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Handwriting example #52

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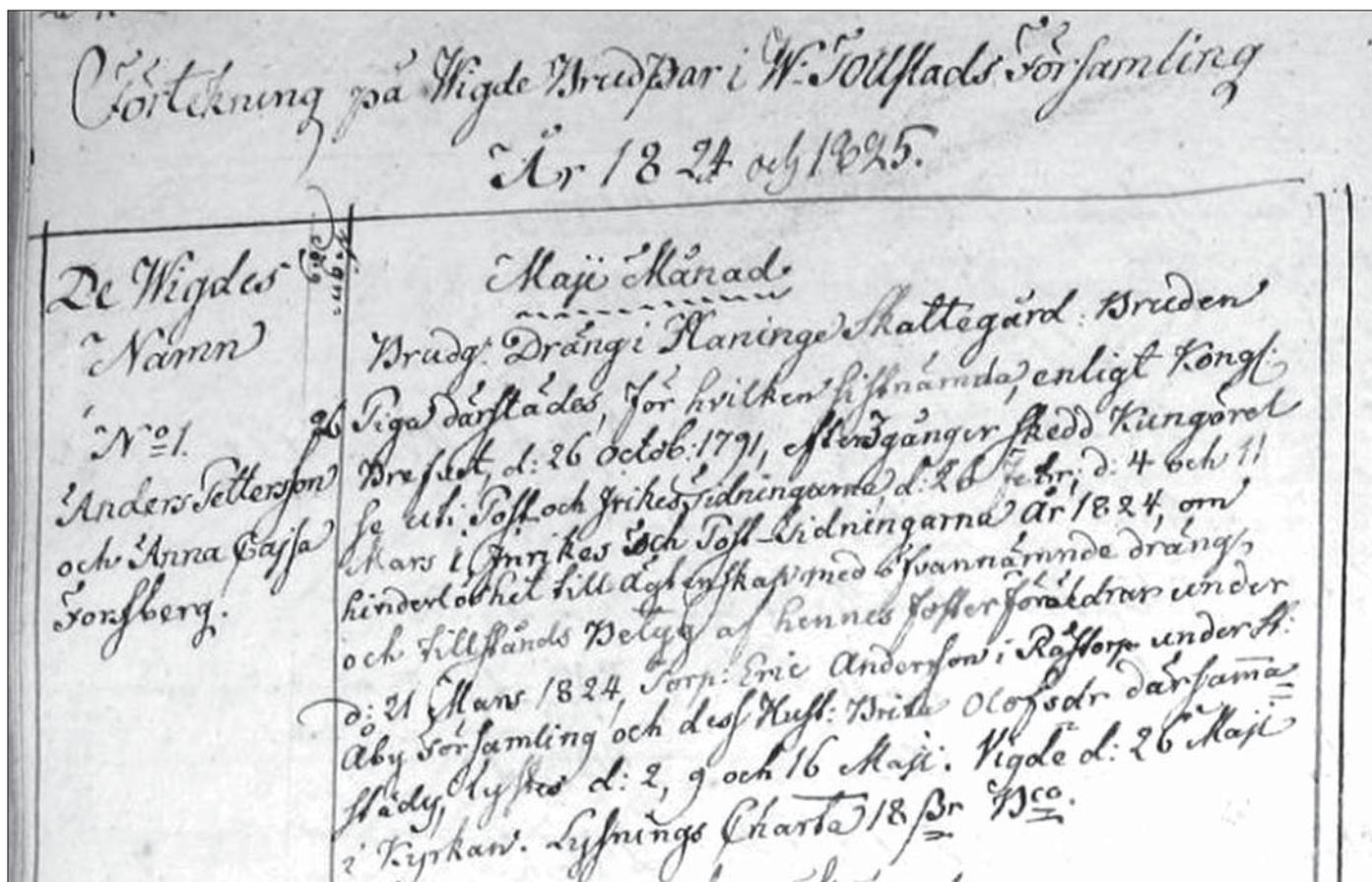
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Handwriting Example #52



Västra Tollstad (E) C:6 (1824-1861) Image 98 / page 187 (AID: v42420.b98.s187, NAD: SE/VALA/00452) (Arkiv Digital).
Thanks to Helene Leaf of Moline, IL, for the picture.

This is a wedding record from the parish of Västra Tollstad in western Östergötland.

The groom is the farm hand Anders Pettersson from Haninge Skattegård, (b. 5 Aug. 1796 in Heda (Östg.) and the bride is the *piga* Anna Cajsa Forsberg from the same place (b. 15 Apr. 1800 in Stockholm).

The unusual thing about this couple is that Anna Cajsa is an orphan, and has no known relatives.

Thus she needs to place and advertisement in the official newspaper *Post- och Inrikes Tidningarna* in Stockholm, according to a Royal decree of 26 Oct. 1791.

She also needed to have a permit to marry from her foster parents, Eric Andersson and his wife Brita Olofsdotter of Råstorp in Stora Åby parish, which she got on March 1824.

The young couple were married in Västra Tollstad church 26 May 1824. Their first child, Mathilda Emelie, was born already

on 24 July 1824 at Haninge Skattegård. The next one was a little boy, Jonas, born 27 Dec. 1825 in the same place. In 1826 the family moved to nearby Sjöstorp in Ödes hög parish; not followed after that.

It might be of interest to researchers in the area that Ödes hög is often mentioned and written as *Össjö*.

A note on Alvastra in Västra Tollstad

In the 1100s King Sverker the Elder and Queen Ulvhild lived at Alvastra, but no one knows exactly where their farm lay. They donated their farm to Cistercian monks from French Clarivaux, which founded Alvastra Monastery in 1143. The monastery's 400-year history ended when Gustav I came to power. The monastery was taken over by the crown and converted into a royal estate as a result of the Reformation.



Västra Tollstad church as it looked before the 1840s when a new church was built.

During the monastery time Alvastra was a famous burial place for members of the nobility, including the kings, Sverker the Elder (1156), Sverker the Younger (1210) and King Johan Sverkersson (1222). Ulf Gudmarsson was buried here in 1344. He was the husband of Sweden's national saint *Heliga Birgitta* (Saint Bridget).

Transcription and translation on p. 20.