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Augustana Seniors Fall 1884 : Philip Dowell

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February 5, 2017

Philip Dowell

Philip Dowell was born December 3, 1864, in Attica, Indiana.¹ Hailing from Galva, Illinois, Dowell entered Augustana as a freshman in 1876 enrolled in the classical course. It appears that Philip entered the institution much earlier than his other classmates, which is why he was at school for so long.²

Philip was the son of John Franz Oscar Dowell, a Lutheran minister of Swedish heritage.³ He pursued his post-college education from a variety of schools, including Hope Academy, Upsala College, Muhlenburg College, and Yale University; as well as in high schools such as Curtis and Port Richmond in New York. He obtained his PhD in Botany in 1900 from Muhlenburg College.⁴ On August 29, 1894, he married Anna Servina Albertina Dorthea Halland.⁵ During his marriage, he had four children, but unfortunately lost one at a young age. His wife died in 1930, while he died June 25, 1936. Dowell was a botanist who studied ferns, violets, and other plants. He has many published papers in the Herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden and was an editor for the *American Fern Journal*. He also belonged to a variety of science based clubs, including the Torrey Botanical Club, the Staten Island Academy of Sciences, and was the President of the American Fern Society for one year. Along with his involvement in various science groups, he was also an assistant at the United States National Museum.⁶

While attending Augustana College, it was found that Dowell attended the First Lutheran Church of Moline.⁷ In the church record book, the date December 4, 1864 is provided under the birth column; however, we have found many different sources to list his birthdate as

¹ 1884-1885 Register of the Students, in MSS 333, Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

² *Augustana College Catalog 1884-1885*, p. 5-6, volume bound in *Augustana College Catalogue 1871-1891*, Aug. Inst., LD 271, A6651, C3, 1871-1891; Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois. All the students in the senior class are listed with birthplaces, year of birth, and past institution.

³ Benedict, R.C. "American Fern Journal" (Lawrence, Kansas), June 1937; HTML edition, web archives (https://www.jstor.org/stable/1544122?seq=3#page_scan_tab_contents).

⁴ Benedict, R.C. "American Fern Journal".

⁵ Benedict, R.C. "American Fern Journal".

⁶ Benedict, R.C. "American Fern Journal".

⁷ "First Lutheran Moline (1876-1879)." Philip Dowell (b. 1864), wife Anna Halland, and family in Galva, IL; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows Philip Dowell as a past member of the church and having been baptized and confirmed.

December 3, 1864. While this may be an error in the record taking, it may also be the date he was baptized and the records are just not carefully taken. Also found in the record book is Dowell's name crossed off. This simply depicts that he eventually left the church, which he did when he moved to New York.⁸ Unfortunately, the registration card for Dowell could not be located. This source would have provided information on his parents, his previous school institutions, and rewarded financial aid.

Following his time at Augustana College, Philip Dowell moved to New York. Many of his accomplishments are recorded in issues of the *Augustana Observer* and the *Rockey-I* yearbook. Dowell started his path teaching botany at Curtis High School in Staten Island, NY.⁹ Later, Dowell became an honorary curator of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences.¹⁰ The college was able to stay in touch with Dowell and noted that he was a chairman of the publication committee at the Institute as well.¹¹ Recognized as a doctor and professor, Dowell contributed to the Augustana Alumni Scholarship Fund so as not to forget his roots.¹²

Philip Dowell was one of the few members of the 1885 class that did not originate from Sweden, which made finding information about him quite difficult. Augustana has many helpful records about Swedish immigrants and their history, but it was not the most helpful for this alum. Upon visiting the Swenson Center and the Swedish Immigration Library, information and sources of the alum were found. However, they did not dig deep into his heritage and

⁸ "First Lutheran Moline (1876-1879)", *ArkivDigital*, page 147, database image of membership of Philip Dowell

⁹ "Alumni Notes", *Augustana Observer*, volume 11, number 5, (1 May 1914), p. 46a; image copy, Augustana College (www.augustana.edu), Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Projects, Augustana Observer and Rockey-I Database, (<http://edu.arcasearch.com/usilaugcd/> : accessed 6 December 2016). The article mentions that Dowell taught at Curtis High School.

¹⁰ "Famous Men Among Graduates of Augie", *Augustana Observer*, volume 31, number 10, (12 Jan 1933), p. 2; image copy, Augustana College (www.augustana.edu), Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Projects, Augustana Observer and Rockey-I Database, (<http://edu.arcasearch.com/usilaugcd/> : accessed 6 December 2016). Notes Dowell's position at the Institute.

¹¹ ("At Least 3 Augustana Grads Gain Wide Recognition"), *Augustana Observer*, volume 33, number 28, (17 May 1935), p. 5; image copy, Augustana College (www.augustana.edu), Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Projects, Augustana Observer and Rockey-I Database, (<http://edu.arcasearch.com/usilaugcd/> : accessed 6 December 2016) Recognizes Dowell as a botanist, chairman, and alum.

¹² ("Alumni Scholarship Fund", *Augustana Observer*, volume 18, number 6, (1 Sept 1920), p. 238a; image copy, Augustana College (www.augustana.edu), Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Projects, Augustana Observer and Rockey-I Database, (<http://edu.arcasearch.com/usilaugcd/> : accessed 6 December 2016). Mentions Dowell's donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

upbringing. These sources included basic information such as the day he was born, which churches he belonged to, and the record of his attendance at Augustana College. The Swedish Immigration Library did help us find information about his wife's family, whom were of Swedish descent. If given more time and resources, expanding Dowell's family tree would help with our findings, though public information is lacking. Additionally, we are seeking information on his children, but they do not seem to be accounted for in censuses or birth records that we know of.

Ancestors of Philip Dowell

Generation 1

1. Philip Dowell. For more information about Philip, see the biography in the main part above.

Generation 2

2. John Franz Oscar Dowell. John was born in Kisa, Sweden on 20 August 1837 and served as a reverend of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wataga, IL.¹³ He married Anna Louisa Appell (3) and they had 2 children.¹⁴ He immigrated to America on 15 July 1859 from Östergötland, Sweden.¹⁵
3. Anna Louisa Appell. Anna Louisa was born in Sweden in 1840.¹⁶ She came to America with her family, which consisted of her two parents and seven siblings, in 1852. Her father and two sisters died on the journey.¹⁷ Anna Louisa married John (2) and had two children. Philip Dowell, whom the report is about.
Mary Dowell was born 1866 and died 29 June 1939 in Moline, IL.¹⁸

Generation 3

4. Nils Duvell. Nils was born 2 October 1801 in Blekinge, Sweden.¹⁹ He married Eva Gustafva Hagselius and had 4 known children.²⁰ Nils died 9 June 1838 in Sweden.²¹
5. Eva Gustafva Hagselius. Eva was born 11 March 1801 in Garstad, Sweden.²² She married Nils Duvell. Eva died in Sweden. She and Nils had 4 children.

¹³ Conrad Bergendoff, *The Augustana Ministerium* (Rock Island, Illinois: Augustana Historical Society, 1980), page 16. The Ministerium was compiled from other sources. It is a transcription. When the original sources were in Swedish, it is also a translation.

¹⁴ Parsons, William Usher. *Quindecennial record of the class of 1895 Sheffield scientific school of Yale University*. Yale University Press, 1912. Philip Dowell was a professor at Yale University and therefore has a short biography in this record book.

¹⁵ Emibas Migration Files. The Swedish Emigrant Institute & The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies 2005. Accessed 2 February 2017.

¹⁶ Parsons, William Usher. *Quindecennial record of the class of 1895 Sheffield scientific school of Yale University*.

¹⁷ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva." *Galva News*. Published 13 July 2011. Accessed 29 January 2017. (<http://www.galvanews.com/article/20110713/NEWS/307139822>). Article accounts for a reunion of the descendants of the Appell family, with brief information about the ancestors.

¹⁸ "Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/NQ74-RHS : 27 December 2014>), Mary Nordgren, 29 Jun 1939; Public Board of Health, Archives, Springfield; FHL microfilm 1,819,834.

¹⁹ "Kisa AI:8 (1836–1840)", database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 2 February 2017), image 131 / page 120, AID: v26286.b131.s120, NAD: SE/VALA/00183, Nils Duvell (b. 1801), wife Eva Gustafva Hagselius, and family in Blekinge, Sweden; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish register and shows the family of Nils Duvell and their birthdates.

²⁰ "Kisa AI:8 (1836–1840)", *ArkivDigital*, page 120, database image of household of Nils Duvell.

²¹ "Kisa AI:8 (1836–1840)", *ArkivDigital*, page 120, database image of household of Nils Duvell.

²² "Kisa AI:8 (1836–1840)", *ArkivDigital*, page 120, database image of household of Nils Duvell.

Jon Carl Per Leonhard was born 17 June 1831 in Kisa, Sweden.²³

Elida Christina was born 31 January 1833 in Kisa, Sweden.²⁴

Amanda Carol Sophia was born 22 July 1835 in Kisa, Sweden²⁵

Johan Frans Oscar, see (2) above.

6. Peter Magnus (Sten) Appell. Peter Magnus was born 9 December 1811 in Stenberga, Sweden.²⁶ He married Anna Britta Magnidotter Hindricsson Appell (7) in Stenberga, Sweden on 29 April 1835. He traveled with his wife and 8 children to America in 1852 and settled in the Center Prairie area of IL. Peter Magnus and 2 of his daughters, Johanna and Charlotta, died soon after the journey of cholera and are buried in the Lincoln Park area of Chicago, IL.²⁷

7. Anna Britta Magnidotter Hindricsson Appell. Anna Britta was born 9 March 1810 in Stenberga, Sweden.²⁸ Anna Britta married Peter Magnus (6) in 1835. With her family, Anna Britta sailed to America in 1852 and died in 1889. She is buried in the Galva Cemetery in Galva, IL.²⁹ She had 8 children.

Johanna died of cholera soon after arriving in America in 1852.³⁰

Charlotta died of cholera soon after arriving in America in 1852.³¹

Carl (Charles) Lorenz³²

Claes Alfred was struck by lightning as a young man and killed.³³

Anna Louisa, see (3) above.

Anders Magnus³⁴

A son, who died in infancy.³⁵

A daughter, who died of cholera on the voyage to America.³⁶

²³ "Kisa AI:8 (1836–1840)", *ArkivDigital*, page 120, database image of household of Nils Duvell.

²⁴ "Kisa AI:8 (1836–1840)", *ArkivDigital*, page 120, database image of household of Nils Duvell.

²⁵ "Kisa AI:8 (1836–1840)", *ArkivDigital*, page 120, database image of household of Nils Duvell.

²⁶ "Family Tree: Clan Appell – Swedes in America." *Tribal Pages*. Created 21 September 2004. Accessed 29 January 2017. (<http://www.tribalpages.com/family-tree/dennisappell>). Website accounting for the Appell family tree and other relatives with different surnames.

²⁷ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

²⁸ "Family Tree: Clan Appell – Swedes in America."

²⁹ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

³⁰ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

³¹ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

³² Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

³³ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

³⁴ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

³⁵ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

³⁶ Larson, Ann. "Appell descendants gather in Galva."

Descendants of Philip Dowell

Generation 1

1. Philip Dowell. Philip married Anna Louisa Appell.³⁷ For more information about Philip and Anna Louisa's life, see the main biography above.

Philip and Anna Louisa had four children.³⁸

- +2. Carl Philip Dowell.
- +3. Otis Francis Dowell.
- +4. Mildred Anna Dowell.
- +5. Harold Magnus Dowell.

Generation 2

2. Carl Philip Dowell. Carl was born 23 September 1895 in New Haven, Connecticut.³⁹ He had an interest in science just like his father and wrote a short report called "Our Forest Trees."⁴⁰ He was registered for both World War I and II.^{41 42} He married Florence V. Spengeman and had no known children.⁴³ Carl died 14 October 1953 and is buried in Brooklyn, New York.⁴⁴
3. Otis Francis Dowell. Otis was born 9 June 1897 in Stanton, Iowa.⁴⁵ Otis studied at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign around 1920⁴⁶ and was a member of the Alpha Delta Phi society in 1921.⁴⁷ It is not known if he ever married or had children. Otis died 11

³⁷ Benedict, R.C. "American Fern Journal".

³⁸ Parsons, William Usher. *Quindecennial record of the class of 1895 Sheffield scientific school of Yale University*.

³⁹ Parsons, William Usher. *Quindecennial record of the class of 1895 Sheffield scientific school of Yale University*.

⁴⁰ Dowell, Carl Philip. "Our Forest Trees." *Proceedings of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences*, edited by the Publication Committee (Phillip Dowell, Arthur Hollick, William Davis), Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences, 1912, p. 144-147.

⁴¹ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/K6DK-1BX> : 12 December 2014), Carl Philip Dowell, 1917-1918; citing Knox County no 1, Illinois, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,614,029.

⁴² "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/F3Z9-7ZR> : 7 April 2016), Carl Philip Dowell, 1942; citing NARA microfilm publication M1936, M1937, M1939, M1951, M1962, M1964, M1986, M2090, and M2097 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

⁴³ "Deaths." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 16 October 1953, p. 11.

⁴⁴ "Find A Grave Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/Q2SS-4K9J> : 15 March 2016), Carl Philip Dowell, 1953; Burial, Brooklyn, Kings (Brooklyn), New York, United States of America, Holy Cross Cemetery; citing record ID 155436006, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁴⁵ Parsons, William Usher. *Quindecennial record of the class of 1895 Sheffield scientific school of Yale University*.

⁴⁶ "University of Illinois Registry 1920-21." Urbana- Champaign, Illinois: The University of Illinois, 1921.

⁴⁷ "Catalogue of the Alpha Delta Phi Society." Alpha Delta Pi. Executive Council of the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, 1922.

November 1946 in Dallas, Texas.⁴⁸

4. Mildred Anna Dowell. Mildred was born 21 July 1899 in Stanton, Iowa. Mildred died 18 July 1902.⁴⁹

5. Harold Magnus Dowell. Harold was born 22 December 1902 in Port Richmond, New York.⁵⁰ Harold married Grace F. Dowell.⁵¹ Harold died 26 December 1977 in Brevard, Florida.⁵²

Harold and Grace had 2 children.⁵³

+6. Irene Sperber

7. Living Grabach

Generation 3

6. Irene Sperber. Irene was born 27 June 1926. She died 18 October 2004 in Suffolk, New York.⁵⁴

⁴⁸ "Texas Deaths, 1890-1976," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/K398-33F> : 5 December 2014), Otis F Dowell, 11 Nov 1946; citing certificate number 49290, State Registrar Office, Austin; FHL microfilm 2,218,425.

⁴⁹ Parsons, William Usher. *Quindecennial record of the class of 1895 Sheffield scientific school of Yale University*.

⁵⁰ Parsons, William Usher. *Quindecennial record of the class of 1895 Sheffield scientific school of Yale University*.

⁵¹ "United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/QVPT-N9LJ> : 10 September 2016), Harold Dowdell in entry for Mrs Grace S Dowdell, Maine, United States, 02 Dec 1996; from "Recent Newspaper Obituaries (1977 - Today)," database, GenealogyBank.com (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : 2014); citing Portland Press Herald, born-digital text.

⁵² "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VVQJ-LX6> : 25 December 2014), Harold M Dowell, 26 Dec 1977; from "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998," index, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : 2004); citing vol. , certificate number 85326, Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, Jacksonville.

⁵³ "United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014," FamilySearch.

⁵⁴ "United States Social Security Death Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/JGC2-PML> : 20 May 2014), Irene Sperber, 18 Oct 2004; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

Questions for Further Research

If we were given more time to research the ancestors of Philip Dowell, we would try to find out more information about his grandmother and grandfather. When searching for his father, we found records of his grandparents, however we were unable to decipher their names and look further into them. If we had more time, we could search other sources to try and find them somewhere else and possibly view their names more clearly.

We would also look more into the lives of Philip's grandchildren. We were able to successfully find information about his immediate children and some names of his grandchildren, but we have not found any information about their birth dates, birth places, or how many children there are total. With more time to research, we could most likely trace his descendants even further.

Lastly, if given more time at the Swenson Center, we could research more about Philip's maternal great grandparents. Because we were able to find a substantial amount of information on his maternal grandparents through an article on the Internet, we believe we could trace his great grandparents in the Swedish records. This would provide a better idea of if Philip's descendants have always lived in Sweden, or if they emigrated to Sweden from a different country.

We have created a record for Philip Dowell in the Family Tree on *FamilySearch*. The record locator is LRZK-S4J.

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