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Augustana Seniors Fall 1884: Erik Peter Olsson

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Augustana Seniors Fall 1884:

Erik Peter Olsson

Rylie Milliken
Madison Caldwell

6 February 2017

Erik Peter Olsson

Per Erik Jonsson was born in Undersvik, Gävleborgs län (Hälsingland) on 24 November 1857. He was born to Jon Olsson and Margta Ersdotter. He had one older brother, Olof, and three younger brothers: Jonas, Johannes, and Axel.¹ On 6 August 1869, Per Erik's father emigrated to Chicago, Illinois.² The following year, on 15 July 1870, Per Erik's mother and all five sons emigrated to New York.³ Margta and the five sons then met up with Jon in Pawnee Rock, Kansas.⁴ Erik changed his name to Erik Peter, and all five sons took the last name of their father, Jon Olsson. Erik then went on to attend Augustana college and receive his bachelor's.

Eric Peter Olsson was an Augustana student from the graduating class of 1885.⁵ Back then, tuition had cost about twelve dollars per year and was free to those planning on majoring in theological seminary. Olsson was one of the many students who majored in this and thus was able to attend college for free. After graduating alongside the other sixteen students in his class, he became a reverend. On 26 June 1887, he was

¹ *Emblias* printout, Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. accessed 10 January 2017. The image is a photograph of Erik's parents and siblings information for their emigration to the United States.

² "Göteborgs poliskammare EIX:2 (1869-1869)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 10 January 2017), image 880 / page 171, AID v479726.b880.s171, Erik Peter Olsson (b. 1857), Göteborgs poliskammare; Swenson Swedish Immigration Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original ship register for the Albion ship.

³ "Göteborgs poliskammare EIX:40 (1870-1870)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 10 January 2017), image 330 / page 63, AID v479728.b330.s63, Erik Peter Olsson (b. 1857), Göteborgs poliskammare; Swenson Swedish Immigration Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original ship register for the Rollo ship showing Erik Peter Olsson and his mother and four brothers on their journey to America.

⁴ *Korsbaneret*. Christian Calendar fiftieth vintage. 1929. Edited by C.A. Lindvall. This image is an photograph of the *Korsbaneret* pages 197-202.

⁵ 1885 Commencement Program, in (MSS 214) Augustana Commencement Programs, Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

ordained in Chicago, Illinois.⁶ From here, he traveled through four different areas to preach at churches in: Marquette KS, Paxton IL, Falun KS, and lastly Courtland KS.⁷

While preaching in Paxton, he met Esther Thorstenberg.⁸ On 18 May 1893, the two got married in Assaria, Kansas.⁹ Erik and Esther had six children together, but only four of the children were recorded. The other two have no records of birth. The names of the children were Erik Paul Thorstenberg Olsson, Karl Birger Samuel Olsson, Jarl Helge Sigfrid Olsson, and Edla Agnes Marie Olsson.¹⁰ Erik Paul Thorstenberg Olsson later changed his middle names to Paul Torsten by the time Erik Peter Olsson re-married. Erik Paul was born in 1894, Karl and Jarl were twins born in 1902, and Edla was born in 1904. In 1908, Esther passed away. Then on 21 June 1911, in Elgin, Illinois, Erik Peter Olsson got re-married to Ruth Lenin. They did not have any kids. During this span of years spent preaching and building a family, Olsson also honorarily came back to Augustana to become a member of the Board of Directors where he held

⁶ "Stafsinge AI:3 (1850-1962)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 10 January 2017), image 36 / page 40, AID: v84653.b36.s40, NAD:SE/KLA/13478, Erik Peter Olsson (b.1857), wife Margareta Olsson, second wife Ruth Lenion, and family in America, Stafsinge; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original Augustana Ministerium and shows information about Erik.

⁷ "Stafsinge AI:3 (1850-1962)", *ArkivDigital*, page 40, database image of Augustana Ministerium with information about Erik Peter Olsson.

⁸ "Stafsinge AI:3 (1850-1962)", *ArkivDigital*, page 40, database image of Augustana Ministerium with information about Erik Peter Olsson.

⁹ Korsbaneret. Christian Calendar fiftieth vintage. 1929. Image of Korsbaneret page 200 with information about Erik Peter Olsson and Esther Thorstenberg.

¹⁰ "Stafsinge C:5 (1887-1962)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 10 January 2017), image 95 / page 113, AID: v84647.b95.s113, NAD: SE/DLA/46652, Erik Peter Olsson (b.1857), wife Margareta Olsson, second wife Ruth Lenion, and family in America, Stafsinge; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. This image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows Erik Peter Olsson, his wife, and their four children that were recorded.

a position for three years.¹¹ Olsson later died in Courtland, Kansas one year after he retired from preaching on 8 March 1928.¹²

¹¹ "Board of Directors", *Rockety-I*, volume IV, p. 7; Image copy, Augustana College (www.augustana.edu), Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Projects, Augustana Observer and Rockety-I Database, (<http://edu.aracsearch.com/usilaugcd/> : accessed 7 December 2016). This is a page from the Rockety-I yearbook listing the names of the Board of Directors of the college in 1913.

¹² "Stafsinge AI:3 (1850-1962)", *ArkivDigital*, page 40, database image of Augustana Ministerium with information about Erik Peter Olsson.

Ancestors of Erik Peter Olsson

Generation 1

1. Erik Peter Olsson. For more information about Erik, see the biography in the main part.

Generation 2

1. Jon Olsson. Jon was born 5 September 1825 in Forsa, Gävleborgs län (Hälsingland).¹³ Married Margta Ersdotter.
2. Margta Ersdotter. Margta was born 13 October 1822 in Forsa, Gävleborgs län (Hälsingland).¹⁴ Margta married Jon Olsson (2) and they had children.
 - Olof. Olof was born 10 January 1855 in Undersvik, Gävleborgs län (Hälsingland).¹⁵
 - Per Erik. See 1. above.
 - Jonas. Jonas was born 28 June 1860 in Undersvik, Gävleborgs län (Hälsingland).¹⁶
 - Johannes. Johannes was born 8 April 1864 in Undersvik, Gävleborgs län (Hälsingland).¹⁷
 - Axel. Axel was born 25 March 1868 in Undersvik, Gävleborgs län (Hälsingland).¹⁸

¹³ *Embias* printout, image of Olsson's family emigration information

¹⁴ *Embias* printout, image of Olsson's family emigration information

¹⁵ *Embias* printout, image of Olsson's family emigration information

¹⁶ *Embias* printout, image of Olsson's family emigration information

¹⁷ *Embias* printout, image of Olsson's family emigration information

¹⁸ *Embias* printout, image of Olsson's family emigration information

Descendants of Erik Peter Olsson

Generation 1

1. Erik Peter Olsson. Erik married Esther Thorstenberg. And later married Ruth Lenin after Esther passed away. For more information about Erik and Esther, see the biography of the main part.

Erik and Esther had 6 children but only 4 were recorded.

2. Erik Paul Thorstenberg Olsson.¹⁹
3. Karl Birger Samuel Olsson.²⁰
4. Jarl Helge Sigfrid Olsson.²¹
5. Edla Agnes Marie Olsson.²²

¹⁹ "Stafsinge C:5 (1887-1962)", *ArkivDigital*, page 113, database image of original parish register with information about Erik Peter Olsson and family.

²⁰ "Stafsinge C:5 (1887-1962)", *ArkivDigital*, page 113, database image of original parish register with information about Erik Peter Olsson and family.

²¹ "Stafsinge C:5 (1887-1962)", *ArkivDigital*, page 113, database image of original parish register with information about Erik Peter Olsson and family.

²² "Stafsinge C:5 (1887-1962)", *ArkivDigital*, page 113, database image of original parish register with information about Erik Peter Olsson and family.

Questions for Further Research

One question we would like answered is who were his ancestors. With more time we would like to go back to Swedish Swenson Immigration Center and try to find information on his ancestors.

The next question we would like is about his kids. When did they die, did they marry and have kids, did any of Erik Olsson's descendants attend Augustana College, etc. Again we would like to go back to Swedish Swenson Immigration Center because we found that source very helpful in our research.

We have created a record for Erik Peter Olsson in the Family Tree on *FamilySearch*. The record locator is LRZX-61N.

Source List

Augustana Commencement Program (MSS 241), Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

Augustana Observer, 1902-2015.

Embias printout. Swenson Center : 2017

“Göteborgs poliskammare EIX:2 (1869-1869)”. Database of images. *ArkivDigital*.
<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : 2017

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“Stafsinge C:3 (1887-1962)”. Database of images. *ArkivDigital*.
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<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : 2017