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# The Nyden Collection

**Elaine Helgeson Hasleton\***

The "Nyden Collection" of family and genealogical information was begun by John Augustus Nyden who was born in Sweden in 1878 and emigrated to the United States in 1897 arriving in New York. He put himself through school and became a prominent architect and was also very active in church and community affairs. For more details of his life see the following biography on John Augustus Nyden.

John Augustus Nyden died suddenly in 1932 leaving his wife, Alma Hemmingson Nyden, and two daughters, Adelaide Nyden Hill, and Valborg Nyden. The work of collecting this information was carried on after his death for nearly fifty years by his daughter, Miss Valborg Nyden. The family files grew immensely as she learned of additional relatives.

In 1987 Robert Nyden Hill, son of Adelaide Nyden Hill and grandson of John Augustus Nyden, contacted the Family History Department regarding the microfilming and preservation of his elderly aunt Valborg Nyden's correspondence and genealogical collection.

Mr. Hill sent this large (25 boxes) collection to the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City, UT, which was stored in the Correspondence area of the library. Jimmy Parker, Supervisor of the Correspondence Unit, and Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, Scandinavian Correspondence Specialist, organized the collection for microfilming and compiled the descendency charts.

The Nyden Collection was microfilmed in April 1989. It can be searched at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City or at any LDS Family History Center. A microfilm copy as well as the original papers were donated to the Swedish-American Historical Society in April 1990. They are available for searching at the Swedish American Archives of Greater Chicago located at Caroline Hall, North Park College, 5125 North Spaulding Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625. The Director of Archives is Timothy J. Johnson at (312) 583-2700 ex. 5267. It is interesting to note that John Augustus Nyden was the architect for Caroline Hall wherein the Nyden family collection now is deposited.

The collection consists of family and personal information of a number of Swedish and American families as well as incoming and outgoing correspondence between the Nydens and the relatives they had identified. Most of the information included in the collection has been gathered from this correspondence with

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\*Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Genealogy, is employed in the Scandinavian Correspondence Unit at the Family History Library. She is an accredited genealogist, specializing in Norwegian family history.

relatives rather than from searching original records. This has made the collection somewhat inaccurate, since much of the information appears to have come from the memories of the relatives in question. However, there are remarkably few discrepancies in the information in the collection, considering its size and method of collection.

The major part of the Nyden Collection consists of records of the descendants of six different lines of ancestry of the Nydens, arranged in separate series or subcollections, identified as Series A through Series F.

At the beginning of the collection is found a description of the collection, a record of the descendants from each branch of ancestry, and an index to the descendancy charts. The descendancy charts are arranged by generation, each new generation being indented and numbered consecutively through that generation. The data included on these charts include an individual number, the name of the relative, and the year of birth and year of death, if known from the information supplied in the collection. The index to the collection is arranged alphabetically, giving the individual number (which also identifies the series involved), and the year of birth and death.

At the beginning of each major section of the collection there is a copy of the descendancy chart for that line of descent, any ancestral charts compiled by Valborg or John Augustus Nyden, and any histories of ancestral homes included in the collection. These are followed by folders arranged in the same order as the names appear on the descendancy chart. This means they are not arranged alphabetically nor strictly numerically, but in the order in which they appear on the charts.

Within each folder, where applicable, ancestral charts supplied by Valborg Nyden and filled in by the relatives she had written to are included. These are followed by copies of incoming and some outgoing correspondence carried on with relatives on that branch of the family. In the case of John Augustus Nyden and his wife, Alma Ottilia (Hemmingson) Nyden and their daughters, Adelaide and Valborg, biographical and other related material also is included.

Following the record of descendants of these six major lines is a record of the families and correspondence of the Wykstrom and Meurling families, as well as other smaller groups of relatives, all of whom are more distantly related than those included in the six major portions of the collection.

At the end of the collection is a general correspondence portion. Included are copies of incoming and outgoing correspondence with individuals and organizations that have not been identified as relatives. This portion of the collection is arranged alphabetically by surname or name of the organization.

Family History Library film numbers of the Nyden Collection:

1421479 -	Series A - Descendants of Sven Burman including surnames of
1421980	Anderson, Blomquist, Carlson, Dahlstedt, Lonn, Olson

- 1421480 - Series B - Descendants of Christina Maria Danielsdotter including the surname of Eck
- 1421981 - Series C - Descendants of Måns including the surnames of  
1421984 Haglund, Karlsson, Kronlund, Mohlin, Nyden, Roner
- 1421984 Series D - Descendants of Johan Johanson including the surnames of Eck, Nelson, Palmer
- 1421984 Series E - Descendants of Ingre Hemmingsdotter including the surnames of Hemmingson, Swanson
- 1421984 Series F - Descendants of Bengt Humble
- 1421985 General Correspondence A-G Surnames
- 1421986 General Correspondence H-M Surnames
- 1421987 General Correspondence N-Z Surnames

# John Augustus Nyden, Swedish-American Architect

**Elaine Helgeson Hasleton\***

When John Augustus (Carlsson) Nyden emigrated to America at the age of sixteen years in 1895, he landed with but a dollar in his pocket. At the time of his death, John Augustus Nyden was known as an eminent architect with many principal works to his credit. Among them was the American Swedish Historical Museum (formerly the John A. Morton building) in Philadelphia. Not only was he successful in his business ventures, but also benevolent toward his family and fellow associates and a well-respected citizen. Much of his effort was directed toward his family, and he devoted time and energy in compiling a large amount of family history information.

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\*See presentation of Elaine Helgeson Hasleton in the previous article, *The Nyden Collection*.