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Augustana Seniors Fall 1884: Augustus G. Olsson

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3 February 2017
Augustus Gaufred Olsson

It’s easy to forget that every person has their own unique life going on. Most of the time, we forget about the lives that do not belong to us or the people around us. Studying Augustus Gaufred Olsson reminded us that even those long gone existed as real people, with thoughts and hopes; not numbers or faces off an old sepia picture. Olsson was born in Tampico, Illinois to Johannes (John) Olofson and Britta Rebecca Danieldotter in 1859. He was a Scandinavian clergyman with blue eyes and was five feet and ten inches tall. He also had something in common with us: he went to school at Augustana College.

Augustus G. Olsson was registered under the theological program during the 1885-1886 school year, when he was a junior. We assume he registered for this program with the intentions of being a priest or a preacher. Curiously, he was not enrolled in any classes during years 1886-1887, when he would have been a senior. We are not sure if he graduated early or if he just dropped out because, as stated in the first paragraph, he became a clergyman at some point in his life.

4 Augustana College, College and Theological Seminary Catalog, 1884-85, 1885-86, 1886-87. N.p.: Augustana Book Concern, Book and Job Printers, 1884-86. Print.
After finishing his career at Augustana, he moved to Indiana, and worked as a clergyman. We found him on many records being the pastor at numerous weddings. In 1900, Olsson applies for a passport to go to Sweden. We assume he lived there from 3 years because he moved to Canada in December, 1903. Olsson didn’t stay in Canada very long, as he returned through New York City, to Vermont on April 27, 1908, when he was 47 years old. He was accompanied by his wife and daughter Tilda Emerentia and Saga Ebba Lilliani, respectively. The three of them lived in New York. As we found them on the 1910 census. This finding was particularly interesting because on the census record Saga’s birthplace is listed as being in Canada and Tilda’s birthplace being in Sweden. From this we must assume that Augustus met and married Tilda in Sweden. Then, they had a daughter (Saga) while living in Canada. Augustus was married three times and had five children total. We assume all his marriages happened after leaving Augustana College, but we have no proof. He had one child each with Clara C Carlson and Mathilda Emerencia Nyval. In between those marriages, he was married to Emma Dolk; with her, he had three children.

All this information comes to prove that Augustus Gaufred Olsson existed and left a traceable mark on this world. He went to school for about fifteen years, assuming the schooling

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system was the same when he was going up as it is now, and spent three of those years at Augustana College studying theology. Also, Olsson got to see more of the world than most people did at that time. He went from Tampico, to Rock Island, to Indiana, to Chicago, to Sweden, to Canada, to New York, and finally Michigan. For unlisted reasons, Olsson was married three times and had five children. Augustus Gaufred Olsson finally died on March 27, 1937 in Lawton, Michigan, meaning he saw yet another place in his lifetime. To conclude, all these documents come together to prove that Olsson existed in his own unique way.

Ancestors of Augustus Olsson

Generation 1

1. Augustus Olsson. For more information about Augustus; see the biography in the main part.

Generation 2

2. Johannes “John” Olsson. Johannes was born on 5 April 1818 and died on 11 February 1888\(^\text{10}\).

3. Britta “Rebecca” Danielsdotter was born on 1 April 1822 and died on 2 Sep 1901\(^\text{11}\).

Generation 3

4. Olaus “Olof” Nilsson was born in 1768\(^\text{12}\).

Generation 4

8. Nils Grelsson was born on 18 October 1738\(^\text{13}\) and died on 9 April 1816\(^\text{14}\).

9. Malin Olofsdotter was born 7 January 1735 and died on 18 June 1810\(^\text{15}\).

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\(^{12}\) (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/27GH-1MH : 1 January 2017); Found on family search. Information entered by Elenor Rebecca Antoniak.

\(^{13}\) (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/27GH-1MH : 1 January 2017); Found on family search. Information entered by Julie Lindmark Garbarino.

\(^{14}\) (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/27GH-1MH : 1 January 2017); Found on family search. Information entered by Elenor Rebecca Antoniak.

Descendants of Augustus Olsson

1. Augustus Olsson and Tilda Emerentia were a couple. For more information about Augustus and Tilda, see the biography above. Augustus Olsson and Clara Carlson were also a couple. For more information see the biography above.

   Augustus and Tilda had one child.

   +2 Saga Ebba Olsson

Augustus and Clara had one child.

   +3 Vona I Olsson

2. Saga Ebba Olsson was born in Canada in 1907. 

3. Vona I Olsson was born 28 Feb 1919 in Illinois. After Augustus Olsson died in 1937, Vona and her mother lived in Illinois.

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Questions for Further Research

We would like to research and know more about his descendants. We know only two of his children’s names for certain. We would like to get a more complete picture of the people who are related to him.

We would also like to sort out what happened with his wives. We are fairly certain that he had at least two wives. However, we are not sure they were the only ones. We would like to know what other wives he had and what happened to his ex-wives. Were they divorced? Did their death cut off the marriage?

We would also want to find more information on when his parents immigrated to the United States. They were both born in Sweden, so we know that they must have immigrated. We would like to know when.

We have created a record for Augustus G. Olsson in the Family Tree on FamilySearch. The record locator is LRZK-S9W.
Source List

Augustana College, College and Theological Seminary Catalog, 1884-85, 1885-86, 1886-87.
N.p.: Augustana Book Concern, Book and Job Printers, 1884-86. Print. 7 Dec 2016.


“Vermont, St. Albans Canadian Border Crossings 1895-1954,” database with images,
FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:QS7-99DQ-GXV1?cc=2185163&wc=3KMC-C68%3A1018494101%2C1018729101 : 9 October 2015), (M1461) Soundex Index to Canadian Border Entries through the St. Albans,

23 Mar 1888; citing Porter, Indiana, United States, various county clerk offices, Indiana.

United States; (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982).

(https://familysearch.org/: 4 September 2015), Augustus G Olsson, 1900; citing Passport Application, Illinois, United States, source certificate #19544, Passport Applications,
1795-1905.