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Brita Cajsa Pettersdotter – the miner’s wife

A long life and many sorrows

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

On 9 October 1832 a little girl was born at the Nordmark mines in the parish of Nordmark in eastern Värmland. She was christened *Brita Cajsa*, and she was her parent’s first child. Her father was the mine worker Peter Pettersson, and her mother was Stina Gunnarsdotter, from another mining family. In time she had 6 siblings, and the family moved to a larger farm at a place called Botten, also in Nordmark.

When Brita Cajsa was 22 years old, she married the miner *Christoffer Jansson Löf*, and they lived close to the mines, and raised seven children in their little home. Husband Kristoffer died 5 May 1873 of pneumonia. His probate shows that the family did not have any valuable assets, but they did have a cow and a heifer. The total value of the estate was 54 *kronor*.

Brita Cajsa lived as a widow at Matsbostugan in Nordmark, until her death on 1 Apr. 1923 of old age.

Daughter *Stina Cajsa*, born 30 Dec. 1855, died 13 April 1857. The youngest in the family, *Kristoffer*, b.

30 July 1873 (shortly after his father died), died 21 Mar. 1877.

The adult children

1) *Peter Jonas Kristoffer Löf (Leaf)*, b. 17 Oct. 1853, was a miner. On 22 April 1882 he married Anna Maria Persdotter, b. 24 May 1861 in Nordmark. The newlyweds went to the U.S. on 28 April 1882 and settled in Negaunee, Marquette Co. in Upper Michigan, as many other miners from Nordmark. Peter Leaf died there on 7 Nov. 1916 of consumption.

2) *Stina Lisa Löf*, b. 29 Mar. 1859, had a sad life. As a young girl she heard in church the banns read for her fiancé and another girl, and she had serious mental problems for years and spent a few years at the mental hospital in Vadstena. After that she lived with her mother until Brita Cajsa died. Then Stina Lisa lived at the Nordmark Old Folks Home until her death on 23 Nov. 1948.

3) *Anna Kristoffersdotter Löf*, b. 20 May 1862, married around 1887 to *Karl Henriksson*, b. 11 Jul. 1859 in

Nordmark, a miner. They also lived close to the mines, and had 6 children. Anna died 27 Aug. 1908.

4) *Nils August Löf*, b. 19 Mar. 1865, a miner. He left Sweden in 1886 with a ticket for Ironwood, Gogebic Co., Michigan, where he worked in the mines. Later on he went west, and died 13 Nov. 1900 in an accident in Telluride, San Miguel County, CO.

5) *Lovisa*, b. 24 Jan. 1870. As a young girl she immigrated in 1887 to her brother in Ironwood. Then she seems to have moved around, perhaps working as a domestic. In 1899 she was in Texarkana, Bowie Co., TX, where she on 22 Mar. married James Nelson Patteson, b. 13 Feb. 1867 in Wales, Giles Co. TN, who was a photographer. The couple had four children, all born in Texarkana, AR, where James Patteson died 24 Nov. 1908.

After her husband’s death Lovisa and the children moved back to Texarkana, TX. Lovisa died 20 Mar. 1938 in Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co, CA.



Brita Cajsa to the left, and her daughter Stina Lisa sitting on the steps at Matsbostugan, Nordmark, Sweden.