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A Note on Olof Arvid Fredrik Drake

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Who Was President Zachary Taylor's Swedish Maid?

The Seventh U.S. Census for Washington, DC, lists the President of the United States, Zachary Taylor, living in the First Ward with the following household:

21	Aug.	1850
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Zachary Taylor	66 M Pres[iden]t US \$100,000	Virginia
Margaret Taylor	64 F	Maryland
Wm W.S. Bliss	35 M Lt. Col USA	New York
Mary E. Bliss	25 F	Kentucky
Ignatius Ruppert	30 M Steward at P House	Germany
Sophia O. Bryon	30 F	Swedend (sic!)
Edward McManus	35 M Doorkeeper	Ireland
Thomas Cogan	24 M Messenger	Ireland
Mary Riley	26 F	Ireland
Mary Riley 2nd	20 F	Ireland
Charles Beale	30 M	Virginia

Who was Sophia O. Bryon, the Swedish employee in the White House? Her surname gives no clue.

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A Note on Olof Arvid Fredrik Drake

Lars Wikström, Chief Genealogist of the Swedish House of Nobles in Stockholm, has called our attention to one of the Swedish sailors from Gävle who deserted in U.S. ports (see Nils William Olsson, "Gävle Seamen Who Deserted in U.S. Ports 1871-1891" in SAG, June, 1990, p. 75). He was Olof Arvid (not Arnold) Fredrik Drake af Hagelsrum, who according to Gustaf Elgenstierna, Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor, II, p. 297, tab. 22, was b. in Dragstorp, Västra Ryd Parish (Ög.) 10 April 1863, the s. of Cap. Fredrik Amadeus Drake af Hagelsrum and Ebba Catharina Magdalena Vilhelmina Printzensköld. Elgenstierna states that Arvid Drake became a sea captain in the U.S. merchant fleet. Nothing more is known about him and Mr. Wikström would be pleased to hear from any SAG reader who can offer complementary information concerning Arvid Drake.

⁵Letters to the author from the parish office in Landskrona dated 4 Aug. and 17 Aug. 1989.

⁶Letter to the author from the parish office in Hässleholm dated 9 Aug. 1989.

⁷Letter the author from the parish office of Osby-Visseltofta dated 16 June 1989.

⁸Kurt G. Trägårdh, "Sven Mattisson Trägårdh - en svensk skräddare och arbetsledare som emigrerade till USA, samt släkten Trägårdh från Ronneby" in Släkt och Hävd, No. 2, 1988, pp. 84-103.

^oIn my article in SAG, Vol. VII, No. 4, Dec. 1987, p. 151, lines 27-30, Niklas Carlsson's age is erroneously listed as 14 years, when in reality he was 17 years old.