

# Swedish American Genealogist

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# Swedish American Genealogist




*A journal devoted to Swedish American  
biography, genealogy and personal history*

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# Swedish American Genealogist



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Editor and Publisher Nils William Olsson, Ph.D., F.A.S.G.

Contributing Editors Glen E. Brolander, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL;  
Sten Carlsson, Ph.D., Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden;  
Carl-Erik Johansson, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT;  
Henric Sollbe, Norrköping, Sweden;  
Erik Wikén, Ph.D., Stockholm, Sweden

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# The Emigrant Register of Karlstad

Erik Gustavson\*

The Emigrant Register in Karlstad, in the province of Värmland, was founded in 1960 and thereby became the first institution of its kind in Sweden. There was, however, an extensive period of preparatory work.

Interest in contacts with Swedish America has always existed in Sweden. In several locations, for example, there are Sweden America Day celebrations of long standing. When Sigurd Gustavson, the founder of the Emigrant Register, invited the then Swedish Consul General in Minneapolis, Carl Fredrik Hellström, to one such celebration, the Consul General accepted the invitation with the following words: "It's all very well with festivals, but they are soon over, and as a rule nothing further happens. If you knew the warm feelings which the Swedish descendants in America have for the Swedes, you would certainly do something more". These words became the seeds from which the expanded activity within the Värmland Historical Society was to flower.

This new activity commenced with the famed "Värmland Gift", which consisted of a separate gift from every parish in Värmland, to the Swedish descendants in America. These gifts varied greatly, but in most cases they were typical items used in those localities which contributed them. One can view these gifts as bits of local history, replete with their traditions, events and human destinies. Altogether, the "Värmland Gift" was made up of some one hundred items, presented to the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN in June of 1952. The collection still remains there as a reminder of the good will which emanated from Värmland and constitutes a key exhibit, viewed by tens of thousands annually.

The "Värmland Gift" had spawned the thought that a monument should be erected in Värmland as a concrete reminder of the more than one million Swedes who journeyed to the great land in the West. The thought expanded to also include the folk groups in Värmland, whose ancestral roots from the earliest times had been in Finland. The monument was raised in the heart of the Selma Lagerlöf country, near Rottneros, created in the geographical shape of Värmland, crowned by a sculptured eagle, with wings outstretched, ready for flight. *Stamfrändemonumentet* (The Kinship Monument) became a reality and on its base are chiseled the words "To commemorate the bonds which tie kinfolk together across the seas, to the West and to the East".

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\* Erik Gustavson is the Director of the Emigrant Register in Karlstad, Sweden.



Still, the desire for something more became all the more evident, and in 1960, the Emigrant Register was founded as a research center for scholars, students, researchers and genealogists, where these might at first hand receive information concerning those sons and daughters of the province, who had left to seek a living elsewhere. Among the first tasks tackled by the Register was to compile a record over all of the emigrants from the province of Värmland, who had departed for America. In addition to the alphabetical lists, chronological emigration lists were drawn up for each parish based on the exit lists and the parish household examination rolls. For each emigrant a questionnaire was prepared on a specially prepared and printed form. The data from the parish records were added to these questionnaire lists, as were the answers to the questions, given by Swedish relatives of the emigrant, or the emigrant himself, if he was alive, either if he dropped by in person on a visit from America to Sweden, or by corresponding, if it was known where he was residing in the U.S. If the emigrant was deceased an attempt was made to locate his next-of-kin and if this was not possible, other persons, such as old neighbors, friends, both in Sweden and the United States, who were knowledgeable about the individual would be contacted.

This task is of course wholly dependent upon our contacts throughout the province. For certain parishes these information sheets are nearly completed, while for others there are still large gaps in our information. The work with filling out the questionnaires goes on even in the United States. Many are the questionnaires which have been requisitioned by private researchers for completion and they have been returned containing valuable information. The attempt to secure documentation from persons who experienced and have good memories of their emigration is very important to the collection of oral history.

The collections of Swedish American newspapers on deposit in the Royal Library of Stockholm have been combed for articles dealing with the emigration phenomenon and have been excerpted. The same thing can be said of the various local Swedish newspapers. From these we use everything which touches on America, whether it is news, announcements, and advertisements. This gives us a true picture of how intensive the concept of "America" was reflected in the newspapers during the years of heavy emigration. Present day newspapers are also studied. Articles dealing with birthdays, weddings as well as obituaries are clipped and filed according to the parish. Certain details from these vital notices are then transferred to the questionnaire files.

Passenger lists from ports of embarkation have been requisitioned for copying and excerpting. When it comes to Norwegian ports, and records of departure are on microfilm, these have been requisitioned and also excerpted. For many emigrants from Värmland, the port of Kristiania (nowadays Oslo) played a vital role in the emigration experience and it is important to exhaust the resources of this embarkation port.

Our microfilm archives contain information from various Swedish parishes, but only for the years up to and including 1895. The microfilms from Sweden's Central Bureau of Statistics, which include information concerning those who have left the parishes for foreign parts, and kept in intervals of five years, are also included in our holdings, as are the previously mentioned Norwegian port of embarkation records.



Sigurd Gustavson



The Kinship Monument

Our library at the Register contains about 5,000 volumes, much of it dealing with the emigration theme, but also heavy in topographic and biographical content. We are constantly on the lookout for titles missing in our collection by studying book catalogues, visiting antiquarian book shops and watching out for book auctions. We therefore possess a great deal of real rarities. In this field, the Emigrant Register has benefitted by receiving strong support from Birger Swenson of Rock Island, IL, former book publisher and together with wife, Lyal, the main benefactor in the establishment recently of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Rock Island, IL. Mr. Swenson has greatly enhanced our library with his many gifts.

The Emigrant Register also organizes and assembles exhibits and supplies Vasa Order lodges and historical societies with material dealing with American emigration for local 'emigrant days' and similar occasions. Several tours have also been arranged for visiting Swedish organizations in America.

For some time the Emigrant Register has been involved in a joint research project with the Department of History of the University of Uppsala. The Register and staff members from the Department's American History Section have labored gathering information and recording oral traditions

concerning emigration and the labor migration from Värmland to Norrland in northern Sweden and Norway. The result of this research has shown us that concerning the labor migration, we were out late, but when it comes to the emigration phenomenon this is still alive in people's memories. The material from the joint effort with the University of Uppsala remains largely unprocessed. The experience has taught us that the collecting of oral traditions concerning emigration is very urgent, both in the United States and Sweden.

During the existence of the Emigrant Register a great many conferences have been held, which have addressed the problems of emigration to North America and the labor migrations. The cooperative efforts, foremost then with the University of Uppsala, with the inspired leadership of Prof. Sten Carlsson, as well as with the universities in Lund and Oslo, have been of tremendous value in this connection. We have in this manner been able to combine formal academic research with the more informal work going on at the community level. This blending of two forces, working toward one goal, has been to say the least very exciting for everyone involved.

Across the years we have also at the Emigrant Register been able to accumulate a significant biographical archives of letters, photographs and the especially valuable material from the emigrant agents active in Sweden at the height of the emigration period. In order to make this material more easily accessible, we have set up a reference index, dealing with both names and subjects. Additionally we also have a separate photographic archives, which has been very valuable when it comes to the publishing of our quarterly journal.

The Emigrant Register has built up a solid network of contacts, primarily in the province of Värmland, but extending also into other parts of Sweden. This network operates as a rule through the various local historical societies (*hembygdsföreningar*). These contacts are of inestimable value for personal research, for it means that we always have someone we can alert, when a visitor of Swedish descent arrives from America, bent on seeing his ancestral home. In the United States our best contacts are with the various Swedish American organizations, spread all over the American continent. There is no doubt that the Emigrant Register today stands out as a foremost source of information on emigration from the province of Värmland. Additionally it has built up across the years a preeminent position as a leading institution in this field in the Scandinavian countries.

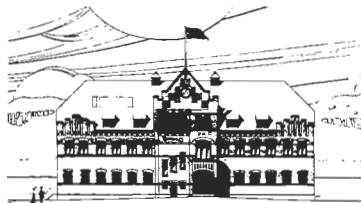
From the very start, the Emigrant Register has emphasized its dual role as an institution. One of its purposes is to be a collection agency for the ingathering of information concerning emigration and labor migration and to make this material available to students and researchers on all levels.

The second purpose is the strengthening of the ties between kinsmen on both sides of the Atlantic. This purpose also seeks to guarantee that material in America, which deals with emigration from Sweden, and which is of vital

interest to Sweden, not be lost. As an essential part of this task, the Emigrant Register, together with our supporting organization, *Samfundet Emigrantforskningens Främjande* (The Society for the Promotion of Emigration Research), publishes the quarterly journal *Bryggan* and its English language counterpart, *The Bridge*, which together have a circulation of ca. 3,000. *Bryggan/The Bridge* desires to stimulate research in the field of emigration on both sides of the Atlantic. Thus we can be aware of what is transpiring on various levels. The activities of the Swedish American organizations are reflected here. Collaboration between the editor and his readers is carried out by the contribution of articles from the readers themselves. Thus we look upon *Bryggan/The Bridge* as the primary publication for everyone interested in emigration research.

In order to acquaint people more readily concerning our activities, the Emigrant Register has produced a slide show program which portrays the contacts between Sweden and America across several centuries. The program has proved to be very popular in our two countries. Historical societies, Vasa Order lodges, study circles and school classes have attended the showings. Inspired by the success of this program, (which incidentally also carries the same symbolic title as our quarterly journal, has likewise been produced in both English and Swedish versions), we have produced another slide program, one which deals perhaps with the most famous Swedish emigrant, John Ericsson. He emigrated to the United States in 1839. Though he cannot be classified as a typical emigrant, he had to struggle like most of them to become successful. He also shared with the majority of the emigrants an intense longing for home. In Värmland we celebrate annually our Swedish America Day, which we call John Ericsson Day. During the past year we had a premiere performance of the show about him.

From its earliest beginnings, the Emigrant Register has always kept in view the dream of some time finding suitable quarters for its operation. This dream is about to be fulfilled. In the near future the Emigrant Register will begin moving into an old cultural landmark in Karlstad, a building which has been renovated from top to bottom to fulfill our requirements. This new Kinship Center will provide work space, rooms for lectures, research, a library and exhibits, among other things. The Kinship Center is conveniently located near the business district of Karlstad, in a lovely spot on the banks of the Klar River (*Klarälven*). The Center will be open to all persons interested in the great migration, and everyone is cordially invited to visit us.



The Kinship Center



# Swedish American Directories

Tell G. Dahllöf\*

I have read Nils William Olsson's article, *A Sweish Directory for Boston 1881*, published in the September issue of *SAG* (Vol. II, No. 3), and while I found it extremely interesting and informative, I must call his attention as well as readers of *SAG* to the fact that Eric Wretlind's Boston Swedish directory was not the only such directory published in Swedish America. Actually I know of at least six other directories and guides, which in one way or another parallel Wretlind's edition. Three of these works are guides and three of them are directories. They are listed here in a chronological order.

The earliest is one for New York and its environs called *Svensk illustrerad Vägvisare öfver New York, Brooklyn och Dess Omgifningar* (*Guide to New York, Brooklyn and Surrounding Areas*), published by Wretlind and Kassman in New York in 1881. No first names are given for either of the compilers, but I assume that Wretlind is identical with Eric Wretlind, the Boston Directory's publisher. The New York guide does not list a publisher or a printer, but was registered with the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. The work in question contains 168 pages and though it is not a directory, such as the Boston edition, it contains information useful to the Swedish American reader. A few Swedish names occur, such as the publishers of the four Swedish American newspapers, which were printed in New York at this time — *Nordstjernen* (*The North Star*), *Svenska Posten* (*The Swedish Post*), *Folkets Röst* (*The People's Voice*) and *Monitoren* (*The Monitor*). Other Swedish names are to be found in the 22 pages of advertising, interspersed in the text. The text itself concentrates on such useful hints as tables of weights and measures, with conversion from English to Swedish and vice versa, the names days of the year and a few poems, among them an ode which numbers a total of 21 verses, written by the Swedish Norwegian "professor and engineer, Mr. A. W. Almqvist, here writing under the pseudonym of Wava" on the occasion of the celebration at the Swedish and Norwegian Society in Brooklyn Nov. 4, 1875.

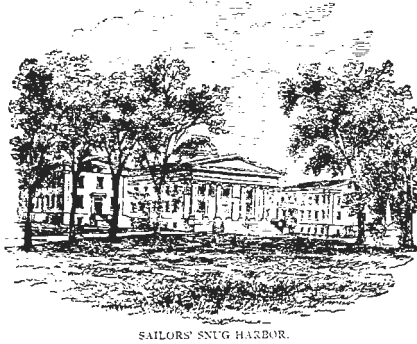
Assuming that Wretlind, who was the co-author of the New York guide, is identical with Eric Wretlind of Boston, he must have done his New York

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\* Tell G. Dahllöf of Stockholm, Sweden is an author, journalist and specialist on Swedish America. His library of *Swedish Americana* is probably the finest of its kind.

book either before or simultaneously with the Boston effort, which saw the light of day in late December of 1881.

SVENSK  
 Illustrerad Vägvisare  
 ÖFVER  
 NEW YORK, BROOKLYN  
 — OCH —  
 DESS OMGIFNINGAR.  
 UTGIFVEN AF  
 WRETLIND & KASSMAN.  
 — NEW YORK —  
 1881.



Title page from Wretlind's and Kassman's *Guide*

The next directory to appear on the scene was one devoted to the Swedes residing in Omaha and South Omaha, NE, published by Carl Bohmansson<sup>1</sup> in Omaha in 1899. The volume was printed at the printing shop of F. C. Festner in Omaha and measures approximately  $9 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$  in. and contains 94 pages, of which nine pages were used by 18 advertisers. Among the latter is Bohmansson himself, who announces his printing shop and his ticket business, specializing in steamship tickets to Scandinavia. He also ran a currency exchange and had a translating service which included Swedish, English, German and Danish.

Eleven pages are filled with general information of all kinds, such as the U.S. naturalization laws, the names of the Swedish-Norwegian consuls in the U.S., the voting rights, state by state, a list of the Swedish secular societies in Omaha as well as a directory of the Swedish churches. Among the Swedish societies are *Svenska Bibliotheks-sällskapet* (*The Swedish Library Society*), *Svea Nora Orden* (apparently a mutual benefit society), *Svenska Sångföreningen Norden* (*The Swedish Singing Society Norden*), *Svenska Musik-Bandet* (*The Swedish Music Band*) and a Swedish chapter affiliated with the International Order of the Good Templars. The four main

Swedish church denominations are all represented — the Lutherans, the Methodists, the Baptists and the Mission Covenanters.

The main body of the directory is given over to the listing of some 3,300 Swedes living in Omaha and South Omaha. Each entry lists the name, occupation and residence of each person. If the person listed is single, the place where he or she boards is sometimes listed. Occasionally the employer's name is also given. No information is available, however, as to the place of origin in Sweden, the year of birth or the year of arrival in the United States. Neither are there any illustrations.

In his introduction Bohmansson points to the fact that his directory was the first Swedish city directory published in the Western States. He anticipates his critics by saying that it would be well-nigh impossible to publish an error-less directory, since people were always on the move, while others had changed their names, making it difficult to ascertain of what country he or she had been a native.

Bohmansson goes on to extol the virtues of the city of Omaha, a city which in eight short years had grown from a population of slightly more than 30,000 to 125,000. This progress he ascribed to Omaha's geographical location as well as the hard work carried out by the pioneers, of which not a few had been "our countrymen". Some of the Swedes had entered such professions as medicine, pharmacology, publishing, the law (many Swedes were justices of the peace), while others were book dealers and clothing merchants.

The publisher points with pride to the fact that Omaha had six daily newspapers in English and as many weeklies in addition to two German language newspapers, three Bohemian, two Danish and four Swedish. Unfortunately he does not name the Swedish newspapers nor their editors. In an advertisement in his directory, Otto Wolff, the publisher of the Danish language newspaper *Dannebrog*, boasts that his newspaper has the largest circulation among Omaha Scandinavians.

*Chicago Svenska Adresskalender för 1904* (*The Chicago Swedish City Directory for 1904*) is the most impressive of all the city directories which I have seen so far. It lists more than 17,000 Swedes and their addresses. Many hundreds of the names reappear at the end of the directory in the "yellow section".

The volume was published by Henning Wennersten, 1006 Seminary Ave., the owner of a malt factory at the same address. The book contains 282 pages within sturdy yellow cloth covers and measures 9 × 6 in. The printers were The Linden Brothers at 114-116 Sherman St., one of the 18 printing establishments listed in the directory.

One need not be a genealogical buff to enjoy the wealth of information given here concerning the Swedish population, active in Chicago around the turn of the century, at this time the second largest Swedish city in the world after Stockholm.

The publisher has crammed his pages with advertising. Western Savings and Trust Bank at 157–159 La Salle St. occupies the lower half of the front cover, with The Swedish American Printing Co. at 35 South Clark St. occupying the entire inside front cover. On the back cover of the volume one finds “America’s Largest Scandinavian Bank”, The State Bank of Chicago (founded by John Richard Lindgren and Helge A. Haugan in 1879) at 142 Washington St., opposite Chicago’s City Hall whereas the finest men’s clothier on the North Side, John M. Erickson, located at the corner of Division and Clybourne Streets, occupies the inside of the back cover. On the pages in the front and back, facing the inside covers, the space is reserved solely for advertisers and here we find The Good Hope Bay Mining Company, which offers shares of stock in a half dozen listed Alaskan gold mining companies, which may pay a dividend as high as 135%. “Nothing ventured, nothing gained”, greets one from a page illustrated with a gold nugget of formidable size.

Nine of the ten then existing Swedish newspapers in Chicago call attention to their existence with *Hemlandet (The Homeland)* providing a dignified picture of its chief editor, Johan Alfred Enander. Captain Anders L. Löfström recommends his great store of used books to libraries and claims that he has the largest stock of Swedish books in America. His store, later to be named *Dalkullan*, was then located at 113–115 Oak St. Engberg-Holmberg Publishing Co., makes its claim of having the biggest book selection at its office at 119 East Chicago Ave. and Holmgren & Engdahl mention the fact that this directory was bound by them at 254–256 Orleans St.

Three pages, of which two are devoted to illustrations of the impressive factory buildings in Chicago and Rochester, NY, advertise the then ten year-old Strömberg-Carlson Telephone Co. and almost as much space is given to the publisher’s own company and his manufactured malt products. These are frequently recommended in half-inch high advertising boxes reserved at the bottom of every text page. Wennersten’s malt products alternate with the earlier mentioned Western Savings & Trust Bank, as well as a photographer named L.W. Felt at 215 East Chicago Ave., who keeps repeating his offer of a free painted picture to anyone ordering six or more of his portraits.

The main body of the text opens with a review of the various religious and lay activities available in the Swedish community. Leading the list are the eighteen Augustana Lutheran churches with Pastor C. A. Evald as the shepherd of the venerable Immanuel Lutheran Church, founded by Tuve Nilsson Hasselquist in 1853. In 1904 two of that congregation’s charter members are still alive — Mrs. Eva Charlotta Carlsson, née Andersson, from Timelhed Parish (Älvs.), widow of the legendary Pastor Erland Carlsson. The other charter member is John Gottfrid Carlsson, a retired Chicago Fire Department captain from Böne Parish, also in Älvsborg län. His address is given as 1088 Victor St.



Eleven Swedish Baptist churches are listed, of which the First Baptist Church at Milton and Elm Streets has the Rev. G. Arvid Hagström as its pastor. Serving as vice chairman of the church body is the editor, E. Win-gren.

The oldest Swedish congregation in Chicago, the St. Ansgarius Swedish Episcopal Church, founded by the Rev. Gustaf Unonius in 1849, is now headed by the Rev. Carl Gustaf Herman Lindskog, who has served this charge since 1887.

Pastor Olof A. Toffteen is the clergyman at the Immanuel Episcopal Church at 1104 West 59th St. He had earlier served in the St. Ansgarius Swedish Episcopal Church of Minneapolis (see *SAG*, Vol. II, No. 2, p. 71).

The Salvation Army boasts of seven corps and the Swedish Mission Church (now the Evangelical Covenant Church) has a total of twenty congregations in Chicago, with the well-known pastor and writer, F. M. Johnson as minister of the First Mission Church at Orleans and Whiting Streets. Alfred Almfeldt is the pastor of the North Park College Mission Church.

The Oak Street Mission, once headed by the Rev. John Gustaf Princell, now has as its leader a minister by the name of Gustaf Aaron Young.

There are seventeen Swedish Methodist Episcopal churches in the Chicago area, with the Rev. Anders J. Löfgren as the district superintendent.

The First Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in the 1850s is now served by the Rev. Karl H. Elmström.

Under the heading of *Föreningar* (Societies), the Independent Order of Svithiod heads the list with fifteen lodges. The Independent Order of Vikings records twelve lodges with their addresses and meeting schedules, but it is the only society which does not list its officers.

The president of the *Linné Klubb* (The Linné Society), founded in 1898, is Anton Wilhelm Johanson. The club headquarters are at 1416 Montana St. The Svithiod Singing Society, founded in 1892, lists Fred R. Franson as its president.

*Svenska National Förbundet* (The Swedish National Society), located at 304-305 Dearborn St. is listed in the directory as being the "pride of the Chicago Swedes". The well-known Frans A. Lindstrand, editor of *Svenska Amerikanaren*, is its president. Another famous Chicago Swede, Othelia Myhrman, who then lived at 2603 N. Claremont Ave., is the director of the employment agency run by the society. The secretary was none other than another famous Swedish newspaperman in Chicago, Frithiof Malmqvist. This society was founded in 1894, as was another group called *Svenska Föreningarnas Centralförbund* (Union of Swedish Societies), of which few particulars are given, except that its president is given as George S. Oleson. Oddly enough his name does not appear in the directory itself.

In 1895 fourteen Swedish women in Chicago founded *Svensk-Amerikanska Kvinnoklubben* (Swedish American Ladies' Society), whose president is given as Othelia Myhrman. The directory notes that the social

gatherings of this group are beyond comparison "the best organized entertainments in all of Swedish Chicago".

The first Swedish lodge in Chicago of the International Order of Good Templars was founded by Klas Östergren in 1892. Addresses are given for eleven of the twenty lodges, which were in existence in Chicago. There are two lodges of the Sons of Temperance and the same number for *Nykterhetsorden Verdandi* (Verdandi Temperance Society). An umbrella organization for all of the temperance organizations in Chicago is *Skandinaviska Nykterhetsförbundet* (The Scandinavian Temperance Union) with Dr. John Fredrick Lindquist as president.

Next follow a dozen or so associations and clubs, most of them singing societies, but here is also *Svenska Urmakeriföreningen* (The Swedish Society of Watchmakers) and *Svenska Affärsmännens Klubb* (The Swedish Businessmen's Club) with Samuel A. Freeman as president.

Pastor Laurentius G. Abrahamson is listed as the chairman of the board of the Augustana Hospital. During its twenty years of service it reports of having treated almost 14,000 patients. The Swedish Mission Hospital (today known as the Swedish Covenant Hospital), is located at 250-260 West Foster Ave. It is also called The Home of Mercy, and has Claes Flodin as its chairman of the board.

Finally the directory reports that twelve teachers are employed at North Park College, which is headed by Prof. David Nyvall, prolific writer and philosopher.

Pages 221-267 are devoted to a classified business directory. Counting the names under each business heading, we find that there are a total of 47 Swedish lawyers listed, 14 druggists, 16 architects, 45 midwives, 18 book printers, 90 building contractors, two veterinarians, ten publishers, of which four specialize in the publishing of music, and one atlas and map maker.

Furthermore four persons are listed as glovemakers, three are house-movers, sixteen are farriers (horseshoers) and six are knife and scissors grinders. There are four names listed under automobile shops. Three Swedes produce hammocks and as many distribute ice. There are more than 150 waiters and more than 200 Swedish tailors. There are a total of more than 100 Swedish dressmakers' shops listed. Chicago boasts of 47 Swedish physicians of which five are women.

The main body of the directory is of course devoted to names, addresses and occupations. Here Wennersten uses a total of 56 abbreviations for various occupations, from *arb.* = *arbetare* (laborer) to *vaktm.* = *vaktmästare* (watchman). Each page contains two columns of names and each name, address and occupation is not wider than 2½ in. Of the more than 17,000 names, the Johnsons are far ahead with 1,700, or 10% of the list. There are 1,150 Petersons, 1,100 Nelsons, of which 100 have the Christian name of John. Only fifty have retained the Swedish spelling of Nilson. There are 750 Carlsons but only sixteen named Karlson. Then follow the Swansons with a

little more than 700 names. Then come the Olsons with 650. There is one person with the name of Klingspor, a widow with the Christian name of Wendla at 203 West Ohio St. Another name, well-known among early Chicago Swedes, was Olof Gottfrid Lange, who arrived in Chicago in 1838. The directory lists his son, Olof, a dentist, living at 307 Division St.

Wennersten's directory sold for \$1.00 and the publisher promises a new edition in April, 1905. Apparently the economic gains from his first venture were not such as to inspire a second edition.

In the Far West, the *Seattle Svenska Adresskalender (The Swedish City directory for Seattle)* was published in 1909 by O. A. Clasell.<sup>3</sup> It contains 96 pages and measures approximately  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  in. The price of this directory at the time of publication was 25 cents for the paper edition and 50 cents for the clothbound.

The subtitle informs us that the directory lists the names of all Swedish business- and tradesmen, all heads of families of Swedish origin, society and church members in Seattle and a few other places in King County of Swedish provenance, in addition to listing all of the Swedish American societies and churches as well as Swedish and American businessmen, who advertised in the directory.

Of the 96 pages in the directory, 49 pages are devoted to well over 4,000 Swedish names. As with Bohmansson, Clasell's directory does not list the origin in Sweden, the year of birth, nor the year of arrival in the U.S. In addition there are 23 pages of advertising, containing fifty advertisers on the inside pages and six on the covers. There are twelve pages of illustrations, including two full-page pictures of officials prominent in the staging of the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition, held in Seattle June 1–Oct. 15, 1909: J. E. Chilberg,<sup>4</sup> its president, and Godfrey Chealander,<sup>5</sup> Alaska's first commissioner to the AYP Expo. The remaining twelve pages of the directory cover the various Swedish churches and secular societies in Seattle and its environs, officials of the AYP Expo as well as officials of the City of Seattle and King County. There are also some brief Seattle statistics.

Among the advertisers which arouse more than a casual interest are Ernst Skarstedt,<sup>6</sup> Seattle's leading Swedish literary light, who calls the reader's attention to his *Washington* book, published the year before; the Swedish Book Store on 602 Pike Street, and the *Pacific Tribunen (The Pacific Tribune)*, a Swedish language newspaper, which gave away an *Atlas of the World* to all new subscribers. There are advertisements for the Scandinavian American Steamship Line, Hotel Kalmar, Andrew Chilberg,<sup>7</sup> the Swedish vice consul, who promises to help solve inheritance problems, the Edgren<sup>8</sup> School of Music and there is even an advertisement by John L. Anderson with an impressive illustration of his steamship *Fortuna*, which he would be pleased to have chartered for private "picnic parties".

There is a full-page picture of the Swedish Club, located at 1627–29 Eighth Avenue and a line drawing of "the Swedish Building" at the Alaska-

Yukon Pacific Exposition, constructed on the exposition site by "patriotic Swedes in Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and Spokane, WA".

In addition to Seattle, thirteen other Swedish American communities are listed in the adjacent area, one of which, Preston, WA, leads the list with 72 Swedish names.

Clasell, the publisher, also has a page of 55 abbreviations for the various occupations and professions listed in his directory. As examples should be mentioned such abbreviations as *arb* for *arbetare* (laborer), *kolh* for *kolhandlare* (coal dealer), *tim* for *timmerman* (carpenter) and *tillsk* for *tillskärare* (cutter in a tailoring shop). An exception to this is the occupation cited for Skarstedt, who is listed as *litteratör* (writer), with the entire word spelled out. Skarstedt resided at 5013 30th Street South.

Finally I should like to call attention to a small guide for the Swedes in Chicago, *Vägvisare för Svenskarne i Chicago (Guide for the Swedes in Chicago)*, published in 1910 by Carl Hjalmar Lundquist.<sup>9</sup> It is a small volume, measuring approximately  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$  in. It contains 80 pages, of which five are devoted to advertising, among them one for *Hemlandet (The Homeland)*, one of the oldest and most respected Swedish American newspapers. The Chicago guide is not a directory, but gives much useful information concerning the city of Chicago, the new house numbering system, various meeting localities, the consulates, the newspapers of which nine were Swedish, a conversion table for the Celsius and Fahrenheit thermometers, a small almanac, etc.

Many Swedish names are listed: thus we find the names of all secretaries of the many Swedish societies, secular clubs and various Swedish church congregations, for which groups we also learn the addresses, the hours they are open and the times for scheduled meetings and church services. There is also a list of names covering such categories as lawyers — there were 14 Swedes; surveyors and physicians — there were six of each; masons and watchmakers — one of each was Swedish, dentists and of course the agent for the Scandinavian American Steamship Line.

As a curiosity I should also like to mention a Swedish guide book for visitors to the World's Fair, held in Philadelphia in 1876. The complete title is *Illustrerad Hand-Bok till Philadelphia och dess omgifningar, särskildt för dem som besöka Verldsutställningen 1876, jemte vägvisare till Washington, New York, Boston, Niagara, Chicago med flera platser (Illustrated Guide Book for Philadelphia and Environs. Especially Prepared for Those Visiting the World's Fair 1876, as well as a Guide to Washington, New York, Boston, Niagara, Chicago and Other Places)*. The guide book is written by Dr. H. A. W. Lindehn and published by Chas. P. Thore & Co., book and job printers at 60 John and 43 Chatham Streets in New York. It measures  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Philadelphia and the Fair are well covered in 160 pages, while the rest of the title must be classified as gross exaggeration, to say the least. That



information is limited to a total of six pages, in an appendix, supplying mostly distances and rail fares to Philadelphia.

In the text itself, covering the history, buildings, schools, churches, societies, theaters, hotels, newspapers, etc., there are six pages devoted to Old Swedes' Church with an appropriate picture. There are eight lines given to *Skandinaviska Föreningen* (The Scandinavian Society), founded in 1868, with club facilities located at 347 North Third St. Its president is C. G. Greenbeck. Another society *Svenska Benefitföreningen* (The Swedish Benefit Society), founded in 1876 has a membership of fifty persons.

In the six pages of the appendix the members of the Swedish Exhibit Committee are named, headed by C. Juhlin-Dannfeldt, the curator. Four lines in the chapter on the Fair itself state that Sweden exhibits a little schoolhouse consisting of two rooms, built on the site by Swedish workers brought over from Sweden.

There are twelve full pages of advertising in the front of as well as in the back of the book. The first page carries advertising for Captain R. E. Jeanson, the well-known emigrant agent, who at that time was working for The American Emigrant Co., 14 Broadway, New York City, with offices in Malmö, Kristiania (Oslo) and Copenhagen. The main Scandinavian office was located in Göteborg % G. W. Schroeder & Co., 8 Norra Hamngatan.

Other advertisements of interest are those of Francis Ström, furniture dealer, on the north east corner of 44th and Broadway in New York; Alfred Lagergren, the general western agent for the White Star Line, with office at 120 East Randolph St. in Chicago; the printer of the guide book, Charles P. Thore, who announces his newspaper *Norden (The North)*, a "liberal" newspaper; P. Collin, a Swedish tailor at 198 Prince St., New York and Bo Christian Roos af Hjelmsäter, whose company, Bo Chr. Roos & Co. at 20 State St. in New York has a two page ad for his bank and currency exchange, with a branch at 38 Norra Hamngatan in Göteborg. In Philadelphia we note the name of L. Westergaard & Co. at 138 South Second St., which also serves as the Vice Consulate for Sweden and Norway in addition to its business of being ship agents and brokers; Walström & Stevens, stationers and printers at 216 South Third St.; Tinius Olsen, a consulting engineer at 1914 North Eleventh St. and A. R. Olson, tailor at 308 North 13th St.

In the beginning of the volume are four yellow pages with the caption Business Directory, where the above mentioned advertisers are listed as well as the following — Wilhelm Wendel, photographer at 273 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY; Claes Österholm, a music teacher at 485 Atlantic Ave., also in Brooklyn and Louis Hallen, plume and feather merchant at 100 Prince St. in New York City. Two more tailors are listed — P. E. Erickson at 61 Bond St., Brooklyn and O. Zetterström at 37 West 11th St. in New York.

The handbook sold for 50 cents in paper wrappers and 75 cents in hard covers. It is a handsome volume and well illustrated, beginning with a frontispiece of "Moonlight on the Susquehanna".

With these brief notes I have wished to cite the other interesting examples of Swedish American city directories, guides and handbooks, which appeared in such diverse areas as New York, NY, Chicago, IL, Omaha, NE, Seattle, WA and Philadelphia, PA. None of these directories or guides come up to the high standard of Eric Wretlind's Boston directory, nor are they as comprehensive, but they give us a valuable insight into the Swedish life and times of five great Swedish American centers at the time of the zenith of Swedish immigration to America.

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- <sup>1</sup> Carl Bohmans[s] on was b. in Kristianstad May 17, 1859. He was educated in Sweden and was employed in a number of book stores in Kristianstad, Ystad, Uppsala and Stockholm. He arr. in America in 1888 and resided for the most part in Omaha, NE, where he worked part of the time for *Svenska Posten* (*The Swedish Post*). He helped found another Swedish American newspaper, *Omaha Svenska Tribunen* (*The Omaha Swedish Tribune*). In 1897 he lived briefly in Minneapolis, MN, where he edited a "Christian nonsectarian monthly magazine called *Förgät-mig-nej* (*Forget-me-not*). — Ernst Skarstedt, *Våra Pennfåktare* (*Our Journalists*) (San Francisco, 1897), pp. 30, 239.
- <sup>2</sup> I have checked and clarified the names in Wennersten's work, using as a frame of reference Ernst William Olson's *History of the Swedes of Illinois*, I-III (Chicago, 1908), 1,617 pp.
- <sup>3</sup> Olof Anderson Klasell (Clasell) was b. in Kläsinge, Sireköpinge Parish (Malm.) Dec. 6, 1858. After studies at a teacher's college in Lund he took his organist's examination and left for America 1885. He attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN and served for a while as organist in the Stillwater Lutheran Church. In 1887 he moved to San Francisco and ten years later he moved to Alaska, where he was to spend considerable time exploring the opportunities for mining. During one of his many trips he became lost and through a miracle was rescued by some Eskimos. With incredible hardships he crossed the entire Seward Peninsula, arriving in Nome during the winter of 1904, where he was hospitalized. He lost four fingers and half a foot through frostbite. Subsequently he settled in Port Townsend, WA. — Ernst Skarstedt, *Washington och Dess Svenska Befolkning* (*Washington and Its Swedish Population*) (Seattle, 1908), pp. 406–407.
- <sup>4</sup> John Edward Chilberg was b. in Iowa, the s. of Nils Chilberg and Mathilda Shanström. The father had arr. in Boston, MA Oct. 7, 1846 aboard the *Superb* from Göteborg, Sweden, with his parents, Carl Johan Killberg (he changed his name to Chilberg in the U.S.) and Johanna Johansdotter, and his siblings — Jöns Peter, Isak and Andreas. He became one of Seattle's most successful financiers and served as president of the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition. — Skarstedt, *Washington*, p. 317; Nils William Olsson, *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in U.S. Ports 1820–1850* (*except N.Y.*) (Stockholm and St. Paul, MN, 1979), pp. 74–75.
- <sup>5</sup> Otto Godfrey Chealander was b. in Kalmar, Sweden June 18, 1868. He arr. in the U.S. at the age of 17, settling on his uncle's farm in Springfield, IL. In 1894 he moved to Washington State, began law studies, but just before his final bar examination he was caught up by the gold fever in 1897 and went to Alaska where he was to remain for several years. His first-hand knowledge of Alaska caused him to be appointed U.S. Commissioner for Alaska to the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, OR 1905. When the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition idea was launched, Chealander was its most enthusiastic supporter and as a result of the labor he put into the concept, he was generally considered to be the father of the exhibition — Skarstedt, *Washington*, pp. 310–312.
- <sup>6</sup> Ernst Teofil Skarstedt, Swedish American journalist and author, was b. in Solberga Parish (Göt.) April 14, 1857, the s. of Carl Wilhelm Skarstedt, clergyman (*kyrkoherde*) and later professor of theology at the University of Lund, and Hedvig Elina Wieselgren. After studies in Sweden he emigr. to America in 1878. He became editor of the *Svenska Amerikanaren* (*The Swedish American*) in Chicago, IL from 1880 to 1884. In 1885 he moved to Washington Territory, where he became a pioneer settler in Clark County. For several years he was itinerant journalist, landscape photographer and some time magician. In 1891 he joined the staff of *Vestkusten* (*The West Coast*) in San Francisco and later became its editor and co-owner together with the legendary Alex. Olson. During the Great Fire of San Francisco in 1906 he lost his immense collection of 1,200 books, 4,000 letters and thousands of pictures

as well as newspaper clippings. He returned to Seattle, where he published his *Washington* book in 1908. He was a prolific writer, whose works on Swedish America are still cited by scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. — Skarstedt, *Washington*, pp. 546–547; *Svenska män och kvinnor* I-VIII (Stockholm, 1942–1955), VII, p. 80.

- <sup>7</sup> Andrew Chilberg was b. in Knåred Parish (Hall.) March 29, 1845 as Andreas Killberg, s. of Carl Johan Killberg and Johanna Johansdotter and a brother of Nils (see note 4 above). He accompanied his parents to Iowa in 1846. After extensive travels to the West Coast, he returned to Iowa, but already by 1875 he set out for the West, settling in Seattle, where he opened a grocery store. He became a successful businessman and in 1879 was appointed Swedish-Norwegian vice consul for Seattle. — Skarstedt, *Washington*, pp. 312–315.
- <sup>8</sup> Adolph Edgren was b. in Gävle Oct. 27, 1858. He received his entire musical education in Sweden. In 1892 he came to America, where he travelled widely with various musical groups, organized by him, such as the Philharmonic Concert Company of New York and the Jenny Lind Quartet. He lived in Omaha, NE, Kansas City, MO, Portland, OR and San Francisco, before coming to Seattle in 1906. Here he established the Edgren School of Music together with his wife, Emma Möller, a concert artist in her own right. — Skarstedt, *Washington*, pp. 325–327.
- <sup>9</sup> Carl Hjalmar Lundquist was b. in Bofors, Karlskoga Parish (Öre.) Oct. 11, 1883, the s. of Carl Johan Fredrik Lundquist and Hulda Serafia Wennerblad. In 1886 he and his family arr. in Chicago but after ten years his father was transferred back to Sweden, where Carl Hjalmar received his entire pre-university training. In 1905 the family returned to Chicago, where Carl Hjalmar became a newspaper editor, before deciding to turn his attention to the study of law. He passed his bar examination and became assistant corporation counsel for the city of Chicago. He was very active in Swedish American circles in Chicago. After his death, his vast collection of books and papers were donated to the archives of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society in Chicago, through the instrumentality of the archivist at the society, Selma Jacobson. — *The Swedish Element in America* I-IV (Chicago, 1931–1943), III, p. 356.

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## Norwegian Sailor Last Survivor

When Commodore John Paul Jones, on board the *Bonhomme Richard*, engaged the British vessel, the *Serapis*, off Flamborough Head on the east coast of England on Sept. 23, 1779, he commanded a crew made up of sailors from eleven different nations. Among them were seven Swedes, all able-bodied seamen, and three Norwegians, two of them able-bodied seamen, and one, an ordinary seaman.<sup>1</sup> The battle which turned out to be one of the most ferocious in the American War for Independence, ended with Jones' victory, his capturing of the *Serapis*, but at the same time losing his own vessel, the *Bonhomme Richard*, when it sank in the North Sea from the heavy damage she had sustained in the battle.

Of the total crew of 322, approximately 150 were either killed or wounded in the engagement. Very little is known concerning the fate of the Scandinavians who participated in the battle, but a notice in *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion*, published in Boston, MA Aug. 2, 1851, has the following item concerning the last survivor of that bloody conflict:

“An old Salt — Thomas Johnson, a sailor, just 100 years of age, died at the Naval Asylum in Philadelphia on the 16th inst. [July 16, 1851]. He was Norwegian, and the last survivor of the gallant crew of Paul Jones, in his desperate conflict with the *Serapis* in 1779”.

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Eliot Morison, *John Paul Jones* (Boston, MA, 1959), p. 205.

# Norwegian and Swedish Local Histories

Nils William Olsson

One of the questions, most frequently asked at Scandinavian genealogical seminars and workshops, is why Swedes do not, as the Norwegians do, publish the so called *bygdebøker* or area histories. Before attempting to answer this particular question, let us look a little closer at the problem, and attempt to explain something of the uniqueness of the Norwegian local histories. Anyone doing genealogical searching in Norway is usually pleasantly surprised to discover the large numbers of these local histories, published in various parts of the country. The name of *bygdebok* (the singular form) means literally a book dealing with a *bygd*, or settled area of Norway. The word is derived from the verb, *at bygge*, meaning to build or settle. Thus one can virtually translate *bygdebok* as a history of a given settled area. This area or district may vary in size, but is usually limited by such natural phenomena as mountains, the ocean, fjords, lakes or such unsettled plateaus or heaths as Hardangervidda. Since Norwegian terrain is quite rugged and civilizations for countless centuries have tended to be confined to the more fertile river valleys or the lush mountain sides of escarpments overlooking the fjords, these settlements have in time become very stable. The presence of high mountains on each side of the valley discouraged human intercourse across the mountain tops. Likewise along the Norwegian fjords, separate cultures have in time emerged on either side of these bodies of water.

The natural tie for these people, dwelling in remote sections of the country, was with the people, who were their neighbors. Inbreeding became the rule, rather than the exception, and thus strong family and clan ties developed over the centuries. The people inhabiting these valleys, thus tended to develop strong feelings of independence and a fierce loyalty to their native soil, which also meant the people residing in that area. Thus a valley people or a particular coastal community, in developing its own distinctive culture, differed markedly from the culture existing on the other side of the mountain or on the other side of the fjord. This is vividly illustrated by the variance in local dialects, mode of dress, style of house construction, methods of farming and fishing, handcrafts and extended even to the folklore of the area.

With the coming of speedier communications, the appearance of radio and TV and the flocking to the urban centers of young people from the farms



in the valley or the coastal villages, these distinctive but disparate cultures gradually began to lose their contours and to be replaced by a more cosmopolitan and national identity.

Local loyalties remained strong, however, and Norwegians who moved to the cities or who emigrated to the United States, were more apt to consider themselves as Hallingdølings, Vossings, Hardingers or Trønder (from the districts surrounding Trondhjem, known as the Trøndelag) than Norwegians as they sought out their countrymen in Minnesota, North Dakota or Iowa.

Because of the long and interesting history of the settlements in these relatively isolated districts of Norway, local historians, many of them self-taught chroniclers, took upon themselves the task of analyzing specific areas, describe their histories, their cultures, industries, handcrafts, educational and religious life, as well as describing the farms and crofts themselves, sometimes writing about those who lived there, as far back as there are land records extant. In some instances, if he felt so inclined, he might give complete farm and village genealogies, illustrated with tables and charts.

It should be borne in mind that these *bygdebøker* limit themselves to the *bygd* or a given local area. These districts may also coincide with the geographical boundaries of a particular parish, *prestegjeld*, or several of them, but not necessarily so, since the main purpose of the presentation was to describe the *bygd*, even though it did not necessarily coincide with the boundary lines of the parish or parishes. It is thus the distinctive flavor of each local area which thus becomes the subject of each volume.

The quality of these *bygdebøker* varies greatly, all the way from excellent to poor. Also the genealogical contents may vary considerably, from being virtually non-existent to books containing elaborate genealogies with charts and tables. The scholar should not be discouraged, however, if upon examining a volume, he does not find the genealogical material he is looking for. The listing of dwelling places, from the more opulent farms to cottages and crofts, can be quite valuable in linking the searcher's Norwegian family surname to a farm name in the area, indicating a possible tie-in with that region.

A word of caution is in order here. The genealogical searcher should remember that these *bygdebøker* are at their best only secondary sources, based upon such primary sources as court records, parish registers, reminiscences of earlier inhabitants of the region, preserved in manuscript form or by means of oral tradition. The material may even have been copied from other printed works, in which case the volume becomes a tertiary source. If material from these local histories is to be used in the construction of a family history, the source of the information must be noted meticulously. Even better, if it is at all possible, is to check the information presented against the original records. Only then can one be satisfied that the information gathered is accurate.

Prof. Gerhard B. Naeseth of Madison, WI, the editor and publisher of *Norwegian Tracks*, a monthly periodical issued by the Vesterheim Genealogical Center at the Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, IA, has produced a list of Norwegian local histories from Hordaland, the area surrounding Bergen, which presently can be found in some American libraries.<sup>1</sup> This list is as follows:

<i>Local Area</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>U.S. Library</i>
Åsane	Edvard Haukedal	Åsane, bygda og folkelivet	W <sup>2</sup>
"	— — —	Åsane bygdebok	W
Alenfit	Nils Hjelmtveit	Bygdebok for Alenfit	W
Austrheim	Anton Solheim	Bygdebok for Austrheim	M, ND, W
Bergsdalen	— — —	Bergsdalen, ei fjellbygd i Hordaland	V
Bømlo	— — —	Bømlo bygdebok, 1-3 (W has also 4)	M, ND, W
Eidfjord	Aamund K.Bu	Aettarbok for Øyfjord	W
Etne	— — —	Etne-soga, 1-2	M, W
Fana	Hermod Hjeltestad	Fana, 1-2	S, W
Fitjar	Jacob Aaland	Fitjar, bygdeskipnad og bygdesoge	S, W
Fjell	— — —	Bygdesoge for Fjell	M, ND, W
Fusa	O. B. Skaathun	Soga for Fusa-Hålandsdal og Strandvik, 1-2	M(1), ND, W
Granvin	Olav Kolltveit	Granvin, Ulvik og Eidfjord i gamal og ny tid, 1-2	ND, V
"	Henrik Meyer Kvalem	Aettarbok for Granvin	ND, V
"	Olaf Olafsen	Granvin i fortid og nutid	
Hardanger	T. S. Haukenaes	Natur, folkeliv og folketro i Hardanger	L, S (4-6)
"	Halldor O. Opedal	Hardinger på sjøen	W
Haus	— — —	Haus i soge og segn	W(17, pt. 1-4)
Hosanger	Askild Eknaes	Aettebok for Hosanger fram till omlag 1960, 1-2	M, W
"	Ivar Hole	Hosanger kyrkje og Hosanger prestegjeld gjennom 200 år	S
Jondal	Olav Kolltveit	Jondal i gamal og ny tid	M, W
Kinsarvik	Aamund K.Bu	Aettarbok for Kinsarvik, 2	W
Kvam	Olaf Olafsen	Kvam i fortid og nutid	C, M, W
"	— — —	Aettarbok for Kvam, 1-4	L, ND, W(3-4)
Kvinnherad	— — —	Kvinnherad, 1914	L
"	— — —	Kvinnherad, 1972, 1	ND, W
"	Arne Stuland	Naturtilhøve og gardsoga	W
Lindås	Karl Sjurseth	Lindås herad	W
Masfjorden	Thorbjørn Frølich	Fjon eller Masfjorden i Hordaland fylke	S, W
"	Lars Nordland	Masfjordboki, 1950-51, 1-2	M(1), W(1)

Masfjorden	Lars Nordland	<i>Masfjordboki, 1973-78</i>	ND
Modalen	Sigmund Lillejord	<i>Bygdebok for Modalen herad, 1</i>	W
Odda	Aamund K.Bu	<i>Aettarbok for Odde</i>	S
"	Olav Kolltveit	<i>Odde, Ullensvang og Kinsarvik i gamal og ny tid, 1-5</i>	M(1-3), ND(1-4), W(1-5)
Oppheim	Torstein Hellesnes	<i>Gardssoge for Oppheim sokn</i>	ND
Os	— — —	<i>Bygdesoga for Os: Kulturhistorisk band, 1980</i>	ND
"	Nils Tveit	<i>Os, eit utsyn over Osbygd i fra gamal tid til no, 1-3</i>	ND, S(1), W(1-3)
Røldal	Knut Dalen	<i>Røldal bygdebok</i>	M
Samnanger	Nils Lauvskard	<i>Samnanger, 1-2</i>	M(2), ND(1) S(1), W
Skånevik	Anders Haugland	<i>Skåneviksoga, 1</i>	V
Stord	Ola Høyland	<i>Stord bygdebok, 1-3</i>	C, M, ND, S(2-3), W
Strandebarm	Anders Naess	<i>Strandebarm og Varaldsøy i gamal og ny tid, 1-2</i>	W
Sund	Johannes E. Hummelsund	<i>Bygdebok for Sund</i>	M, ND, W
Tysnes	Johannes Heggland	<i>Tysnes, 1-2</i>	M(1), W(1)
Ullensvang	Johannes J. Aga	<i>Slaegttavler vaesentlig vedkommende Ullensvang,</i>	W
"	Aamund K.Bu	<i>Aettarbok for Ullensvang, 1-2</i>	S(1), W
"	Olaf Olafsen	<i>Ullensvang, en historisk-topografisk-statistisk beskrivelse af Ullensvangs herred</i>	L
Ulvik	Aamund K.Bu	<i>Aettarbok for Ulvik</i>	C, W
Vaksdal	Brita Skre	<i>Vaksdal bygdebok, 2-3</i>	ND, W(3)
Voss	Lars Kindem	<i>Vossaboki, 1-4</i>	L(1), W
"	Lars Kindem	<i>Vossaaetter, 1-4</i>	L, S(1), V(1,3), W
"	— — —	<i>Voss bygdebok, 1 (Aettebok) for Vossestrand</i>	C, ND, W
"	— — —	<i>Voss bygdebok, 2 (Gardssoge) for Vossestrand</i>	C, M, W

Now let us turn to the eastern half of the Scandinavian peninsula — to Sweden. Geographically this country differs vastly from Norway. A brief look at a map of Sweden will show that there are no extensive mountain ranges separating long secluded valleys, nor deep fjords, which present natural obstacles to the intercourse between peoples. The local areas in Sweden, therefore, are those that coincide with the parishes, themselves,

## KVITeseID BYGDESOGe

I  
EttesagaSamla og skrivt av  
TORJUS LOUPEDALENEIGI FORLAG  
1956Title page from *Kviteseid Bygdesoge*MODUMS  
HISTORIEARNT RUUD:  
GÅRDSHISTORIEN

VI

UTGITT AV  
MODUM SPAREBANK  
MCMLXXIIITitle page of *Modums Historie*

## DALE

I 1593 var det ein Pål som reidde ut arbeidskatt på Dale, 1609 ein Nikuls som greier med salvervskatten, 1611 er Aamund og Aslak nemnde leigendingar det. Etter 1640 er Aslak att det, esmall og forarna. I 1648 er Tov Fjalestad ford som gardseigar, etter han sonen, Eivind. Eivind var gift med Guri Ulvsdotter, dotter til Ulv Aamundsson Foldas. Ulv hadde ein son Aamund Foldas som let etter seg tre døttar. Dei må truleg vera døde utan ervingar for Guri og Eivind erver Foldas og feire garupartar. Eivind må vera død i kring 1670 for då er det Guri som er skrift for jordmedelen frametter til 1680. Då er sonen Tov nemnd. (Sjå Bendik Veum: Fyresdal s. 100).

- I. Tolv (Tov) Fjalestad i Nissedal. Av borni.
  1. Eivind, d. fyri 1670 <sup>o</sup> Guri Ulvsdotter Foldas. Ho liver 1691.
  2. Aasmund d. Fjone 1681 <sup>o</sup> I og II. Fi born. Nokon av dei budde i Skafå
- II. Eivind Tovsson Dale og Guri Ulvsdotter. 8 born. Sk. Dale 1670. Foldas 1691
  3. Tov, d. fyri 1725 <sup>o</sup> Sigrd Olavsdotter (Hægeland 7) f. 1680 d. Hægeland 1759. --- Barnløuse
  4. Ulv. 5. Halvor. Bde d. fyri 1691.
  6. Tore, d. utan ervingar. Budde Foldas. 1704 gjeng garden til Torbjøng Jensen.
  7. Tallev, d. fyri 1725 <sup>o</sup> Torbjøng Aadnesdotter Tveiten, Fyresdal f. 1671 d. 1724. Ho <sup>o</sup> II Gunnar Tarjeson, sjå Lønnegrov.
  8. Helge <sup>o</sup> Guttorm Aavaldsson (Ormtveit 9).
  9. Asgiert <sup>o</sup> Olav Halvorsson Volstad, Tordal.
  10. Aashid <sup>o</sup> Lars Aavaldsson Brødal, Tordal.
- III. Tallev Eivindsson Dale og Torbjøng Aadnesdotter. 3 born.
  11. Eivind d. fyri 1738 <sup>o</sup> Rannei Salvesdotter Bjørnstad, Fyresdal, d. f. 1743. Sk. Dale 1743.
  12. Ingebjørg <sup>o</sup> Per.
  13. Sigrd f. 1700 d. Hægeland 1785 <sup>o</sup> I Odd Aamundsson. II Olav Leivsson.
- IV. Eivind Tallevsson Dale og Rannei Salvesdotter. 3 born. Ho <sup>o</sup> II Tjostø Olavsson. 2 born.
  14. Torbjøng f. 1730 <sup>o</sup> Tov Aavaldsson (Ormtveit 15).

Detailed page from *Kviteseid local history*

## HASSEL. Gård nr. 134

Hassel ligger ca. 40 meter over havet og grenser i øst til Drammenselven, i syd og vest til Øvre Eiker, i nord til Skibrek. Gården er kjent som sete for Hassel Jernverk som ble opprettet i 1647, og som hadde skoger og eiendommer i såvel Øvre Eiker som i Modum. I middelalderen lå gården under Sigdal. I 1450 er den nevnt under Fiskum i Øvre Eiker. Navnet er utredet av treslaget Hassel, og er kjent fra 1400 som Hasle. Nåværende form er kjent siden 1723.

Det var i 1723 ett bruk. I 1803 ett bruk med 12 husmannsplasser der verkets masovn- og grubearbeidere bodde. Gården hadde hverken skog eller andre herligheter, og grubene lå på Refsals grunn. I 1723 er det dog nevnt en bekkverk med et litt laksefiskei.

## EIERE:

1. Hassel var inntil ca. 1600 rent bondegods, og brukeren Arne, som 2. vi kjenner fra 1615, satt med 7 hspund i Hassel. Utenfor Modum eide han tilsammen 32 hspund. I 1617 sitter
2. Modum prestebøl med bygselen, men i 1642 er det nevnt at brukeren Paul og presten hver rådet over 1/2 skippund i gården.
3. Det Hasselske Jernverk som ble opprettet i 1647 sto i 1666 som eier av den ene halvpart. Anders Bergan hadde i 1629 hatt de 7 hspund som Arne satt med i 1615. De hadde han brukt til malskifte med kronen og hadde til gjengjeld fått 1/2 fjerding i Kittilsrud, som ble lagt til Bergan.

Ved siden av Det Hasselske Jernverk var det i 1666 borger-

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Detailed page from *Modum local history*

the *socken* or *församling*. Being one of the oldest form of territorial entity, going back to the earliest ecclesiastical subdivision, the parish has existed for hundreds of years, practically unchanged, and has therefore played the same role for the local population as the region or *bygd* did in Norway. Also the parish has aided in the development of the same fierce loyalty, which across the years has knit the parishioners together in a strong bond of unity. The geographic limits were rigid and well defined, thus fostering in the population a feeling of "togetherness". Nothing was more disparaging than to be called *utsocknes*, from the outside of the parish, literally "beyond the pale". Thus if a person married outside of the parish, this act itself was a serious breach of the parish loyalty. In such marriages, it might take years for the *utsocknes* person to be fully accepted into the parish family, if ever.

For civil purposes, especially for the administration of justice and other civil matters, several parishes were lumped together into a number of *härad-er*, or hundreds. The number of parishes which made up a *härad* could differ, depending upon population patterns communications and population centers, accessible to all, particularly in the administration of the judicial system. Loyalty to the *härad* was not as deep-rooted as to the parish, but sufficient to give local historians and antiquarians inspiration to produce various descriptions and histories of these larger units.

If the *bygdeböcker* are important to the Norwegian genealogical searcher, the *sockenbeskrivningar* or parish chronicles are just as important to the Swedish student. These descriptive histories also vary considerably in size, scope and content. As with the Norwegian local histories, the Swedish parish histories may contain excellent genealogical tables as well as lists of farm owners and residents of crofts and cottages within the parish, sometimes going back as far as the 18th century. Sometimes the histories are too general and devote little space to historical commentaries and may contain virtually no genealogical information. This is unfortunately true with the more recent parish descriptions, which tend to dwell far too much on the socio-economic aspects of the unit, rather than on the people and their history.

While Swedish parish descriptions predominate, there are also a number of excellent *häradsbeskrivningar*, or histories of the various hundreds, some of them going back to the 18th century. The hundreds vary in size, as mentioned earlier, anywhere from as few as four up to as many as a couple dozen of parishes.

There are also a few histories which encompass an entire province, a good example being the superb study of the province of Småland, by J. Rosengren, called *Ny Smålands beskrifning*, published in four volumes in Växjö from 1914 to 1920. This exemplary treatment of an entire province is a real boon to anyone interested in penetrating the long history of this part of Sweden, from which so many of its sons and daughters emigrated to America.



One Swedish local history which should be mentioned separately and which in itself represents a gargantuan undertaking in the field of local history is Karl-Erik Forsslund's magnificent presentation of the life and people of all of the parishes which line the shores of the two branches of the Dal River in the province of Dalarna. *Med Dalälven från källorna till havet* (*Along the Dal River, from its Source to the Sea*) traces the history and the people of one of the most interesting localities in Sweden. The work is in ten volumes and was published in Stockholm from 1918 to 1934. It is rich in the lore of Dalarna and contains masses of genealogical information as well as some excellent genealogical tables and charts.

Unfortunately, so far as can be learned, no separate bibliography exists of Swedish local histories. References to what has been published can be had from the scholarly and skilfully edited bibliography being compiled of Swedish historical printed sources, entitled *Svensk historisk bibliografi* (*A Bibliography of Swedish Historical Literature*) published in Stockholm in 1937 and issued on a continuing basis. This bibliography goes back as far as 1771 and covers every aspect of Swedish historiography. A few specialized bibliographies have been published for a few Swedish provinces, the most noteworthy being Gösta Ottervik's volume on Blekinge, A. Forsbom's volume on Hälsingland and Erik Marklund's study of Upper Norrland literature.

Below is a sampling of some of the local Swedish histories, which have been published in Sweden. This is but a modest effort, since hundreds of volumes have been issued. This list represents the holdings in the author's personal library:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Åker (Jön.)	— — —	<i>Bak' huggen knut och torvat tak</i>
Ålgå (Värm.)	Gustaf Karlberg	<i>Ålgå Socken i Värmland</i>
Bäckaby (Jön.)	— — —	<i>Bäckaby historia</i>
Bergsjö (Gävl.)	— — —	<i>Bergsjö, en hembygdsbok</i>
Broby (Krist.)	Pehr Johnsson	<i>Boken om Broby</i>
Fässberg (Göt.)	Johan Lundskog	<i>Fässbergs socken och Mölndals kvarnby</i>
Fellingsbro (Öre.)	Axel Garfvé	<i>Fellingsbro sockenhistoria, 1904</i>
"	Axel Garfvé	<i>Fellingsbro sockenhistoria, 1926</i>
Finnerödja (Skar.)	Sixten Rönnow	<i>Finnerödja</i>
Fjälkinge (Krist.)	J. Ljungh	<i>Fjelkinge i forna dagar</i>
Glava (Värm.)	Gustaf Karlberg	<i>Anteckningar om Glafva socken i Värmland</i>
Glemminge (Krist.)	Ernst Althin	<i>Om Glemminge och Tosterups församlingar</i>
Grönby (Malm.)	Jöns Hagerlöf	<i>Försök till Beskrifning öfwer Grönby pastorat i Skåne</i>
Gunnarskog (Värm.)	— — —	<i>En bok om Gunnarskog</i>
Hammarön (Värm.)	John Börjesson	<i>Hammarön och Hammaröborna</i>
Högerud (Värm.)	— — —	<i>Högerud i gången tid</i>
Hössna (Älvs.)	— — —	<i>Bygd och gårdar kring Galtåsen</i>

Huså/Kall (Jämt)	Gösta Ullberg	<i>Huså Bruks historia</i>
Huskvarna (Jön.)	Ragnar Lindstam	<i>Huskvarna krönika</i>
Klövsjö (Jämt.)	Gösta Ullberg	<i>Bönder, torpare och knektar i det gamla Klövsjö, 1-2</i>
Kristdala (Kalm.)	Carl Alexander Carlsson	<i>Anteckningar om Kristdala socken</i>
Lenhovda (Kron.)	— — —	<i>En vårendssocken berättar</i>
Ljusnarsberg (Öre.)	Karl Hult	<i>Ljusnarsbergs krönika</i>
Malung (Kopp)	— — —	<i>Malung, ur en sockens historia</i>
Nyed (Värm.)	— — —	<i>Nyed, en lokalhistorisk studie</i>
Örgryte (Göt.)	— — —	<i>Örgryte genom tiderna</i>
Ryttern (Väst.)	F. U. Wrangel	<i>Anteckningar om Rytterns socken</i>
Skållerud (Älvs.)	— — —	<i>Skållerud</i>
Skarstad (Skar.)	Nils Björkquist	<i>Skarstad</i>
Söderala (Gävl.)	A. Bodlund	<i>Söderala förr och nu</i>
Söderfors (Upp.)	Sven Sjöberg	<i>Söderfors</i>
Stora Mellösa (Öre.)	Bertil Waldén	<i>Stora Mellösa</i>
Sunnemo (Värm.)	— — —	<i>Sunnemo socken</i>
Tosterup (Krist.)	see under Glemminge	
Udenäs (Skar.)	Gösta Carhult	<i>Udenäsbygden genom tiderna</i>
Västerfärnebo (Väst.)	Carl Mangård	<i>Västerfärnebo</i>
Voxna (Gävl.)	— — —	<i>Minnen från Voxna-bygd</i>

A few local histories of hundreds, *härader*, should also be mentioned:

*Skytts härad* (Malm.) by Olof Christoffersson. Comprises a total of 33 parishes.

*Wemmenhög's härad* (Malm.) by Paul Asp, comprises 24 parishes.

*Mo härad* (Jön.) by J. Allwin, consists of eight parishes.

*Norra Wedbo härad* (Jön.) by J. Allwin, comprises twelve parishes.

*Södra Wedbo härad* (Jön.) also by J. Allwin, consists of eleven parishes.

*Vista härad* (Jön.) also by J. Allwin comprises but four parishes.

Mention should also be made of the excellent genealogical volumes for several of the parishes in the *län* of Gävleborg, initiated in 1941 by K. Josef Nilsson with the publication of *Hedesunda släktbok*. This was followed in 1943 by his volume *Årsunda släktregister*. In 1945 Sven Wahlund joined the project as chief editor and then followed that year *Släktregister för Ovanåker socken*. This was followed in 1947 by *Släktregister för Alfta socken* and in 1949 by *Släktregister för Bjuråkers, Delsbo och Norrbo socknar*. In 1953 Nilsson brought out alone *Släkthistorisk samling från Järvsö socken* and two years later *Släkthistorisk samling för Arbrå socken*. In 1965 Nilsson followed with *Släkthistorisk samling från Bergsjö och Hassela socknar*.

In 1950 Nils F. Nord brought out a mimeographed edition entitled *Släkt-historisk samling från Voxna socken*. All of these volumes are parts of a large edition entitled *Sveriges släktregister*, which in time is aimed at charting all Swedish parishes. These volumes are based on the original parish registers, going back as far as there are written records. There is one major draw-back with them all. They contain no indexes, and since the families are listed by farms, it becomes a chore to use them productively, unless one knows which particular farm or dwelling one's ancestor inhabited.

Independent of this ambitious project are two other parish genealogical works, *Acta Genealogica Malungensia* for the parish of Malung (Kopp.) by

Anteckningar

om

Kristdala socken

Cunalläns härad

och

Kalmar län

af

Carl Alexander Carlsson.

Title page from *Anteckningar om Kristdala socken*



BÖNDER, TORPARE OCH  
KNEKTAR I DET GAMLA  
KLÖVSJÖ

AV

GÖSTA ULLBERG

DEL II

HEIMBYGDAS FÖRLAG, ÖSTERSUND

Title page from Ullberg's Klövsjö history

Bland forna åbnor i Krokhult så nämnas:

Olof Andersson.

(son af Anders Bertilsson i Krokhult, f. 1737, † 1804 1/2) och Stina Månsdotter, f. 1747, † 1802 1/2), f. 1786 3/4, † 1841 1/4; g. m. Anna Lisa Uladotter, f. 1797 1/4, † i Sorebo 1848 1/4. Deras barn:

1. *Sten Magnus Kjörling*, f. 1817 3/4, † 1900 1/2; kantor och folkskollärare i Hällesåsdal och Kubbby samt stiftsingenjör i Kristdala 1846; postkontorsföreståndare d. 1869, (se sid. 12). G. m. *Anna Lotte Persson*, f. 1817 1/2, † 1897 1/2; dotter af P. P. Andersson i Krokhult, f. 1781 1/4, † 1876 1/2, och Märta Karlstötter, f. 1790 1/2, † 1867 1/2. Barn:
2. *Sven August Kjörling*, f. 1802 1/2; kantor och organist i Totad samt musiklärare vid lärverklet d. 1836; ledamot af Musikaliska akademien 1899; R. W. O. 1887; kind kompositör, G. 1864 m. *Sofie Louise Dahlberg*, f. 1843 1/2; dotter af handl. i Kristdala, Nils Dahlberg, f. 1817 1/2, † 1862 1/2 och Greta Karolina Nilsson, f. 1824 1/2. Deras barn: 3. *John Felix August*, f. 1804 1/2, musiklärare vid Halmstads h. elementarläroverk; g. 1836 m. *Ellen Elisabet Sundin*, f. 1870 1/2; dotter af bryggeriägaren Nils Gustaf Sundin och Maria Elisabet Jönsson. 3. *Arthur Julius Tankred*, f. 1805 1/2; köpmän; g. 1899 1/4 m. *Anna Vilhelmina Teresia Ostberg*, f. 1870 1/2. 3. *Signe Anna Karolina*, f. 1807 1/2, g. 1830 1/2 m. *Friedolf John Nikolaus Lundberg*, f. 1852 1/2; konstmålare i Sanktlands Enskilda Bank i Oskarshamn. 3. *Alfhild Sofia*, f. 1809 1/2; g. 1836 1/2 m. *Karl Vilhelm Hederström*, f. 1856 1/2; komminister i Hjärby och Lyby. 3. *Nils Edward Magnus*, f. 1870 1/2; köpmän i America, g. 1898 1/2 m. *Seraph Cooey*. 3. *Nancy Alice*, f. 1873 1/2; g. 1899 1/2 m. landbrukaren *Edward Jönsson* i Kärnslund nära Göteborg. 9. *Arvid Rupert*, f. 1875 1/2; tjänsteman vid Gustafberg sparbank i Kristdala. 3. *Sten Holger*, f. 1870 1/2; studerande vid Musikaliska akademien.

1. *Anders Peter Kjörling*, f. 1819 1/2, † 1884 1/2, handl. i Kristdala; g. 1841 1/2 m. *Kristina Stenstrom*, f. 1821 1/2; dotter af Sven Olsson i Baggetorp, (se Brävlid, sid. 107). Barn:
2. *Olaus Kjörling*, f. 1843 1/2; student i Uppsala 1862; prästvigd 1869; komminister i Mogata och Bierum 1870; kyrkoherde i Gäddby 1883 och i Mitterhult 1890. G. 1872 1/2 m. *Karna Ulrika Jakobina Läck*, f. 1844 1/2; dotter af kyrkoherden i Åsby, Jöns Georg Läck, f. 1796 1/2, † 1845 1/2 och Ulrika Jakobina Ostberg, f. 1800 1/2, † 1896 1/2. Deras barn: 3. *Martin Johannes*, f. 1873 1/2; kontorist i Stockholm. 3. *Stet Olof*, f. 1875 1/2; ämbetsman i America, g. 1895 1/2 m. *Emmy Kristina Charlotta Karlsson*, f. 1874 1/2. 3. *Karin*, f. 1877 1/2. 3. *Jakob Georg Axel*, f. 1878 1/2; järnvägsstationsmästare i Syd-Afrika. 3. *Hedvig Maria*, f. 1880 1/2. 3. *Karl Arvid Efraim*, f. 1882 1/2. 3. *Ivar Natanael*, f. 1884 1/2. 3. *Karl Anders*, f. 1889 1/2.
2. *Maria Josefa Kjörling*, f. 1845 1/2; g. 1865 1/2 m. godsägaren & Hällinge i Näsby sen. *Karl Vilhelm Faldelius*, f. 1839 1/2, (se Sjökrök). 2. *Sten Edward Kjörling*, f. 1848 1/2; farmaceut i America, g. 1885 1/2 m. *Nansi Telesud Mearling*, f. 1844 1/2; dotter af prästen i Kristdala, Carl Mearling och Brita Elisabet M. Petersson, (se sid. 63).
2. *Karl Emil Kjörling*, f. 1862 1/2; pastorsejdicer och l. f. postmästare i Totad; g. 1897 1/2 m. *Karna Fanny Vilhelmina Westrin*, f. 1873 1/2; dotter af kronolösningen Irenca Vilhelma Westrin och Fanny Emilia Terese Kileström i Vimmerby, (se Sjökrök). 2. *Kristina Adele*, f. 1864 1/2; g. 1885 1/2 m. kantorn och folkskolläraren i Näsby sen. *Anders Magnus Rudolf Svensson*, f. 1859 1/2.

1. *Karl Johan Kjörling*, f. 1822 1/2; utvandrad till Amerika.

\*) Meddelande af prästen Ch. Mearling.

Detailed page from Kristdala Parish history

J. Bergslåkten.

Nr och namn	Född	Hänvisningar	Sid
87. Märten Andersson Dahlberg, bonde & nr 10, gift 1838 2 dec, med	1804 20 okt.	moder se ovan 85, † 1888 3 nov. 278	
88. Ingeborg Zakrisdotter	1803 7 april	f. se ovan 78, † 1890 2 febr.	
89. s. Zakris	1839 20 mars	g. se nedan 93	
90. s. Anders	1841 20 maj	g. se nedan 98	
91. d. Karin	1842 25 sept.	gift i Nästela	
92. d. Anna	1845 23 aug.	g. se U: 167	
93. Zakris Mårtensson, arb., gift 1868 29 nov. med	1839 20 mars	f. se ovan 87	
94. Anna Svendsdotter	1844 18 aug.	f. Hede, † 1876 1 aug.	fl. i Idre 1884
95. s. Magnus	1869 1 febr.		
96. d. Ingeborg	1871 1 juli		
97. s. Sven	1874 9 juli		
98. Anders Mårtensson Dahlberg, arb., gift 1874 25 okt. med	1841 20 maj	f. se ovan 87	593
99. Gölla Halvarsdotter	1851 20 maj	f. se K: 128	
100. s. Halvar	1872 24 okt.		fl. i Amerika 1891
101. d. Ingeborg	1875 13 nov.		
102. s. Anders	1879 28 sept.		
103. s. Martin	1883 30 sept.		
104. d. Gertrud	1887 12 juni		
105. d. Johanna	1889 28 nov.		
Jöns Zakrissons släkt.			
106. Jöns Zakrisson, bonde & nr 12, gift 1806 13 april med	1771 18 juli	f. se ovan 23, † 1868 14 juni	332
107. Agnes Jönsdotter	1779 3 sept.	f. se D: 143, † 1874 12 april	
108. s. Zakris	1807 26 okt.	f. se nedan 112	
109. d. Märta	1811 4 juli	g. se R: 69	
110. s. Jöns	1815 4 jan.	f. se nedan 157	
111. s. Mattias	1820 2 febr.	† gift 1845 23 febr.	
112. Zakris Jönsson, bonde & nr 12, gift 1837 16 april med	1807 26 okt.	f. se ovan 106, † 1897 26 okt.	334
113. Gertrud Sivertsdotter	1810 21 mars	f. se A: 227, † 1886 13 febr.	
114. s. Jöns	1837 16 dec.	g. se nedan 121	
115. s. Sivert	1839 8 sept.	g. se nedan 127	
116. s. Zakris	1841 6 juni	g. se nedan 136	

Detailed page from Klövsjö Parish history

Josef Sjögren, which came out in 1963 and *Floda sockens släktbok* for the parish of Floda in Dalarne, published in 1966 in a mimeographed version. Neither contains an index.

*Karlskoga bergslag* is a topographical work by Gustaf Lindberg and deals with two parishes Karlskoga and Bjurtjärn, the former in Örebro län, the latter in Värmland län. These two parishes make up a part of the mining district of south central Sweden and has a character of its own.

Two micro-studies should be mentioned also — one is Herman Jansson's *Gårdar, torp och släkter i Saxhyttan (Farms, Crofts and Families in Saxhyttan)*. Saxhyttan is a small part of Grangärde Parish in Kopparberg län, which the author has examined in depth, house by house, family by family. A similar work is Stig Björklund's scholarly analysis of Indor, a village in the parish of Våmhus, also in Kopparberg län. Both of these give us a microscopic view into the homes and lives of small but highly integrated communities.

All of the material cited in this study is of course in either the Norwegian or the Swedish languages. To be able to use this vast store of knowledge, it is necessary to have some basic knowledge of one or the other of these two Scandinavian tongues. Once the language has been mastered, the student will enter a new and fascinating world of Scandinavian history, folk-lore and human adventure.

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<sup>1</sup> Prof. Naeseth is the supreme authority in the United States on Norwegian genealogy. He has lectured extensively in this country and in Norway. He has been quite helpful in the preparation of this short study and the author wishes to extend to him his deep thanks for his cooperation.

<sup>2</sup> The code used for the libraries possessing these volumes is as follows — C = Concordia College Library, Moorhead, MN; L = Luther College Library, Decorah, IA; M = University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN; ND = University of North Dakota Library, Grand Forks, ND; S = St. Olaf College Library, Northfield, MN; V = Vesterheim Genealogical Center, Decorah, IA; and W = University of Wisconsin Memorial Library, Madison, WI.

# An Early Rockford Swede

Lilly Setterdahl\*

In the article on *Declarations of Intention by Swedes in Rockford 1859–1870*, published in SAG (Vol. I, No. 1, p. 8), there is a reference to Augustus Johnson, who was naturalized a U.S. citizen in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, IL on Feb. 27, 1858. It might be of interest to the readers of SAG that Augustus Johnson was born Sven August Johannesson in the parish of Ving (Skar.) Nov. 12, 1831,<sup>1</sup> the son of Johannes Romwall and Annika Pettersdotter. He early learned the tailor's trade, but soon left for America, arriving in Rockford, IL in 1852. At first he worked for others, but in 1862 he formed the Merchant Tailor Company of Rockford together with another Swede, John Erlander. In 1879 Johnson became president of the newly organized Central Furniture Company of Rockford. He ultimately became one of the most successful businessmen of that city.<sup>2</sup>

He was one of the first members of the First Lutheran Church of Rockford, which he joined in 1855. On March 9, 1862 he married Emilie Peterson, who was born in Kumla Parish (Ög.) Aug. 25, 1843, the daughter of Carl Magnus Persson, a former judge of the assizes (*nämndeman*) in Sweden, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1854 with his wife, one son and five daughters.<sup>3</sup> Emilie had been confirmed in the First Lutheran Church in Rockford June 19, 1859. A total of nine children were born in the marriage, all in Rockford — Hilma Otilia Aug. 22, 1863; Amanda Eleonora June 22, 1865; Ada Davidia Oct. 23, 1867; Armour Eugene April 6, 1870; Victor Magnus Icilius April 7, 1872; Cora Vendella Sept. 17, 1875; Edmund Laurentius Sept. 14, 1878 and twins Linius Emanuel and Maud Evangelina Oct. 20, 1882. Sven August Johnson died in Rockford April 23, 1921 and his wife Feb. 13, 1937.<sup>4</sup>

One sister, Eva Cajsa Johannesdotter and two brothers, Andreas and Gustaf, who used the father's surname of Romwall, emigrated to the United States as a result of Sven August's letters home. The brothers settled in Minnesota. The sister married twice, the first time to Gustaf Jacobson, the second time to a clergyman, whose name is not known.

Sven August Johnson corresponded frequently with his parents and supported them financially, especially after the brothers had emigrated.

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\*Lilly Setterdahl is a researcher with the Swenson Swedish Immigration Center at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.



In 1976 the Special Collections of the Augustana College Library was given a collection of approximately fifty letters written to Sven August Johnson from 1853 to 1878, mostly by his parents in Sweden, as well as his brothers from the time they were living in Sweden and after they arrived in this country. The letters were given to Augustana College by the Lutheran Church in America Archives in Chicago, IL. The earlier provenance of the letters is not known.

Today the Sven August Johnson Collection of Swedish letters is housed in the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College, where it may be consulted and used by scholars.

- <sup>1</sup> The microfilm of the First Lutheran Church records in Rockford, IL shows his birth date as Nov. 11, 1831.
- <sup>2</sup> Eric Johnson and Carl Fredrik Peterson, *Svenskarne i Illinois* (Chicago, 1880), p. 382.
- <sup>3</sup> *Personregister till Statistiska Centralbyråns i Stockholm förteckningar över emigranter 1851-1860* (Copy in the Provincial Archives in Göteborg, Sweden with the signum A 118).
- <sup>4</sup> The microfilm of the First Lutheran Church of Rockford.

DIVISION OF NATURALIZATION      Register Fees Free, Rockford, Illinois.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

State of Illinois, Winnebago County and Circuit, ss.

Be it Remembered, That on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February..... in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty..... Agustus Johnson personally appeared before the Hon. BENJAMIN R. SHELTON, Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court in and for the County of Winnebago and State aforesaid, (the same being a Court of Record, having and exercising common law jurisdiction, local and a Clerk,) and sitting judicially for the despatch of business at the Court House in Rockford, Agustus Johnson.....

an alien born, free, white, male person, above the age of twenty-one year, and applied to the said Court to be admitted to become a NATURALIZED CITIZEN of the United States of America, pursuant to the several Acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform rule of Naturalization, and to repeal the Acts heretofore passed on that subject," approved the 14th day of April, 1802; an Act entitled "An Act in addition to an Act entitled an Act to establish a uniform rule of Naturalization, and to repeal the Acts heretofore passed on that subject," approved on the 26th day of March, A. D. 1804; an Act entitled "An Act supplementary to the Acts heretofore passed on the subject of a uniform rule of Naturalization," passed the 30th day of July, A. D. 1813; the Act relative to evidence in cases of Naturalization, passed the 23d day of March, 1816, and an Act in further addition to an Act to establish a uniform rule of Naturalization, and to repeal the Acts heretofore passed on that subject, passed May 22, 1824; and the said Agustus Johnson.....

..... having thereupon produced to the Court record testimony, showing that he has heretofore reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of the said several Acts of Congress; and the Court being satisfied, as well from the oath of the said Agustus Johnson..... as from the testimony of John H. H. H...... who are known to be citizens of the United States, that the said Agustus Johnson..... has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for at least five years last past, and at least one year last past within the State of Illinois, and that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, according to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well being and happiness of the same, and two years and upwards have elapsed since the said Agustus Johnson..... reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention as aforesaid.

It was Ordered that the said Agustus Johnson..... be permitted to take the Oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the usual Oath whereby he recognized his allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state and sovereignty whatever, and more particularly to the said Agustus Johnson..... whereof he was heretofore a subject, which said oath, having been administered to the said Agustus Johnson..... by the Clerk of said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said Agustus Johnson..... be admitted to all and singular the rights and privileges and immunities of a Naturalized Citizen of the United States, and that the same be certified by the Clerk of this Court, under the Seal of said Court, accordingly.

In Testimony Whereof, The Seal of said Court is hereunto affixed at the Clerk's Office in the City of Rockford, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, A. D. 185..... and of the Independence of the United States the 27<sup>th</sup>

By Order of the Court,  
(ATTEST)  
Morris B. Derrick  
Clerk of the Winnebago County Circuit Court.

Sven August Johnson's U.S. Naturalization Certificate

# Swedish American By-names

Henry Hanson\*

Most of us know that our Viking ancestors used by-names in order to identify individuals with identical first names as well as patronymics. Thus Eiríkr Thorvaldsson was called Eiríkr Raudi, or “Erik the Red” and his son, Leifr Eiríksson, Leifr Heppni or “Leif the Lucky”.

The use of by-names persisted in Scandinavia until the second half of the 19th century, and still does to a certain extent in Iceland today.<sup>1</sup> Family names *per se* were uncommon in the rural population. Patronymics were used, where *-son* or *-dotter* was added to the possessive form of the father’s first or Christian name. Thus, for example, my father, Henning, being the son of August Hansson, was Henning Augustsson and his older sisters, Selma and Alma, were Selma and Alma Augustsdotter respectively. It was only after arrival in the U.S. that they retained the simpler form of Hansson or Hanson. Since the names used in the rural parishes were few and mainly historical or Biblical in origin, there were any number of boys named Karl, Anders, Petter, Nils, Johan, Bengt, Erik and Gustaf. Since the patronymics were used also as last names, many people thus had the first name and the same patronymic as many others in the parish. Consequently a small community could have a number of Karl Anderssons, Erik Gustafssons and Sven Johanssons. This prolific use of a few common names often resulted in utter confusion, unless an additional term of designation was used. Officially, the Swedish State Church, which was, and still is responsible for maintaining vital statistics in each parish, added the name of the *gård* (farm) to the Christian name and patronymic. Thus, my father’s exit permit reads, “Henning Augustsson i Svalås”.

The identical system prevailed in Norway, but the Norwegian clergymen frequently omitted the preposition “i” (in). Nor did they use the possessive “s”, which resulted in the double “s” in Swedish patronymics. Hence, a Norwegian named Olaf Olesen from a farm named Laingen was called Olaf Olesen Laingen. Many Norwegians, in order to cope with the identity problem, consequently dropped the patronymic and used the name of the *gaard* (farm) as a last name. Thus, Olaf Olesen Laingen became Olaf O. Laingen. This is perhaps why names ending in *-son* or *-sen* are less frequent among Norwegian Americans than among Swedish Americans.

The farm name, therefore, often was used as a by-name. Thus my grandfather was always known as “August i Svalås” in his parish in Småland, and

---

\*Henry Hanson is presently associate professor of history and social science at Northern Virginia Community College, Manassas, VA.

my great uncle as "Enok i Östergård". However the Swedish farm population, much like its Icelandic counterpart, went beyond the use of farm names and concocted by-names based upon an individual's physical characteristics, employment, personality traits and habits.

When the Swedish immigrants began arriving in America in large numbers, shortly after the end of the Civil War, the patronymic system still prevailed to a large extent among the country folk. The widespread use of family names, largely associated with nature, such as flora and fauna, points of the compass, and soldiers' names, had just begun.<sup>2</sup> Consequently, many immigrants had identical names — John Johnson, Eric Anderson, Olof Olson, Carl Carlson, etc. (these names are here rendered in their American version). The Swedish Americans, hence, were facing an identity problem, which had to be solved by resorting to the use of by-names.

My essay does not profess to be a definitive and scholarly study of Swedish American by-names. It is based solely upon my personal recollections of the by-names still in use in a small New England industrial town in Connecticut just before World War II, when some of the original immigrants were still alive. These by-names were more or less based on the same categories used by Professor Hale in his interesting article on modern Icelandic by-names.

The by-names used in my childhood in this Swedish American community sought to identify the individual, but in the direct address his American name was usually used. Thus, John L. Johnson was always addressed as John or Mr. Johnson, but in a conversation he would be identified as "John L.". Naturally, the older generation used by-names to a much larger extent than those of us in the second and third generations, but we were all familiar with the by-name system.

Physical size, such as being unusually tall, is obviously apparent in the by-name "Store Jon" (Big John), for John Anderson. One of the intriguing by-names in this category was that used to identify a fellow by the name of Albert Johnson. Albert was a short man, so he became known as "Pojken Johnson" (The Boy Johnson), his wife was known as "Pojkens käring" (The Boy's Wife), his son was known as "Pojkens pojke" (The Boy's Boy), and his grandson in turn was given the by-name of "Pojkens pojkes pojke" (The Boy's Boy's Boy). There was another Albert Johnson in the community, who originally came from the parish of Kånna in Småland and his by-name was always "Albert Kånna" or "Albert Konna". And then there was Bo Nikolaus Anderson, who was lame and was generally known as "Halte Bonik".

One of the older and more devout members of the Swedish Church (i.e. the Augustana Lutheran Church) had the not so unique name of John Johnson. He was called (however, not in his presence) as "Kniva Jon", apparently going back to his youth, when he had more than held his own in the saloon brawls with the Roman Catholic Irish and obviously had demonstrated his skill in wielding his knife. There were two other Swedes in town

with the name of John Johnson, known as “John L.” and “John S.”, and we children referred to them as “Mr. John L.” and “Mr. John S.”.

The place of birth was also used often in the selection of a by-name. My father, Henry Hanson (Henning Hansson) was known as “Smålänningen” (The Smålander), since he was the most outstanding individual among the Swedes in Middletown, CT, who hailed from the province of Småland. An Albert Olson, born on the large island of Öland, off the east coast of Sweden, became known as “Albert Ölänningen” (Albert the Ölander), while Anna Johnson from Norway was known as “Norska Anna” (Norwegian Anna) and her countryman, John Johnson, “Norske Jack” (Norwegian Jack).

As indicated above, a middle initial often tended to be the differentiation between two individuals with the same Christian name and patronymic. Thus, John O. Carlson became “John Ooh”, pronounced with the sound of “oo” as in “ooze”. His wife, of course, was known as Mrs. John Ooh”. One of the many Mrs. Carlsons in my community had previously been married to a chap named Larson, and hence was known as “Mrs. Larson-Carlson”.

It was also quite common to use the name of an employer as a by-name. Hence, a chap by the name of John Anderson, who worked for an Irish liveryman named Lafferty was known throughout his life as “John Lafferty”. An Ida Carlson who worked as a domestic for a non-Swedish family named Spears, was known as “Ida to Spears”, and a man by the name of Arthur Carlson, born in America, was always referred to as “Arthur to Reynolds”, because he was employed by a firm in town called Reynolds Automobile Garage.

Two other well-known Swedish characters come to mind. One chap, whose surname escapes me, was known as “Charlie på stråtet” (Charlie on the Street). He drove a horse and delivery cart for the Grand Union Grocery chain, I believe. Another Swede was John Anderson, who was known as “Crazy Jack” because of his fiery temperament and unbelievable stubbornness. He later moved to Chicago, where he was killed by a streetcar, while walking home in a snow storm. He probably insisted on his right of way and lost that argument.

Some by-names reflected personal characteristics of the individual or some dramatic episode in his or her life. There was an old Swede in my home town with the very common name of Carlson. He had been a rather tyrannical husband and when his wife died, he appeared at the funeral in deep grief, weeping profusely, apparently in remorse for his callous behavior toward her in her lifetime. Henceforth he became known as “Gråtare Carlson” (Weeper Carlson). Another Carlson had a tendency to overindulge in alcoholic beverages and was called “Supare Carlson” (Carlson the Boozer).

Some by-names were mere corruptions of a Christian name. One of the many persons by the name of Oscar Carlson became known as “Ooskie” and to us kids as “Mr. Ooskie”.

There were even some slightly earthy, if not off-color by-names. One

young lady was given the rather unflattering by-name of "Röva" (the Buttocks). It seems that as a young child she attended the Sunday School in the local Lutheran Church. Her father complained that the church sexton had done such a poor job in keeping the toilet facilities in the church clean that his wife had to "tvätta Annas röva" (wash Anna's backside), when she came home from Sunday School. The name stuck and when this person, as a 60-year old, came to visit my 90-year old mother, my mother referred to a visit to her by "Röva". One Robert Johnson, regarded as a rather cunning or sly fellow was as a result known as "Räven" (the Fox), and his gentle, sweet wife, had to suffer with her by-name "Rävskan" (The She Fox).

Some by-names indicated a marital relationship. Thus Fred Anderson's wife was called "Fred's Frida" (Fred's Frida), and Anna Johnson, the wife of "John L.", mentioned earlier, was "Johns Annie" (John's Annie).

Finally, some by-names reflected the social position of the individual involved. The wife of the Lutheran pastor, the pre-eminently cultured individual in the community, was always referred to as "Prästafrun" (The Pastor's Wife) and Carl Anderson, who became a judge in the local city, from then on was known as "Judge Anderson" and his wife as "Mrs. Judge-Anderson."

The old emigrants have now gone on to their reward, as well as a good portion of those in the second generation. With the widespread adoption of American (Anglo-Saxon) Christian names such as Raymond, Lester, Arthur, Lloyd, Mabel, Esther, Alice, Ethel, and Florence, and with the on-going inter-marriage with non-Scandinavians, thus acquiring non-Scandinavian surnames, the identity problem has more or less disappeared. There are no longer three persons with the name of John Johnson, four named Oscar Carlson or three by the name of Albert Olson. Thus the Swedish American by-name has passed into history and has become a part of the folklore of Swedish America. Nowadays a new phenomenon is appearing on the scene, the binational first name, as in Jon Sebastian Berggren, where obviously Jon has a Swedish grandfather on his father's side and an Italian grandfather on his mother's side. Then there is Carl Erik Kosinski. America in a nutshell.

<sup>1</sup> Christopher Hale, "Modern Icelandic Personal Bynames", *Scandinavian Studies*, Vol. LIII, No. 4, 1981, pp. 397-404.

<sup>2</sup> Nils William Olsson, "What's in a Swedish Surname", *Swedish American Genealogist (SAG)*, Vol. I, No. 1, 1981, pp. 26-36; Erik Wikén, "Swedish Use of Patronymics for Established Family Names", *SAG*, Vol. I, No. 4, 1981, pp. 144-146; Erik Wikén, "When Did Swedish Patronymics Become Surnames?", *SAG*, Vol. II, No. 1, 1982, pp. 31-33.

<sup>3</sup> The editor invites the readers of *SAG* to submit similar material from other sections of America, where Swedish immigrants settled in large numbers. The editor remembers from his youth in Chicago, the presence of four families Johnson in the same Swedish parish — The *lång*a Johnsons, because the father was very tall; the *svarta* Johnsons, because the father had a swarthy complexion; the *Sophie* Johnsons, where Mrs. Johnson was the dominant personality and finally *mina barn, dina barn och våra barn* Johnsons, where each party had been married earlier and had children in the previous marriage as well as in their second marriage.



# Literature

**Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Baltimore 1820–1834.** Edited by Michael H. Tepper and transcribed by Elizabeth P. Bentley. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 111 Water Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1982. xxv + 768 pp. \$38.50.

This is the first volume to be published by Genealogical Publishing Co. in Baltimore in a new series to be known as *Passenger Arrivals*. The volume reviewed here serves as a pilot project of this important series and should be a boon to every family researcher, whose ancestors passed through the port of Baltimore between 1820 and 1834.

In this pioneer volume the genealogical student has access to approximately 50,000 immigrants who arrived at this port. Mr. Tepper has taken the passenger arrival records, known as the Customs Passenger Lists, which heretofore have been almost inaccessible, and has indexed them alphabetically, this in itself an incredible task. For each of the entries he has listed the passenger's age, sex, occupation and the name of the country to which he belongs. Additionally we also get such important documentation as the name of the country the immigrant intends to inhabit, usually the name of the vessel on which he arrived as well as the date of arrival in Baltimore.

Though probably three fourths of the arrivals are German and the remainder British or Irish, there are other arrivals as well, some of them of particular interest to the Scandinavian student. Thus from a cursory examination of the volume I found about a half dozen Danes, a few Swedes and several arrivals from the West Indies island of St. Barthélemy, at that time under Swedish hegemony. Of special interest is the entry for a Swede, Charles Hausewolf, who arrived in Baltimore during the quarter ending June 30, 1823.

This arrival is identical with Carl Uirik von Hauswolff, born in Sweden June 13, 1791, the son of Captain Hans Gustaf von Hauswolff and Helena Charlotta von Greiff. After studies at the universities of Greifswald and Leipzig in Germany, von Hauswolff transferred to the University of Uppsala. After finishing his academic work he entered the Swedish governmental service and was assigned as governmental secretary on the Swedish island of St. Barthélemy, where he served four years, from Jan. 14, 1816 to Dec. 31, 1819. On the latter date he resigned his commission and devoted more than four years of his life to travels in South and North America.

He arrived from the tropics at Baltimore April 26, 1823, from where he continued on to Washington, Philadelphia and New York. He departed for Sweden in July of that year. In 1832 he returned to the United States for a second visit. In 1835 he translated and edited a travel account of America, written by a female German author, *Teckningar utur sällskapslifvet i Nordamerikas förenta stater (Observations on the Life and Manners in the United States of America)*. Von Hauswolff's edition is liberally sprinkled with his own observations and contains as well a postscript of his own experiences during his two journeys to America. In the main he agrees with the German author and states that often their observations coincide. Von Hauswolff died in Stockholm Dec. 2, 1843.

The value of the Baltimore *Arrivals* lies in the fact that we here find material not easily accessible elsewhere. In my own work, *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in U.S. Ports 1820–1850 (except New York)*, the earliest entry for a Swedish arrival in Baltimore is Feb. 24, 1837, because the original Customs House Lists for Baltimore are so fragmentary, containing large gaps. Thanks to the use of other sources, such as Quarterly Abstracts furnished the United States Congress by customs house inspectors, State Department Transcripts, Baltimore "City

Lists" and cargo manifests, the editor has been able to close some of these gaps and thus produce a list, which is as complete as is humanly possible, of all passenger arrivals at the port of Baltimore from 1820 to 1834.

The initial volume, in what we all hope will be a long string of equally important volumes in the series *Passenger Arrivals*, is an excellent, concise and highly readable record of early immigrants to the United States. The editor and the transcriber should be highly commended for a difficult task well done.

—NILS WILLIAM OLSSON

-oOo-

**The Esbjörn Diaries.** By Lars Paul Esbjörn. Published by the Jenny Lind Chapel, Andover, IL 61233, 1982. 44 pp., \$1.25. (Reprinted from *After Seventy-five Years, 1860-1935: Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Augustana Synod and Augustana College and Theological Seminary*, Rock Island, IL, 1935, pp. 11-34 and "The Augustana Quarterly", Vol. XXIII, 1944, pp. 323-339).

The reprinting of L. P. Esbjörn's two diaries, one covering his journey to America aboard the *Cobden* in 1849 and the second covering his momentous journey to the east coast of the United States in 1851 for the purpose of raising funds for his church construction in Illinois, brings to the reader two important documents, heretofore not easily accessible to the scholar.

Lars Paul Esbjörn, the first Swedish Lutheran clergyman to arrive in the Middle West for the purpose of ministering to the Swedish immigrants living in Andover, Galesburg and Moline, IL, had arrived in New York Sept. 23, 1849 together with a number of Swedish immigrants. His diary, which takes us from the preparations for the journey in Gävle, Sweden June 25, 1849, across the ocean with its trials and vicissitudes, ends abruptly Aug. 25, off Newfoundland. The entries give us a graphic story of a typical Atlantic crossing on board a sailing vessel in the early days of emigration. The diary is valuable from a genealogical point of view, in that Esbjörn relates some of the experiences of his fellow passengers. O. L. Nordstrom, professor at Augustana College, and editor of the publications of the Augustana Historical Society, did most of the translation of the Swedish manuscript, assisted by Gustaf Albert Andreen. Portions of the Swedish original had been published by Erik Norelius in *Tidskrift för Svensk evangelisk luthersk kyrkohistoria i N. Amerika (Journal for Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church History in North America)* as early as 1899.

The second diary covers L. P. Esbjörn's visit to the east coast of the United States in 1851 to raise funds for the construction of Lutheran churches in the Middle West. Esbjörn, who had been invited to come out to the Lutheran congregations in the East by William A. Passavant, noted Lutheran missionary and philanthropist in Pittsburgh, spent the time from April 21 to July 6 travelling widely, gathering money and meeting influential Lutheran clergymen and lay people. While Esbjörn's monetary gains were not very large, his chief benefactor was Jenny Lind, he nevertheless conveyed the story to his American Lutheran colleagues in the East that with the surging tide of Swedish immigrant arrivals in the Middle West, something had to be done to provide these newcomers with a church home.

His second journal was originally written in English, demonstrating Esbjörn's facility in the English language, after only eighteen months in this country.

One would have wished that more of the personalities which appear in both diaries, both on board ship, and in such cities as New York and Buffalo would have been further identified and documented. Many of these early Swedes were colorful personalities.

The Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover, IL, named for the great singer, who donated \$1,500 toward Esbjörn's church, is responsible for the re-publication of these two documents.

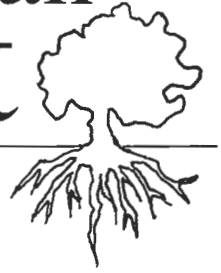
—NILS WILLIAM OLSSON

-oOo-

**The Peterson Families from Lenhovda, Sweden.** By June Peterson Calin and Paul E. L. Peterson, Golden Willow Farm, Chisago City, MN 55013, 1982. v + 207 pp. \$15.00 + \$1.50 postage.

# Swedish American Genealogist

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Volume II 1982

# Swedish American Genealogist



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**Editor and Publisher** Nils William Olsson, Ph.D., F.A.S.G.

**Contributing Editors** Glen E. Brolander, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL;  
Sten Carlsson, Ph.D., Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden;  
Carl-Erik Johansson, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT;  
Henric Sollbe, Norrköping, Sweden;  
Erik Wikén, Ph.D., Stockholm, Sweden

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Of the many family histories published dealing with Swedish ancestry, this is one of the most attractive the reviewer has seen. Containing more than 200 pages of crisp text and sharp pictures, done by offset from good typewriter copy, and nicely bound in hard covers, the volume is a delight to handle, read and enjoy.

It is a typical family saga, taking the reader back to the origins of the two families Peterson, who emigrated in 1868 to the United States from the parish of Lenhovda (Kron.) in Småland. Assisting in the editing of this beautiful volume were Magnihild Johnson Peterson, who did the editorial work and the translations, and a Swedish assistant, Ella Britta Ottosson of Nyalund, Lenhovda Parish.

The Petersons' story covers a family history going back as far as 1690 and is divided into six parts. The first three parts deal with the families themselves, beginning with the background for this particular piece of research, entitled "June Found Her Roots in Lenhovda" by June Peterson Calin. The co-author found what she was looking for in the provincial archives of Vadstena and has reproduced some of the documents such as the birth records and the household examination rolls of Lenhovda as well as Myresjö, in the neighboring *län* of Jönköping.

The second segment is written by Paul E. L. Peterson and deals with the coming of the two original Petersons to Minnesota — Sara Lisa and Johannes, and their first experiences on the Minnesota frontier. Mr. Peterson has documented his part of the story with early photographs and copies of charts from plat books of 1888 and 1914, showing the location of the ancestral farms in Wyoming Township, Chisago County. Other documents reproduced are a marriage license and a U.S. naturalization document, as well as copious newspaper clippings. These primary source materials are an important adjunct to any family history. The third part is a summary of the genealogical information concerning the two Peterson families in Sweden and their progenitors.

The last half of the family history is devoted first of all to personal reminiscences by a number of relatives, which add a personal touch to the narrative. The remainder of the saga is given over to Sara Lisa and Johannes Peterson's family trees in Sweden, going back as far as 1690 for Sara Lisa and 1707 for Johannes. These are followed by a number of pages devoted to the descendants now living in the U.S. Here again the use of pictures has livened the presentation.

The editors are to be complimented on this very attractive family history. The organization of the material seems a bit confusing, but as one works with the material, the pieces easily fall into place. Some of the Swedish place names have been garbled due to the omission of diacritical marks on some vowels — thus Hokaskruf for Hökaskruf, Nobeled for Nöbbeled, Hjarbas-kog for Hjärtaskog, Vagershult for Vägershult, etc. These are minor flaws, which in no way take away from the overall impression that this family history is an excellent model for those who wish to publish a Swedish American family history.

—NILS WILLIAM OLSSON

## Correction

In the article *Declarations of Intention and Naturalizations in New Sweden, ME 1873–1900* (SAG, Vol. I, No. 3, p. 116) Nicholas August Wessel is listed as being a Swede. Actually he was a Norwegian, *Nicolai August Wessell*, b. in Moss, Norway June 8, 1871, the s. of Nicolai August Wessell, the elder, and his wife, Anna Dorthea Larsen. After a period at sea as a sailor, he emigr. to America and settled in northern Maine, where he was employed by the Stockholm, ME Lumber Co. On June 30, 1897 he m. Mathilda Carolina Anderson, dau. Anders G. Andersson and his wife, Anna Christina, from Gåsinge Parish (Söd.) in Sweden. Information courtesy Mrs. Karen Wessell Reis.

# Ancestor Tables

Ancestor tables will be printed from time to time and will be available to subscribers only. The editor assumes no responsibility for the material submitted and reserves the right to edit the tables to conform to the general format.

## VIII. Norman G. Bergstrom, Box W, Ogden, Iowa 50212

1. BERGSTROM, Norman Gustaf, b. Ogden, IA 1916; m. Madrid, IA 1942 Irene Christina Rothfus, b. Woodward, IA 1922; living Ogden, IA.
- I. 2. BERGSTROM, Albert Conrad, b. Ogden, IA 1880; m. Madrid, IA 1915; d. Madrid, IA 1978.
3. CASSEL, Lillie Elvira, b. Madrid, IA 1886; d. Madrid, IA 1982.
- II. 4. BERGSTRÖM, Per Gustaf, b. Gåsborn Parish (Värm.), Sweden 1843; emigr. 1869; m. Boone Co., IA 1871; d. Ogden, IA 1910.
5. HOLMBERG, Maria Albertina, b. Säfsnäs (Kopp.), Sweden 1844; emigr. 1869; d. Ogden, IA 1935.
6. CASSEL, John, b. Madrid, IA 1857; m. Boone Co., IA 1885; d. Madrid, IA 1938.
7. HEGBERG, Johanna Fredrika, b. Svenarum Parish (Jön.), Sweden 1865; emigr. 1867; d. Madrid, IA 1943.
- III. 8. BERGSTRÖM, Erik, b. Säfsnäs 1815; m. Gåsborn 1838; d. Gåsborn 1845.
9. JONSDOTTER, Johanna, b. Gåsborn 1816; d. Gåsborn 1880.
10. HOLMBERG, Per Jonasson, b. Gåsborn 1809; m. Säfsnäs 1838; d. Säfsnäs 1893.
11. JANSBOTTER, Maja, b. Säfsnäs 1814; d. Säfsnäs 1898.
12. CASSEL, Carl John, b. Kisa Parish (Ög.), Sweden 1821; emigr. 1845; m. Fairfield, IA 1848; d. Madrid, IA 1902.
13. DALANDER, Ulrika Erikdotter, b. Västerlösa Parish (Ög.) 1822; emigr. 1846; d. Madrid, IA 1891.
14. HÖGBERG/HEGBERG, Karl, b. Svenarum 1828; m. Svenarum 1863; emigr. 1869; d. Madrid, IA 1908.
15. TRÄNKT, Inga Catharina, b. Nydala Parish (Jön.) 1841; emigr. 1869; d. Madrid, IA 1918.
- IV. 16. BERGSTRÖM, Olof, b. Gåsborn 1769; m. 1797; d. Säfsnäs 1829.
17. EKMAN, Anna Cajsa, b. Gåsborn 1774.
18. GUSTAFSSON, Jonas, b. Gåsborn 1789; m. Gåsborn 1815; d. Gåsborn 1860.

19. MAGNUSDOTTER, Anna, b. Gåsborn 1779; d. Gåsborn 1858.
  20. HOLMBERG, Jonas Jonasson, b. Gåsborn 1771; m. 1801; d. Gåsborn 1849.
  21. JANS DOTTER, Anna, b. Gåsborn 1776; d. Gåsborn 1838.
  22. JONSSON, Jonas, b. Säfsnäs 1786; m. Säfsnäs 1810; d. Säfsnäs 1832.
  23. PERSDOTTER, Anna, b. Säfsnäs 1792; d. Säfsnäs 1849.
  24. CASSEL, Peter Carlsson, b. Asby Parish (Ög.) 1790; m. Asby 1815; emigr. 1845; d. New Sweden, Jefferson Co., IA 1857.
  25. SVENSDOTTER, Annika, b. Asby 1796; d. Kisa 1829.
  26. ERICSSON, Eric, b. Västerlösa 1788; m. Västerlösa 1811; d. Sya Parish (Ög.) 1842.
  27. DALANDER, Anna M. Larsdotter, b. Vikingstad Parish (Ög.) 1792; emigr. 1846 (took name of Dalander); d. Swede Point (Madrid), IA 1854.
  28. ANDERSSON, Assar Magnus, b. Hylletofta Parish (Jön.) 1793; m. Svenarum 1822; d. Svenarum 1867.
  29. JONASDOTTER, Anna Catharina, b. Ödestugu Parish (Jön.) 1791; d. Svenarum 1866.
  30. TRÄNK T, Johannes Matthisson, b. Hagshult Parish (Jön.) 1810; m. Svenarum 1834; d. Svenarum 1896.
  31. JACOBSDOTTER, Anna Stina, b. Svenarum 1811; d. Nydala 1887.
- V.
32. CARLSSON, Olof.
  33. LARSDOTTER, Britta.
  34. EKMAN, Magnus.
  35. JANS DOTTER, Greta Cajsa.
  36. ERSSON, Gustaf, b. 1753.
  37. BERN[T]SDOTTER, Anna, b. 1767.
  38. OLSSON, Magnus.
  39. PEHRSDOTTER, Catharina.
  40. JONSSON, Jonas, b. Gåsborn 1744; m. 1770; d. Gåsborn 1802.
  41. JONSDOTTER, Maria, b. Gåsborn 1749; d. Gåsborn 1806/1807.
  42. SVENSSON, Jan, b. Gåsborn 1736.
  43. JONSDOTTER, Lena, b. Gåsborn 1736.
  44. CARLSSON, Jonas, b. Säfsnäs 1758; m. 1783; d. Säfsnäs 1821.
  45. HINRIKSDOTTER, Anna, b. Säfsnäs 1761; d. Säfsnäs 1836.
  46. PERSSON, Petter (Per), b. Säfsnäs 1753; m. 1776; d. Säfsnäs 1816.
  47. OLOFSDOTTER, Anna, b. Hällefors Parish (Öre.) 1750; d. Nås Parish (Kopp.) 1822.
  48. CASSEL, Carl Fredrik Börjesson, b. Norra Vi Parish (Ög.) 1762; m. 1789; d. Asby 1834.

49. SVENSDOTTER, Catharina, b. Tidarsrum Parish (Ög.) 1761; d. Asby 1809.
50. ISRAELSSON, Sven, b. Asby 1751; m. 1779; d. Asby 1812.
51. PERSDOTTER, Lena/Helena, b. Asby 1755.
52. ERSSON, Erik, b. Västerlösa 1760; m. 1785; d. Västerlösa 1806.
53. ANDERSDOTTER, Maja/Maria, b. Vikingstad 1759; d. Västerlösa 1830.
54. SVENSSON, Lars, b. Järstad Parish (Ög.) 1751; d. Västerlösa 1837.
55. PERSDOTTER, Anna, b. Västra Harg Parish (Ög.) 1753; d. Västerlösa 1806.
56. ASSARSSON, Anders, b. Norra Ljunga Parish (Jön.) 1761; d. Hylletofta 1825.
57. MAGNUSDOTTER, Ingjerd, b. Svenarum 1769; d. Hylletofta 1837.
58. LARSSON, Jonas, b. Angerdshestra Parish (Jön.) 1763; d. Svenarum 1851.
59. SVENSDOTTER, Annika, b. 1750; d. 1838.
60. KUS, Matthis, b. Hagshult 1775; d. Hagshult 1839.
61. SVENSDOTTER, Stina, b. Svenarum 1781; d. Hagshult 1847.
62. SVENSSON, Jacob, b. 1754; m. Svenarum 1785; d. Svenarum 1814.
63. MÅNSDOTTER, Annika, b. 1760; d. Svenarum 1840.
- VI. 96. CASSEL, Börje, b. Norra Vi 1739.
- VII. 192. CASSEL, Nils, b. Norra Vi 1700; m. Eksjö 1735; d. Norra Vi 1771.
193. HASSEL, Christina.
- VIII. 384. CASSEL, Börje, b. Tidarsrum 1658; m. Norra Vi 1693; d. Norra Vi 1730.
385. NILSDOTTER, Ragnhild.
386. HASSEL, Lars in Eksjö.
387. \_\_\_\_\_, Anna.
- IX. 768. CASSEL, Jonas, b. 1633; d. Tidarsrum 1701.
769. BÖRJESDOTTER, Brita, b. 1630; d. Norra Vi 1716.
770. TORSTENSSON, Nils.
771. LARSDOTTER, Brita.
- X. 1,536. CASSEL, Mårten, b. Scotland; d. Sweden 1645.
- 1,538. SVENSSON, Börje in Norra Vi.
- 1,539. ERLANDSDOTTER, Ramborg.
- XI. 3,072. CASSEL (CASTLE), Peter, b. Scotland ca. 1540; is said to have emigr. to Stockholm from Edinburgh 1592.

# Genealogical Queries

Queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a "space available basis." The Editor reserves the right to edit the question to conform to the general format.

## **Johansson (Johnson), Seeder, Lewis**

Two brothers of my great grandmother, Emma Christina Johansdotter Lewis, also emigrated to the U.S. According to parish records in Sweden, Emma Christina's oldest brother, Johan Ferdinand Johansson, was b. in Deragård, Älghult Parish (Kron.) Dec. 28, 1834. He absconded to America in May, 1868. In 1880 he m. Maria Catharina, b. in Ljunga Parish (Jön.) Aug. 12, 1846. They moved from Illinois to Lindsborg, KS at least by 1900. Maria Catharina d. Feb. 26, 1914 and her husband Johan, who had taken the surname Seeder, d. July 28, 1916.

Johan Ferdinand Johansson Seeder's brother, Carl August Johansson, was b. in Loviseberg, Älghult Parish March 2, 1849 and emigr. to America Aug. 11, 1869, just eight days after Emma Christina received her exit permit. We know nothing about his fate. Did he marry and leave descendants? Did he also change his name?

My great grandmother, Emma Christina settled in Mt. Pleasant, IA, where she m. Andres Norborn in Oct. 1871. After his death by accident, she m. John Oscar Lewis (earlier Larsson) March 1, 1872. They settled in Henderson and McDonough Counties, IL and raised six children. In March of 1887 they homesteaded in Gove County, KS, where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Emma Christina d. Jan. 7, 1929.

If anyone has information concerning Carl August Johansson, I would appreciate hearing from them. I will share information on ancestors in Sweden going back to the early 1700s.

F. Ray Lewis

6 Nightingale Court

Granite City, IL 62040

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## **Thorell**

I am seeking information on the ancestry of Augusta Charlotta Thorell, b. in Västergötland Feb. 2, 1872. On Aug. 31, 1894 she m. Karl August Bergman in Worcester, MA. He was b. in Bjurtjärn Parish (Värm.) Aug. 19, 1868.

Philip S. Bergman

29 Linda Street

Westborough, MA 01581

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### Bergman

I am seeking information on the ancestry of Lars Bergman, b. in Marieberg, Varnum Parish (Älvs.) Sept. 12, 1801, the s. of Jonas Larsson, b. ca. 1766 and Margareta Eriksdotter, b. ca. 1769. Lars Bergman m. Britta Persdotter, b. in Grythyttan Parish (Öre.) Jan. 15, 1809, the dau. of Petter Ersson, b. in Karlskoga Parish (Öre.) March 24, 1778, d. in Fisksjötorp June 6, 1829, and Catharina Persdotter, b. in Lungsund Parish (Värm.) Sept. 13, 1774.

Philip S. Bergman

29 Linda Street

Westborough, MA 01581

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### Hedberg, Loomis

I am interested in locating descendants of my grandmother's sister, Maria Louisa Hedberg, b. in Foss Parish (Göt.) Aug. 19, 1870. She arr. in America in 1886 and later m. a man named Loomis. One child, Dora May Loomis, was b. before 1900. Maria Louisa Loomis became a companion nurse to a wealthy Chicago lady and is believed to have perished in the disastrous Iroquois Theater fire in Chicago Dec. 28, 1906. Dora May Loomis may have children who could contact me.

Lois Andersson Appleton

6520 Espanita Street

Long Beach, CA 90815

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### Persson

I am seeking information on the destination of the Persson family, which arr. in NY Aug. 11, 1854. Ola Persson, b. Nov. 17, 1831, his wife, Inga Nilsson, b. March 2, 1824, their dau. Pernilla, b. Dec. 29, 1853. All were from Jämshög Parish (Blek.) and arr. aboard the *Esmeralda* with 412 other Swedes. All were listed as farmers. Where did they go? Are there any descendants?

Mrs. Jeanette Stieve

Route #3, Box 465

South Haven, MI 49090

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### Longacre

Seeking information concerning descendants of Andrew Longacre, b. in the Swedish colony on the Delaware in PA ca. 1713, d. in Frederick County, VA 1795. He was m. to Hanna Ireson in PA. I am especially interested in the descendants of the sons and grandsons of Andrew Longacre. Many were Quakers and were known as the Winchester, VA colony of Swedish Longacres, descended from one of the original Swedish settlers, Anders Långåker.

Much migration took place between Winchester, VA and the Swedish colony in PA. I am therefore interested in both the PA and the VA Longacres. I already have some information I would be glad to share.

Sharon Jones Giles  
114 Second Street  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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### Lind

I am looking for information concerning John (Johan) Lind, b. in Värmland in Sweden March 6, 1860, the s. of Peter Lind. He emigr. to Denver, CO ca. 1884–1885, where he was employed on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad as a boilermaker. He d. as a result of a fatal accident July 12, 1912. He was m. twice, the first time to Betty Fardy on Dec. 13, 1888, when he lived at 1228 Santa Fé Ave., Denver. Later he moved to 2805 West 9th Ave. He had four living children with his first wife. He m. the second time Beda Hanson, with whom he had two living children. At this time he lived at 1393 Perry St., Denver.

Dorothy Graham  
1107–1590 Henderson Highway  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2G 2B8

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### Åkerström

I am seeking information concerning the ancestry of Anders Åkerström, b. in Tynderö Parish (Vn) May 21, 1785 and his wife, Brita Cajsa Solberg, also b. in Tynderö Jan. 19, 1783.

Philip S. Bergman  
29 Linda Street  
Westborough, MA 01581

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### Johansson, Johnson, Mattsson

Among my relatives I have many who emigr. to America, among them five siblings, named Johansson, all b. in Torslunda Parish (Kalm.).

1. Julia Annette, b. Feb. 5, 1861, m. Mattsson, had four children and resided in Brooklyn, NY, d. before 1951.

2. Carl Fredrik, b. Feb. 18, 1872, emigr. Feb. 16, 1890, d. before 1951. He had three children, Arthur, Ralph and Winnifred Johnson, all living in Astoria (probably Oregon).

3. Otto Petrus, b. Oct. 27, 1874, emigr. to Sioux City, IA March 2, 1895, d. before 1951.

4. Knut Albertinus, b. Oct. 26, 1877, emigr. to Sioux City, IA March 18, 1894, d. before 1951.

5. Marcus Julius, b. May 8, 1882, emigr. March 16, 1899, d. before 1951.

He had four children, Robert, Vera Seppa, Elna and Allan Johnson, all living in Astoria (probably Oregon).

Stefan Gottfridsson

Stallvägen 17:111

352 52 Växjö, SWEDEN

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### Mellberg

I would like to know what happened to the following emigrants named Mellberg:

1. Carl Gustaf Mellberg, b. in Habo Parish (Skar.) Feb. 23, 1812, emigr. to Busseyville, WI 1843, d. in Ft. Atkinson, WI in 1892.

2. Gustaf Adolf Mellberg, b. in Habo Parish Dec. 11, 1839; emigr. 1861, widow and children were living in Campello, MA in 1886.

3. Axel Mellberg, b. in Habo July 21, 1847, emigr. in 1867; living in Campello (Brockton), MA in 1886. Had two children, Axel Frithiof, b. 1879 and Anna Charlotta, b. 1881.

4. Johannes (Jan) Mellberg, b. in Habo Oct. 25, 1824; emigr. 1871. Last letter to Sweden was dated 1877 from Red Wing, MN.

Stieg-Erland Dagman

Box 106

566 00 Habo, SWEDEN

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Comment: Gustaf Mellberg (see No. 1 above) m. Juliette Devoe at Lake Koshkonong, WI in 1846. She was b. in Allegany County, NY May 7, 1819. They had at least four children — Amelia, m. to C. C. Reuterskiöld of Busseyville, Emma, Gustave and Edward. There was probably another dau. Henriette, who d. Jan. 23, 1857 and is bur. in Sumner Cemetery, Busseyville. Gustaf Mellberg d. Dec. 19, 1892 and his wife Jan. 12, 1905. Both are bur. in the Busseyville Cemetery.

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### Svensson, Olsdotter

August Svensson, b. in Borrby Parish (Krist.) Aug. 26, 1877, his wife, Elna Olsdotter, b. in Löderup Parish (Krist.) Jan. 21, 1879 and their dau. Tea Astrid Elisabet, b. July 27, 1901, emigr. from Glemminge Parish (Krist.) in 1903 and settled somewhere in California. Any information concerning these people or their descendants in the U.S. would be greatly appreciated.

Timothy C. Parrott

1128 Spruce St.

Iowa City, IA 52240

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# Index of Personal Names

Note: A name may appear more than once on a page. Two individuals with identical names appearing on the same page are indexed with either a reference to their parishes of birth, or if this is not known, by the addition of a Roman numeral II to the second name appearing. The Swedish letters *ä*, *å* and *ö* are indexed as *aa*, *ae* and *oe*. Authors of books are not listed.

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by Helga Skogsbergh

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