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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.¹ 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),² an exit permit (flyttningsbevis),³ an emigrant contract (utvandraräkord) and a page from the Göteborg police department emigration registrations/passenger departure lists (Göteborgs poliskammarens emigrantlister).

One major take-home lesson is illustrated herein—watch for (anticipate; expect) changes in personal names and/or variations in their spelling.⁴ 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.

¹ For further details see James E. Erickson, “The Hjulsjö (Ore.) to Stambaugh, MI Migration Axis,” SAG XI (March 1991): 1-33.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>1886</th>
<th>1887</th>
<th>1888</th>
<th>1889</th>
<th>1890</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transliteration and translation of selected portions of document 1

Jönshytte Rote, No. 4, L/16, Ösjöhöjden, Bredsjö

2. H[ustru] (wife) Ida Carolina Andersd[otter] [born 18] 50 14/7
4. son (son) Carl Oskar [born 18] 76 8/2
6. son Viktor Valdemar [born 18] 85 15/1
Gift (married): 1/11 [1872]
Bortflyttad till (moved away to): Norra Amerika, 29/3 [1888]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Männens födelse</th>
<th>Hustrun födelse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Nov. 1849</td>
<td>14 July 1830</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flyttning: Flyttning: 1888

Makarno, som blev i väntetid förräntade den 1 November 1872 (flyttning)

Document 2a. Front side of exit permit (flyttningsbevis) for Jan Erik Jansson Philp and Ida Karolina Andersdotter from Ösjöhöjden, Hjulsjö Parish (Väsm.).
No. 13 Flyttningbevis (Exit Permit) (Fol. 380)

_Torparen_ (the crofter) _Jan Erik Jansson Philp_

från (from) _Osjöhöiden_

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_ (fyrationio) _/ 14 Jul_ _1850_ (femtio) (fifty)

i (from) _Hiulsjö_ församling (parish) / same

af (in) _Örebro_ län (county), / same

Har haft skyddskoppar (has been vaccinated) _är döpt_ (literally: is baptized) / same

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

Kristendomskenkap (knowledge of Christendom): _nägor[lundal] god_ (fairly good) / _god_ (good)

Bevisat förhören (attended the household examination on) _______________

Till H. H. Nattvard oförhindrad (free to attend Holy Communion) _och har_

begaète H. H. Nattvard (and has celebrated/partaken of Holy Communion) / same

Eger medborgerligt förtroende (has the public trust) __________

_oOo_

Makarne, som blevvo i äktenskap föreneade den (the husband and wife, who were united in marriage on) _1 November 1872_ (sjuftio-två) (seventy-two)

afflytta till (moving to) _N. Amerika_ församling af län

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

Betygas (attested at) _Hiulsjö_ församling af (parish in) _Örebro_ län (county)

den (on) _29 Mars_ (March) 1888 (åttio-åtta) (eighty-eight)

_A. J. Andersson_

[Pastor] [loci]

(Pastor in this place)

Vänd! (Over!)

Stamp: Poliskammaren i Göteborg (The Police Authorities of Göteborg)
Det allmogier hvar och en, som under året inflyttat i en församling, att anga och medföljande personer oförordnade och inom 14 dagar efter inflyttningen, tillsammans

delaer före den 9 November samma år, hos pastor förstö preestbrev från inflyttningnumro...

Skulle någon under tiden mellan den 8 november och trea halva inflyttet en annan församling än den, han först tillhört, blir han sut på Attunda dagen efter inflyttningen hafta till pastor att samla preestbrevet. Underkorten någon att fullgöra dessa föreskrifter, bör 2 kronor 50 öre.

Rökende var de, derselv inflyttade tjänstehjon, icke redan hos pastor förstött sitt preesthov, pligtig att, vid vitt af 2 kronor 50 öre, med fyrtiota dagar, sedan personalhotet minad i tjänst, förfara och till pastorensfemna sådana betyg. Skulle hinder mött att på förkommande sätt afföra preesthov, bör medan denna hos pastor göra inom den utsatta tiden. Underskriva sig någon att preesthov, sådana tillhanshålla eller afföra, drabber ansvarat den brottsrade.

Böter för åtagalagd trödka att fullgöra de i mom. 2 och 3 af dessa 9 gifna före-

skrifter förnyas mod omsända bolopp för hvarje månad, hvarmac preesthovets afförande eller tillhanshållande föredrjus utforer den bestdämde tiden.

Innehavare af fast egendom i stad eller på landet, eller dets hans ställs företrädare, varar, vid vito af 2 kronor 50 öre, förbunden att, efter det inflyttande eller annan person, med hvilken inflytande eller ansvarligen inflyttat från en annan församling till huset eller på egorna, dorum underrättta pastor innom fyrtiota dagar från inflyttningen, avise de den inflyttande sjelfi.

Det redan tillräckliga. (Kongl. Majestät Nödiga förordning angelöpande mantals- och skattskrift-
ningarna förättende den 20 Juli 1801 § 6, men. 2, 3, 4 och 5.)

Tjänstehjon, som flyttar från en till annan församling, liggo att för kyrkohorden i den församling, derifrån flyttning sker, förste sitt eriklinna afkredskrit. i brist hvaraf kyrkohode preesthov icke medelsa mb. (Kongl. lagstelagan den 20 November 1801 § 46.)

### Omskrivande Majan åtföljas införfran af Müjand, icke konfirmerade, barn:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nummer</th>
<th>Namn</th>
<th>Födelsedatum</th>
<th>Ålder 1876 5/6</th>
<th>Stad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Göran Olofsson</td>
<td>1876-5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bengt Johan Alfred</td>
<td>1876-5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Carl Johan Axel</td>
<td>1876-5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ester Elisabeth</td>
<td>1876-5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Anders Johan</td>
<td>1876-5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Anna Johan</td>
<td>1876-5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Erik Johan</td>
<td>1876-5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Document 2b.** Back side of exit permit (flyttningsbevis) for Jan Erik Jansson Philp and Ida Karolina Andersdotter from Osjohojden, 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.
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 vaccinerad (baptized and vaccinated)
2. dotter (daughter) Jenny Kristina, född i detta 1882 13/2, döpt och vacc.
3. Sonen Viktor Valdemar, född i detta 1885 15/2, döpt och vacc.
4. Sonen Fritz, född i Cannon Falls, Minn[nesota] 1888
5. Sonen Solomon, född i Stambaugh, Mich[igan] 1892

A. J. Anderson, P[astor] [loci]
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

- Main heading and middle portion of document:

No 17965, Utvandrare-Kontrakt emelen Charles A. Berglund, Göteborg, befullmägtad utvandrare-agent, samt nedanstående utvandrare:
Genealogical Workshop

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utvandrarnes namn. (Name of emigrants.)</th>
<th>Ålder. (Age.)</th>
<th>Sednaste vistelseort. (Last place of residence.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johan Erik Jonsson</td>
<td>35.</td>
<td>Hjulsjö Socken (Parish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida Karolina</td>
<td>35.</td>
<td>Örebro län (county)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oskar</td>
<td>11.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elin</td>
<td>15.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viktor</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


(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 per 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.

Document 4. A page from the Göteborg police department emigration registrations (Göteborgs polisammares 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transliteration and translation of document 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heading: C, IV, Berglund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Förteckning öfver utvandrare, som af under-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tecknad befordras med Angfartyget Romeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>som den 6 April 1888 hårifrån afgår till</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull [England].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(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]).

| Column 1: Kontraktets N:o (The contract's number): | 17965 |
| 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 Län |
| 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 Emigrantinsitutet (Swedish Emigrant Institute), Växjö, Sweden.

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