disease that the Carlsons did not want in the family.

Anyway, Carl and Anna eloped in January of 1902 (see the appendix for a complete newspaper account) and were married in Omaha, Nebraska, on 7 January. According to the article, they were believed to be heading for Corvallis, Oregon, but evidently they decided to go to Moline instead.

In 1905 Carl's brother, Henning Sandgren, died in New Mexico. His place of residence was shown as "San Francisco." Judging from the enlistment records shown above, he was not in the Army between 14 October 1903 and 14 November 1904, and was probably residing in northern California. It is believed that during that time he bought some land south and east of San Francisco; land that his brother Carl probably inherited upon his death. Carl and Anna decided to sell their house in Moline and move out to California. One reason for this was that the California climate was believed to be better for Carl's lungs. They arrived in Los Angeles in the spring of 1907 and initially stayed in a hotel. In early April, little Russel got ill and the worried parents got a prescription from the doctor. Somehow they misinterpreted the prescription and Russel was mistakenly given an overdose, from which he tragically died. The grief-stricken father brought his little son's coffin to a cemetery close to the land where the family intended to settle, possibly around Greenfield in Monterey County, and buried him there. The tragedy and feelings of guilt (and the tuberculosis?) were too much for Carl, who died in Los Angeles on 29 May 1907. He was buried in the same grave with his son. Anna H., who a few years later married Ralph Emerson Hobson (1882-1945) and had two more daughters, passed away in Bakersfield in 1963.

Now back to the recollections of Marjorie Irene Sandgren McCoy, that "an aunt died in Boston" and "an uncle went to Florida." I got in touch with a researcher in Boston who was able to find the death certificate for one Mathilda

Sandgren, who died 16 February 1945 in Boston at the age of almost eighty-five. She never married and there does not seem to have been anyone around to take care of the funeral arrangements. No probate record was ever made and the funeral and cemetery records did not give any clues as to living relatives. I even went for the hospital records, hoping that next of kin would have been shown, but such records had long since been destroyed. If they had indeed been found, chances are that they would only have listed the sister-in-law in Bakersfield, because how else would the niece Marjorie have known about the death of her aunt in Boston.

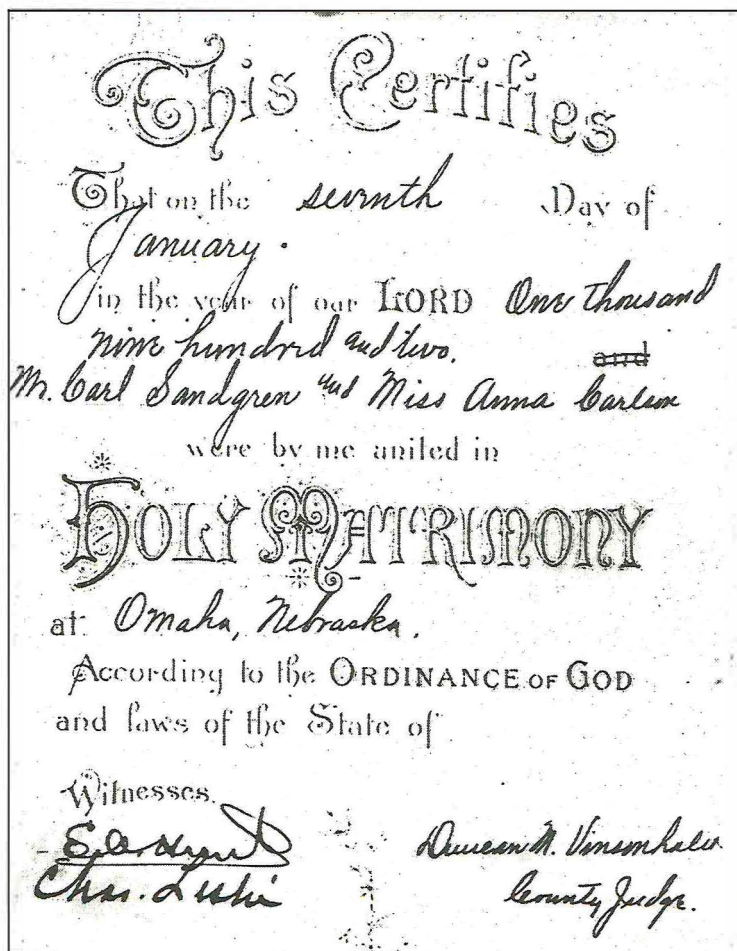


Fig. 4. Marriage certificate of the elopers, Carl Sandgren and Anna Carlson.



Why did Mathilda Sandgren move all the way from Moline to Boston, Massachusetts? Since her brother Carl and his family had gone to California on the other side of the continent, we must assume that she had some sort of a connection in Massachusetts. Could it be the brother, Frans Oskar Sandgren, who we know immigrated to the U.S.; or, perhaps, the elder brother, August Sandgren, who might have? I previously noted that, when Frans Oskar emigrated in 1889, he was not alone. A neighbor, Claes Emil Fredriksson (\*1868 in Kölingared) emigrated at the same time. And when Henning Sandgren and Carl Sandgren emigrated in 1893, they did so together with Claes Emil's younger brother, Axel Fredrik Fredriksson (\*1870 in Kölingared).

The Sandgren and the Fredriksson boys had not only known each other from birth, but had actually lived on the same farm. It was relatively easy to follow the traces of Claes Emil and Axel Fredrik, who both settled in Massachusetts. Axel Fredrik returned to Sweden in 1900 and I was able to find and contact his daughter, Mrs. Elin Gustavsson, in Vadstena. Mrs. Gustavsson did remember her father talking about the Sandgren brothers, and that they died young. We know this to be true for Henning and Carl, who were the ones that traveled with her father to the U.S. Whether it also described the fates of Frans Oskar and August we do not know.

Mrs. Gustavsson was also able to provide me with the address of her first cousin, Claes Emil's son, Mr. George Fredrickson, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In his letter, Mr. Fredrickson told me that he and his father had once, probably in the early 1920s, met a childhood friend and neighbor of his father in Boston. The man was neatly dressed and had a big black car with a private chauffeur. Afterwards, Claes Emil told his son that this friend had been so poor when they were children that he could not even afford to wear shoes. And now here he was, a wealthy shoe manufacturer from Lynn, Massachusetts. Mr. Fredrickson thought that this must have been one of the Sandgren brothers, probably Frans Oskar.

I immediately started to research census records, city directories, and lists of shoe manufacturers in regard to Lynn, Massachusetts; but, unless Frans Oskar had somehow changed his last name, he simply was not there. Likewise, there were no suitable Sandgrens in the Florida records. So, if Mrs. McCoy's recollections were correct, we can assume that the mysterious uncle, who went to Florida (perhaps to retire), might be the same man that was a shoe manufacturer in Lynn and the reason why Mathilda Sandgren moved to Boston around 1907. And why was it assumed in 1902 that the eloping couple was heading for Corvallis, Oregon? Perhaps the other brother had settled there!

Three of the five siblings in this evasive brood—Henning, Carl and Mathilda—have so far been found. But whatever happened to August and Frans Oskar? The search must go on!



**Fig. 5.** Russel Frederick Sandgren (1902-1907) and Marjorie Irene Sandgren McCoy (1905-1992), the only (?) Sandgren grandchildren.

#### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Mr. Glen E. Brolander, Mrs. Maurine M. Krohne, Mrs. Margaret Foster, Mrs. Donna Muntz, Mrs. Lynn Taylor and the late Mrs. Marjorie Irene (Sandgren) McCoy for their help and interest in this research project.

**Appendix**

This article appeared in the Brooklyn, Iowa, newspaper on 10 January 1902:

**LEAVE HOME AND FRIENDS****TWO WELL KNOWN YOUNG PEOPLE ELOPE  
MONDAY NIGHT- GO TO OMAHA TO BE MARRIED  
AND THENCE TO THE PACIFIC COAST.**

During the still hours of last Monday night an elopement was successfully carried out, so far as the getting away was concerned, by two young people both of whom are well known in Brooklyn and vicinity. The parties were Mr. Carl Sandgren and Miss Anna Carlson. Subsequent events show that in accordance with plans previously perfected Mr. Sandgren procured a rig and accompanied by a driver went to the Carlson home six miles north of Brooklyn, arriving there about nine o'clock in the evening. He was met by his sweetheart, who stepped into the carriage and was whirled away to Brooklyn. Upon arrival here they went to the home of some friends, Mr. and Mrs. Noble Wheeler, in south town, where they awaited the arrival of the two o'clock westbound flyer, which they boarded. From the information we have at hand it seems that the couple expected to go to Omaha where they were to be married, and after a few days sight-seeing in that city will go on to Corvallis, Oregon, where they expect to make their future home.

The plans of the eloping couple worked nicely and some little time elapsed before their disappearance was discovered. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson were not at home being on a visit to the western part of the state, but the other members of the family were, including the housekeeper, Mrs. Rasmussen. Nothing suspicious was noted in the young lady's actions during the day or evening, and all the household duties assigned to her had been performed in the usual manner. Some little time after supper she complained of being tired and went to her room ostensibly to retire. Instead she arranged her clothing in a convenient bundle and threw it out of the window, and then reappeared and assumed her place in the family circle. After a few minutes conversation, during which time some shrill whistles were heard, the signal no doubt that all was ready for departure, she arose and remarked that she would go out and get some pop corn and enjoy a pop corn feast during the remainder of the evening. This was the last seen of Miss Anna at home. As she did not return within a reasonable length of time, the other members of the family commenced to investigate; and, after calling at the home of O. B. Robeson across the road, where it was supposed she had gone, and finding she had not been there, the search

commenced in earnest. With the aid of a lantern it was discovered that a carriage had driven up to the gate and returned going south. Her room was then visited and its appearance was evidence that....(text missing)...was put into operation and when they arrived in town they were seen. A little later her brother, John Carlson, discovered their whereabouts and after some little parleying was granted an interview, but no persuasion that he could bring to bear would induce the young lady to return home. Failing in this he made an effort to have them wait here until Tuesday morning and have the marriage solemnized before leaving but his arguments in this direction were also ineffectual, and they departed on schedule as per previous arrangements.

The elopement is the sequel to a courtship that has not been without its hopes and fears and verifies the old adage that the course of true love never runs smooth. The attentions of Mr. Sandgren have been opposed by Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, who had what they considered the best of reasons for assuming this attitude. They reasoned and remonstrated with their daughter, but to no avail. Miss Carlson was a member of the graduating class of our high school last year, and on the night of the graduating exercises the young people had arrangements made to leave, but were prevented from carrying out their design by Mrs. Carlson, who discovered their purpose and at the close of the exercises took her daughter home. The parents again appealed to her reason, pleaded with her to accept their advice and counsel, and it was thought that the matter had been satisfactorily adjusted, as she seemed to accept their views as right and carried out the role that she had concluded to bring the courtship to a close. Their flight, however, shows that her submission to parental control was only temporary and for the purpose of maturing plans that would prove more successful the next time.

As above stated Mr. and Mrs. Carlson were not at home being guests of friends at Farnanville, when a telegram reached them announcing their daughter's departure. They left for home immediately, arriving Tuesday evening. That they are humiliated and heartbroken over the elopement is but natural. They have bestowed every affection upon their daughter, granted her every privilege and acceded to her every wish, unless wisdom dictated otherwise, and are rewarded only by ingratitude. Miss Carlson, who is nineteen years of age, leaves a splendid home, where she was surrounded by every comfort and most of the luxuries of life; leaves the scenes and associates of her childhood and goes to a strange land and among strange faces; leaves loved ones and friends and goes to the far West to make her home with the man of her choice. May love's young dream never be shattered. May the reality be as pleasant as the anticipation. May their married life be less tempestuous than their courtship. May the memory of her home life, the love and counsel of parents, the companionship of those near and dear, be a guiding light to nobler deeds as the years come and go.

# Genealogical Workshop: Records of an Immigrant Family. Part 1

James E. Erickson

I am fortunate to have been able to systematically assemble, from a variety of public and private sources, the Swedish and American documents that chronicle the lives of my paternal great-grandparents (*farfars far och mor*)—John E. and Ida C. Erickson—who emigrated from Hjulsjö Parish in the province of Västmanland and settled near the small iron mining village of Stambaugh, Iron County, Michigan.<sup>1</sup> While their personal value to me, the self-appointed family historian, is inestimable, I believe they will also prove valuable to a larger audience, for they are representative of similar documents associated with hundreds of thousands of Swedes who emigrated.

The main objectives for publishing material highlighting my immigrant family are as follows: 1) to emphasize selected documents that all researchers should be aware of and could potentially locate for their own immigrant(s); 2) to transliterate and translate these exemplary documents; 3) to provide an opportunity for *SAG* readers to compare and contrast information contained in various documents for consistency, accuracy, veracity, etc.; and 4) to illustrate the subtle and/or substantial changes that are evident when an individual or family are followed chronologically through a series of documents.

The four documents highlighted in this article, the first of a four-part series, include a household examination roll (*husförhörslängd*),<sup>2</sup> an exit permit (*flyttningsbevis*),<sup>3</sup> an emigrant contract (*utvandrare-kontract*) and a page from the Göteborg police department emigration registrations/passenger departure lists (*Göteborgs poliskammares emigrantlistor*).

One major take-home lesson is illustrated herein—watch for (anticipate; expect) changes in personal names and/or variations in their spelling.<sup>4</sup> A case in point is my great-grandfather, who was born Jan Erik **Jansson**, emigrated as Jan Erik Jansson **Philp**, and eventually became John Erick **Erickson** in the U.S. In this article, you will also see him incorrectly referred to as Johan and Jonsson.

---

<sup>1</sup> For further details see James E. Erickson, "The Hjulsjö (Öre.) to Stambaugh, MI Migration Axis," *SAG XI* (March 1991): 1-33.

<sup>2</sup> For further details see John Robert Anderson, "The Genealogical Workshop. 3. The Household Examination Roll," *SAG V* (June 1985): 65-72.

<sup>3</sup> For further details see Nils William Olsson, "The Genealogical Workshop. 1. The Exit Permit," *SAG I* (June 1981): 71-77.

<sup>4</sup> For further details see Nils William Olsson, "What's in a Swedish Surname?, *SAG I* (March 1981): 26-36; Henry Hanson, "Swedish American By-names," *SAG II* (December 1982): 173-176; Folke Hedblom, "Swedish Personal Names in America," *SAG V* (March 1985): 17-35; Nils William Olsson, "Naming Patterns Among Swedish-Americans," *SAG* (June 1994): 83-100.

*Jönshytte*

Personens namn, stånd, embete, yrke och näringsfång. (bäckstegu-, inhyssa- och fattighjusa), nationalitet (om främmande), lyten (svageinria, blinda, döftumma).	Födelse-		Äktenskap	Hitflyttad	Uppflyttad
	År.	Mån. och dag.			
1) <i>Jan Erik Jansson Philp</i>	1849	5/11	1872	0	1866
2) <i>Ida Carolina Andersd[otter]</i>	1850	14/7		0	
3) <i>Elin Carolina</i>	1873	20/2		0	
4) <i>Carl Oskar</i>	1876	8/2		0	
5) <i>Jenny Kristina</i>	1882	13/2		0	
6) <i>Viktor Valdemar</i>	1885	15/1		0	

*Jönshytte*

Bevisat förhör och begärd H. H. Mattvard					Bor i	Frjäl och särskilda anteckningar.	Borflyttad till (Söcken i Län, Stad eller pagina i Husförhörboken).	Uppflyttad till (Söcken i Län, Stad eller pagina i Husförhörboken).
1886	1887		1888					
G. N.	F. N.	M.	F. N.	G. N.	F. N.	G. N.	År, månad och dag.	År, månad och dag.
1/11	6/11						1866	
1/11	6/11						1866	
1/11	6/11						1866	
1/11	6/11						1866	
1/11	6/11						1866	
1/11	6/11						1866	

**Document 1.** Household examination roll (*husförhörslängd*), Hjulsjö Parish (Väsm.), 1886-1890, AI:15b, page 380. The top image is the left-hand part of the page; the bottom image is the right-hand part of the page.

☞ Transliteration and translation of selected portions of document 1

*Jönshytte Rote, No. 4, 1/16, Ösjöhöjden, Bredsjö*

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Torp[aren] (the crofter) Jan Erik Jansson Philp | [born 18]49 5/11 |
| 2. H[ustr]u (wife) Ida Carolina Andersd[otter]r    | [born 18]50 14/7 |
| 3. d[otte]r (daughter) Elin Carolina               | [born 18]73 20/2 |
| 4. son (son) Carl Oskar                            | [born 18]76 8/2  |
| 5. d[otte]r Jenny Kristina                         | [born 18]82 13/2 |
| 6. son Viktor Valdemar                             | [born 18]85 15/1 |

Gift (married): 1/11 [18]72

Bortflyttad till (moved away to): N[orra] Amerika, 29/3 [18]88

588

Flyttningsbevis. (Fol. 380..)

19  
Jan Erik Jansson Philp  
 från Ösjöhöjden  
 och hans hustru Ida Karolina Andersdotter

Mannen	Hustrun
är född den <u>1 Nov. 1849 (fjortio)</u>	är född den <u>14 Juli 1850 (femtio)</u>
i <u>Hjulsjö</u> församling	i <u>Hjulsjö</u> församling
af <u>Örebro</u> län,	af <u>Örebro</u> län,
Har haft skyddskoppor, <u>är döpt</u>	Har haft skyddskoppor, <u>är döpt</u>
Innoläsning: <u>god</u>	Innoläsning: <u>god</u>
Kristendoms-kunskap: <u>mycket god</u>	Kristendoms-kunskapi <u>god</u>
Bovisat förhören	Bovisat förhören
Till H. H. Nattvard oförhindrad <u>är här</u>	Till H. H. Nattvard oförhindrad <u>är här begjrt</u>
<u>begjrt H. H. Nattvard</u>	<u>H. H. Nattvard</u>
Egor medborgerligt förtroende	Egor medborgerligt förtroende

POLISKAMMAREN  
GÖTTORP

Makarna, som blefvo i äktenskap förenade den 1 November 1872 (Hjulsjö)  
 afflytta till N. Amerika församling af Örebro län

mantalskrifvon här till nästa år

Betygas Hjulsjö församling af Örebro län  
 den 29 Mars 1888 Årsmötet

A. J. Andersson  
P. I.

Fals Boktr.-Aktiefölag  
 Blankett för Kyrka, No 10.

Vänd!

Document 2a. Front side of exit permit (flyttningsbevis) for Jan Erik Jansson Philp and Ida Karolina Andersdotter from Ösjöhöjden, Hjulsjö Parish (Väsm.).

## ☞ Transliteration and translation of document 2a

No. 13

Flyttningsbevis (Exit Permit)

(Fol. 380)

Torparen (the crofter) Jan Erik Jansson Philp  
från (from) Ösjöhöjden  
och hans hustru (and his wife) Ida Karolina Andersdotter

Mannen (the man/husband) / Hustrun (the wife)

är född den (is born on) 5 Nov. 1849 (fyratio) (forty-nine) / 14 Juli 1850 (femtio) (fifty)

i (from) Hjulsjö församling (parish) / sameaf (in) Örebrö län (county), / same

Har haft skyddskoppor (has been vaccinated) är döpt (literally: is baptized) / same

Innanläsning (reading aloud): god (good) / same

Kristendoms kunskap (knowledge of Christendom): någor[unda] god (fairly good) / god (good)

Bevistat förhören (attended the household examination on) \_\_\_\_\_

Till H. H. Nattvard oförhindrad (free to attend Holy Communion) och har begåte H. H. Nattvard (and has celebrated/partaken of Holy Communion) / same

Eger medborgerligt förtroende (has the public trust) \_\_\_\_\_

oOo

Makarne, som blefvo i äktenskap förenade den (the husband and wife, who were united in marriage on) 1 November 18 72 (sjuttiotvå) (seventy-two)

afflytta till (moving to) N. Amerika församling af \_\_\_\_\_ län

mantalsskrifven här till nästa år (before the census next year)

Betygas (attested at) Hjulsjö församling af (parish in) Örebrö län (county) den (on) 29 Mars (March) 18 88 (ättioåtta) (eighty-eight)

A. J. Andersson

P[astor] l[oci]

(Pastor in this place)

Vänd! (Over!)



Det åligger hvar och en, som under året inflyttat i en församling, att ankomna till kyrkan och medföljande personer ofördörligen och inom 14 dagar efter inflyttningen, samt i alla fall, om de bor i staden, till pastor för att prestbevis från utflyttningens församling... Skulle någon under tiden emellan den 8 November och årets slut hafva inflyttat i en annan församling än den, han förut tillhört, bör han sist på åttionde dagen efter inflyttningen hafva till pastor afömnat prestbeviset. Underlåter någon att fullgöra dessa föreskrifter, böta 2 kronor 50 öre.

Husbonden vare, derest inflyttadt tjenstehjon icke rodan hos pastor försett sitt prestbevis, pligtig att, vid vite af 2 kronor 50 öre, inom fjorton dagar, sodan tjenstehjonet inträtt i tjonat, afdraga och till pastor aflemna sådant betyg. Skulle hinder möta att på förenämnda sätt afömnas prestbevis, bör anmälan derom hos pastor göras inom den utsatta tiden. Undandragor sig någon att prestbetis sålunda tillhandahålla eller aflemna, drabbar ansvaret den trodskande.

Böter för ådagalagd trodska att fullgöra de i mom. 2 och 3 af denna § gifna föreskrifter förnyas med enahanda belopp för hvarje månad, hvarunder prestbevisets afömnande eller tillhandahållande fördröjes utöver den bestämda tiden.

Innehafvare af fast egendom i stad eller på landet, eller den hans ställe förträdare, vare, vid vite af 2 kronor 50 öre, förbunden att, efter det husbonde eller annan person, med hvilken aftal om bostad afslutats, inflyttat från en annan församling till huset eller på ögorne, derom underrätta pastor inom fjorton dagar från inflyttningen, såvida icke den inflyttande själf det redan tillkännagifvit. (Kongl. Majts Nådiga förordning angående mantals- och skattskrifningarnas förrättande den 20 Juli 1801 § 5 mom. 2, 3, 4 och 5.)

Tjonstehjon, som flyttar från en till annan församling, åligger att för kyrkoherden i den församling, derifrån flyttning sker, försetta sitt erhållna afskedsbetyg, i brist hvarn kyrkoherde prestbevis icke meddela må. (Kongl. Lagstadgan den 23 November 1838 § 46.)

Omstående Masar åtföljas härifrån af följande, icke konfirmerade, barn:

1. *Sonen Carl Oskar, född i Hjulsjö 1876 3/4, döpt och*
2. *Dotter Jenny Kristina, född i Id. 1889 2/2, döpt och vacc.*
3. *Sonen Viktor Waldemar, född i Id. 1885 1/1, döpt och vacc.*
4. *Sonen Erik född i Örebro Park Mann 1888*
5. *Sonen Salomon född i Stamborg 1894*
6. *Arthur född i Stamborg 1894*
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

*A. J. Andersson*  
P.

**Document 2b.** Back side of exit permit (*flyttningsbevis*) for Jan Erik Jansson Philp and Ida Karolina Andersdotter from Ösjöhöjden, Hjulsjö Parish (Väsm.). Note: 1) the oldest daughter, Elin, is not listed here; only children *not* confirmed and 2) the names of the three youngest children (i.e., nos. 4-6) were penciled in on this document at some point after the family arrived in the U.S.

☞ Translation of document 2b
------------------------------

It is the responsibility of each person who has moved into a parish during the year to without delay or within 14 days after the move, and at the very latest before 9 November the same year, present a moving certificate from clergy in the parish he/she moved from regarding self and others in the moving party. If somebody moves to a different parish than he previously belonged to during the time between 8 November and the end of the year, he should present the moving certificate to the pastor no later than on the eighth day after moving in. If someone neglects to follow these rules, he will be fined 2 *kronor* 50 *öre*.

The head of the household is responsible for collecting and handing in notification of moving for hired men and women, unless they have already presented their moving certificate, within fourteen days after the hired hand has reported for work. This is under penalty of a fine of 2 *kronor* 50 *öre*. If there should be a problem with presenting the moving certificate as described above, the pastor should be notified about this within the set time. If a person neglects to obtain or present moving certificate, the responsibility rests on the negligent party.

The fine for negligence to comply with the rules described in sections 2 and 3 of this paragraph will be re-applied in the same amount each month presentation of the moving certificate is delayed beyond the set time period.

Owners of real estate in the city or in the country or any person representing the owner is under obligation to notify the pastor, under the penalty of a fine of 2 *kronor* 50 *öre*, within fourteen days after the head of household or other person with whom a contract has been signed regarding the home has moved from another parish to the house or property. This is in case the moving party has not handled the notification himself. (Royal Majesty's Command regarding assessment of land and establishing of tax laws 20 July 1861, paragraph 5, sections 2, 3, 4 and 5.)

Hired men and women who move from one parish to another are responsible for submitting their obtained testimonials to the pastor in the parish they leave. Neglecting to do so results in the pastor's refusal to produce a moving certificate. (Royal sub statute 23 November 1833, clause 46.)

Husband and wife mentioned on the back are accompanied by the following, *not* confirmed, children:

1. *Sonen* (the son) *Carl Oskar, född i* (born in) *Hjulsjö 1876 8/2, döpt och vacc[inerad]* (baptized and vaccinated)
2. *dotter* (daughter) *Jenny Kristina, född i d[itt]o 1882 13/2, döpt och vacc.*
3. *Sonen Viktor Valdemar, född i d[itt]o 1885 15/2, döpt och vacc.*
4. *Sonen Fritz, född i Cannon Falls; Minn[esota] 1888*
5. *Sonen Solomon, född i Stambaugh, Mich[igan] 1892*
6. " *Arthur, född i Stambaugh, Mich[igan] 1894*

A. J. Anderson, P[astor] l[oci]

Agens Hufvudkontor i Liverpool: The Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, 1 Rumford Street. No: 17965. Agent i New York: Vernon H. Brown & Co., 4 Bowling Green.

### Utvandrare-Kontrakt

emellan

**Charles A. Berglund, Göteborg, befullmäktigad utvandrare-agent, samt nedanstående utvandrare:**

Jag Charles A. Berglund förklarar mig härmed att, på mitt här nedan skrämnat och förklarar, att följande till ... i Nord-Amerika befingad ...

I Charles A. Berglund herby undertecknad, upon the following terms, in forward from the ... in North America, the emigrant ...

Utvandrarnas namn	Ålder	Bekanta vettbevis
Johan Erik Jonsson	35	Björnsberg
Anna Karolinska	28	Widén
Cecilia	11	
Per	11	
Henry	11	
Widén	11	

Göteborg den 6 April 1888.

Upplyst och godkänt som upprättadt i Sveriges Riksdags Kammare den 4 April 1888.

Antagare: J. E. Jansson

**Document 3. Emigrant contract (Utvandrare-Kontrakt) No. 17965 for the Johan Erik Jonsson [sic] family dated Göteborg, 6 April 1888, and signed by Chas. A. Berglund and J. E. Jansson. The original document measures 30 x 26 cm.**

**Transliteration and translation of document 3**

- Small text across the top of document (L - R):
  - Agen ?, Bar ? [document damaged; top layer of paper removed by tape]
  - Hufvudkontor i (main office in) Liverpool: The Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, 1 Rumford Street
  - Agent i (in) Boston: Alexander Martin, 99 State Street
  - Agent i (in) New York: Vernon H. Brown & Co., 4 Bowling Green

• Main heading and middle portion of document:

No: 17965, Utvandrare-Kontrakt emellan Charles A. Berglund, Göteborg, befullmäktigad utvandrare-agent, samt nedanstående utvandrare:

(Number 17965, Emigration Contract between Charles A. Berglund, Göteborg, authorized emigration agent, and the emigrants mentioned below:)

Utvandrarne namn. <u>(Name of emigrants.)</u>	Ålder. <u>(Age.)</u>	Sednaste vistelseort. <u>(Last place of residence.)</u>
<i>Johan Erik Jonsson</i>	35.	<i>Hjulsjö Socken</i> (Parish)
<i>Ida Karolina</i>	35.	<i>Örebro län</i> (county)
<i>Oskar</i>	11.	
<i>Elin</i>	15.	
<i>Jenny</i>	4.	
<i>Viktor</i>	3.	

Göteborg den (on) 6 April 1888. Chas. A. Berglund.

Uppvisadt och godkändt såsom upprättadt i öfverensstämmelse med Kgl. Förordningen 4 Juni 1884, intygas, Göteborg i Poliskammaren den 6/4 1888.  
(Presented and accepted as written in accordance with the Royal Ordinance 4 June 1884, verified, Göteborg, by Police Authorities 6/4 1888)

• Lower left-hand corner of document:

Antages (Accepted by): *J. E. Jansson*

• English text on right side of document:

I Charles A. Berglund hereby undertake, upon the following terms, to forward from Gothenburg to New York, N.Y. in North America, the emigrant named below for the sum of \$90— Kronor, which amount has been duly paid and includes all ordinary charges upon landing in America.

The journey takes place from Gothenburg the 6/4 by steamer steerage passage to Hull in England and thence, within 48 hours after having passed the customs, to Liverpool by rail, 3:rd class, and from Liverpool within 12 days after arrival there, by Ocean steamer steerage passage, to New-York or Boston in North America. From New-York or Boston the Emigrant will be forwarded, immediately after having passed the customs and complied with other formalities, by rail 3:rd class to New York.

At the abovementioned fare the emigrant will be supplied with good and sufficient provisions and attendance from leaving Gothenburg until arrival at place of landing in America, lodging during the stay in England and conveyance and care of effects not exceeding 10 cubic feet space by steamer and 150 lbs weight by railway. Effects of children between 1 and 12 years are carried free at the rate of half of what has been beforestated for effects to America, where no free conveyance of effects of children under 5 years is allowed.

The emigrant is entitled to a check for such effects, as are not under his own care, and will receive for same consisting of \_\_\_ packages and numbered \_\_\_ a compensation not exceeding Kronor 50 p[e]r adult, and not exceeding Kronor 25 for children between 1 and 12 years, in the event of nondelivery of the effects on surrender of said check upon arrival at place of landing in America.

In case of non-fulfilment [*sic*] of this contract by me or misinterpretation on either side should arise, I agree to submit to the provisions contained in paragraph 5 section 6 of the Royal Ordinance of the 4:th June 1884.

If the emigrant has any reason for complaint of not being treated in accordance with the terms stipulated in this contract, a report thereof should be made to the nearest Consul as soon as circumstances admit.

Utvandrarens syfte och namn		Hemort till län och socken	Ålder	Man	Ordn	Sexuak	Destinationsort
63 Johan Erik Jansson		Stenlaga, Bräcke	35	/	/	/	Emigrera
Vida			35	/	/	/	
Vida			11	/	/	/	
Lina			15	/	/	/	
Jenny			4	/	/	/	
Vida			3	/	/	/	

**Document 4.** A page from the Göteborg police department emigration registrations (*Göteborgs poliskammars emigrantlistor*), E IX 34, 6 April 1888, Contract Number 17965, for the ship *Romeo*. For the sake of brevity and clarity, this document has been edited, i.e., material has been removed between the heading shown and the entry for the Johan [*sic*] Erik Jansson family.

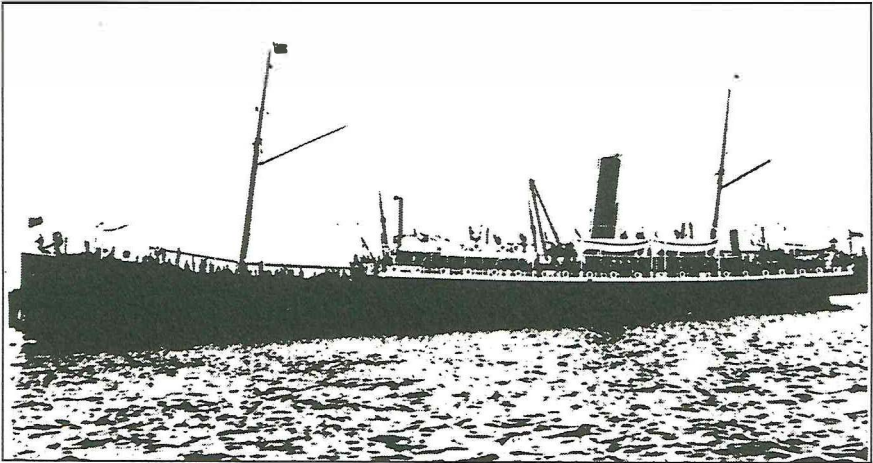
☞ Transliteration and translation of document 4

Heading: C, IV, Berglund

Förteckning öfver utvandrare, som af undertecknad befordras med Ångfartyget Romeo som den 6 April 1888 härifrån afgår till Hull [England].

(List of emigrants, who of the undersigned are transported by the steam[ship] Romeo which on 6 April 1888 from here sails for Hull [England]).<sup>1</sup>

- Column 1: Kontraktets N:o (The contract's number): [179]65  
 Column 2: Utvandrarens yrke och namn (The emigrant's occupation and name): *Johan [sic] Erik Jansson; Ida; Oscar; Elin; Jenny; Victor*  
 Column 3: Hemort till län och socken (Place of residence to county and parish): *Hjulsjö, Örebro L[än]*  
 Column 4: Alder (Age): 35; 35; 11; 15; 4; 3  
 Column 5: Man (Man/Male): 3 [in family]  
 Column 6: Qvinna (Woman/Female): 3 [in family]  
 Column 7: Summa (Total): 6 [in family]  
 Column 8: Bestämmelssort (Destination): *New York*



**Fig. 1.** Photograph of the *Romeo* courtesy of Svenska Emigrantinstitutet (Swedish Emigrant Institute), Växjö, Sweden.

<sup>1</sup> For more details see Nils William Olsson, "Emigrant Traffic on the North Sea," *Swedish American Genealogist* IV (December 1984): 158-163.

# 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.

## Editor's Note: A Success Story!

In the December 1999 issue of *SAG*, an announcement about the availability of photographs of Swedish pioneers from the Princeton, IL, area was printed in the Genealogical Queries section (see query 1181, p. 317). The author of the announcement, Joyce M. Scott, wrote the following in a recent letter:

I should also let you know that the note in the Query section of the December 1999 *SAG* about early portraits available in Princeton, Illinois, proved helpful. A gentleman from California wrote me a "thank you" for the information. He had not been able to find much about his great-grandparents. Their name was on the list of portraits available, which he ordered. He was so pleased to have the 1870 portrait of his great-grandparents. His great-grandmother was visibly pregnant with his grandmother, which gave it even more meaning for him. The portraits are of excellent quality and a bargain for \$15.

---

## Immigrants to Iowa

I am trying to trace the following relatives and/or their descendants and would appreciate any help that could be given:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Emigr.</u>	<u>Destination</u>
Carl Johan Anderson	7 March 1839	1876	Ottumwa, IA
Eva Sofia Zakrisdotter	17 Feb. 1848	1876	Ottumwa, IA
Hilma Sofia Andersson	1 Dec. 1864	1876	Ottumwa, IA
Carl Oskar Andersson	1 Dec. 1868	1876	Ottumwa, IA
Eva Katrina Gabrielsdotter	9 Jan. 1822	1879	Albia, IA
Anna Lovisa Johansdotter	4 Apr. 1855	1879	Albia, IA
Carl August Jonasson	12 Nov. 1857	1880	Iowa
Lovisa Nilsson	16 May 1834	1868	Minnesota
Thilda Lovisa Nilsson	5 Dec. 1853	1872	?

Maria Elizabeth Ryden	3 June 1823	1871	Ottumwa, IA
Carl Anders Svenson? (Isakson?, Anderson?)	23 Sept. 1859	1888	?

R. D. Nelson  
5408 S. Brandon  
Seattle, WA 98118

**1200****Jonasson (Jonsson), Jones**

I am trying to find information on Ernst Algot Jon(a)sson, who was b. in Boeryd, near Gränna (Smål.) 3 March 1870. He emigr. on 23 March 1888. His stated destination was New York. I believe that Ernst Algot got married and had children. In a letter written from West Point, NY, in 1937, he used the name Albert E. Jones. Any information about him would be greatly appreciated.

Gunilla Janhans  
Vättergatan 52  
S-563 32 Gränna  
SWEDEN  
E-mail: <de97jama@ihh.hj.se>

**1201****Darell**

I am looking for details about Sven Otto Darell, who emigr. from Sweden on 16 March 1888 bound for Denver, CO. His brother, Frans Ludvig Darell, had preceded him to Denver on 29 Apr. 1881. Both Sven Otto and Frans Ludvig were brothers to my grandmother, Albertina Gustafva Darell.

Sten Darell  
Kornettsgatan 20  
211 50 Malmö  
SWEDEN  
E-mail: <darell@post.com>

**1202****Hermansson**

I am seeking information about Vilhelm Hermansson, who was b. in Ölme Parish (Värml.) 24 Feb. 1860, the s. of Herman Magnusson (b. 1 Nov. 1836) and Lovisa Larsdotter (b. 23 Nov. 1828). He left Göteborg for New York on 16 Apr. 1880. Vilhelm, who resided in Fargo, ND, also had two younger brothers who emigrated—Karl Hermansson (b. 25 March 1864) and Johan Bryngel Hermansson (b. 20 Oct. 1866). This family is part of the “Bryngelsläkten”



branch of the Värmländska Vallonsläkten, who started emigrating from Vallonia to Sweden ca. 1540.

The first generation immigrants worked in building railroads, married into German families, and became relatively prosperous. A descendant of one of the Hermansson brothers—a Vietnam veteran (U.S. Air Force)—visited with relatives (Gottfrid and Elsa Karlsson) in Värmland ca. 1975.

Ingemar Brand

Voldsvegan 551

N-3739 Skien

NORWAY

E-mail: <fambrand@.no>

1203

---

### Nordlander

I am looking for information about Eric Johan Nordlander, who was b. in Sollefteå Parish (Ånge.) 5 Jan. 1868. On 10 Sept. 1909 he immigrated to Austin, Potter Co., PA. His address was the nearby town of Galeton, Box 109, Potter County, PA. On one of his letters, dated 12 Aug. 1918, he used the address Addison & Galeton, R.P.O. 1912. Eric worked as a lumberjack, perhaps at a sawmill. Any information would be appreciated.

Elsie Frölander

Klackvägen 1 D

SE-856 53 Sundsvall

SWEDEN

1204

---

### Hanson, Hansson, Hansdotter, Peterson

I would like to contact descendants of the following four individuals, who were children of Hans Christoffersson and Ahli Jönsdotter and first cousins of my grandfather, Olof Peterson. All four were b. in the province of Skåne and immigrated to America.

1. Jöns (John?) Hansson, b. 11 Apr. 1866(?); emigr. from Katslösa Parish (Skån.) 28 March 1889; destination Peoria, IL.

2. Elise (Elisa or Elisabeth?) Hansdotter, b. 13 March 1869; emigr. information unknown; she may have married in Sweden.

3. Olof Hansson, b. 1 Oct. 1871; emigr. from Katslösa Parish 1 Aug. 1889; destination Peoria, IL.

4. Emil Hansson, b. 9 Sept. 1874; emigr. from Villie Parish (Skån.) 5 March 1891; destination Peoria, IL.

The surname was probably changed to Hanson in America. I have been unable to find any of them in the census records of Illinois or Missouri. If any

descendants contact me, I will be happy to share the considerable information I have on their ancestors.

David W. Peterson  
18514 Hawks Hill Road  
Wildwood, MO 63069

1205

### **Carlsson, Peterson, Persson, Mårtensson**

I am seeking information about several individuals. My mother's mother's sister, Anna-Stina Carlsson, b. 6 Jan. 1867, emigr. from Harbo (Uppl.) on 5 Feb. 1889 and settled in Mankato, MN, where she m. Andrew Peterson 2 Jan. 1891. Elna Persson, b. 22 Jan. 1872, immigrated to St. Paul, MN, on 10 June 1890. Her brother, Johan Persson, b. 9 Jan. 1880, immigrated to Harris, MN, on 10 Apr. 1900. He was accompanied by Elna's son, Sture Algot Mårtensson, who was ten years old. My father's mother's sister, Johanna Mårtensson, b. 14 May 1865, emigrated in 1886. I don't know her destination, but since her cousin Elna went to St. Paul, I suspect she went there too.

Lennart Johansson  
Rödklintsbacken 7  
554 56 Jönköping  
Sweden  
E-mail: <ealj@telia.com>

1206

### **Andersson**

I am seeking the relatives of Johan Erik Andersson, b. Målilla (Smål.) 21 June 1854. He immigrated to America ca. 1875 and possibly lived in a place called Eden Springs (specific state unknown). He had sons named Karl and Johan.

Jarl Persson  
Ingelsvägen 14  
235 41 Vellinge  
SWEDEN  
E-mail: <jarl.ingelstad@telia.com>

1207

### **Johnson**

I am seeking information about my wife's grandparents. Her grandfather, Axel Hjalmar Johnson, was b. in Skrea Parish (Hall.) 28 Dec. 1881 and arrived in the U.S. 15 May 1901. Her grandmother, Mathilda (maiden name unknown), was b. in Enslöv Parish (Hall.) 9 Dec. 1878 and arrived in the U.S. 30 Apr.

1901. Axel and Mathilda were m. in Kane, PA, on 28 Nov. 1903 and d. in Cleveland, OH, on 8 Apr. 1962 and 9 March 1962, respectively. Their daughter (and my wife's mother), Lillian Dorothy Johnson, was b. in Kane, PA, on 18 June 1904 and is still living.

John S. Hodges  
5827 Magnolia Lane  
Vero Beach, FL 32967

1208

### Andersson

I am trying to locate my American relatives by seeking information on Karl August Andersson, who was b. at Norra Romme, Stora Tuna Parish (Dala.) 20 Nov. 1868 and immigrated to Chicago, IL, in 1887 or 1888. His parents were Karl Andersson (b. N. Romme 25 Apr. 1845; d. ditto 22 Aug. 1926) and Sofia Vilhelmina Stromberg (b. N. Romme 21 Feb. 1849; d. ditto 6 Oct. 1916).

Åke Karlsson  
Förrådsvägen 17  
841 93 Östavall  
SWEDEN

1209

### Mattson (Månsson)

Ola Mattson (Månsson) from Trolle-Ljungby Parish (Skån.), s. of Måns Jönsson (1822-1889) and Signe Persdotter (1824-1888), came to Minnesota in 1871, returned to Sweden in 1875, and re-emigrated the same year with three brothers—Julin, Per and Alick. **Ola**, b. 21 Sept. 1846, m. Signe, had at least four children and was living in St. Paul, MN, in 1898. **Julin** Mattson (Jöns Månsson), b. 27 Sept. 1848, married and had at least two children (a son and dau.). He also lived in St. Paul, where he was a baker. **Per** Mattson (Per Månsson), b. 27 Sept. 1848, was Julin's twin brother. Nothing is known about him. **Alick** Mattson (Erik Månsson), b. 17 July 1858, m. Adolphine Johnson (b. 1856) on 25 Dec. 1881. They had one child, Lawrence Elliot Sigfrid, who was b. in Red Wing, MN, 10 March 1890 and d. 1897. They lived at 1301 25th Ave. North, Minneapolis, MN, with Adolphine's youngest brother, John Lawrence (b. 1874).

There were four more siblings in the family, including my grandfather Nils. I have looked for his brothers in Minnesota, but can't find them. Can anyone help?

Wiveka Gransberg  
Boplatsgatan 2  
SE-723 53 Västerås  
SWEDEN

1210

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# *Make Hotel Birger Jarl your headquarters while searching your roots in Sweden!*

*We want to reflect the blue of Summer lakes, the fresh scent of Midsummer flowers, and the warmth of the July sun. But we also allow the pure, crystalline cold of winter into our rooms - still and quiet as the first snows.*

*In our renewal of Hotel Birger Jarl, we have a fresh and new mixture of Swedish materials. Prepare to step into a hotel full of Swedish design, art and form.*

- ▲ 230 rooms with bath/shower, TV and radio
- ▲ Conference rooms for groups from 10 to 150
- ▲ Gym, sauna, tanning booth, garage
- ▲ Centrally located - Tulegatan 8 at Jarlaplan

H O T E L  
**BirgerJarl**

Box 19016  
104 32 Stockholm, Sweden  
Telephone: 46-8-674 18 00  
Facsimile: 46-8-673 73 66  
Internet: [www.birgerjarl.se](http://www.birgerjarl.se)  
E-mail: [info@hotelbirgerjarl.se](mailto:info@hotelbirgerjarl.se)