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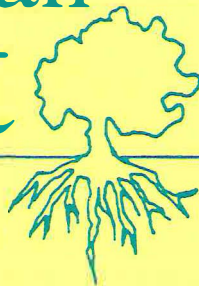
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Swedish American Genealogist



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

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Young Ladies' Boarding Schools in Sweden and South Carolina

Shelly Dobbs Dooley*

Märta Tamm-Götling was a prolific Swedish writer born in 1888. She lived in Uppsala, a city that has a large, old university. A photocopy of an article that she wrote was found among a box of family papers. The following story of the Schenson School is Märta Tamm-Götling's story.¹

Maria Magdalena Hahr Schenson was born in 1790 on Signildsberg farm in Sörby manorial estate (*herrgård*), Torsåker Parish (Söd.). She was one of eleven children of Anders Hahr, a mill owner who later leased the Ultuna royal estate (*kungsladugård*), Uppsala (Bondkyrka, see Heliga Trefaldighet) Parish (Upps.).² Maria did not have formal education, but became known as an outstanding educator in the school later known as Schenson Olivecrona School for Young Ladies.

In 1813 Maria Hahr returned to her childhood home, this time as governess for the three children of the new owner, Major Von Röök. In 1816 Maria married John Schenson, who was office manager of the University of Uppsala, and here the couple lived. Theirs was a happy marriage, but because of financial problems, in 1817 Maria opened a school in an effort to earn money.³ Ten children were born to Maria and John, seven of them during her tenure as headmistress of the school.

In 1826 the following tribute was written to Maria, and signed by twelve prominent people in Uppsala:

Marie Schenson née Hahr has met with feeling and understanding a daughter's duties to her long ailing mother and simultaneously a mother's care and a teacher's interest in her younger sisters and brothers; and later as a

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¹ All material relating to the Schenson School, paraphrased here, is from Märta Tamm-Götling, "En flickpension i Upsala," *Upsala Nya Tidning*, Julnummer, 1957, 18-19. A photocopy of this newspaper article is located in the Hahr Family Papers, Stockholm Stadsarkiv.

² Information on the Anders Hahr family and his descendants, both in Sweden and the United States, is from Gösta Hahr, *Släkten Hahr*. (Stockholm, 1954) and Gösta Hahr, *The Hahr Family*, trans. Lennart Hahr (Norwalk, CT, 1960). A copy of both editions has been donated to the Historical Genealogy Department, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

³ Tamm-Götling cites Erik Gustaf Geijer, 1826. No specific information is given. - *Upsala Nya Tidning*, Julnummer, 1957, 18-19.

wife and mother, she has made herself beloved and honored and yet had time to ably manage a school for young ladies, which she with very little money instituted in 1817 and which only by her thrift and ability could give the superlative reputation it enjoys. For nearly four years, three days a week, she has gathered around her twenty of the most needy children...whom she teaches the most essential and simplest skills, this without any outside help or compensation, but only through her inexhaustible kindness. Such deeds speak for themselves. It is the opinion of the signers of this testimony, which everyone who knows Mrs. Schenson will share, that all persons who have come under her care have been greatly benefited.⁴

In 1828 the Private Boarding School for Young Ladies moved to Dimander House at 69 Regeringsgatan in Stockholm; but as Mrs. Schenson's husband also was renting living space at the University in Uppsala, the school moved back to Uppsala in 1836, where it continued until 1845.

A pupil, sixteen-year-old Helena Gavelius, writing in a diary,⁵ lists the subjects that were taught in Maria Schenson's school for young ladies:

Christianity	Drawing and painting
History	Piano lessons
Geography	Singing
Swedish, French, and German	Needlework
Arithmetic	Handwriting

Helena's notes in her diary give further information. For a boarding pupil the tuition, including the above subjects, payable quarterly, is 300 *Rd* [*Riksdaler*] *banco*, including laundry. For those wishing to take music, English and guitar, an additional fee is charged. The following items must be brought by each student, and will be returned to her when she leaves: 1 soup spoon, 1 teaspoon, 1 simple knife and fork, 1 bureau, 1 trunk, mattress with pillow and cover, 2 pair sheets and pillow cases, 12 towels, 1 pair large bath towels, 1 large table cloth and 2 small ones. The above articles, in addition to a piano, may be rented for an annual charge of 16.32 [*Riksdaler*] *banco*. Also required are 1 box with mirror, 1 fitted sewing box, 12 napkins, 1 writing outfit, 1 portfolio, and 1 abacus. Used books may be used in the beginning. Long walks and swimming

⁴ "Among the twelve signers we find, besides Geijer, his wife Anna Lisa, Malla Silverstolpe, Archbishop Karl von Rosenstein, and other people of prominence." No other names were listed.

⁵ Helena Gavelius's diary is quoted in Märta Götlind's article about the Schenson school; the location of this diary is unknown. The article also mentions Helena's brother, J. G. Gavelius: "In Upsala in 1825, a young student from the northern province of Sweden escorted his sister Helena Marie Gavelius to the Schenson Olivecrona finishing school...well-known from Skåne to Norrland, even Finland, for young girls....Her brother, J. G. Gavelius, who among other things studied at the University in Professor Geiger's classes, and had his eyes on the City Secretaryship in Härnösand, talked now and then with Mrs. Schenson about his sister's progress, and wrote carefully home..." The location of these letters is not known.

in the summer months and anything which will promote good health is taken advantage of. Gymnastics and exercises are done during the winter months and, if sick, the students are under the care of an able physician. In classes the students are graded according to their ability and progress in each subject. Encouragement to advance talent and work diligently is properly given. A careful watch is kept on everyone so that all may conduct themselves in a peaceful, honorable and orderly way. The Lancaster method of instruction, imported from England, was used, in which the abler students helped in the instruction of the less able groups. For the motherly care, so necessary to each young lady, the headmistress, Maria Hahr Schenson was fully responsible.

Embroidery was given high priority in the Schenson school. Mrs. Schenson was a noted flower painter and an advanced artist in embroidery, having done several fine landscapes using silk and hair. The student Helena, mentioned above, listed in her diary several techniques the young ladies studied: hemstitching, ornamental stitching, knitting, flower embroidery, fancy sewing, glove sewing, dress making, and weaving of tape. Helena also noted the following projects that she completed as a student in the Schenson school: 1 pair embroidered cuffs, 1 knitted watchband, 1 caneband, 1 collar, 1 simple negligee, 1 small neckband, 1 golden embroidered tobacco pouch, 2 small pillows with embroidered flowers, 2 flower bouquets, 6 silver sheaves, 1 large silk picture, and 1 embroidered reticule.

Maria Hahr Schenson died 16 July 1857, and is buried in Uppsala, where her children and pupils erected a monument. A son, academy counselor Elis Schenson, years later said of his mother: "Many hundreds of girls from all parts of the Kingdom had her to thank not only for a first class education but also for a true religious and moral upbringing. With a kind and pleasant manner she combined strength and firmness. She was a tender and God-fearing wife and mother."⁶ Maria Schenson was a pioneer in the field of education for women.

One of Maria Hahr Schenson's ten children was a daughter, Malla. Malla was very close to her first cousin Hulda Hahr, daughter of Maria's brother Adolf Hahr. Hulda had come to America in 1849, not with the intention of emigrating but traveling with her brother, Franz Josef Hahr, and they both found positions teaching at a school for young ladies in South Carolina—Limestone College.⁷

In April of 1851, Hulda wrote at length to her cousin Malla Schenson about Limestone College, her work with the students, and her observations of life

⁶ Märta Tamm-Götlind's source of this quote is "a memoriam," possibly Maria Schenson's gravestone.

⁷ The date and purpose of Hulda Hahr and her brother Franz Hahr traveling to the United States is taken from unpublished Hahr family letters, Hahr Family Papers, Stockholm Stadsarkiv. A catalog shows that in 1851, a Mr. Hahr taught music at Limestone College. - Limestone College, Gaffney, SC, Alumnae Office records.

there. Malla was the wife of Knut Olivecrona, and Hulda was the godmother of Malla and Knut's children.

Limestone Springs, South Carolina, April 27, 1851

Darling (whom I miss so much) Malla,

Today is Sunday and therefore I have some time to talk with you, good friend and sister whom I so often long for and whom I so often think about, and whom I miss so terribly. I transfer myself in my thoughts to your little room where we both sit and talk so pleasantly, while little darling Stephanie crawls around cooing; God bless her, the little angel, and give me the sweet pleasure to once again see her hale and hearty, fulfilling Knut's and your happiness.

I am wondering each day about what I shall send her. It must be something really American. Someday in early winter you can expect a little box, with several little things in it, for my godchild. Yes, little Malinka, everything is like a dream. It does not seem possible that I shall have been parted from my loved ones for such a long time. The only thing that has carried me through is the thought that in a few years I may come to your lovely little home and argue with Knut, and play hide and seek with Stephanie and chat with the little mother herself. Ah! How much I shall have to tell you! But now I shall have to tell you a little about life here. It won't be very much, because I tire so quickly.

Now I must tell you that I am a teacher in one of the largest boarding schools. The reason why I accepted this position when it was offered to me was because Franz is also a teacher here, and also because the location is only about a mile from Aunt Hammarskjöld, and too because it has the healthiest climate in the state. To show you how healthy it is, I can tell you that when I arrived here in February, I was pale and not very well and have grown so fat that I have had to take out inches in my dresses over the shoulders. I have a good color and cough very seldom, if at all.

There are eighty girls here, and they are in general healthy, though sometimes a little homesick when their lessons are too difficult. They have not much taste for music. Very few can sing, and are satisfied if they can play a little dance music and sing a few ballads, and then are considered pretty, sweet and smart. That's the way it is out here in the country. It seems that it is quite different in the cities, especially in the northern cities.

The country here is beautiful, mountainous and wooded. The main building is very large, about 300 feet long, four stories high and on each side on each floor there is a covered gallery the whole length of the building and about 12 feet wide. Often in rainy weather I have walked myself tired in

these galleries, which are glorious, especially as they are shaded by the most beautiful trees that now are all green. The beautiful white and yellow acacia trees grow here and there with lovely and sweet-smelling flowers. We have an enormous mass of wild flowers. I am pressing all that I can get hold of. Several different caprifoliums, white lilies, and jasmines are here in great quantities, and are now in full bloom. The air is warmer than on the hottest summer days in Sweden.



*Limestone College (Lime Stone Springs, Female High School), Gaffney, South Carolina
(Courtesy of Swedish-American Historical Society)*

Soon now will be the first of May, which is a day of enchantment to the young ladies, as they are then allowed to invite five to six of their friends from the nearby cities. These invitations are sent out a month in advance. The Queen is elected and her four ladies-in-waiting. All the girls on this day are dressed in white with flowers. Twelve of the girls represent different flowers. The four seasons are then represented, and then the Queen is crowned. All this is done with royal pomp. The girls march in pairs to the throne, which is set in a beautiful pavilion on the lawn. Here is where the Queen is crowned, after which all the girls present flowers to her majesty, reciting a lovely little verse, to which the Queen answers in a long speech. We expect nearly 200 visitors here for the festivities. It will be quite

a lot of extra work for us teachers but I love it, as it is something new to me. Next week we have no school after Tuesday but we shall be very busy decorating the drawing rooms and the galleries with flowers and leaves.

Do you know, Malla, that I was making nearly 1000 *kronor* in salary for ten months' work. The rest of the year, when all the young ladies go home for Christmas and New Year, we have our vacation. The school is out on the 20th of December and does not resume until the 20th of February.

I am going to spend this time with the Hammarskjölds and rest. A family in one of the nearby towns wants me for a teacher for their two or three children, with a salary of 1200 *kronor*. Well, we shall see. Maybe I will accept this position next year, but do not mention anything yet, as I am not sure what I shall do. I cannot leave this job now and besides I feel so well here that I hesitate to make a change. Say Knut, the idea that only shopkeepers and businessmen can make fortunes here is not true. What do you think, Malla?

Our servants are all Negroes of both sexes. They are slaves, and more good-hearted people one will seldom see. They are willing and know their jobs. They have small dances and they dance with grace and ease. The men are lithe and muscular, sing their jolly folk songs very well and are for the most well-dressed, especially when one can see them strut in really elegant morning coats. The women for the most are well-built and dress very glamorously in hats and parasols, afraid to burn their brown skins any darker. They wear the same dresses as we do, sometimes even more elegant. White muslin they use a lot and its contrast is striking with their black faces, which have a great deal of character.

I must tell you that I am not as lazy as I used to be. I get up at five o'clock in the morning, when the chimes from a large bell awake me. The mornings are so glorious that it is a real pleasure to get up. But the poor girl students hate it. We go to bed not later than ten o'clock, but the girls have to retire at nine.

All together we have five women teachers and four male teachers, all of the latter studious old men, except Franz, who it would be a sin to say was studious!

You must excuse me, Malla, that this letter is so disconnected. The reason is really that I have not been able to write undisturbed. Yesterday, Sunday, I had to stop. Today is Monday when I have to work which only gives me two hours of leisure, but even then comes one after the other to talk to me about something and then my thoughts become upset and hard to retrieve.

O Malla, if you could feel the yearning which often grasps my soul, you would never risk to go away and leave Sweden. If I had known it, I doubt that I would have had the courage to leave my Father and Mother, my sisters and brother, all my dear friends. As I do not want to be homesick, I am trying only for moments but often to think of my home -- and not let my mind for long periods dwell on it.

The Hammarskjölds' home I consider like my own, and as Heddy is a student here in the school, I accompany her home once a month.⁸ We leave on Friday and are back Monday morning. They have a very lovely home, not a large house, but very nicely arranged and comfortable. The mill is large and is located along the bank of Broad River, which river banks are glorious, being covered with the most beautiful flowers and trees. We have discovered a path that follows the river for a couple of miles. It is simply entrancing and reminds me somewhat of Haga Park [near Stockholm]. The path is covered with the cleanest and whitest sand all done by nature itself. The river is full with large and small turtles and teeming with fish. The turtles during the middle of the day crawl out of the water and lay on the sand. Heddy and I got one from a Negro. This one was not much larger than a *viksdaker* [a silver dollar], unfortunately it died but the shell I shall save. I had one here that was as large as a saucer, but I let him go.

We have here some very beautiful birds, of most beautiful cornflower blue with yellow chest, red and yellow and golden yellow, yes all of the most brilliant colors, but they are not as good singers as ours. The only one that sings is the mockingbird, so called because it can imitate different noises and when it is tamed it can be taught to sing. I intend to get me one but they are very hard to keep.

May 11th 1851

Dearest Malla,

It is just two weeks since I wrote the beginning of this letter, which I intend to make quite long. So now I shall continue. I hope you will excuse me, if I should forget a little of my Swedish.

⁸ There was a small Swedish colony in South Carolina largely centered around the iron works of the Hammarskjöld family. It was because of the Swedes there that Hulda Hahr and her brother Franz came to South Carolina as tourists, not as emigrants. The two family homes were almost adjacent in Stockholm. One hundred years later, a descendant of this family, Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961), was secretary general of the United Nations. For details on the forty-eight Swedish passengers aboard the *Oregon*, who arrived in Savannah, GA from Stockholm on 20 December 1850, see Nils William Olsson and Erik Wikén, *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850* (Stockholm, 1995), 140, 457-61. See also Nils William Olsson, "Early Swedes in Charleston, SC," *Swedish American Genealogist* 17 (March 1997): 29-36.

The big May festivities are over. It was a wonderful day for the girls, but quite tiresome for the teachers who really went to a great deal of trouble. Before noon I made twenty flower wreaths and helped the girls with their costumes. I was really exhausted when the afternoon was over and the only pleasure I had was to see Aunt Hammarskjöld and Louise Nettelbladt who were there.⁹ Aunt Hammarskjöld spent the night with us and I went home with them the next day. They asked me to spend Sunday with them. I returned to my job Monday. I am now working hard with the girls as they have their examinations the 16th of July, when they have to show what they have learned.

Today is so hot that one can hardly breathe. I am sitting in my little chamber with the windows wide open, dressed in my sheerest negligee and perspire and pant while I write this. Oh! It is wonderful not to have to freeze. I am feeling really well but will regardless go back home again. Sometimes I wonder if I shall be welcome and not forgotten. I shall however write as often as I can in order to remind you of your "American Africana."¹⁰ I wonder in what part of the world I shall die?

Now I must say farewell to my dearest Darling Malla. Forgive this loosely written letter. Answer it as soon as you can. Write about everything and everybody, but most about yourself and Stephanie. Go and give Knut a big hug and thousand regards, the same to Uncle and Aunt Elias, and give my love to all my friends none named and none forgotten. Let me know if the little rose that I gave you and the one to Mr. Sternberg are still alive. Send my regards to him and also all of my men friends. Franz also sends his regards and please write soon to your

Hulda

oOo

The next letter Hulda wrote a year later and is addressed to Malla's husband, Knut Olivecrona.

Limestone, May 11th 1852

Dear Knut, Illustrious Signor Professor,

⁹ In 1860 Lovisa Mathilda Nettelbladt published a book about her travels in the United States entitled *En svenska i Amerika (A Swedish Lady in America)*. For more details, see Nils William Olsson, "The elusive anonyom of a Swedish lady in the ante-bellum South," *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly* 9 (April 1958): 60-68 and Olsson and Wikén, *SPAUS*, 457-60.

¹⁰ Hulda's full name was Jane Hulda Josefina Anna Maria Christina Africana Hahr. Africana refers to her African birthplace—Tripoli (Libya)—not her race; thus her reference to "your American Africana."

How many times must not you and my dear beloved Malla have wondered, yes, even been quite irked with me for not having answered the dear letters that I received in November last year. I have read and reread these letters time and again, and each time I have made up my mind to answer them, but on account of lack of time (you might not believe this but it is truth) I have had to postpone it until now when the days are longer and we therefore have more hours of leisure.

You can surely understand that it is not very pleasant to start a letter and before one can get one's thoughts together, have to leave it to argue with some dumb girls, or eat breakfast, dinner, or supper; and when one again returns to continue the letter one's thoughts are far away from the subject. However I am not writing the above as an excuse for my long unexplainable silence, which of course to you must have seemed quite peculiar. I hope however, dear Knut, that you have not come to the conclusion that my feelings for my friends in my Fatherland have cooled off or that I love you less. That could never happen even if I had to stay here for ten years (which I sincerely hope will never happen).

Your letter made me both happy and sad; happy because I could see that Malla and you had not forgotten me, and really missed me and even longed for me. That gladdened me so very, very much, but the thing that made me sad was that you seemed to give all sorts of reasons for my sudden departure, even that I left against the wishes of my parents. You must have thought me so heartless. Of course I had my own choice between, as they said, to stay at home an incurable invalid, maybe with one foot already in the grave, or go to America where I could regain my health and return home whenever I should wish. Was it so queer that I should choose the latter, especially when I found out that both Papa and Mamma had nothing whatsoever against my decision, instead they approved of this very important step? When I visited you in Uppsala, I can assure you that I had not the slightest intention of this journey. How could I have bid you all farewell so casually if I had known that I should be parted from you for so long?

Yes, I have a good mind to really continue and call you down, you mean old Knut, but just now I seem to remember that it is to a professor I have the honor to write. Please accept my most sincere congratulations. It was with real sincere pleasure that I received the notification about your promotion. I am only sorry that I could not have been with you and taken part in the festivities and orally expressed my happiness. Now I can only, God knows, be satisfied to write "my best wishes," with a prayer that sometime regardless of how busy you are, you will present me with a few kind words and let me know something about the fun that happens in Uppsala, if "HahrKrankarme" still exist in the noble Burg, hoping as I do

that they are now rid of all their meanness. Dear Knut, I promise that if you honor me with a letter, you shall not have very long to wait for the answer.

I wish that you now could see Limestone in all the glory. The trees are dressed in the freshest and luscious green foliage. The gardens are full of the loveliest flowers among which numerous roses, different kinds, are in full bloom. The air is warm, yes, too warm; just now a little thunderstorm has arrived to cool things off. Oh! I wish that I had you all over here to enjoy all this beauty which you in Sweden, this time of year, can hardly visualize. But such longings are in vain, besides you would not like to live over here.

Now you must give my love to Malla, and my darling Stephanie, and also little Victory. Give my regards to schoolmasters Stenberg, Staal, Bergstrom and all the rest of the gentlemen who still remember me. Do not be too mean to the students, do not torture them. How is little "Tuttiluren," is he still alive? And your dear brother, the brave Captain, is he ever going to get married? Does he still dip snuff? Please send him my love and tell him to get hold of a frigate and sail over here for a visit.

And now farewell, dear Knut, and thanks for your brotherly friendship. I pray that God will bless you and yours, thy true friend and sister,

Hulda

oOo

Enclosed in the same envelope with the above letter was a letter from Hulda to Malla.

Limestone, May 11th

Dear Sweet Malla,

I have now written a quite long and understandable letter to His Grace the professor, yes it was so understandable and serious (I did not dare do anything else) that I now must talk a little nonsense with you, my dear little Malla. I feel so warm and comfortable to talk to you, and to remind myself of the never-to-be-forgotten moments that I spent together with you in your lovely and peaceful home. Such memories, Malla!! It is not odd if they awake queer feelings of homesickness and emptiness. Shall I ever forget? No. NEVER!

We have eighty girls. If the measles had not visited us, we would have had a great many more, but they were afraid of this contagious disease. Nearly all the girls caught it. Some of them became quite ill. You can imagine twelve to sixteen girls at a time, and they are very difficult to nurse as they are rather spoiled youngsters, being accustomed to have their own

Negro maid wait on them, so when they arrived here they could hardly dress themselves. They live here two in a room and sometimes four in the large rooms. I have twelve girls in my department. Each morning I go through their rooms with a notebook in my hand; if something is not in order or the room untidy they get a bad mark and the same if they make too much noise when they go to bed. At nine o'clock p.m. the room bell rings, and then every one of them must be in their rooms, and not to stick their nose out without special permission. A half-hour later a little old Negro man with a bell appears. At its loud chimes all doors are opened and the girls stick their hands out holding their lamps, as they are not allowed to have lights on after that, not even a minute. After that everything is quiet as in the grave, and any conversation after that is noted down in the book, which each morning is turned over to Mrs. Curtis.¹¹ Everything goes according to rules, with precision and on time in everything; if not, it would be impossible to handle these unruly and proud American girls, even though some of them are not much more than children. Most of them, however, are between fifteen to nineteen years and look to be thirty-year-old matrons.

But now I am sure that you want to know something about our sweet little Rosalie.¹² She is now a well-established teacher in music and French and is getting along much better than I expected. She seems to thrive well and is fat. Has a ruddy complexion. She amuses herself with collecting wild flowers that she presses. She and Mr. Curtis get a lot of pleasure out of it. He has a class in botany. In all the rooms there are glass basins and water pitchers constantly full of flowers to be examined and then pressed. Mr. Curtis has promised the girl, who at examination can show the most beautiful herbarium, the best flora in the state. This has created quite a pleasant excitement among the contestants, but I am afraid it is causing a slight envy, when one girl happens to find more of some rarer flowers than another.

Rosalie has now nearly 150 different wild flowers all found hereabouts or near Broad River, whose banks are teeming with flowers. Rosalie and I have lots of fun together. To begin with she was rather sad and sentimental and had her reason, but now she is happy and full of fun. So far I have never heard her pining for home or regretting that she came over here. On the contrary, she says that it was her good luck that she came. Everybody likes

¹¹ Mrs. Curtis was the wife of William Curtis, who (with his father, Dr. Thomas Curtis) founded Limestone College.

¹² Rosalie Roos, a Swedish friend of Hulda Hahr, had come to teach at Limestone College. Letters to her family in Sweden describe her experiences as a teacher in the American South and mention Hulda and Franz Hahr. See Rosalie Roos, *Travels in America, 1851-1855*, ed. Carl L. Anderson (Southern Illinois University Press, 1982).

her and is very friendly to her. I can report to you, Malla, that the Swedish girls are very popular and well-liked, and their great talents greatly admired.

Oh, how sweet and warm it is. I am sitting at the open window. It is between eight and nine in the morning; the sky is clear and not a cloud. I hear the soft rustle of the leaves. The birds are all singing, the girls are running and jumping on the lawn and having a glorious time. It makes me feel real good. Oh, my God, how great and glorious it is. One cannot help to think of the Creator of all this beauty. It is difficult to enjoy all this by myself. How I wish that you all could be with me so that we, all together, could enjoy it.

A few times last year I had the pleasure to visit the Hammarskjölds at Cooperville, but they are not there anymore. My Uncle could not get along with the Company, there was intrigue against him and he resigned.¹³ He is now in charge of a big steel mill in North Carolina, about 36 miles from here. He says he will make more money in his new job. Carl, his only son, and Westman (who was his butler but has now been elevated to Mr. Westman) are both engaged as his assistants and the latter is now treated by them as their equal. All three are working hard. However as the house they were to live in was in pretty bad shape for my aunt and Heddy, they had to take a room in a boarding house at Limestone, a stone's throw from the school. She has a small room for two persons. The food they get is not anything to brag about, and neither is the room. The furniture is my Aunt's, which she took with her from her home. Poor dear Aunt. What she has suffered and lived through on account of her husband and she has borne it all with fortitude and devotion. Do you know she is an angel? There she sits alone all during the days while Heddy is at school. She works and sews all Heddy's clothes and her own. Still she seems always to be happy and in good humor. She has not the slightest chance to ever return to Sweden, which she now seems to realize, and which then makes her rather terrified.

Oh, I feel so sorry for all of them. Heddy seems to take matters calmly. She has been quite sick ever since November last year. Anemia -- an awful thing-- has weakened her a great deal. She has taken a lot of medicine but nothing seems to help her. I am afraid that it will turn into consumption, which is Auntie's greatest worry, as Heddy is her life and happiness. She is such a good and understanding girl and intends as soon as she can to be a teacher in order to be able to help her father; but his debts I am afraid are indeed too large to ever be paid. Nevertheless that is her aim and Auntie says that she will never get any peace before at least a small part has been paid. I

¹³ Hulda refers affectionately to the Hammarskjölds as Uncle and Aunt, or Auntie, but there was no blood relationship.

pray God that they will succeed. Their new home in North Carolina will be ready in July, when Auntie and Heddy will move over there. I shall miss them very much, as I now run over to see Auntie for a short chat every day. I hope though that after examinations in July I shall be able to visit her in her new home for a few days.

My dear [brother] Franz seems to thrive and enjoy himself. Looks very intelligent and serious, and holds the respect of his pupils. He carries on and stomps a lot during his lectures. I feel sorry for them. It is easy to see why he wears out his boots so quickly.

In Daddy's last letter he wrote that Knut was in Stockholm and was expected home the same evening. How glad I was to hear about Knut's promotion to full professor. You must be very happy, Malla, and your little angels must give you real happiness. God bless them, the little darlings. My little Stephanie I expect is now pretty big and sweet. Kiss her many, many times from her godmother.

You mentioned in your letter that you would like to have a mockingbird. I shall be glad to take two of them with me and try to bring them alive to Sweden, but I am afraid that the sea air might not agree with the young fledglings. We have dozens of them here. They sing almost constantly and it is nearly impossible not to believe that there are a lot of different kinds of birds singing. One cannot buy them here, but in Charleston they cost twenty dollars.

I spent last July in Georgia with Mrs. Curtis in her parents' home. I had a marvelous time; went around about the country and visited one place after another; everyone is friendly and hospitable. As for that matter everyone in general is, here in America. One nearly immediately feels at home. Everybody is frank and open. Not much formality.

In the country their way of living is simple and without much formality. Their homes are well-built and pleasant-looking. The rooms on the average are not large but have wide corridors. Furnishing is comfortable but simple, seldom any extravagance. The houses consist in general of the following rooms: a parlor, which is never used except to entertain visitors, a living room, dining room, and a large kitchen. The rest of the rooms are bedrooms and guests' rooms. The climate in Georgia is much warmer than here, though last winter was unusually cold. It even snowed during my visit there. However the snow melted immediately after the sun came out. This they called an unusually cold and terribly hard winter, the worst for many years. Here it has been very cold, and we feel it more, as the rooms can pretty well keep out the heat, but not the cold. Now, thank God, the

summer at last has arrived with its gloriously warm days. I feel like a pearl in a gold setting.

Soon the examinations will be here, only nine more weeks. All of us, both teachers and students, have quite an anticipation for this commencement. You can imagine, as there will be between 400 and 500 visitors here, that it is quite terrifying. The exams last for two days, the 16th and 17th of July, generally a Tuesday and Wednesday. The rest of the week is a furlough, but next Monday the routine starts again.

I just now remember that your professor cannot stand crossed letters. I am therefore seeing every page in this letter is first written horizontally and then vertically.

Good-bye, but still I must once more reprimand you for what you said about Rosalie. (Fie! on you Knut, you are pretty bad). No, do not believe such foolishness.

Please let me know how Knut looks as a professor and how the Eliases, Broxmanssons, Hvassers and all the rest of my friends are. Give them my heartiest love. I have promised Aunt Hammarskjöld to send a little note to the Baroness. Sweet Malla, please see that she gets it and add my most sincere regards. I have often asked Knut to give my regards to my men friends, but he probably forgot all about it. Please give my sincere regards to schoolmasters Stenberg and Staal. Even give my regards to Gustava, and now my dearest and most sincere love and tight embrace, and please write soon to your

Hulda

P. S. Dearest sweet Malla, please repay evil with good and do not punish me by letting me wait long for a letter from you. May I ask the professor to do the same. Please remind him or he will forget.

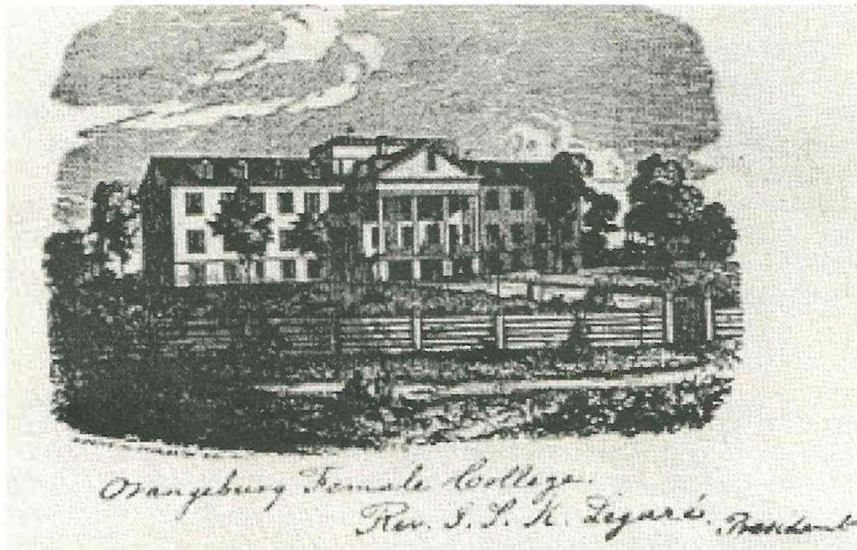
oOo

Malla Schenson Olivecrona died in 1854. Rosalie Roos, Hulda Hahr's friend, compatriot, and fellow teacher at Limestone College, returned to Sweden in 1855, and married Knut Olivecrona in 1857.

Hulda Hahr was born in Tripoli (in what is now Libya) 26 October 1828, the daughter of Adolf Hahr, consul general at the Swedish Embassy, and Charlotta Christina von Schéle. The first fifteen years of her life were spent in Tripoli. She was fluent in Arabic, Italian, French, German, English, and Swedish. Although Hulda and her brother, Franz Hahr, originally did not intend to remain in the United States, they both married and remained in the South, where they were caught up in the Civil War. Upon leaving Limestone College,

Hulda taught at Orangeburg Female School, also in South Carolina, where she met and married Professor William White Legaré in 1862. A highly skilled pianist and organist, she taught music at the several schools where Professor Legaré served as President. Hulda and William had one son, Julien, a physician. Hulda died at Rosemount Plantation, Forkland, Greene County, Alabama 18 August 1901.¹⁴

Franz Josef Hahr married Alice Mulvinal (Malvina) Hartman in North Carolina in 1859. Having had military school training in Sweden, Franz Josef became a Confederate officer during the Civil War. Franz and Alice both died in Greensboro, NC (in 1878 and 1873, respectively), where he was professor of fine arts at Greensboro Female School. Their five children, who were left as orphans after the deaths of their parents, were raised by Hulda and William Legaré. The youngest son, Wilhelm Hartman "William" Hahr (1872-1960), had one daughter who left no children. Of the four daughters, Emma Charlotta (1860-1898), Margaret Hulda (1868-1947) and Anna (Annie) von Schéele (1870-1961) married brothers James M., Evan P., and Herbert C. Dobbs, respectively. Daughter Selma (1866-1966) married Joseph S. Stewart.¹⁵



*Orangeburg Female College, Orangeburg, South Carolina
(Courtesy of Swedish-American Historical Society)*

¹⁴ Hahr, *Släkten Hahr*, 36.

¹⁵ L. M. V. Örnberg, *Svenska ättartal*, vols. I-XIV (Stockholm & Vadstena, 1884-1908), vol. IX, 211.

Search for the 'Old Country' Enriches Life in the New[†]

Larry Oakes*

This is the story of my yearlong search for my family and our history, here and in Sweden. With interest in genealogy at an all-time high, I'm sure my experience is not unique. But the millions who haven't tried should know that wondrous things can happen when you go digging for your roots. Here's what happened to me.

When I came kicking and screaming into this world in 1960, my parents named me Lawrence Victor Oakes, same as my dad, same as his dad.

I was still little when Dad told me the story of our name. Lawrence came from Grandpa, who died when I was 3. Victor came from Great-Grandpa, who died in the 1940s.

And Oakes was picked by Victor after he "got off the boat from the old country," Dad said. Until then Victor's last name was Ek, which is Swedish for "oak."

That's when I first became aware of that other world—the "old country." That's what my grandma called it, too. She came from Finland when she was little. But she didn't talk about it much, and when she did, she often called Finland "the old country," as if she'd forgotten the name or didn't want to say it out loud.

I decided it was a big deal to leave the old country. You even got a new name. When Victor died, his oldest son, Ernest, supplied the information for the death certificate. For birthplace, it just says "Sweden." For parents' names, it says "No record."

Family memory fades

I grew up, and I didn't think about the old country for years at a time. Once someone asked me what part of Sweden my people came from. I didn't know. I pictured a pastoral island. I imagined ancestors fishing with nets or plowing behind oxen. I never dreamed that I could know their names. I never dreamed their descendants might be wondering about me.

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(4-504)

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Victor Oak of Bayfield County, Wisconsin* has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the said State at *Wausau, Wisconsin* whereby it appears that Full Payment has been made by the said *Victor Oak* according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for *the South half of the North West quarter and the North half of the North East quarter of Section Fourteen in Township forty-eight North of Range nine West of the Principal Meridian in Wisconsin containing one hundred and sixty acres* according to the Correct Plat of the Survey of the said lands, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General, which said Tract has been purchased by the said *Victor Oak*

Now know ye, that the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, Have given and granted, and by these presents Do give and grant, unto the said *Victor Oak* and to his heirs, the said Tract above described; To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereto belonging, unto the said *Victor Oak* and to his heirs and assigns forever.

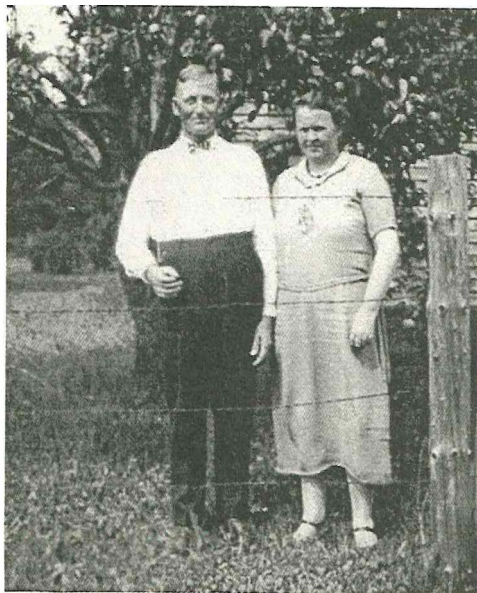
In testimony whereof, I, *Benjamin Harrison*, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be signed in my name, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the *Twenty-fifth* day of *January*, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *Ninety-two*, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and *Eighteenth*

By the President: *Benjamin Harrison*
 By the Register: *D. C. Roberts*

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A land patent granted to Victor Oak by the U.S. Government, on a homestead in Oulu, Wisconsin. Such records helped piece together Victor's first years in the U.S.



Victor and Jennie Oakes ca. late 1910s or early 1920s.

My dad had already told me all he knew. If Victor left any written record of life in the old country, it was lost. We had no pictures. Only one story from Victor's early life had passed through the seine of time and tight lips.

Victor apparently hadn't come alone; a brother was with him. They were hunting deer with miners' headlamps before the turn of the century. Someone shot toward them from down a trail or across a field. The brother was hit in the head and died. The story survived; the brother's name didn't.

As a kid I used the story to impress my friends. But that was a story from Wisconsin, not Sweden.

I had no Sweden stories. It was as though Victor had so forcefully pushed the old country out of his mind that the momentum was still carrying it away from mine.

But not without resistance.

I know now that the old country has a pull—and maybe not just on the people who left, but the people down the bloodline. It waits until you're ready, then it beckons.

Maybe it's the gravity of family, tugging the heart like the moon tugs the ocean. With me it struck like a northern pike hits a Dardevle lure, on a hot Sunday last August. My dad had asked me to come with him on a drive. It was a quick trip, just a few hours. But for me, just like for Victor, one trip changed a lot. We drove to Oulu Township, a half-hour east of Superior, Wis.

There, in the 1890s, on pretty rolling hills just south of Lake Superior, immigrant settlers staked some of the last claims filed under the U.S. Homestead Act. One was a Swede named Gustafson, who carved a "free" farm out of towering pines with his wife and two daughters.

We knew that much. And we knew daughter Jennie Gustafson married Victor, who was a foreman on a railroad crew in nearby Brule, Wis. She was my great-grandma. Dad remembered stories his dad told about visiting the farm as a boy—about walking 8 miles to get there from a railroad stop called Muskeg, about shooting grouse with black-powder shells that made a cloud of smoke.

Dad had never been there. Other than Jennie, we didn't even know the Gustafsons' first names. We searched three rural graveyards with no luck before someone told us to go see Ernest Rantala, one of Oulu's oldest people.

He couldn't tell us where the Gustafsons rested, but he knew the farm where they'd lived and worked. "House is still there," Rantala said. "A whole big family is living in it."

Touching the past

A few minutes later we were standing in the solid two-story house my great-great-grandparents built to replace the log cabin they started in. The newest owners, Gary and Dorothy Taylor, took us down to the basement and showed us the hand-hewn floor joists. I saw the adz marks.

"My great-great-grandfather made these," I thought. "His hands touched the same wood I'm touching 100 years later."

The Taylors took a picture of my dad and me, out front, where some big trees shaded the place. Leaning against one, I felt something that's hard to explain. It was a peaceful, together feeling, as though something that was rattling loose inside me had snapped into its socket.

Dad seemed to feel it, too. Back on the highway we chattered like a couple of magpies, wondering about the Gustafsons and about Victor. Why did they move halfway around the world? What was life like for them? Why didn't they pass on stories or write anything down? How did Victor and Jennie meet?

Things hadn't always been easy with me and my dad. Some—some might call them "issues"—had come between us, and for a while the history of the rock-faced Oakeses in our family album was the last thing I'd wanted to know.

Time had done what it usually does, and we were better. But that day in Oulu Township put us square, the way we hadn't been in a long time. And suddenly I wanted more—more information, more connectedness. More peace.

Maybe the old man knew what he was doing.

Since then I've gone stone by stone through a couple of dozen graveyards. I've written about a hundred letters. I've haunted a half-dozen courthouses. Two of my file drawers are now the province of genealogy, my new hobby, my labor of love.

I've learned names. I've copied records documenting births and weddings and deeds and deaths. I've discovered shirttail relations, including Marvel Priem, Grandpa Larry's last surviving cousin. She's 88 and nearly blind, but with her steel-trap mind she can see back 80 years. And she's a good storyteller. Under the spell of her words, long-dead relatives come to life and dance. I got her on tape.

Until I started looking backward, I never even knew who she was. I found her in an apartment building six blocks from my house in Duluth.

I make two copies of every discovery. I send one to my mom and dad in northern Minnesota and another to my brother in Ohio.

Each discovery is like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle. Each piece makes the picture clearer. It's a picture of my family. Not every part is pretty. But I can't stop turning over the pieces.

Carl Anton Gustafson and Hulda Gustafson—land records and death certificates finally yielded their first names—are buried side-by-side in a little cemetery next to Oulu's Swedish Baptist Church, where they were founding members.

Dad and I couldn't find them that day because the graves are unmarked. But a farm widow, Helen Kallinen, knelt with me in a sunbeam on her living-room floor and showed me their names and plot numbers in the brittle old cemetery book.

"The children should have given them a marker," said Dad, disgustedly, when I told him. But he thanked me for finding out. "Keep going," he said. "You're doing good."

Crossing the ocean

Most Americans can learn only so much family history from America. The trail stops at an ocean; on the other side is the old country.

In Minneapolis I walked out of the American Swedish Institute with \$150 worth of books on immigration, history, geography and genealogy.

I learned that one out of five Swedes—about 1.2 million in all—left their country for America between 1840 and 1930, part of the 35-million-person wave that marked the greatest migration in human history.

Industrialization and a population boom were eating up jobs and land in Europe. Swedish society had classes, with unequal restrictions on such things as land ownership and voting. And you asked for trouble if you tried to form any church other than Lutheran, the state religion and keeper of records. America's freedoms and bounty stood in stark contrast.

But the exodus tore families apart. Some kept in touch and even crossed the ocean again to visit. Most couldn't afford it. Some stopped writing, as if the old country had sunk into the sea behind them.

One slim volume told me that a wealth of information can be unearthed in Sweden's old parish records, once you know your ancestors' hometowns.

Finding my family's hometowns was easier said than done. Death certificates said only "Sweden." Same with the five-line obituaries I found in newspapers from the period. Ditto the U.S. Census records I examined on microfilm at the National Archives branch in Chicago, where I stopped while working on a story.

Victor's and Jennie's marriage license application, still on file after 100 years in the Douglas County (Wis.) courthouse, didn't have hometowns, either. But it had names of parents, penned in what appeared to be Victor's hand. Victor identified his as Gustaf and Anna Ek, formerly Anna Holmström.

Seeing those names, I felt that little click again, a warm little surge of excitement and relief. It happens every time I uncover another generation, every time I rescue more names and birthdates from smothered silence.

I went to Bell Brothers, the Duluth funeral home that buried several of my ancestors. Amazingly, they retained files showing everything from what time the hearse was called out to which songs were sung at the funerals.

Carl Anton Gustafson's file listed his hometown: Godegård, a farm community in the region of Östergötland.

Bell Brothers also had Victor's information: His birthplace line just said "Sweden." My namesake wasn't sharing his past easily.

The link was in a drawer

A few months later I was visiting a 95-year-old relative, who shall remain nameless because she doesn't like people to know her age. She had some old pictures in a drawer. And beneath them was the mother lode: important papers of Victor's, including original citizenship papers listing him as Victor Oak. And lo and behold, there was a single handwritten sheet that listed the birthplaces of Victor, Jennie and their four kids. It said Victor came from a town called Sala.

Here's the part of my story that is almost magic.

I went home that night and got on the Internet. I typed "Sala Sweden" into a search engine. It was the password that opened the secret door. Within seconds I was looking at the Web site for my great-grandfather's hometown.

It was all in Swedish, but it had an inviting picture of a little building, a stream and a bridge. And at the bottom of the page was an "e-post" icon. I clicked on it and wrote:

"Dear Sir or Madame: Please forgive that I write only English. I am an American named Larry Oakes. My great-grandfather was Victor Ek, who was born in Sala on May 8, 1868, or 1869. His father was Gustaf Ek.... "

Victor Ek left Sweden in the 1880s, and went to America, where he changed his name to Oak, and, later, Oakes. I know nothing of my family who remained in Sweden, but I am eager to learn of them and meet my relatives."

I asked that my e-mail be forwarded to anyone who might be able to help, and gave my address. I paused. I had no evidence that Victor ever wrote home. It might have been 110 years since an Ek in the New World communicated with an Ek in the old.

I hit the send icon. I half-expected thunder. Instead, my screen silently said, "Your mail has been sent."

A full-court shot


Let's face it. Those wishes we make on stars seldom bring the results we dream of. I knew my attempt to find relatives at the end of a trail that had grown cold for 110 years was nothing more than a prayer, a full-court shot at the buzzer. But I saw a kid sink one of those shots during a big game back in high school. Hopes and basketballs can't help but soar. And once in a blue moon, your craziest wish is God's command.

A large envelope was waiting in my mailbox three weeks later, a drizzly day in March. I saw the strange stamps and "U.S.A." on the front and did one of those little catch breaths. Then I saw the name on the return address: Ihrene Ek.

I sat down and just looked at it for a while. A tear or two rimmed my eyes as I carefully tore open the flap and began to read:



Victor Oakes shortly after arriving in the United States in 1888.

United States of America.
STATE OF WISCONSIN
County of Douglas.  Superior Court.

Certificate of Citizenship.

Be it Remembered, That on the 31st day of August
in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Six
Victor Oak
appeared in the Superior Court aforesaid, said Court being a Court of Record having a common law jurisdiction and a clerk and seal, and applied to said Court to be admitted to become

A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

in pursuance to the several acts of the Congress of the United States of America, for that purpose made and provided, and the said applicant having thereupon produced to the Court such evidence and taken such oaths as are by the said acts required, and having also duly produced to the said Court the evidence, and he and his witnesses having made the affidavits required by an act of Congress of the United States of America entitled "An Act to Regulate the Immigration of Aliens into the United States," approved March 3, 1893, which said affidavits were duly recorded upon the records of said County thereupon it was ordered by the said Court that said applicant be admitted and he was accordingly admitted by the said Court to be a citizen of the United States of America.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The Seal of the said Court is hereunto affixed this 31st day of August One Thousand Nine Hundred and Six in the 13th year of our Independence.

By J. S. Squires Clerk.
Geo. Marley Deputy.

Certificate of Citizenship issued to Victor Oak that was recently found in a drawer of documents in a relative's home.

"Dear Relative," it said in English. "I was born in Sala 1957. I work as an X-ray nurse in Avesta hospital 35 km from Sala. I live in a little village between those cities. I have two children.

"My greatest interest is family genealogy, so you can imagine my surprise when a woman from Sala called me and told me about your letter. I have some information about your [our] relatives...."

The letter went on for six pages, both sides. Victor's silence was shattering all over my kitchen floor. Here's what she told me: The Eks in Sala go back at least to 1799, the year Victor's grandfather, Anders Ek, was born. Anders was Ihrene's great-great-great-grandfather, and mine. He had children with two women, forming two branches of Eks in Sala. I came from one branch, Ihrene from the other.

Victor's dad and grandfather, like most men in Sala from the 1500s through the 1800s, worked underground in the town's silver mine, now a major tourist attraction in the town of 12,000.

Not fishermen, I thought. Not farmers. Silver miners.

Turns out Victor changed not only his last name but his first; he was born Gustaf Victor Ek, one of five children. His older brother—it must be the one who was shot—was Carl Johan Ek. Ihrene said she'd seen records that showed he moved to North America in 1887, one year before Victor.

1868	5	10	17	Gustaf Victor	Gustaf Ek Ulrika Charlotta Holmström	136 7.9.
1868	8. Maj	17.		Gustaf Victor	ps. Yngve Christen	

Gustaf Victor Ek was born 8 May 1868, the son of Gustaf Ek and Ulrika Charlotta Holmström. Birth and Christening Record (Födelse- och Doplängd), Sala Stads Parish (Väst.) 1868, No. 40.

1888							Utflyttnings-Längd		
År	Månad	År	År	De utflyttades namn, stånd, evakole, yrke.	Ställe, hvarestän utflyttad.	Ort, hvarestän utflyttad. Stocken i Lång, Stad.	År	Månad	År
87	7	1888	8	Anders Son Dahlberg	Åkers	Stockholm			64
88	8	1888	8	Gustaf Victor Ek	Åkers	Stockholm			64
88	7	1888	8	Anders Carlsson	Åkers	Stockholm			64

Gustaf Victor Ek's moving out record (Utflyttningslängd), Sala Stads Parish (Väst.), 1888, No. 82.

Victor was brought up in a cottage in Sjöbo, a lakeside village on the outskirts of Sala. Ihrene said that after getting my e-mail she visited the cottage, which is still there and still being used.

"I will stop here but you will hear from me again. I have often been thinking of this 'Oak-branch over there,' how their lives became and so on. So when I heard of your letter, it was like a wish that came true. I send you many greetings and I really look forward to an answer."

Boy, did she get one.

I sent her a long letter with a detailed history of the American "Oak branch" as best I knew it. I enclosed copies of Victor's important papers. I included pictures of our families—Victor's, his kids', my dad's, mine. I asked her all kinds of questions. I thanked her.

A sudden river of letters

Ihrene sent me pictures of her husband and children, her ancestors and a special treasure: a picture of the cottage where Victor was born, with his brother Klas and a housekeeper in front.



Victor Ek was born in this cottage in Sjöbo, Sweden, in 1868. Standing in front are Victor's brother, Klas Ek, and the housekeeper, Stina Charlotta Norström.

In June, Ihrene sent a card with little blue flowers pressed inside. "In Springtime the ground is covered with these," she wrote.

I've also been getting genealogy reports from Maj-Britt Johansson, a retired nurse who frequents Sala City Hall and was the one who passed my e-mail to Ihrene, whom she knew.

Between those two and a professional genealogist from Uppsala whom I hired via e-mail, I now have history on the Sala ancestors dating back to 1717, complete with copies of death certificates, wills, fascinating inventories of meager estates ("one cow, two water buckets, one kettle...") and entries about the Eks from the invaluable annual household examination reports kept for centuries by every parish in Sweden.

Meanwhile, I e-mailed the regional archive in Östergötland, which for a fee chronicled and sent the history of the Godegård branch of the family back to 1794, although I have yet to find any of their Swedish descendants.

I've started following other family branches, including my mom's and my wife's, with roots in Norway and Finland.

And I still have some loose ends to tie off. My dad, my brother and I plan to buy a stone to finally mark the graves of Carl and Hulda Gustafson. Besides the usual names and dates, I'd like it to say, "Swedish Immigrants; Oulu Pioneers."

I'd like to think that my family won't lose track of them again.

The resting place of Victor's fallen brother, Carl Johan Ek, still eludes me. I haven't found his death certificate, either. But I haven't given up. Old newspapers might have the tragic story.

Ihrene and Maj-Britt have traced Victor's sister, Hilda Augusta, and her husband to the town of Norrköping in 1945. They had two daughters, who would probably be dead by now. If those daughters had children, I have no doubt that Ihrene and Maj-Britt will find them. Maybe they have letters Victor sent from America. Maybe we will finally hear in Victor's words the answers to some of our questions.

My wife, a bemused witness to my obsession this past year, said: "I guess there's no need for us to discuss where we're going on our next trip." With help from a Berlitz tape, we have already learned to say, "I would like a glass of red wine, please."

"We have to go," said my brother.

"It's inevitable," said Dad.

It's remarkable, us talking this way. Never in the 20 years since we kids grew up has anyone in our family suggested that we take a vacation together, let alone to Europe.

But I believe we'll do it, and soon. The pull of the old country is strong on us now, and we have a lot of catching up to do.

I'd like to schedule our flight for nighttime, during a full moon. That way we can watch it sparkle on the ocean that carried our family to the New World so long ago.

Suspended between the lift of wings and the pull of ancient earth, we'll sail on moonbeams to our ancestral home.

Ahnentafel XLVI.

John Erich Gustav Ohlsson

John Allan Ohlsson and Wayne Gustav Ohlsson*

1. **Ohlsson, John Erich Gustav**, b. Stordalen (near Abisko), Jukkasjärvi Parish (Nbn.) 28 March 1909; carpenter; m. Iron River, Iron County, Michigan 28 November 1934 **Hildur Elin Soderquist**, b. Bates Township, Iron County, Michigan 25 December 1913, dau. Johan Emil Söderqvist (John Emil Soderquist) (1877-1953) and Ester Elisabeth Andersdotter (1885-1974).

I.

2. **Ohlsson, Berndt Anton**, b. Ånn, Åre Parish (Jämt.) 22 August 1878; railroad supervisor (*banmästare*); d. Umeå (Vbn.) 21 December 1952; m.
3. **Carlsson, Julia Kristina**, b. Trollsåsen, Näskott Parish (Jämt.) 2 February 1879; d. Umeå (Vbn.) 21 March 1969.

II.

4. **Eliasson, Nils Olof** (alias Ole Eliassen Færsdal [in Norwegian records] and Ole Eliassen Meråkernaes [in Swedish records]), b. Meråker, Øvre Stjørdal Parish (Nord-Trøndelag Fylke), Norway 14 April 1849; d. Duved, Åre Parish 3 April 1927; m. Åre Parish 3 June 1872
5. **Sandnes, Karin Nilsdatter**, b. Sul, Verdal (Nord-Trøndelag Fylke), Norway 24 March 1847; d. Jämtland 1921.
6. **Carlsson, Jonas**, b. Rödön Parish (Jämt.) 12 November 1859; railroad supervisor (*banmästare*); d. Älvsby Parish (Nbn.) 1951; m.
7. **Jonsdotter, Cristina**, b. Aspås Parish (Jämt.) 16 September 1856; d. Älvsby Parish 1941.

III.

8. **Lilleelven, Elias Olssen**, b. Stjørdal (Nord-Trøndelag Fylke), Norway 8 November 1823; m.
9. **Gilland, Margrete Pedersdatter**, b. Norway 14 April 1824.
10. **Brändmo, Nils Rasmussen**, b. Lillemoen, Norway 1810; m.
11. **Samuelsdatter, Beret**, b. 1819; d. 1876.
12. **Örbom, Karl Gustafsson**, b. Faxälven, Näskott Parish 14 February 1826; d. 1863; m. 18 November 1853

* John Allan Ohlsson and Wayne Gustav Ohlsson, sons of John Erich Gustav Ohlsson, reside at 300 Camelot Way, Rochester, MI 48306 and 3 Poker Hill Road, Underhill, VT 05489, respectively.

13. **Gudfastsdotter, Juliana**, b. Faxälven, Näskott Parish 19 April 1830.
14. **Tand, Jonas Henriksson**, b. Berg Parish (Jämt.) 1819; d. Aspås Parish 28 February 1858; m.
15. **Jonsdotter, Brita**, b. 15 May 1822; d. 21 August 1901.

IV.

16. **Lilleelven, Ole Johnsen**, b. Stjørdal, Norway 1777; d. Norway 16 April 1860; m. 28 June 1829
17. **Tæveldal, Beret Hansdatter**, b. Norway 1800; d. Norway 4 September 1887.
22. **Mikelsen, Samuel**; m.
23. **Jensdatter, Ellen**, b. 1796; d. 1868.
24. **Örbom, Gustaf Herman**, b. Sösjö, Bräcke Parish (Jämt.) 18 November 1793; d. 1846; m. 1818
25. **Nilsdotter, Kerstin**, b. 1795.
26. **Gudfastsson, Gudfast**, b. Faxälven, Näskott Parish 11 June 1797; free farmer (*bonde*); m. 6 June 1848
27. **Kjelsdotter, Brita**, b. 12 June 1807.
28. **Löfvenberg, Henrik**, b. Rätan Parish (Jämt.) 1789; d. 1856; m.
29. **Jonsdotter, Märta**, b. Sveg Parish (Jämt.) 1793.
30. **Pehrsson, Jon**, b. 1789; m.
31. **Pehrsdotter, Kerstin**, b. Smedsåsen, Näskott Parish 1789.

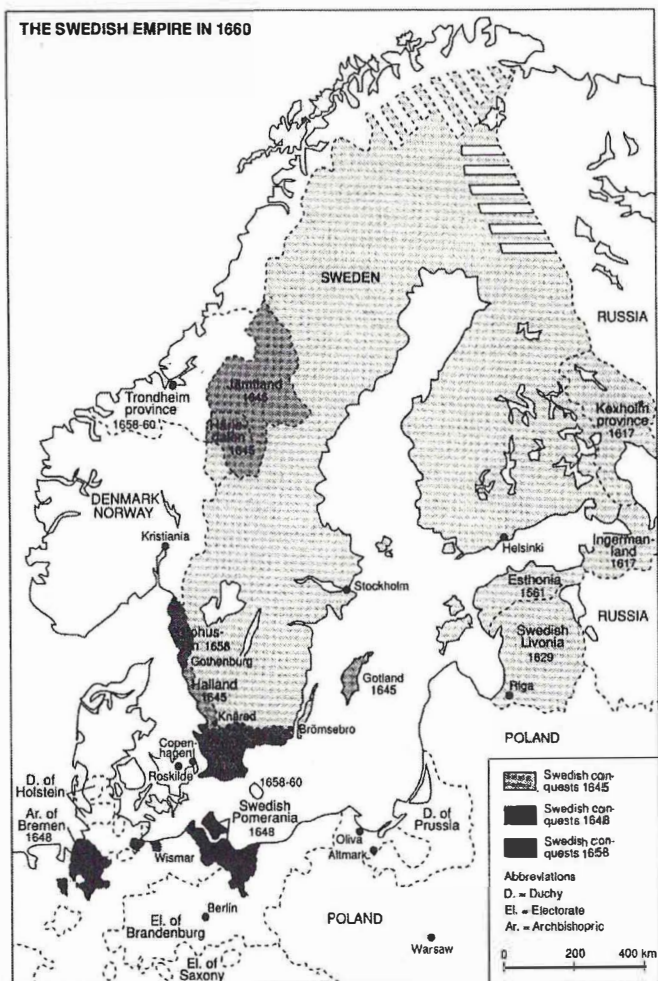
V.

32. **Olssen, John**, b. Røros (Sør-Trøndelag Fylke), Norway 1754; m.
33. **Henriksdatter, Abelone**, b. Norway 1756.; d. 10 February 1845.
44. **Eriksen, Mikel**, b. Sul, Verdal, Norway ca. 1753; d. 1800; m.
45. **Ridderberg, Brita**, b. Sul, Verdal, Norway 1753.
48. **Örbom, Carl Magnus**, b. Landsom, Ås Parish (Jämt.) 13 September 1766; noncommissioned officer (*furir*); d. 1843; m.
49. **Hemmingsdotter, Katarina**, b. Ås Parish 22 September 1769.
56. **Löfberg, Henrik**; m.
57. **Jonsdotter, Anna**.
62. **Astemsson, Pehr Källberg**, b. Kälen, Rödön Parish; m.
63. **Ersdotter, Ingeborg**, b. 1762.

VI.

90. **Ridderberg, Samuel**, b. Skinnskatteberg (Väst.) 1734; d. Sul, Verdal, Norway 1804; m.
91. **Essing, Brita**, b. 1731; d. 1753.
96. **Örbom, Captain Gustaf**, b. Captain Ekenstierna's estate, Jämtland 1733; sergeant major (*fältväbel*), Jämtland's regiment; d. Lillviken, Brunflo Parish (Jämt.) 1807; m. 1762

97. **Winnberg, Sophia Lovisa**, b. Blasieholmen, Stockholm 31 May 1744; d. Lillviken, Brunflo Parish 1807.
124. **Svensson, Esten**, b. 1734; m.
125. **Pärsson, Brita**.



(Map courtesy of the Swedish Institute, Stockholm)

VII.

182. **Essing, Måns**, b. Åre Parish ca. 1684; d. 1772; m.
183. **Nilsson, Agnes**, b. Åre Parish 1690; d. 1767.

192. **Örbom, Anders**, b. Örebro 9 May 1675; cavalry captain (*ryttmästare*) and chief of the cavalry squadron (*skvadronchef*) of Jämtlands dragoner; was the first to use the surname Örbom, which is taken (in part) from the city of Örebro; took part in the campaigns of Seeland (1700), the crossing of the Dvina (Duma) River (1701), and the battles of Klissov (1702), Holofzin (Holowczyn) (1708) and Poltava (1709); was taken prisoner by the Russians at the Dnepr River 1 July 1709 and transferred to Siberia; returned home 1722; lived at Brunflo and Rödön Parishes in Jämtland; d. Rödön Parish (Jämt.) 25 May 1744; m. Solikamsk, Siberia 5 September 1719
193. **von Rohr, Anna Elisabeth**, b. Kexholm(?), Karelia 22 January 1700/01; d. Jämtland 8 September 1767.
194. **Winnberg, Eric Johansson**, b. Rissviken (Riswiken), Solna Parish, (Stock.) 30 November 1696; d. Brunflo Parish 14 April 1778; m. 5 February 1736
195. **Tranberg, Anna**, d. Stockholm 26 January 1747.

VIII.

384. **Brask**, was living in the 1670s; merchant and councilman/city judge (*handlande och rådman*) in Örebro.
386. **von Rohr, Joakim**, b. Svida, Ingermanland 23 January 1677/78; lieutenant colonel; d. Dalarö redoubt/fortlet (*skans*) near Stockholm 19 September 1757; m. 4 February 1699/00
387. **Klingenberg, Catharina Charlotta**, b. Ingermanland 15 August 1680; d. Dalarö 15 February 1758.
388. **Winnberg, Johann Ersson**, b. Rissviken (Riswiken), Solna Parish, (Stock.) 24 March 1623/24; forester at Djurgården (*djurgårdsvaktare*); d. Rissviken 28 August 1727; m.
389. **Alander, Sara Göransdotter**, b. Njurunda and Sundsvall area in Väster-norrland ca. 1667; d. prior to December 1722.
390. **Tranberg, Peter**, (*kronobefallningsman*).

IX.

772. **von Rohr, Hans Christoffer**, b. Svida, Ingermanland 2 March 1626/27; captain; d. in the battle at Narva, Ingermanland 20 November 1700; m.
773. **Cronman, Anna Catharina**, b. Narva, Ingermanland ca. 1658; d. (in childbirth) Svida, Ingermanland 3 December 1685.
774. **Klingenberg, Johan**, b. Kexholm, Karelia ca. 1630; captain of M. Vellingk's regiment in Ingermanland, 1680; d. ca. 1684; m.
775. **Vellingk, Catharina Elisabet**, b. ca. 1645.
776. **Bysseskytt, Eric Jönsson**, b. Sankt Nicolai Parish, Stockholm 1594; captain in the Technical Corp (*fälttygmästare*), Tre Kronor Castle, Stockholm; captain and commander of artillery, Riga Castle; captain of

artillery, Regiment of Col. Åke Oxenstierna; probably killed during the Thirty Years War in the Baltic or Germany; m.

777. **Andersdotter, Margareta.**

778. **Alander, Georg Göransson;** m.

779. **Ædenia, Anna Jönsdotter.**

X.

1544. **von Rohr, Georg,** b. Ingermanland 8 May 1550; captain; hereditary liege lord of Freienstein, Meyenburg, Neuhausen, Dremnitz and Leddin; d. Svida, Ingermanland 30 November 1632; m. 1621

1545. **von Fleeten, Margareta,** b. Narva, Ingermanland 9 March 1599/00; d. Narva 15 December 1655.

1546. **Cronman, Joakim,** colonel and commandant (*kommendant*) of Neumuende redoubt/fortlet (*skans*), Livonia; d. 5 March 1702/03; m. Göteborg 9 August 1657

1547. **Makelér, Lunetta,** d. 1693.

1548. **Klingenberg, Major Jöns Eriksson,** b. Östergötland ca. 1595; castle commander at Kexholm, Karelia; d. 1649; m.

1549. **von Treiden, Dorotea.**

1550. **Vellingk, Gotthard,** b. ca. 1619; governor, lord to Gewa; m.

1551. **von Treiden, Kristina,** b. ca. 1623.

1558. **Ædenius, Johannes Svenonis,** b. Edsåker, Ljustorp Parish (Gävl.) ca. 1607; rector (*kyrkoherde*) in Njurunda Parish (Vn.); d. 8 November 1559; m.

1559. **Gammal, Anna Månsdotter,** d. 10 December 1686.

XI.

3088. **von Rohr, Hans,** b. 1 January 1484/85; councilor to the Electorate of Brandenburg, hereditary liege lord of Freienstein, Meyenburg, Neuhausen, Dremnitz, and Leddin; d. 7 September 1569; m. 7 August 1545

3089. **von Arnim, Lovisa Eleonora,** b. 7 December 1494; d. 3 February 1564/65.

3090. **von Fleeten, Colonel Hans,** b. Narva, Ingermanland ca. 1586.

3092. **Cronman, Hans Detterman,** b. ca. 1600; raised to peerage (Sweden) in 1640, defense commissary in Livonia; m.

3093. **Kordes, Ursula,** b. Narva, Ingermanland ca. 1604; d. 1675.

3094. **Maclean, John** (alias Hans Makeleir/Mac[k]lier), b. Dowart/Duart (a castle on the east side of the Island of Mull), Scotland; aided in the building of Göteborg; enobled by Queen Christina in 1649 under the name of Makelér; d. Göteborg 1666; m. Göteborg 1629

3095. **Gubbertz, Anna,** b. Stockholm; d. Göteborg 1653.

3100. **Vellingk, Gotthard;** mayor of Riga, Livonia; living in 1610; m.

3101. **von Kanne, Catharina.**

XII.

6178. **von Arnim, Joakim.**
 6186. **Kordes, Joakim**, b. Narva, Ingermanland ca. 1572; m.
 6187. **Gantschau, Ursula**, b. Narva, Ingermanland ca. 1576.
 6188. **Maclean, Hector Og**, b. Dowart, Scotland; d. Scotland 1623; m.
 6189. **Acheson, Isabelle.**
 6190. **Gubbertz, Hans**; burgher in Stockholm; m.
 6191. **von Quickelberg, Maicken.**
 6200. **Vellingk, Gotthard**, mayor of Riga, Livonia; d. 1586; m.
 6201. **Rigeman, Vendela.**
 6202. **von Kanne, Otto**; m.
 6203. **von Vegesack, Elisabeth.**

XIII.

12376. **Maclean, Sir Lachlan Mor**, b. Dowart, Scotland; distinguished chieftain who fought at the battle of Glenlivet 1594; d. at the battle of Traigh-Ghruinneirt in Isla 5 August 1598; m.
 12377. **Cunningham, Lady Margaret**, dau. of 6th Earl of Glencairn; b. Scotland; d. Scotland.
 12378. **Acheson, Sir Archibald**, of Gosford.
 12400. **Vellingk, Filip**, royal councilor in Kurland; m.
 12401. **von Tepel, Margareta.**

XIV.

24752. **Maclean, Hector Og**; d. 1573; m. 1557
 24753. **Campbell, Lady Janet**, dau. of 4th Earl of Argyll.
 24754. **Cunningham, William**; m.
 24755. **Gordon, Janet.**
 24756. **Acheson, Captain Patrick**, of Edinburgh.

Sources

- Letter from Randi Podsada Leer, Statsarkivet i Trondheim to Gustav Ohlsson 2 April 1998.
 Letter from Stephan Haggström, Landsarkivet i Östersund to Gustav Ohlsson.
 Norwegian bygdebøk (rural chronicle) for Stjørdal, Vol. VI, part II, 301-302.
 George F. Black, *The Surnames of Scotland* (New York, 1971), 536.
 Sir John Bernard Burke, *Burkes' Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage, Baronetage and Knightage*. 105th ed. (London: Burke's Peerage Limited, 1970), 1712-13.
 Leonard Bygdén, *Hämösands stifts herdaminne* I-IV (Uppsala and Stockholm, 1923-26).
 Sir Robert Douglas, *The Peerage of Scotland*, 2nd ed. Rev. and Cor. with a continuation to the present period by John Philip Wood (Edinburgh: G. Ramsay, 1813).
 Gustaf Elgenstierna, *Den introducerade Svenska adelns ättartavlor* I-IX (Stockholm, 1925-36).
 Adam Lewenhaupt, *Karl XII:s officerare* (Stockholm, 1920), 796.
 Inger Jönsson Qvarnström, *Essing och Randklef släkten*. (Jämtland: Bräcke Tryckeri, 1996).
 Erik Johansson Winnberg, *Släkten Winnbergs Krönika* (n.p., n.d.)

Inheritance Cases in the Archives of the Swedish Foreign Ministry of Swedes Who Died in America. Addendum

Nils William Olsson and Ted Rosvall

The following names were inadvertently omitted from the original list:

Johnson, Lars, see **Jönsson, Lars**.

Källerson, Gustaf, see **Chilton, Gustaf**.

The following represents corrected information from page 172:

Strand, Johannes (alias **Ahlstrand, Johan Magnus**). B. in Dusagården, Borlanda, Söraby Parish (Kron.) 4 Sept. 1833; d. in Campello (now Brockton), MA in 1873. - W #92.

The following abbreviations were used throughout the four-part series:

Dossiers

Diverse or Miscellaneous (D); New York (NY); San Francisco (SF); Washington, D.C. (W).

Swedish Counties (*län*)

Blek.	Bleking	Kopp.	Kopparberg	Upps.	Uppsala
Gotl.	Gotland	Krist.	Kristianstad	Vbn.	Västerbotten
Gävl.	Gävleborg	Kron.	Kronoberg	Vn.	Västernorrland
Göt.	Göteborg/Bohus	Malm.	Malmöhus	Värm.	Värmland
Hall.	Halland	Norr.	Norrboten	Väst.	Västmanland
Jämt.	Jämtland	Skar.	Skaraborg	Älvs.	Älvsborg
Jön.	Jönköping	Stock.	Stockholm	Öre.	Örebro
Kalm.	Kalmar	Söd.	Södermanland	Ög.	Östergötland

Bibliography

SAÄ = Gustaf Elgenstierna. *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*, I-IX (Stockholm, 1923-1936)

SKL = *Svenskt konstnärslexikon*, I-V (Malmö, 1952-1967)

SMK = *Svenska män och kvinnor*, I-VIII (Stockholm, 1942-1955)

SPAUS = Nils William Olsson and Erik Wikén. *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850* (Stockholm, 1995)

Swedish Emigrant Institute's Research Scholarship 1999

Ulf Beijbom*

The Swedish Emigrant Institute (SEI) is hereby inviting scholars and students in migration research to spend one to six months during 1999 at The House of Emigrants in Våxjö, Sweden's national archives, library and museum on emigration and keeper of Europe's most comprehensive collections on emigration from one single country. The SEI maintains close cooperation with the University of Våxjö.

The scholarship is intended to finance individuals whose migration research completely or partly deals with Sweden, Swedish conditions, or the influence of Swedish immigrants in other countries, overseas as well as European. Applicants should be enrolled with a university or college or other institution of academic character. The scholarship can be awarded to non-academic researchers if their research, in the opinion of the Board of Swedish Emigrant Institute, is considered especially important and innovative.

The scholarship does not include transportation to and from Våxjö, Sweden, but it does cover full accommodations in Våxjö and necessary travel expenses within Sweden during the stipend period. The scholarship is SEK 10,000 per month or, currently, the equivalent of U.S. \$1,280 per month.

In addition to a detailed description of the research project, applications should contain the applicant's name, age, address and curriculum vitae. Letters of support are welcome. Applications should be sent to:

The Swedish Emigrant Institute
Box 201
S-351 04 Våxjö
SWEDEN

Telephone: 46-470-210 20

Fax: 46-470-394 16

The closing date for applications is February 15, 1999.

* Dr. Ulf Beijbom is the Managing Director of the Swedish Emigrant Institute (Svenska Emigrantinstitutet).

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.

Bergström

I am looking for information regarding Carl Gunnar Bergström, who was b. in Borlänge (Kopp.) 13 February 1894, the son of Carl August Bergström and Gustava Wikström. Gunnar emigrated in the 1920s and settled first in Minneapolis, where he lived for a short time with the families of two of his sisters—his twin sister, Anna Bergström Swanson, and his older sister, Hannah Bergström Dahlström. He left Minneapolis but never again contacted his family, either in Minnesota or Sweden. One second-hand report indicated that he may have moved to Florida in the 1940s or 1950s to work as a greenskeeper at golf courses. Does anyone have any information about what happened to Gunnar?

Kevin Proescholdt
2833 43rd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

1156

Blomqvist, Bloom

I am writing to ask for assistance in locating information on my father and his family. His name was Erik Blomqvist and he was b. in Vänersborg Parish (Skar.) 6 May 1876. He came to the U.S. when he was seventeen years old. Upon arrival in New York, immigration officers changed his first and last names; he became Edward Bloom.

He married, had eight children, and died on 17 March 1957. I am the youngest of his children and the only one surviving. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren wish to learn more of his family in Sweden. We are in the process of assembling a family tree and want to give it Swedish roots. We would appreciate information on his parents' names, their dates of birth and death, and names of brothers or sisters or any other data that are available.

Richard W. Bloom
2605 Cleveland Blvd.
Lorain, OH 44052

1157

Carlson, Johannson (Janson), Ekke

I am searching for any information about the family of Frank Elof Carlson and his wife, Johanna Erica Johannson (Janson), who emigrated from Sweden and arrived in Chicago 2 July 1881. Frank and Johanna were b. 8 March 1853 and 19 March 1855, respectively. On Frank's death certificate, his father's name is listed as Carl Ekke. I do not know their places of birth, although we do have mention of the cities of Malmö and Dexio [Växjö?].

They eventually settled in Lincoln County, Wisconsin and, in 1905, moved to Augusta, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. I would like information on their birthplaces, their families (ancestors, siblings, and/or descendants) in Sweden, and their ports of embarkation and debarkation. Any help would be appreciated.

Barbara Meeker
3821 Boardwalk Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701-8416

1158

Andersson, Zakrisdotter, Jonasson, Nilsson, Nilsson, Nilsson, Gabrielsdotter, Johansdotter, Svensson, Isaksson, Carlsdotter

I am seeking information on my relatives who emigr. from the parishes of Vetlanda, Mellby and Eksjö in Jönköping *län* in the late 1800s.

1. Carl Johan Andersson was b. 7 March 1839. He m. Sofia Zakrisdotter, b. 17 February 1840. Their children were Carl Oscar, b. 1 December 1868, and Hilma Sofia, b. 1 December 1864. The family immigr. to Ottumwa, IA in 1876.

2. August Jonasson was b. 12 December 1857. He immigr. to Iowa in 1880.

3. Johanna Nilssondotter Andersson/Nilsson was b. 20 September 1829. Her children were Carl Emil Frithiof Nilsson, b. 27 February 1860, and Gustaf Reinhold Nilsson, b. 21 June 1865. Johanna and Gustaf immigr. to Chicago in 1871. Carl Emil Frithiof arrived in the U.S. in 1880.

4. Maja Lisa Nilssondotter, b. 3 June 1823, immigr. to Ottumwa, IA in 1871.

5. Lovisa Nilssondotter, b. 16 May 1834, immigr. to Minnesota in 1868.

6. Eva Catharina Gabrielsdotter was b. 9 January 1822. She and her dau., Anna Lovisa Johansdotter, b. 4 March 1855, immigr. to Albia, IA in 1876.

7. Christina Sofia Johansdotter, a sister of Anna Lovisa (see No. 6), was b. 10 September 1851. She emigr. in 1874.

8. Carl Anders Svensson/Isaksson/Andersson, b. 23 September 1859, emigr. in 1888.

9. Selma Catharina Carlsdotter, b. 10 July 1867, emigr. in 1891.

R. D. Nelson
5408 South Brandon
Seattle, WA 98118-2525

1159

Petersson, Magnidotter

Where in the U.S. did the family of Jonas Petersson (2nd husband) and Sara Christina Magnidotter settle? The family left Väckelsång Parish (Kron.) 18 May 1877, except daughter Caroline Christina (b. in Skatelöv Parish, Kron., in 1857), who preceded them on 4 May 1874. Jonas was b. in Moheda Parish (Kron.) in 1819. Sara Christina was b. in Vederslöv Parish (Kron.) in 1829, the dau. of Magnus Persson and his first wife Cathrina Andersdotter. Jonas's children who emigrated with the family included Lena Stina, b. in Skatelöv Parish in 1853; Peter Johan (possibly a nephew), b. in Skatelöv Parish in 1859; Ida Sophia, b. in Väckelsång Parish in 1866; Amanda Augusta, b. in Väckelsång Parish in 1871; and Blena Emilia, b. in Väckelsång Parish in 1874.

Any information concerning the location of this family in the U.S. or other data will be greatly appreciated.

Joyce M. Scott
8 Applewood Lane
London, ON, Canada
N6J 3P8

1160**Samuelson, Andersdotter**

The following three individuals were siblings of my grandmother, Amanda Kristina, and children of Anders Samuelsson and Kristina Brita Pehrson.

1. Alfred Otto Julius Samuelson was b. in Kareby Parish (Göt.) 11 December 1859. He emigr. from Surte Nödinge 20 April 1883. Violetta Caldwell, Otto Samuelson Jr., and Leona Kleeman are probably related to Otto.

2. Gustava Samuelson (Andersdotter) was b. in Kareby Parish 7 June 1868. She emigr. from Surte Nödinge 30 November 1883, accompanied by Sofia Andersson (age 38) and Sofia's three children—Oscar, age 11; Gottfrid, age 6; and Gustav, age 4. Their destination was Streator, IL. Virginia C. Steele, Dorothy M. Bolard and Phyllis J. Peterson are probably related to Gustava.

3. Gustav Samuelson was b. in Kareby Parish 2 February 1864. He left from Surte Nödinge for New York on 11 July 1887. Violet Arendal, Linnéa C. Hill, and Carl Samuelson are probably related to Gustav.

I am very interested in contacting living relatives in the U.S. Can anyone help me?

Vivan Almqvist
Gulmårevägen 6F2
260 83 Vejbystrand
SWEDEN

1161

Swenson Center News

SVAR Microfiche

SVAR (Svensk Arkivinformation or Swedish Archive Information) was established in 1977 as a cooperative, Swedish-government project to make archival materials accessible to researchers and educational institutions, to assist libraries and archives in their service functions, and to preserve vital archival materials and historical records. Since 1984, SVAR has been a special section of the Swedish National Archives. In 1990, an agreement was reached between SVAR and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, where the Swenson Center handles all North American sales and, thereby, makes these records easily available.

Through the efforts of SVAR and the Swenson Center, the Swedish parish records are now available and affordable on microfiche for purchase by individual family history researchers. This is an excellent way to have a permanent copy of individual records, from which you can make unlimited copies, even if you have the information.

Some of the records available include the following:

- Swedish parish registers, including records of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and funerals, and household examination rolls (*husförhörslängder*), containing records of all parish members from the 17th century up to approximately 1895.
- Excerpts from Swedish parish records (births, marriages, deaths) for the years 1860-1920; indexes to emigrant data (1861-1940) for Swedish counties (*län*); and the national census records for the years 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910 and 1920. All this material is based on the originals at the Central Bureau of Statistics (*Statistiska Centralbyrån* or SCB) in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Emigrant passenger lists, that is, indexes listing names, places of residence, and dates of embarkation from Göteborg and Malmö, the main ports of departure for approximately 1.3 million Swedish emigrants.

Catalogs for the different Swedish counties (*län*) are available for purchase or, if you are only interested in one or two particular parishes, please contact us at the address below and we will gladly send you a photocopy of the available

fiche for those few parishes. Please include your postal address and the names of the parishes of interest (include the county or *län*).

It is also possible to find the fiche order numbers using SVAR's World Wide Web site: <<http://www.svar.ra.se/katalog/shoindex.htm>>. Click on "kyrkoarkiv" for listings of parishes and their records. Contact the Swenson Center for an order form.

Swenson Center
Augustana College
639 38th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201-2296

phone: 309/794-7204

fax: 309/794-7443

web address: <<http://www.augustana.edu/administration/swenson/>>

e-mail: <sag@augustana.edu>

oOo

Availability of Previous Issues of *SAG*

Most of the previous issues of *Swedish American Genealogist (SAG)* published between 1981 and 1998 are still available for purchase and may be ordered from the Swenson Center. The cost per issue is \$8.00, which includes postage and handling.

The following issues, however, are sold out and unavailable: **1981**, Vol. I, Nos. 2 and 4; **1982**, Vol. II, No. 1; **1984**, Vol. IV, No. 3; **1985**, Vol. V, Nos. 1 and 2; **1986**, Vol. VI, No. 2; **1988**, Vol. VIII, No. 3; and **1989**, Vol. IX, No. 3.

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James E. Erickson and Laura J. Erickson

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- The entries are arranged in alphabetical order under the surname or patronymic followed by the baptismal name or names.
- The Swedish letters Åå, Ää, and Öö are indexed according to the Swedish practice, i.e., as distinct letters following the letter Z.

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Please note the following conventions and abbreviations:

- The Swedish letters Åå, Ää, and Öö are indexed according to the Swedish practice, i.e., as distinct letters following the letter Z.
- For U.S. place names, the official U.S. postal abbreviations apply.
- For Swedish place names, the county (*län*) is coded according to the following system:

A = Stockholm (city)	K = Blekinge	T = Örebro
B = Stockholm (<i>län</i>)	L = Kristianstad	U = Västmanland
C = Uppsala	M = Malmöhus	W = Kopparberg
D = Södermanland	N = Halland	X = Gävleborg
E = Östergötland	O = Göteborg and	Y = Västernorrland
F = Jönköping	Bohus	AC = Västerbotten
G = Kronoberg	P = Älvsborg	BD = Norrbotten
H = Kalmar	R = Skaraborg	
I = Gotland	S = Värmland	

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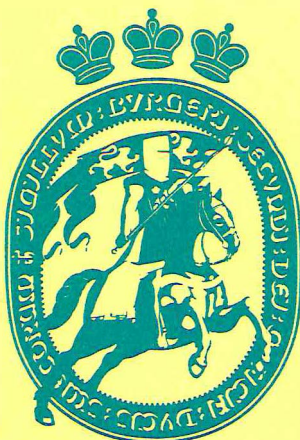
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