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Genealogical Workshop: Records of an Immigrant Family. Part 2

James E. Erickson

Four documents are featured in this article, which represents part two of a four-part series featuring my paternal great-grandparents, John E. and Ida C. Erickson. They are all from American sources and include a page from a passenger list for the port of Boston, Massachusetts; a birth record from Cannon Falls, Minnesota; a page from the register of a Covenant church in Stambaugh, Michigan; and two pages from the Erickson family Bible.

Part one of this series ended with the Johan Erik **Jansson** family leaving the port of Göteborg, Sweden, on 6 April 1888.¹ On 24 April 1888, just eighteen days later, Johan E. **Johnson** and his family arrived in Boston, Massachusetts aboard the SS *Catalonia*, which had embarked from Liverpool, England (see document 5). His wife, Ida C., was five months pregnant.

The family proceeded directly to Cannon Falls, Minnesota, where they undoubtedly stayed with Ida's maternal aunt (*moster*), Mathilda Charlotta Rosendahl, and uncle, Per Gustav Jansson (Johnson), who had arrived in Cannon Falls six years earlier.² During these first four months in the U.S., John and Ida obviously made a decision to change their surname, because a son named Fred **Erickson** (alias Fritz, my paternal grandfather or *farfar*) was born in Cannon Falls on 15 August 1888 to John E. and Carolina (see document 6).

Sometime during the next four months, the Erickson family moved to the iron-mining village of Stambaugh in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where a number of John and Ida's relatives already lived.³ John and Ida became charter members of *Svenska Missionsförsamlingen* (the Swedish Mission [now Grace Covenant] Church) on 26 January 1889 (see document 7). This document is surprisingly detailed; more Lutheran-like than a typical Covenant record. Note the use of the surname Erickson and the fact that all of the dates recorded are consistent with those that appear in the Swedish records already highlighted. The only mistake on this record is the date of arrival in America. Document 5 clearly shows that it was 24 April (not 20 April) 1888.

The Erickson family Bible (see document 8) is also surprisingly detailed. Although it represents a classic example of a record that must be used with

¹ James E. Erickson, "Genealogical Workshop: Records of an Immigrant Family. Part 1," *Swedish American Genealogist* XX (September 2000): 170-179.

² James E. Erickson, "The Hjulsjö (Öre.) to Stambaugh, MI Migration Axis," *Swedish American Genealogist* XI (March 1991): 17.

³ *Ibid.*, 26.

extreme caution,⁴ it proved to be reliable and accurate, save that it failed to indicate that the family surname in Sweden was Jansson. In particular, the birth dates used are consistent with those appearing in other Swedish and American sources (but see document 6). Interestingly, for the Swedish birthplaces, individual farms and the county (*län*) are listed, but not the name of the parish. I have a special fondness for this document, because it was clearly the record that got me interested in my own family's history and allowed me to easily bridge the Atlantic and enter the Swedish records (in spite of the unusual name change from Jansson to Erickson!).

5	Johann E Johnson	✓	35	✓	M	Labourer	do
6	Ida C	✓	35	✓	F	Wife	do
4	Ellen	✓	15	✓	F	Servant	do
8	Oscar	✓	11	✓	M	Child	do
9	Jeanne	✓	4	✓	F	do	do
1300	Victor	✓	3	✓	M	do	do

Document 5. Portion of the passenger list for the SS *Catalonia*, which arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, on Thursday, 24 April 1888.⁵ Columns 8 through 12 are not shown.

☞ Transliteration of document 5

Column 1. No.: [129]5 - 1300

Column 2. Names: Johan [sic] E. Johnson; Ida C. ✓; Ellen ✓; Oscar ✓; Jeanne [sic] ✓; Victor ✓

Columns 3 and 4. Age in years and months: 35; 35; 15; 11; 4; 3

Column 5. Sex: M[ale]; F[emale]; ✓; M; F; M

Column 6. Calling [i.e., occupation/profession]: Labourer; Wife; Servant; Child; d[itt]o; d[itt]o

Column 7. The country of which they are citizens: d[itt]o, i.e., Sweden

⁴ The Erickson family Bible, *Sjelf-förklarande Svensk Bibel: Den Heliga Skrift*, was published by Chandler Bros., Rockford, IL in 1889. The birth data recorded (except Solomon and Arthur) not only precede the publication date but also appear to have been recorded by one individual at one sitting. - see Ralph Crandall, *Shaking Your Family Tree: A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family's Genealogy* (Dublin, NH 1986), 33.

⁵ National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy No. 277, Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston 1820-1891, Roll 106, March 2-June 12, 1888 (List Nos. 48-155), No. 95, Steamship *Catalonia*, #464, 24 April 1888.

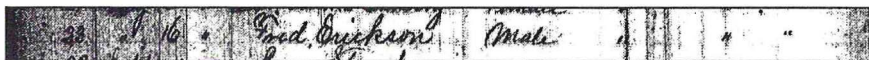
Column 8. Intended destination or location: *d[itt]o*, i.e., *U.S. America*

Column 9. Date and cause of death:

Column 10. Location of compartment, or space occupied: [*Steerage*]

Column 11. Number of pieces of baggage: [*4*]

Column 12. Transient, or in transit, or intending protracted sojourn: [*Protracted Sojourn*]



Document 6. Certificate of Birth of Fred (alias Fritz) Erickson, 16 [sic] August 1888, Village of Cannon Falls, Goodhue County, Minnesota.⁶ The information shown was recorded in a large Register of Births. The top image is the left-hand part of the page; the bottom image is the right-hand part of the page. Neither the name (Fred) nor the birth date (16 August) in this certificate agree with the information in the Erickson family Bible, i.e., Fritz and 15 August (see document 8b).

☞ Transliteration of document 6

Note: Words and/or numbers implied by ditto marks in the original document have been placed in brackets in the following transliteration.

Column 1. No.: 23

Column 2. Date of Birth / Month, Day, Year: [*Aug.*] 16 [1888]

Column 3. Name (if any): *Fred Erickson*

Column 4. Sex (And Condition, as Twins, Illegitimate, etc.): *Male*

Column 5. Color: [*White*]

Column 6. Place of Birth of Child (Town or City): [*Village of Cannon Falls*]

Column 7. Full Christian Name of Each Parent: *John E. & Carolina*

Column 8. Birthplace of Each Parent (Give the State or Nation): *Sweden*

Column 9. Occupation of Father: ---

Column 10. When Registered: [*Aug.*] 2? [1888]

⁶ From Register of Births, Village of Cannon Falls, County of Goodhue, State of Minnesota. - Goodhue County Courthouse, Red Wing, MN.

RECORD OF												
CH. NO.	RECEIVED		NAME	BIRTH		BAPTISMAL		MARRIED				
	MO.	DATE		MO.	DATE	MO.	DATE	MO.	DATE			
	YR.	YR.		PL.	PL.	PL.	PL.	PL.	PL.			
7.	1	26	1888	Erickson, John Erick.	11	5	1849	Hjulegård, Swed.	1849	Hjulegård, Swed.	1872	Hjulegård, Swed.
8.	1	26	1888	Erickson, Ida Karoline	7	14	1852	Hjulegård, Swed.	1852	Hjulegård, Swed.	1872	Hjulegård, Swed.
11	3	16	1893	Erickson, Elin Karoline	2	20	1873	Hjulegård, Swed.	1873	Hjulegård, Swed.	1892	Stambaugh, Mich.
13	5	26	1900	Erickson, Carl Oscar	2	8	1876	Hjulegård, Swed.	1876	Hjulegård, Swed.	1900	Stambaugh, Mich.
16	5	26	1900	Erickson, Annie Kristina	2	15	1882	Hjulegård, Swed.	1882	Hjulegård, Swed.	1900	Stambaugh, Mich.
				Erickson, Britta Eldemora	1	15	1857	Hjulegård, Swed.	1857	Hjulegård, Swed.		
22	1	24	1906	Erickson, Fritz	8	18	1888	Canons Falls, Wis.	1888	Canons Falls, Wis.		
56	7	25	1907	Erickson, Hulda	6	18	1892	Stambaugh, Mich.	1892	Stambaugh, Mich.		
				Erickson, Arthur	11	8	1894	Stambaugh, Mich.	1894	Stambaugh, Mich.		
				Erickson, Gustaf Emmanuel	2	22	1862	Hjulegård, Swed.	1862	Hjulegård, Swed.		

FAMILIES

45

ARRIVED IN AMERICA		ARRIVED AT THIS PLACE		REMOVED		CONG. NO.	REMARKS
WHEREFROM	MO. DATE YR.	WHEREFROM	MO. DATE YR.	PLACE	MO. DATE YR.		
Ordo, Sverige	2	1888	Canons Falls, Wis.	2	1888		Dist. No. 14-112
Ordo, Sverige	2	1888	Canons Falls, Wis.	2	1888		
Ordo, Sverige	2	1888	Canons Falls, Wis.	2	1888		
Ordo, Sverige	2	1888	Canons Falls, Wis.	2	1888		
Ordo, Sverige	2	1888	Canons Falls, Wis.	2	1888		
Ordo, Sverige	2	1888	Canons Falls, Wis.	2	1888		

Document 7. Church Register, Record of Families, Svenska Missionsförsamlingen (the Swedish Mission [now Grace Covenant] Church), Stambaugh, Michigan, showing the John E. and Ida C. Erickson family. The top image is page 44; the bottom image is page 45.⁷

☞ Transliteration and explanation of document 7

Column 1. Chro. No. (Chronological Number):

The numbers listed (top to bottom)—7, 8, 11, 13, 16, 22, and 56—represent the chronological order in which family members joined the church (i.e., John and Ida were the seventh and eighth individuals, respectively, to join the church; Elin, the eleventh; Carl Oscar, the thirteenth; etc.).

Column 2. Date Rec'd (Received); Mo./Date/Yr. (Month/Day/Year):

The dates family members joined the church were (top to bottom): 1-26-1889; 1-26-1889; 3-16-1893; 5-26-1900; 5-26-1900; 1-26-1906; and 7-25-1907.

Column 3. Comm.[?]; Male/Fem[ale]: Note the marks in respective columns.

Column 4. Name:

⁷ Church Register Record and Ministerial Accounts, compiled by Rev. E. G. Hjerpe, Published by The Swedish Evan. Mission Covenant Book Concern, 81 South Clark Street, Chicago.

The surname *Erickson* (not Jansson, Johansson, Johnson) is being used for all members of the family. First and middle names are consistent with those in the *husförhörslängd*,⁸ save for minor spelling differences. For example, *Jan Erik* has become *John Erick*; *Ida Carolina*, *Ida Karolina*; *Elin Carolina*, *Elin Karolina*; *Carl Oskar*, *Carl Oscar*; *Jenny Kristina*, *Jennie Kristina*; and *Viktor Valdemar*, *Wicktor Waldemar*. Interestingly, the name of another son, *Wicktor Emmanuel*, who was born 2-22-1880 in *Hjulsjö Sock[en]* (Parish) and died there as an infant, is also. His death date (7-23-1880) is listed on page 45 in Column 14 (Died) (but not shown in document 7).

Column 5. Birth; Mo./Date/Yr.; Place:

Note that the birth dates of the family members born in *Hjulsjö Sock[en]* (Parish) are consistent with those listed in the *husförhörslängd*.⁹ Birth dates and places for the sons born in the U.S. are as follows: *Fritz*, 8-15-1888, *Cannon Falls, Minn[esota]*; *Solomon*, 6-8-1892, *Stambaugh, Mich[igan]*; and *Arther [sic]*, 11-8-1894, *Stambaugh, Mich[igan]*.

Column 6. Baptismal; Mo./Date/Yr.; Place:

The baptismal years of the six family members born in *Hjulsjö Sock[en]* (Parish) are 1849, 1850, 1873, 1876, 1882 and 1885. Baptismal dates and places for the sons born in the U.S. are as follows: *Fritz*, 1888, *Cannon Falls, Minn[esota]*; *Solomon*, 1892, *Stambaugh, Mich[igan]*; and *Arthur*, 1894, *Stambaugh, Mich[igan]*.

Column 7. Married; Mo./Date/Yr.; Place:

John E. and *Ida C.* were married in 1872 in *Hjulsjö Sock[en]*; *Elin Karolina*, 1892, *Stambaugh, Mich[igan]*; *Carl Oscar*, 1901, *Stambaugh, Mich[igan]*; and *Jennie Kristina*, 1901, *Stambaugh, Mich[igan]*.

Column 8. Arrived in America; Where From; Mo./Date/Yr.:

The six immigrants arrived from *Örebro, Sverige* (Sweden) on 4-20-1888. Note that document 5 establishes the correct date as 24 April 1888.

Column 9. Arrived At This Place; Where From; Mo./Date/Yr.:

The six immigrants and their newborn son, *Fritz*, arrived at this place (i.e., *Stambaugh, Michigan*) from *Cannon Falls, Minn[esota]* 10-20-1888.

Column 10. Removed; Place; Mo./Date/Yr.:

Column 11. Remov'd (Removed):

Column 12. Disciplined:

Column 13. Dropped:

Column 14. Died: The date listed for *John Erick* is *Dec[ember] 14, 1920*; the date listed (but not shown) for *Wicktor Emmanuel* is 7-23-1880.

Column 15. Dismi. No. (Dismissal Number):

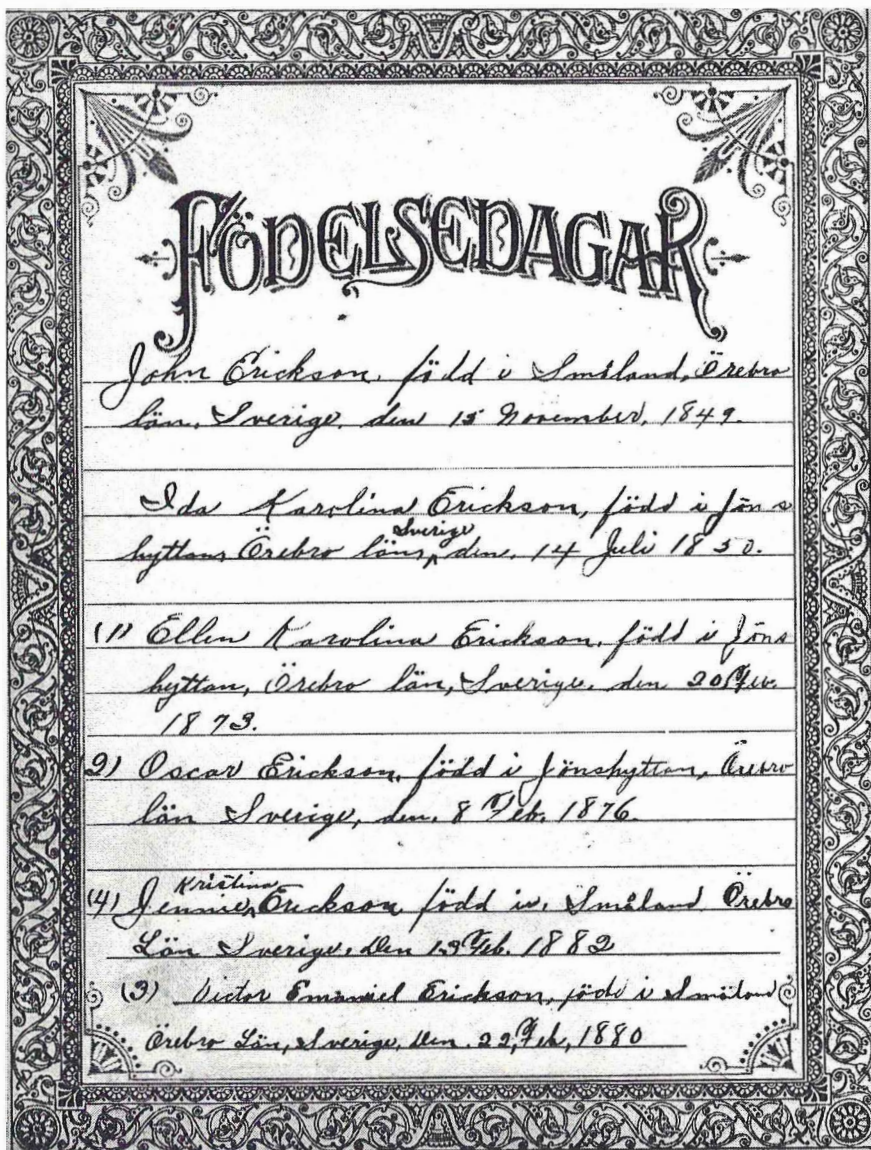
Column 15. Remarks: The information listed for *John Erick* is *Died Dec[ember] 14, 1920*.

⁸ See document 1 in James E. Erickson, "Genealogical Workshop: Records of an Immigrant Family. Part 1," *Swedish American Genealogist* XX (September 2000): 171.

⁹ *Ibid.*



Fig. 2. The John E. and Ida C. Erickson family ca. 1891. From L-R: Jennie, Carl Oscar, Ida C., Fritz, John E., Victor, and Ellen.



Document 8a. Birth dates (*Födelsedagar*) recorded in the John E. and Ida C. Erickson family Bible.¹

¹ This Bible is currently in the possession of the author's father, C. Eldred Erickson, Iron River, Michigan.

FÖDELSEDAGAR

12) *Pictor Waldemar Erickson, född i
Öjshögden Öster Sön. Sverige, den
15 Okt. 1884.*

16) *Arity Erickson, född i Cannon Falls,
Minnesota, U. S. A. den 15 Augusti 1886*

17) *Erik Solomon Erickson, född i
Stambridge Michigan U. S. A. den
9 Juni 1892*

18) *Arthur Erickson, född i Stambridge
Michigan U. S. A. den 8 November 1894*

Document 8b. Birth dates (*Födelsedagar*) recorded in the John E. and Ida C. Erickson family Bible.

☞ Transliteration and translation of documents 8a and 8b
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Document 8a:

John Erickson, född i (born in) Småland [a farm in Hjulsjö Parish], Örebro län (county), Sverige (Sweden), den (on) 15 November 1849.

Ida Karolina Erickson, född i Jönshyttan [a farm in Hjulsjö Parish], Örebro län, Sverige, den 14 Juli 1850.

(1) Ellin Karolina Erickson, född i Jönshyttan, Örebro län, Sverige, den 20 Feb. 1873.

(2) Oscar Erickson, född i Jönshyttan, Örebro län, Sverige, den 8 Feb. 1876.

(4) Jennie Kristina Erickson, född i Småland, Örebro Län, Sverige, Den 13 Feb. 1882.

(3) Victor Emanuel Erickson, född i Småland, Örebro Län, Sverige, Den 22 Feb. 1880.

Document 8b:

(5) Victor Waldemar Erickson, född i Ösjöhöjden [a farm in Hjulsjö Parish], Örebro Län, Sverige, Den 15 Feb. 1884.

(6) Fritz Erickson, född i Cannon Falls, Minnesota, U.S.A., Den 15 Augusti 1888.

(7) Erik Solomon Erickson, född i Stambaugh, Michigan, U.S.A., Den 8 Juni 1892.

(8) Arthur Erickson, född i Stambaugh, Michigan, U.S.A., Den 8 November 1894.