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# Augustana Seniors Fall 1884 : Olof Wilhelm Ferm

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13 Feb 2017

## *Olof Wilhelm Ferm*

Olof Wilhelm Ferm, a member of the Augustana College class of 1885<sup>1</sup>, was born 11 December in 1853 in Tysslinge, Örebro, Sweden<sup>2</sup>. Olof Wilhelm Ferm died 12 January 1911.<sup>3</sup>

Ferm was born in Tysslinge, Örebro, Sweden<sup>4</sup>. Olof came to the United States from Sweden on 23 January of 1880. Ferm traveled to America alone, but his father left the same day just on a different ship. His father and grandfather were both blacksmith's back in Sweden.<sup>5</sup> Olof started his first year at Augustana College in 1881<sup>6</sup>. His short time between coming to the United States and attending Augustana College Olof Ferm lived in Chicago, IL<sup>7</sup>. Olof became naturalized, or rather gained United States citizenship, on 30 March 1887<sup>8</sup>. He was granted this honor in the county court of Rock Island, Illinois

Olof W. Ferm was the last of three sons born to Carl Ferm and Maja Lotta Sundstrom. His brother Lars Fredrik Ferm, the first born, was born on 5 January 1856<sup>9</sup>. His other brother Erik Gustaf Ferm was born on 22 January 1860<sup>10</sup>. All three brothers were born in Tysslinge Parish<sup>11</sup>. Olof's father, Carl Ferm, was born in Visnum Parish on 25 August 1826<sup>12</sup>. He later

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<sup>1</sup> Augustana College Catalog 1883-1884, volume bound in Augustana College Catalogue 1871-1891, Aug. Inst., class records of sophomores, MSS 241, 1871-1891; Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois. All the students in the senior class are listed with birthplaces and year of birth.

<sup>2</sup> Augustana College Catalog 1883-1884.

<sup>3</sup> Bergendoff, *Augustana Ministerium*, 39

<sup>4</sup> Augustana College Catalog 1883-1884.

<sup>5</sup> Augustana College Catalog 1883-1884.

<sup>6</sup> Augustana College Catalog 1884-1885, p.12-13, 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 and year of birth.

<sup>7</sup> Augustana College Catalog 1884-1885, p.12-13.

<sup>8</sup> "Illinois, Northern District Naturalization Index, 1840-1950," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XKLR-X8N> : 12 December 2014), Olof W Ferm, 1887; citing Rock Island, Illinois, NARA microfilm publication M1285 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 59; FHL microfilm 1,432,059.

<sup>9</sup> "Lerback AI: 19b (1881-1885)" database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 19 January 2017) Image 399 / page 869, AID: v51776. B399. s869, NAD: SE/ULA/10831, Mother Maja Lotta Sundstrom and brothers Lars Fredrik Ferm and Erik Gustaf Ferm in Lerbäck; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish registration.

<sup>10</sup> "Lerback AI: 19b (1881-1885)", *ArkivDigital*, page 869, database image of household of Maja Lotta Sundstrom.

<sup>11</sup> "Lerback AI: 19b (1881-1885)", *ArkivDigital*, page 869, database image of household of Maja Lotta Sundstrom.

became a master blacksmith. Olof's mother, Maja Lotta Sundstrom, was born in Knista Parish on 9 April 1823<sup>13</sup>. Later in life Olof married Augusta Mathilda Ferm. She was born in Smaland Orbero, Sweden on 22 January 1859<sup>14</sup>.

Olof Wilhelm Ferm and his wife, Augusta Mathilda Ferm, had three children throughout the course of their married lives. The oldest of the children was Julius Wilhelm Mousity Ferm. Julius Ferm was born in New Britain Connecticut in 1890<sup>15</sup>. The middle child, Judith Gertrude Ferm, was also born in New Britain, Connecticut. Judith was born in 1892.<sup>16</sup> The youngest of the three kids was Virgilius Ferm. Virgil was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1896.<sup>17</sup>

Olof Wilhelm Ferm was ordained 11 December 1853 in Chicago, Illinois.<sup>18</sup> After graduating Augustana College in 1885, Ferm went to seminary school for two additional years. The first congregation Ferm served at was in New Britain, Connecticut. He served here from the year 1887 to the year 1895<sup>19</sup>. The next church he became a pastor at was in Sioux City, Iowa. Ferm served here from 1895 until 1906<sup>20</sup>. His third church was in Davenport, Iowa, and Ferm served here from 1906 to 1910. In 1910, he moved to his final church in

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<sup>12</sup> "Visnum C:6 (1826-1853)" database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net> : accessed 19 January 2017) Image 7, AID: v8495.b7, NAD: SE/VA/13623, Carl Ferm's birth records in Visnum: Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the Carl Ferm's original birth records.

<sup>13</sup> "Knista AI:10 (1822-1825)" database of images, *ArkivDigital*, (<http://www.arkivdigital.net>: accessed 19 January 2017) image 78 / page 71, AID: v51630.b7.s71, NAD: SE/ULA/10527, Mother Katrina Ersdotter and father Lars Nilsson and their children in Knista; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The image is a photograph of the original parish registration.

<sup>14</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MG98-B6B> : accessed 24 January 2017), Reverend Olaf Ferm, Davenport Ward 5, Scott, Iowa, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 142, sheet 16A, family 151, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 423; FHL microfilm 1,374,436.

<sup>15</sup> *Grace Lutheran Church Davenport, Iowa*. From Swenson Genealogical Center at Augustana College in Rock Island Illinois. Observed these records on books photocopied to microfilm; Microfilm number 266. Available on page 36 of book.

<sup>16</sup> *Davenport Church Records*, page 36. Available on microfilm from Swenson Center (Rock Island, IL).

<sup>17</sup> *Davenport Church Records*, page 36. Available on microfilm from Swenson Center (Rock Island, IL).

<sup>18</sup> Bergendoff, Conrad. *The Augustana Ministerium* (Rock Island, Illinois: Augustana Historical Society, 1980), page 39. *The Ministerium* was compiled from other sources. It is a transcription. When the original sources were in Swedish, it is also a translation.

<sup>19</sup> Bergendoff, *Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

<sup>20</sup> Bergendoff, *Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

Knoxville, IL. Ferm only served here for one year.<sup>21</sup> Olof Wilhelm Ferm died on 12 January 1911.<sup>22</sup>

In 1903, Olof Wilhelm Ferm, after becoming a reverend at Augustana, was invited back to Augustana College to speak at the Founder's Day Celebration<sup>23</sup> Rev. Olof Wilhelm Ferm was invited to speak 27 April 1903 on the Augustana campus. Olof Wilhelm Ferm was one of the five speakers invited to speak at this celebration.<sup>24</sup> Out of the five speakers asked to attend, four of them accepted the invitation. In addition to the speakers, President Andreen was expected to present a speech.

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<sup>21</sup> Bergendoff, *Augustana Ministerium*, 39.

<sup>22</sup> Bergendoff, *Augustana Ministerium*, 39

<sup>23</sup> "College News", *Augustana Observer*, Volume 1, number 4, (1 March 1903), p. 37a; image copy, Augustana College ([www.augustana.edu](http://www.augustana.edu)), Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Projects, Augustana Observer and Rockety-I Database, (<http://edu.arcasearch.com/usilaugcd/>; accessed 5 December 2016). The article mentions Rev. O.W. Ferm speaking at the Founder's Day Celebration.

<sup>24</sup> "College News", *Augustana Observer*, volume 1, number 4.

# *Ancestors of Olof Wilhelm Ferm*

## *Generation 1*

1. Olof Wilhelm Ferm. For more information about Olaf, see the biography in the main part.

## *Generation 2*

2. Carl Ferm. Carl was born on 25 Aug 1826 in Visnum, Varmland, Sweden. Carl was a master blacksmith in Tysslinge.<sup>25</sup>

3. Maria Lotta Sundstrom. Maria was born on 9 April 1823 in Knista Parish. She died on 5 Dec 1883.<sup>26</sup> Carl and Maria had three children.

Olof Ferm. See above.

Lars Fredrik. Lars is Olaf's brother. He was born on 5 Jan 1856 in Tysslinge.<sup>27</sup>

Erik Gustaf. Erik is Olaf's brother. He was born on 22 Jan 1860 in Tysslinge.<sup>28</sup>

## *Generation 3*

4. Olof Ferm. Olof was born on 15 Nov 1802 in Kroppa Parish. Olof was a master blacksmith.<sup>29</sup>

5. Maria Edgren. Maria was born on 21 Sept 1803 in Lungsund Parish.<sup>30</sup>

6. Lars Nilsson. Lars was born on 30 May 1789 in Edsberg Parish.<sup>31</sup>

7. Katrina Ersdotter. Katrina was born on 6 Aug 1791 in Knista Parish.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> "Visnum C:6 (1826-1853)", ArkivDigital, database of image of Carl Ferm's birth record.

<sup>26</sup> "Knista AI:10 (1822-1825)", ArkivDigital, database of image of the household of Lars Nilsson.

<sup>27</sup> "Lerback AI: 19b (1881-1885)", *ArkivDigital*, page 869, database of image of the household of Carl Ferm.

<sup>28</sup> "Lerback AI: 19b (1881-1885)", *ArkivDigital*, page 869, database of image of the household of Carl Ferm.

<sup>29</sup> "Visnum C:6 (1826-1853)", ArkivDigital, database of image of Carl Ferm's occupation.

<sup>30</sup> "Visnum AI:13 (1824-18:30)", ArkivDigital, database of image of Maria Edgren birth record.

<sup>31</sup> "Knista AI:10 (1822-1825)", ArkivDigital, database of image of the household of Lars Nilsson.

<sup>32</sup> "Knista AI:10 (1822-1825)", ArkivDigital, database of images of the household of Katrina Ersdotter.

# ***Descendants of Olof Wilhelm Ferm***

## ***Generation 1***

1. Olof Wilhelm Ferm. Olof married Augusta Mathilda Slättengren. For more information about Olof and Mathilda, see the biography.

Olof and Mathilda had three children<sup>33</sup>.

- +2. Julius Wilhelm Mousity Ferm.
- +3. Judith Gertrude Ineborg Ferm.
- +4. Virgilius Thure Anselm Ferm.

## ***Generation 2***

2. Julius Ferm was born 13 March 1890 in New Britain, Connecticut. He married Lillian Strandberg on 09 March 1918 in Chicago, IL.<sup>34</sup> They had no children. Julius was a dentist.<sup>35</sup>

3. Judith Ferm was born 24 August 1892 in New Britain, Connecticut. Little is known about her.

4. Virgilius Ferm was born 1 January 1896 in Sioux City, Iowa. Virgilius married Nellie Agnette Nelson on 25 Jun 1919 in Ironwood, Michigan.<sup>36</sup> They had four children.<sup>37</sup>

- +5. Virginia Ferm
- +6. Virgil Ferm
- +7. Deane Ferm
- +8. Robert Ferm

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<sup>33</sup> *Davenport Church Records*, page 36. Available on microfilm from Swenson Center (Rock Island, IL).

<sup>34</sup> "Illinois, Cook County Marriages, 1871-1920," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N78M-G32> : 26 December 2014), Julius W Ferm and Lillian L Strandberg, 09 Mar 1918; citing Chicago, Cook, Illinois, 791871, Cook County Courthouse, Chicago; FHL microfilm 1,030,670.

<sup>35</sup> "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/V1V1-9SD> : 7 April 2016), Julius William Ferm, 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.).

<sup>36</sup> "Michigan, County Marriages, 1820-1940", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FCXQ-84X> : 25 April 2016), Virgilius Ferm and Nellie Agnette Nelson, 1919.

<sup>37</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KWGJ-BWB> : accessed 13 January 2017), Vergilus Ferm, Ward 3, Wooster City, Wayne Township, Wayne, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 85-44, sheet 4B, line 67, family 85, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 3168.

### **Generation 3**

5. Virginia Annette Ferm was born 24 Jun 1920, and she died fourteen years later on 18 Dec 1934 in Wooster, Ohio.<sup>38</sup>

6. Virgil Hawkness Ferm was born 05 June 1924 in Connecticut.<sup>39</sup> Virgil married Ruth Eleanor Rowe on 04 Jun 1948 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania.<sup>40</sup> They meet at Wooster College in Ohio<sup>41</sup>. In his adult life, Virgil worked as a medical school faculty member and birth-defects researcher. After moving from college town to college town, Virgil and family finally settled down when he landed a faculty position at Dartmouth Medical School. Virgil and Ruth had four children. Virgil died 4 October 2007, and Ruth Ferm died Oct. 19, 2016.<sup>42</sup> Their children are as follows<sup>43</sup>.

9. Living Ferm of Bainbridge Island, WA
10. Living Ferm of Norwich
11. Living Brown of Norwich
12. Living McLaughry of Norwich

7. Deane Ferm was born 22 May 1927 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Like his brother, Dean got his Bachelor's degree from College Wooster and Yale University. Deane then went on to get a Masters of Arts degree and Doctor of Philosophy from Yale University by the year 1954. Deane got ordained into the Presbyterian Church in 1952. He has many works and publications. Deane worked as a professor of religion as well as a minister throughout his life time. Deane and Pauline divorced in 1976 after twenty five years of marriage. Deane then

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<sup>38</sup> "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV2J-WYDM> : 13 December 2015), Virginia Annette Ferm, 1934; Burial, Wooster, Wayne, Ohio, United States of America, Wooster Cemetery; citing record ID 70260852, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

<sup>39</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KWGJ-BWB> : accessed 30 January 2017), Vergilus Ferm, Ward 3, Wooster City, Wayne Township, Wayne, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 85-44, sheet 4B, line 67, family 85, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 3168.

<sup>40</sup> "Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950", database with images, *FamilySearch 5*(<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KM8S-2TT> : 24 June 2016), Virgil Hawkness Ferm and Ruth Eleanor Rowe, 1948.

<sup>41</sup> "Ruth R. Ferm" Obituary, *Valley News*, (October 31, 2016), Wilder, Vt., accessed online using the database of google, (<http://www.vnews.com/Ruth-Ferm-Obituary-Wilder-Vt-5657517> : accessed 27 January 2017). This is an obituary of Ruth R. Ferm.

<sup>42</sup> "Ruth R. Ferm" Obituary, *Valley News*, published 31 October 2016.

<sup>43</sup> "Ruth R. Ferm" Obituary, *Valley News*, published 31 October 2016.



married Debra Campbell on 21 December 1976, but later got divorced with her in 1995.<sup>44</sup>  
However, with his first wife, Paulie Swan, Deane had four children.<sup>45</sup>

13. Living Ferm

14. Living Ferm

15. Living Ferm

16. Living Ferm

8. Robert Livingston Ferm was born 2 January 1931 in Wooster, Ohio. In 1952 he went to Wooster College. In 1955 Robert got his Bachelor's Degree from Yale University. Robert also received his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy from Yale University within the next four years. Robert became a Professor of religion following graduation. Robert has published work still available today. Although the wife is not known, Robert is the father to two children.<sup>46</sup> He died 22 January 2013.<sup>47</sup>

17. Living Ferm

18. Living Ferm

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<sup>44</sup> Unknown author, "Deane William Ferm," Deane William Ferm (born May 22, 1927), American minister, writer | Prabook, , accessed January 31, 2017, <http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=584745>.

<sup>45</sup> Unknown author, "Deane William Ferm," Deane William Ferm (born May 22, 1927), American minister, writer | Prabook, , accessed January 31, 2017, <http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=584745>.

<sup>46</sup> Unknown author. "Robert Livingston Ferm." Robert Livingston Ferm (born January 2, 1931), American religion educator | Prabook. Accessed January 31, 2017. <http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=278559#>.

<sup>47</sup> "In Remembrance: Robert L. Ferm '55BD, '58PhD Died on January 22 2013." Robert L. Ferm '55BD, '58PhD | Obituaries | Yale Alumni Magazine. Accessed January 31, 2017. <https://yalealumnimagazine.com/obituaries/113-robert-l-ferm-55bd-58phd>.

## ***Questions for Further Research***

During our research we weren't able to find Olof's ancestors death dates. Therefore if we had more time to do further research on his ancestors, would we be able to find their death dates? If more time was allotted, The Swenson Center on the Augustana campus would be a good place to start finding these dates.

Unlike some of our fellow classmates, our alum did not connect with the bigger tree on FamilySearch. If we were able to find great-grandparents of Olof, would these people possible connect to the bigger tree on FamilySearch?

We found through our research that Olof and his father both immigrated to America on the same day but on different ships. If we were able to have more time, we would research why his father and him did not immigrate on the same ship?

On *FamilySearch* we created a record locator for Olof Wilhelm Ferm. This record locater is LRZX-D3D.

## ***Source List***

*Augustana College Catalog*, 1883-1884.

*Augustana College Catalog*, 1884-1885.

*Augustana Observer*, 1903-2016.

Bergendoff, Conrad. *The Augustana Ministerium: A Study of the Careers of the 2,504 Pastors of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Synod/Church 1850-1962*. Rock Island, Illinois, Augustana Historical Society, 1980.

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“Visnum C:6 (1826-1853)”, database of images. *ArkivDigital*,  
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“Visnum AI:13 (1824-1830)”, database of image, ArkivDigital,  
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*Yale Alumni Magazine*. Remembrance of Robert L. Ferm. Web archives. Found  
through a google search of Robert L. Ferm and death date, 22 Jan 2013.

