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# Hulda Johannesson from Jönköping

Lila and Wendy Kirkwood\*

Our search for the beginnings of Hulda Johansson (Johannesson) began in 1985, on a visit to Merrill, WI, with Hedwig Kuehn Kirkwood, daughter of Hulda, on her 82nd birthday. Using city directories available at the local library, we found the house Hedwig had lived in as a child and the home of her "aunt" Hedwig, who actually had been Hulda's sponsor when she had emigrated from Sweden. We wished to know more about those beginnings.

Hulda Johansson arrived in the U.S. 17 June 1902 aboard the *Oscar II* of the Scandinavian-American Line out of Copenhagen. Her name may be found on a "list of those emigrating to foreign parts" in Jönköping in 1902. At this time she was 28 years of age, single, and listed as a textile worker (*väveriarbeterska*). On the ship's manifest she is listed as a weaver. In the Jönköping register her last name is given as Johansson, the same spelling she used in all of her American records. We discovered a surprising entry just below her name in the Jönköping list and above her name on the passenger manifest - that of Axel Victor Wenström, who was born in 1870 and whose profession was that of a painter (*målare*). The ship's manifest furthermore states that for both of them their final destination was "Aunt Hedwig Johnson" of Merrill, WI, and that she had paid for Hulda's passage. No family memory includes the name of Axel Victor Wenström. He may have been a cousin or distant relative but we have been unable to document this.

Hulda's aunt Hedwig Johnson, who had paid for her passage, is listed in the 1900 Federal Census as living with her husband, Andrew H. Johnson, in Pine River Town, near Merrill in Lincoln County, WI, but they soon moved to Merrill itself. The census data shows that Hedwig Johnson was born in Sweden in April 1856 and was, at the time of the census, 44 years of age. The census furthermore states that she immigrated to the United States in 1882.

For the history of Hulda's parents and their ancestors we turned to the Swedish records of the towns and parishes surrounding the city of Jönköping, the largest city as well as the county seat of the county of Jönköping. The city is located in the diocese (*stift*) of Växjö and in the judicial district (*hövud*) of Tveta. The city itself is divided into two parishes (*församlingar*) - those of Kristina and Sofia, the latter also known as Östra or the East parish. All the towns and parishes

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referred to in this presentation are located in the county (*län*) of Jönköping.

### Johannes Nilsson (1799- ?)

I. **Johannes Nilsson** was b. in Mjälaryd, a village in Rogberga Parish, southeast of Jönköping, 13 March 1799, and was baptized four days later. He was the son of Nils Svensson (born 1754) and his wife Maja Zachrisdotter (born 1769). The household examination rolls (*husförhörslängder*) for 1795-1825 showed us that Nils and Maja had two additional children - Sven (born 1788) and Maja Erika (born 1815). Johannes, a crofter at Tullen (?), married in Öggestorp Parish 16 April 1830 Lena Stina Svensdotter (see below).

**Lena Stina Svensdotter** was born in Öggestorp, a parish east of Rogberga, 2 Feb. 1810, and baptized the following day. She was the daughter of Sven Gard and Stina Johansdotter, farmers at Rommelsjö, a village in Öggestorp. Sven Gard was born at Rommelsjö 4 Dec. 1765 as Sven Persson, son of Per Persson (born 1726) and Greta Eriksdotter. Sven Gard, who later changed his surname to Ekelund, had several children in addition to Lena Stina - Maja (born 1791), Anders (born 1793), Johannes (born 1796), Magnus (born 1799), Sara (born 1802), and an unknown child, born 1805.

Johannes Nilsson and Lena Stina Svensdotter had the following children, all born in Ljungarum Parish:

1. Johanna Johannesdotter, born 1830
2. Johan Johannesson, born 1832
3. Maja Stina Johannesdotter, born 1835
4. **Carl Johannesson**, born 1840
5. Gustaf Johnnesson, born 1849

### Carl Johannesson (1840-1903?)

II. **Carl Johannesson** was born in Ljungarum, a parish south of Jönköping, 9 Sept. 1840 and was baptized the following day, the son of Johannes Nilsson and Lena Stina Svensdotter. The mother was thirty years of age at the time of his birth. According to the household examination roll for Sofia Parish, Carl moved into Jönköping in 1866 and resided in the District (*rote*) of Sand, where he was listed as a laborer (*arbetskarl*). Here he met Anna Sofia Ulrika Carlsdotter and they were married in Jönköping 31 May 1873 after the birth of their child. At this time he was listed as a bachelor, 33 years of age, and she was recorded as being unmarried, 28 years of age and a servant (*piga*).

**Anna Sofia Ulrika Carlsdotter** was born in Nordanskog, a village in Hylletofta Parish, 20 Oct. 1845, and was baptized the following day, the daughter of Carl Magnus Samuelsson, a miller (*mjöltnare*), and Beata Svensdotter, who at the time of birth was 24 years of age. The family moved to Gunnarstorp, a village in Bringetofta Parish, where brothers Samuel August was born 1850 and Claus Gustaf five years later, then to Norra Ljunga Parish, where Christina (1859) and Charlotta (1860) were born. Anna Sofia Ulrika moved to Jönköping, where she presumably lived in a rooming house, and where she met and married Carl. The family moved frequently but the records do not reveal the birth of other children. In 1892 they moved to District No. 89, where Carl may have died prior to Anna's emigration to the United States in 1904. Anna lived with Hulda's family until her death in Cook County, IL, 19 June 1921.

### Anna Sofia Carlsdotter's Lineage

Anna Sofia's father, Carl Magnus Samuelsson, was born in Bringetofta Parish 28 Jan. 1811, son of Samuel Månsson, miller (*mjöltnare*), and Anna Petersdotter. His siblings were Anna Stina (born 1808), Lena Catharina (born 1814), and Anders Gotzer (?) (born 1816). Samuel Månsson was born 23 Sept. 1781 and Anna Petersdotter 11 March 1786.

Anna Sofia's mother, Beata Svensdotter, was born in Brogård, a village in Hylletofta Parish, 10 April 1821, the illegitimate daughter of Carolina Magnusdotter, father unknown. The mother was 24 years of age when the child was born. By 1829 Carolina Magnusdotter had another illegitimate child, named Sofia, where the father's name was recorded as Sven Persson. In the household examination rolls for 1835-1839 both Beata and Sofia have the patronymic Svensdotter.

Anna Sofia's maternal grandmother, Carolina Magnusdotter, was born in a soldier's croft named Rosendal in the village of Hemmersryd in Hylletofta Parish 31 Jan. 1797, baptized 13 Feb. the same year, the daughter of Magnus Flitig, a cavalryman (*ryttare*), and Lena Nilsson. Magnus Flitig was born 21 Feb. 1764, the son of Johannes Flitig and Lena Svensdotter (who had married 25 Nov. 1762) and Lena Nilsson was born in Hylletofta 24 Jan. 1773, the daughter of Nils and Catharina.

Child of Carl Johannesson and Anna Sofia Ulrika Carlsdotter:

### Hulda Kristina Johannesson (1873-1951)

III. **Hulda Johannesson** was born in Jönköping 17 April 1873, the il-

legitimate daughter of unmarried parents, Carl Johannesson, age 33, and Anna Sofia Ulrika Carlsdotter, age 28. The mother was recorded in the parish register as being betrothed (*trolövad*). After her arrival in the United States in the summer of 1902, Hulda met and married in Merrill, WI, 13 Jan. 1903 Max Franz Kühn, an im-migrant from Germany. Hulda gave birth to her daughter Hedwig 23 Aug. 1903. "Aunt" Hedwig Johnson was the godmother and midwife of the tiny baby, born two months prematurely.

Max Kühn was born in Bromberg, Germany (today Bydgoszcz in Poland), 17 July 1866 (or 1873 according to conflicting records), son of Reinhard and Otilie Kühn. At the age of fourteen he joined the German Imperial Navy, serving in German East Africa. He emigrated to America, arriving in New York 28 July 1896 aboard the *SS Georgia* of the Hamburg-American Line. He settled in Merrill, WI, where he was employed in a lumber mill. In the U.S. he changed the spelling of his name to Kuehn, pronounced "Keen." A few years after their marriage he and Hulda moved to La Grange, IL. During World War II they moved again, this time to California, where Max worked as a carpenter in a glider factory. Hulda died in Highland Park, CA, in July 1951 and Max died in Dresden, NY, 31 Aug. 1958.

Children of Max Kuehn and Hulda Johannesson:

1. **Hedwig Sophia Otilia Kuehn**, born in Merrill, WI, 23 Aug. 1903; died 16 May 1988
2. Reinhard Alvin Herman Kuehn, born in Merrill 17 Feb. 1905; died 30 Dec. 1928
3. Johannes Max Andreas Kuehn, born in Merrill 25 April 1906; died 23 Sept. 1906

Hulda Johannesson's heritage continues for four generations into the present through:

Daughter **Hedwig Otilia Sophia Kuehn**, b. 23 Aug. 1903, who married Arthur Packard Kirkwood 6 June 1927.

Grandson **David Arthur Kirkwood**, b. 3 Feb. 1934, who married Lila Ruth Harris 12 July 1958.

Great grandchildren:

1. **Kenneth Arthur Kirkwood**, b.10 May 1959, who married Colleen Emily Hogan 4 June 1988.

2. **Wendy Ruth Kirkwood**, b. 25 Aug. 1962.

Great great grandchildren:

1. **Griffin Robert Kirkwood**, b. 24 July 1990.

2. **Connor William Kirkwood**, b. 13 May 1994.

## Sources

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*Vigsellängder* (Marriage records).

*Födelselängder* (Birth records), 1873.

### Ljungarum

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*Födelselängder* (Birth records), 1840.

### Norra Ljunga

*Husförhörslängder* (Household examination rolls), 1856-1870.

*Konfirmationslängder* (List of confirmands), 1860.

### Bringetofta

*Husförhörslängder* (Household examination rolls), 1806-1816, 1849-1856.

*Födelselängder* (Birth records), 1811.

### Hylletofta

*Husförhörslängder* (Household examination rolls), 1816-1821, 1823-1828, 1834-1845, 1849.

*Födelselängder* (Birth records), 1768, 1797, 1821, 1845.

*Vigsellängder* (Marriage records), 1762.

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*Husförhörslängder* (Household examination rolls), 1756-1758, 1765-1787, 1795-1811, 1818-1826.

*Födelselängder* (Birth records), 1726, 1765, 1810.

*Vigsellängder* (Marriage records), 1790, 1830.