

Charley Nilsson

Across the Atlantic

Swedish migrants and their descendants

To the memory of Al and Jerry

Across the Atlantic

Swedish migrants and their descendants

“After Mons and his family had arrived in New Sweden, they immediately began to expand the area of arable land. Every year they cut down more trees.”

“My father was a boy from Skåne. I'm sure his pronunciation of *Sjunne* would have been beyond the capabilities of a Canadian customs official. The customs official thought *Sam* was close enough, and my father was happy with it.”

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Front cover photo by courtesy of McClaren Davies:
Swedish migrants Per Persson (John Peterson) and Mathilda Olsdotter
with their Minnesota-born children Louis and Carl, prob. 1892.

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Author's notes

"I get by with a little lot of help from my friends."^A

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My sincere thanks to you all!

General information

This book is based mainly on genealogy research during 2017–2020. Unless otherwise stated all photos are copyright © Charley

^A I just couldn't miss the opportunity to quote this Beatles' number. "A little help from my friends" (Lennon–McCartney) was sung by Ringo Starr. It is the second track on their legendary album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967).

Nilsson or taken from my collection, though some older photos have unknown sources. Photos of documents have been taken from original sources available on Internet from ArkivDigital or Ancestry.

Genealogical tables are not meant to be complete, but to serve as a digested complement.

Footnotes are shown by raised capital letters (^A), while source references are noted by raised figures (¹) and are explained on page 187–196.

British readers may have objections, but as the book is aimed at North American friends and relatives, I have tried to use American English.

This book is also available in a web version under Släktforskning on www.vindogatan62.se. You will also find other genealogical material there, though mostly in Swedish.

Comments and corrections are most welcome and can be sent to home@vindogatan62.se.

Introduction

Most people in Sweden probably have family ties to people who once migrated to North America. But over time, contacts between the migrant families and their relatives in Sweden usually died out.

I started doing genealogy research in the late 1990s. Before that I only knew of one case where contacts remained between my family in Sweden and descendants of one relative who had migrated. The emigrant was my paternal grandfather's sister Ida, who left Sweden in 1902. Her grandson Allen Bergman and I had become acquainted.

Later, during years of research I stumbled upon quite a few other cases of relatives who migrated. However, I was not then able to devote time to find out what happened to them after they left for America.

Since the late 2017 my research has been more focused on migrated relatives. It is now time to tell the story about some of them^A.

But first, let me give you a few facts about the Swedish emigration in general.

The dream about America

Why did people leave their homes in Sweden and head for America?

In the 1800s Sweden was, both economically and socially, a very segregated country. Most of the people had very few opportunities to improve their situation. Also, with increased population came poverty, and many also suffered under political, religious, or social oppression.

Information and propaganda told about the great opportunities that waited on the other side of the Atlantic. Thus, people

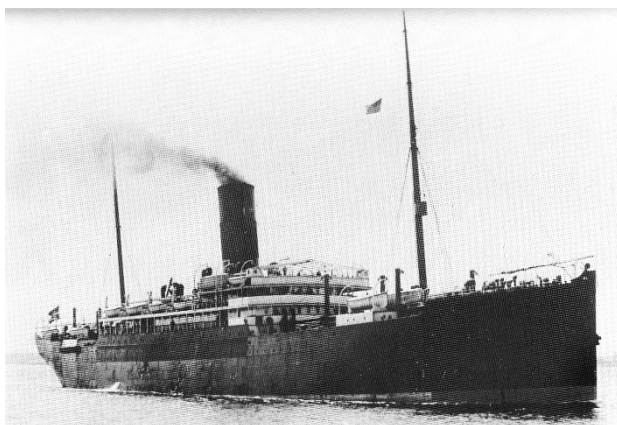
^A A few of them I have previously written about in *Man har ju lite minnen* (2001), *A few memories* (2002) and *Med hopp om ett bättre liv* (2012); but new information has now been added to their life stories.

began to dream about a country where you were promised arable land for free, lots of employment possibilities, political and religious freedom, and the opportunity to create prosperity by your own force.

The letters that came from relatives who already had migrated were sometimes exaggerated and showed as positive picture as possible. Nobody wanted to show the “old folks at home” that you may have been better off if you had stayed in Sweden. So, the “America-letters” were another reason behind the dream.

Finally, improved communications played an important role. The steamship could now take maybe a thousand migrants across the sea, just as the railways then could take them from the harbors and further west.¹

Maybe the dream of America was just about a simple cottage, a few horses, some fat cows, a couple of pigs and a dog. Maybe the big dream was that these things could be mine.²



Quite a few of the migrants in my family traveled across the Atlantic with Scandinavian-American Line's steamship Hellig Olav. The ship was launched in December 1902. It was 500 feet long and built to carry approximately 270 first- and second-class passengers and 900 third class passengers. S.S. Hellig Olav was in use for 28 years and made 418 trips across the Atlantic. (Photo www.liners.dk).

Emigration from Sweden

In the 1840s, the extent of emigration from Sweden was relatively small. It was probably less than 1,000 people per year.

However, sometime in the 1850s, more and more people began to seek a future outside Sweden, especially in North America. During that decade, the Swedish settlements in Minnesota were founded, among them the Vasa settlement that was founded by the Skåne-born Hans Mattson.³

After the American Civil War ended in 1865, emigration increased significantly. It is estimated that about 120,000 people left Sweden during 1868–1873, partly because some of those years Sweden was affected by bad harvest with severe famine, mainly in the northern part, as a result. By comparison, in 1850 Sweden had 3.5 million inhabitants. The emigration reached its peaks during 1881–1882 and 1887–1888. Those years it was crisis in agriculture in Sweden, while at the same time boom years in the US.

Altogether, approximately 1.5 million people emigrated from Sweden during 1850–1930. 1.2 million of them went to North America. Of those who emigrated, about 20 per cent returned. This is an often-forgotten fact when success stories of emigrants are depicted. In addition, there were many who became destitute in their new country and did not have the means to return to Sweden. For example, there was a slum area in St. Louis where many Swedes lived at the bottom of society.⁴

Of all the Swedes that were born in the latter part of the 19th century, approximately 20 per cent of the men and 15 per cent of the women emigrated.

It is known that many thousands of emigrants have succeeded, in the United States of America, in gaining a favorable and comfortable existence, even affluence and wealth – after a difficult trial period. However, we do not know how many that have succumbed to the needs, worries, despair, forgetfulness of all and hidden in the cabin of the backwoods ... If the person is not excellent, hardworking and skilled, it can be bad for him, preferably if he, without language knowledge and without capital, must offer himself to the great many that themselves exist by taking

advantage of his neighbor for his work. Many such workers have ended their brief battle against fate with suicide.⁵

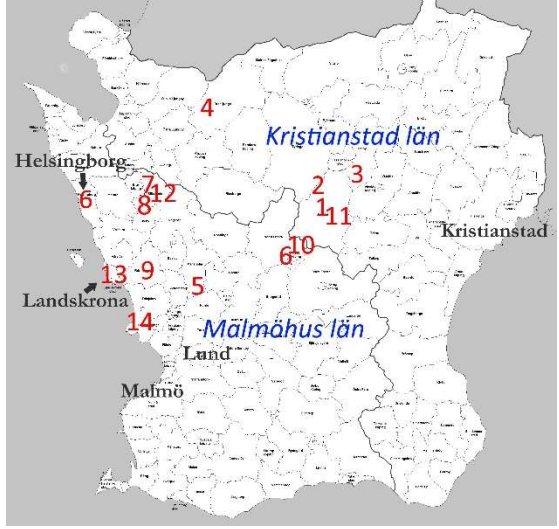
Where they came from and where they settled

The Swedes who migrated to the United States often went to Minnesota and Illinois, or to the neighboring states of Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan. This was probably mainly because the climate and nature in this part of America resembled that of their homeland, with large forests, lakes, rivers with a lot of fish, and arable plains.

The number of Swedes who settled on the east coast was relatively modest, especially in the urban areas. But there are exceptions, including Jamestown in New York. Further north there was in Maine the Swedish agricultural colony of New Sweden.⁶

<u>Migrant</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Year</u>
1. Hans Hellström (Hans Hillstrom)	Sösdala	Wisconsin	1844
2. Sven Persson (Swan Rosenquist)	Brönnestad	Minnesota	1863
3. Karna Jeppsdotter (Carna Brink)	Tykarp	Minnesota	1869
4. Måns Jeppsson (Mons Jepson)	Rya	Maine	1871
5. Matilda Olsdotter (Mathilda Peterson)	Reslöv	Minnesota	1888
6. Petronella Nilsdotter (Nellie Anderson)	Höör	Pennsylvania	1888
7. Per Nilsson Nyborg (Peter Newbury)	Helsingborg	Mass.	1891
8. Johannes Persson (John Pierson)	Norra Vram	New York	1892
9. Svante Nyborg	Billeberga	Pennsylvania	1909
10. Ida Magnusson (Ida Bergman)	Höör	Pennsylvania	1902
11. Anton Månsson (John Munson)	Häglinge	New York	1904
12. Nils Persson (Niles Pearson)	Norra Vram	Michigan	1904
13. Olga Engdahl (Olga Poe)	Landskrona	Nevada	1910
14. Sjunne Pålsson (Sam Polson)	Kävlinge	Canada	1912

The maps on the next page show where some of the Swedes in this story came from, and where they settled in America.





When we celebrated our daughter-in-law Anna's 40th birthday in 2016 we were all dressed up. I wore my maternal grandfather Oskar Persson's jacket, hat, pocket watch, and glasses. But for some reason I could not use his vest and I was not able to button up the jacket. The shirt was worn in the 1930s by my wife Ingemo's paternal grandfather John Larsson.

Oskar Persson's two brothers Johannes (John Pierson) and Nils (Niles Pearson), as well as Oskar's wife's father Per Nyborg (Peter Newbury), are among the Swedish emigrants presented in this book.

Useful to know

Here are some facts about Swedish circumstances, expressions and terms that might be useful for you to know a little bit about.

Surnames

In the 19th century, one name-tradition was connected to **profession**. Men who had vocational training to be a smith, shoemaker, tailor etc. changed their surname, but – as opposed to many other countries – very rarely took the name of their trade as a surname. On the other hand, the profession often gave the craftsman a nickname like *Sven Möllare* (Sven Miller), *Skomakare-Johan* (Shoemaker-Johan) etc. A soldier very often was forced to take a new name (often inherited from his predecessor).

Name-types as those above were not always inherited or chosen by the children.

But the most common name tradition was **patronymic**. A boy got his surname (*efternamn*, *släktnamn*) after his father's first name (*Nilsson* = son of Nils. Girls also got their family name after their father, like in *Nilsdotter* (= daughter of Nils). If a mother was unmarried, the child usually got her mother's surname.

Name traditions changed during the late 1800s/early 1900s. Thus, both boys and girls usually inherited their father's surname that already included a *-son* (no *-dotter* anymore!) just like it still is today. So, the son and daughter of father Nilsson also became Nilsson.

Then there are of course a lot of family names that are not patronymic. They are often connected with nature as e.g. *Ekeblad* (Leaf of oak) or *Öberg* (Mountain on island). Still, the patronymic names are the most common. As of 2020, the ten most common Swedish surnames end with a *-son*, with my name *Nilsson* at no. 4. It is the most common one in my home county Skåne with about 155 000 people with that name. So, remember, all Nilssons are not related!

Provinces, counties, and parishes

Knowing the parish [*församling*, *socken*] of origin is the key issue of information needed for research in Swedish records. Often, determining a locality is more difficult than finding another four or five new generations once the location is known. You might have heard that your great grandfather came from “Smolland”. However, “Smolland” or Småland as the correct spelling is, is a province [*landskap*] in Sweden, consisting of three counties [*län*] and hundreds of parishes.⁷

With very few exceptions, all my ancestors were born in my home *landskap* of Skåne. Thus, unless otherwise stated, all the Swedish places in this book are situated in Skåne. The southernmost Swedish province of Skåne was previously divided into two administrative units, *län*: *Malmöhus län* and *Kristianstad län*. However, since 1997 we all live in *Skåne län*. It has 2020 about 1.3 million inhabitants constituting circa 13 per cent of the Swedish population.

Church books

The Swedish church books are usually the first Swedish records to be used to trace somebody’s Swedish roots. These records are very complete and contain detailed information. In most cases, one can trace a person’s life in the church books from birth to death or from birth to emigration.⁸

The church books are in various degrees accessible from web sites such as Riksarkivet and ArkivDigital. Swedish law limits the availability of some records younger than 70 years online. So, if a church book covers the years 1929 to 1953, it can’t be published because it contains information within the last 70 years.

24. Aug 1885	1	Hilda Albertina Bernhardina Nyborg	H. Ingvald Persson	67
		Tina Bernhardina	P. 7/1184	Milena
		dena		p. 217

My maternal grandmother Hilda Albertina Bernhardina Nyborg was born on Aug. 24, 1885. From *Födelsebok* (birth register) Viken Cl:5 (1861-1887) p. 150.

The main Swedish church books include the following records:

- *Födelse- och dopbok* birth and christening
- *Lysnings- och vigselbok* banns and marriage
- *Död- och begravningsbok* deaths and burials
- *In- och utflyttningslängd* moving in and out (of parish)
- *Husförhörslängd* household examination of bible and church knowledge⁹

A few terms

Dräng [dræng], farm hand (male), (definite: *drängen*).

Piga [pi:ga], female equivalent to *dräng* (in other contexts also maid in household work).

Torp [tɔrp], croft (definite: *torpet*, definite plural: *torpen*) was a piece of land with a small house where the landowner allowed the user, *torparen*, the crofter, to live on and farm the land. As payment *torparen* had to do a certain amount of manual labor for the landowner. Into the late 1800s this system provided for an essential part of the manual labor in agricultural Sweden.

Soldattorp was a croft that was designated for a soldier and his family, with a small cabin and a piece of land to raise a crop. When the soldier was discharged, they all had to move to make room for his successor. You will also find the word *husartorp* (hussar's croft), a croft that was meant for a hussar (riding soldier) to live in.

Äbo [o:bu], tenant, a person who has a right, *åborätt* (tenure, seizen) to another's land. This was not limited in time and was usually inherited just like other belongings.

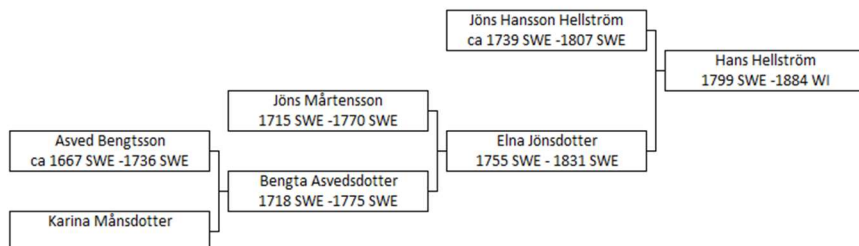
You will find further information in English about Swedish genealogy on www.rotter.se, for example about names, provinces and counties and church records.

The genealogy website ArkivDigital also has useful information in English at arkivdigital.net/swedish_genealogy.

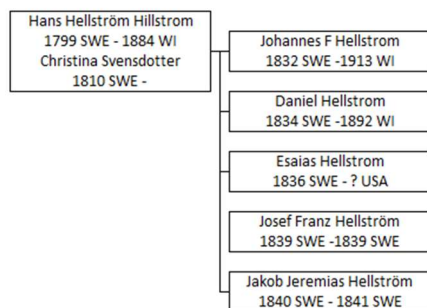
Abbreviations

To be as precise as possible regarding family relations I have tried to avoid expressions like “grandmother’s grandfather’s mother”. At the same time, I wanted to “keep it short”, especially in foot-notes, so instead of explaining the above mentioned as “father’s mother’s father’s mother” that may be noted as FMMFM.

Ancestors of Hans Hellström



Descendants of Hans Hellström (Hillstrom) and Christina Svensdotter



Pioneers in Wisconsin

About 90 miles west of Lake Michigan is a community in Portage County, Wisconsin. It has about a thousand residents. In 1851, John F. Hillstrom from Skåne was the first to settle on the site, that two years later was named Amherst.

John Hillstrom was originally called Johannes Frans Hellström. He was born in 1832 in Västra Skrävlinge parish in Malmöhus län. He was the son of schoolmaster Hans Hellström and his wife Christina Svensdotter

Hans Hellström was born in Tjörnarps in 1799 He was the son of carpenter Jöns Hansson Hellström and his third wife, the 16 years younger Elna Jönsdotter. Elna was a sister of my ancestor Karina Jönsdotter.^A

A versatile father

When Jöns Hellström died in 1807 he left behind his wife Elna and several children, including their sons Jöns and Hans.

In 1826 Hans Hellström became a *torpare* in Ranseröd, Norra Sandby. For a few years he lived there with his mother. In 1830 they both moved to Västra Skrävlinge 5, where Hans became a saddle maker. Banns for marriage were issued between Hans and a *piga* from Sösdala in April of that year.

Saddler journeyman from Skrävlinge at Malmö, Mister Hans Hellström and Maid Christina Svensdotter from N-o 1 Sösdala Inn ... are without obstacles to join into a genuine association, and with liability according to Law, certified and insured, Ut *Supra*^B. Trulls Svensson, Innkeeper in Sösdala, the betrothed's foster father. Hellström is 31, Christina 20 years old.^{10, C}

The future bride Christina Svensdotter was born out of wedlock to *pigan* Märta Tuasdotter in Tjörnarps. As stated in the quote

^A Karina and Elna Jönsdotter's father Jöns Mårtensson (born 1715) was my FFFMMMF.

^B *Ut supra* = as above.

^C This was translated from the very old-fashioned and formal original text.

above, she had become foster daughter of the innkeeper Truls Svensson in Sösdala.

Christina and Hans were married on May 23, 1830. At probably around the same time, the couple and Hellström's mother Elna moved to the schoolhouse in Västra Skrävlinge. There Hans was given the position of schoolmaster. The following year Elna died, 76 years old.

Hans Hellström held several positions as a schoolmaster between 1830 and in 1835. He came to Sösdala in 1835 with Christina and their sons Johannes (John), Daniel, and Esaias. There he took charge of the inn after his wife's foster father Truls Svensson but was also active as a saddle maker. In Sösdala, three more sons, Esaias, Joseph, and Jacob, were born. The two youngest died very young.

The great country in the west

After several years, the family decided to try their luck on the other side of the Atlantic. Towards the end of April 1844, they left for America. They traveled via Kristianstad to Gothenburg, where they boarded the brig Superb.

About a trip with the same ship the following year, Andrew Cassel has related:



The Hellström family traveled to New York City with the brig Superb.

On June 15, 1845, the brig Superb leaves Gothenburg harbor with a load of iron in the bottom of the hull and a host of emigrants as passengers on the intermediate deck. The trip, which will last for about 58 days or 8 weeks, goes via the English Channel and out to the Atlantic [...] then the wind started blowing straight against us and continued as almost a storm for a whole week, making all passengers sea sick. Again, when we were a little more than halfway out to sea, we were hit by a very severe storm. And the night when the storm raged at its worst, it was pitch black, and we bumped into another ship and lost our front mast or as it is called the

bowsprit^A. Whether the other vessel was lost or not is unknown, but one thing is certain. We felt grateful that we did not sink to the bottom of the ocean.¹¹

The Superb, built in Gothenburg in 1839, arrived at the New York harbor on June 19, 1844. Most likely the twelve-year-old Johannes and his brothers Daniel and Esaias, stood on the deck and looked wide-eyed at the city.

Six years later, the family had moved to Merton in Waukesha, Wisconsin. At that point, Christina Svensdotter was probably dead since the household by then consisted only of Hans and his sons John and Daniel.

Wisconsin. This state is the northernmost in the middle part of the country ... The space in this state is larger than half of Sweden. The population is half a million. No new settlers have moved here until during the last 30 years, but the colonization has since gone fast. The land was not long before purchased from the natives of the Menomoni tribe, and only became accepted as a state in the Union in 1847 ... On the whole, Wisconsin offers the greatest benefits to the settler, whether he wants to get involved in mining or agriculture and livestock care, whether he is a strong worker or have money ... With the natives, who are peaceful, barter is practiced, where you leave flour, tobacco, and other things in exchange for game, maple sugar and other natural products.¹²

Settlers in Tomorrow Valley

In 1851, 19-year-old Johannes Hellström (hereafter referred to as John Hillstrom^B traveled to Tomorrow Valley to claim an area suitable to live in and cultivate. Tomorrow Valley is about 90 miles west of Lake Michigan.

In August 1852, he was joined by brothers John and A.P. Een. Thereafter, more people gradually settled in the area. One of them was Adam Uline, a native of Amherst in Nova Scotia. In 1853 he made sure that his new place of residence also was named Amherst. The latter Amherst has been described as follows:

^A A bowsprit is not a mast, but a spar extending forward from a ship's bow to which the forestays are fastened.

^B Not to be confused by Joel Emmanuel Hägglund, alias Joseph Hillström, better known as the union activist Joe Hill (1879-1915).

The writer first saw Amherst November 2, 1855. Coming in on the Wau-paca road, he found settlers along the road ... Around the shores of Lake Emily, Amsa Ball, G. Harvey, Coburn and Charles Couch had staked out their claims and erected their cabins. In the southwest the Een and Hillstrom families were settled ... The houses were nearly all built of logs and there was not a plastered house in the township. In the northeastern part of the township a few Norwegian families were erecting substantial buildings of hewed timber; This was Amherst as the writer saw it fifty-one years ago.¹³

John's brother Daniel and their father Hans also settled in Amherst. In May 1855 it was recorded that Hans Hillstrom acquired 120 acres there.

Fought in the Civil War

In 1861, the American Civil War broke out. The war costed more than 600,000 victims during the four years it lasted. Both John and his brother Daniel participated in the war.

John was recruited for three years as a member of Wisconsin's 1st Infantry Regiment He mustered in Amherst in November 1863. He was described as an unmarried farmer with blue eyes, brown hair, light skin and he stood 5 feet 8 inches tall. He participated in the campaign around Atlanta, Georgia, in the summer of 1864. He was transferred to the 21st Infantry Regiment that same fall.¹⁴



As for Daniel, he was also recruited as a private for three years. He mustered in Amherst on the same day as John. Daniel's description is the same as his brother's, except that Daniel was two inches shorter. Daniel also participated in the Atlanta campaign He was wounded in one of his arms at the Alabama-Georgia border river Chattahoochee.

Lieutenant Colonel Harrison Carroll Hobart, 21st Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

After moving to the 21st Infantry Regiment in the fall of 1864, he participated in the battles at Mulberry Orchard and Bentonville, North Carolina, on March 16-19, 1865.¹⁵

Some month after the war ended in May 1865, both John and Daniel were probably transferred to the 3rd Infantry Regiment, to be discharged a little later.

The Regiments of Wisconsin

The 1st Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry served the Union Army during the American Civil War. It was established in Milwaukee. It entered the war in October 1861 and was mustered out three years later. The regiment included 1,508 soldiers as its largest number. About 150 of them died from war injuries and another 150 from diseases.¹⁶

The 21st Wisconsin Infantry was organized at Camp Bragg in Oshkosh. It mustered into service on September 5, 1862. The regiment participated in numerous battles, including Perryville in 1862 and Lookout Mountain in 1863. After the regiment had participated in taking Atlanta in September 1864, it joined in General Sherman's so-called March to the sea in November–December 1864, and in the capitulation of the Southern State Army. More than 300 of the regiment's soldiers died during the war – most of illnesses.¹⁷

Remained bachelors

Amherst pioneer John Hillstrom seems to have lived his days as an unmarried farmer. He had real estate valued at \$1,000 in 1860 and at \$1,200 ten years later. In 1910, as a 78-year-old, he lived in his own house on Main Street in Amherst, still a bachelor. He died on New Year's Eve, 1913. John, like his father Hans and his brother Daniel, is buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Amherst.

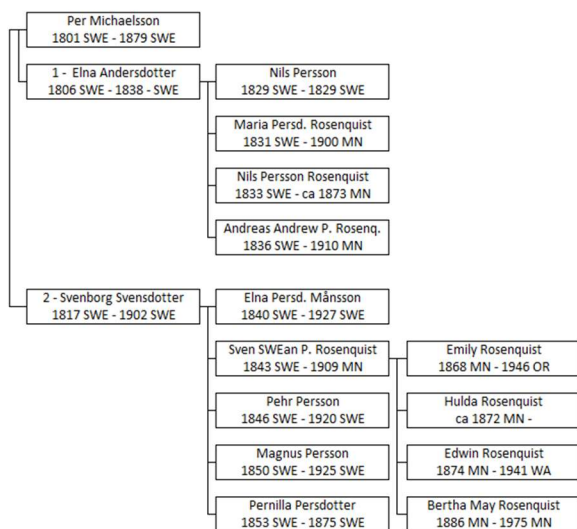


John F. Hillstrom's grave. ¹⁸

Daniel Hillstrom lived with his father and brother in 1860. But ten years later, he had his own household and was a farmer with real estate worth \$800. Daniel, too, seems to have remained unmarried. He died in December 1892.

Their father Hans Hillstrom was noted as a widower in 1880. He lived until July 19, 1884. Hans Hillstrom had probably become a widower a few years after arriving in America in 1844, because after that date I have not found any information about his wife Christina (nor after the son Esaias, born in 1836) in subsequent censuses or other documents.

Rosenquist family – descendants of Per Michaelsson



Rosenquist from Brönnestad

Sven Persson from Brönnestad in Skåne migrated to America via Copenhagen in the spring of 1863. He was followed three years later by his elder half-siblings Maria, Nils and Andreas.

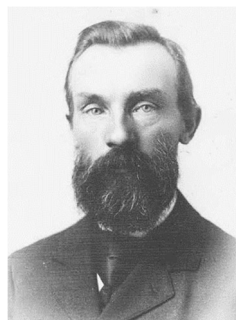
Per Michaelsson and his wife Elna Andersdotter lived at their homestead Spragleröd 1 in Brönnestad parish.^A During 1829–1836 they had four children, but the first one died after only a few days.

In the spring of 1838, Elna Andersdotter died in connection with giving birth to a stillborn girl. The widower Per married the sixteen years younger Svenborg Svensdotter the following year in November. The marriage resulted in five children, including Sven who was born in the summer of 1843.

Persson became Rosenquist

The 19-year-old Sven Persson left his home in Spragleröd in April 1863 and went to Copenhagen. Fairly soon thereafter he traveled on to America^B. There he took the name Rosenquist.

In the fall of 1867 Sven married Ellen Mattsson who was of the same age as he. The couple lived in the early 1880s with their children Emily, Hulda, and Edwin in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. There Sven (or Swan as he was now called) worked in a tailor shop. The family settled later in Saint Paul. Around 1905 they lived at 675 East Magnolia Avenue. Swan was employed as a tailor at the Schaub Brothers^C.



Swan Rosenquist.

^A Elna Andersdotter was the daughter of Anders Persson (1770–1821), my FMFFF.

^B However, the only information I have found regarding Sven's year of migration says 1864 (US Federal Census 1900).

^C The tailor company Schaub Brothers was founded in St. Paul in 1887 by the brothers Philip J. Schaub (1855–1925) och Peter A. Schaub (1853–1916).

Swan Rosenquist died in June 1909, while Ellen died in March 1925. Their grave is at the Oakland Cemetery, St. Paul.

Sven's half-siblings followed

By the mid-1860s, the situation for Swan Rosenquist's half-siblings was as follows:

- Maria, born in 1831, was still unmarried.
- Nils, Maria's two years younger brother, was a *dräng*. In December 1859 he married Boel Erlandsdotter with whom he had four children between 1856 and 1865.
- Andreas had been a *dräng* at No. 2 Kialt in Vinslöv during 1856–1858. Since 1864 he was married to Sissela Svensdotter with whom he had a son called Alfred.

Just like it had been for Swan and so many others, a future in America attracted Andreas. In his case there may also have been religious reasons for considering emigration. In the birth register for his son Alfred, born in 1865, it was recorded that “the father refused to have the child baptized by a clergy but says it was baptized by a layman and given the name of Alfred”.¹⁹

Why did the siblings change their surname from Persson to Rosenquist in connection with the migration? It is possible that they simply wanted to be different from everyone else named Persson, or that with a new name they wanted to point out that they started a new life. Another explanation may be this:

There was a name change after they arrived in the US. A half-brother^A had immigrated earlier and he had been asked to change his and his family's last name to an “American” version, i.e. so that everyone had the same name, not the father's first name plus son or daughter. And he changed his name to Rosenquist (originally spelled Rosenkvist). When the siblings hit the States a few years later, to keep the family together (and since they were also told to choose an “American” name), they also chose Rosenquist.²⁰

^A Sven Rosenquist.

Maria, Nils and their families (in total ten persons aged 1 to 35) left Spragleröd at the beginning of June 1866. They traveled via Copenhagen to Liverpool where they boarded the S.S. City of Dublin. After crossing the Atlantic, they arrived at New York harbor on July 3.²¹

Maria Persdotter was 35 years old and unmarried when she left Sweden with her siblings. A few years after arriving in America she settled in Afton, Washington County, Minnesota. There she lived under her Americanized name Mary Rosenquist with her husband, Farmer Peter Peterson, and his children Henry, Alice and Minnie^A. Maria (Mary) lived with her stepdaughter Minnie Netland and her family after Peter Peterson had died in 1896. Mary died in Afton in December 1900.

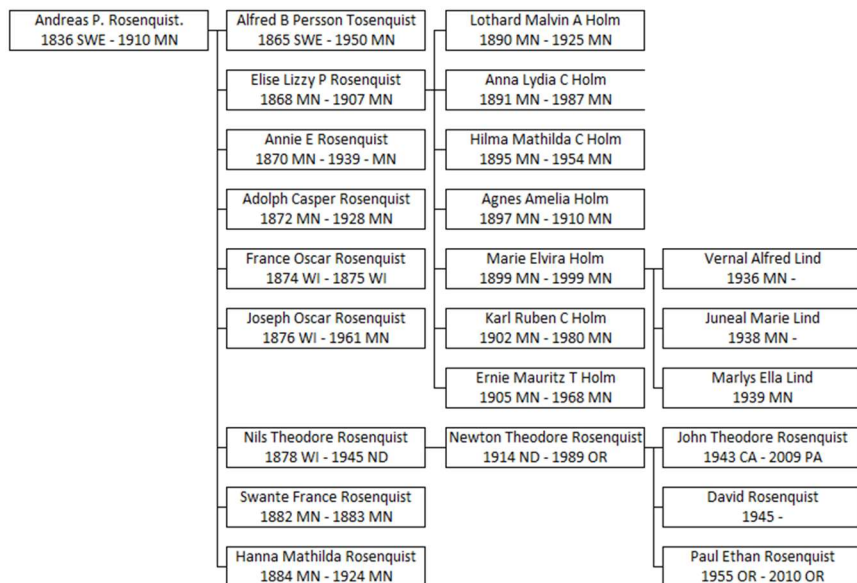
Maria's brother Nils and his family also came to Minnesota. They settled in Kandiyohi County where he and his wife Boel farmed. They had four more children during 1867–1873. Boel went to live with his daughter Ellen Carlsson and her family in Willmar, Kandiyohi, after Nils' death around 1874.

Andreas and his descendants

Maria's and Nils' brother Andreas Rosenquist and his wife Sissela settled in Afton, Minnesota, where they made their living farming. There, Sissela gave birth to Elise, Annie, and Adolph. The family moved to Pierce County, Wisconsin, before they finally settled in Eastern in Otter Tail County, Minnesota in 1881.

Otter Tail County is about 140 miles northwest of Minneapolis, Minnesota.²² The name derives from the lake and the river Otter Tail. By March 1868, the area had been formally granted county status. Five years later, the territorial boundaries had been set and the county would be ruled from Fergus Falls. When Andreas Rosenquist and his family settled in Otter Tail in 1881, the county had about 17,000 inhabitants, compared to more than 58,000 in 2020.²³

^A The children were born during Peter Peterson's marriage to Christine Magnusdotter, who had died in 1867.



In early 1910, American citizens Andrew (Andreas) and Cecilia (Sissela) Rosenquist had been married for 46 years. They lived in their own house in Eastern, Otter Tail, with their son Adolph and his wife Elvida as their nearest neighbors.

Andrew died in June 1910. His widow Cecilia went to stay with her youngest daughter Hanna. Hanna was married to Ola Gunderson, a blacksmith born in Norway. They and their daughter Eveline lived in Clarissa, Todd County, Minnesota. There, 85-year-old Cecilia Rosenquist died in September 1924, followed three months later by her 40-year-old daughter Hanna.

Alfred and his three wives

Cecilia's and Andrew's eldest son Alfred Benedict was born in 1865. Alfred married Lydia Johnson in 1893, and during 1895-1899 their children Hilding, Edwin, and Clement were born. Lydia died in March 1900. She was only 28 years old. Around 1920 widower Alfred lived in Eastern, Minnesota, on a property adjacent to his brother Adolph's.

Alfred got married twice more. In 1921 he married the nine years younger Hulda Morris, who died after nearly eight years of marriage. Anna Lorin, who was born 1876 in Småland, became Alfred's third wife when they married in September 1931.

Sometime after Alfred and Anna got married, they moved about 25 miles north to Wadena. There they lived in a house that Alfred owned at 1114 First Street SW.

Alfred Benedict Rosenquist died in April 1950, and the following year his third wife Anna died.

Lizzy and Loth

Cecilia's and Andrews' daughter Elise "Lizzy" Pauline was born in Afton, Minnesota, in 1868. She was married in 1889 in Parker's Prairie, Otter Tail in Minnesota to Loth Holm. He was 13 years older and was born in Småland.

Mother (who wished to be called Lizzie) was a fine seamstress. She went around in the community and made flannel underwear. Not so long after they met, Dad (Loth) said, "I'm going to marry you". Mother sputtered something like, "You've got to be kidding". A few years later they were married.

Mother's family, the Rosenquists, however, looked down on dad because he was from Smaland. Uncle Adolph, our favorite uncle, liked and accepted Dad. Uncle A.B. [Alfred Benedict] was definitely "down" on Dad. A.B. didn't feel people from Smaland were quite as good. After all, Skane was richer and was considered a far better place.²⁴

The couple settled on a farm in Parker's Prairie. There they had nine children during 1890–1906, seven of whom survived childhood.

In 1907 Lizzy died at the age of 39. Loth continued farming with the help of his son Melvin, and with daughter Hilma as a housekeeper.

Hilma's sister Marie (born 1899) studied in Moorhead in 1914. When she came home for Christmas the family had moved into a new house.

A Christmas tree was brought in and decorated with daisy chains and other home-made decorations. We were all so happy about being in the new house. Father read the Christmas story, and we sang carols. This was all in Swedish. At 5 a.m., we went to the early service, "julotta". We were

all eager to go. We got up very early. Melvin and Dad and Hilma went out and milked the cows. The service was festive with a special choir singing.²⁵

Marie became a schoolteacher at a young age and taught for a few years at a couple of schools.

In the fall of 1916, I began to teach. I was only seventeen years of age. The school was located one mile east of Urbank. I was paid \$50 a month.

Marie then had to take care of the family household. Her brother Melvin died in 1925, and her father Loth in the fall of 1926. Two years later Marie went back to teaching.



Lizzy and Loth Holm and their children Anna and Melvin (back row), and Hilma (middle, standing). Prob. Agnes (sitting) and Marie (standing right). The boy to the left is Karl.

Marie, Alfred and Vernal

After another couple of years as a teacher, Marie Holm met Otter Tail-born Alfred Lind. They got married in 1935 and lived on a farm in Leaf Mountain in Otter Tail. The eldest of the couple's three children was Vernal Alfred Lind born 1936.

In the 1990s, Vernal reminisced about his childhood.

My sisters, Juneal and Marlys, and I grew up on a farm in Leaf Mountain Township. This was located at the northwest corner bordering Nidaros Township on the north, touching Eagle Lake on the northwest and bordering Clitherall Township on the west.

Dad [Alfred Lind] owned a major part of the farm and also rented from Grandpa [Ole Lind]. The total size of the farm was around 400 acres. Our farm included 30 or so acres that we now have with our Belmont Lake summer home.

We lived in the big house which had been built in 1925 ... I started school in 1942 and Juneal began two years later and Marlys three years later. Our extended family included Grandpa Lind (Ole) and Grandma (Anna), who lived in the little house, built in 1937. We kids were frequent visitors of Grandma and Grandpa.

Dad and Grandpa worked the farm together. I remember that Grandpa used horses to cut hay. He loved horses and had a special way with them. I remember one time when Grandpa had slipped off the seat of the mower and was on the edge of the sharp blades. He could easily have been seriously injured or killed, but he got the horses to remain still. The lead horse was a very patient one. I heard Grandpa yell and ran to see what was wrong. Then, I ran and got help from Dad. Dad came quickly, and he was able to get Grandpa untangled and away from the sharp blades.²⁶

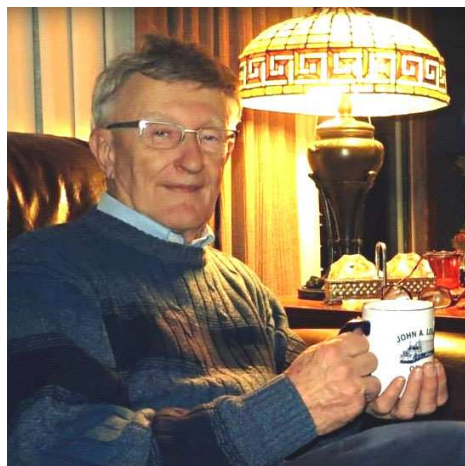
Vernal Lind graduated from St. Cloud State University, and studied at several other colleges and universities. He was then an English teacher for 36 years, including one year at university level.²⁷

Vernal moved to Battle Lake, Otter Tail, after he retired from teaching. Since 2004 he has published several novels, including *Beyond those hills*, *Beyond the darkness*, and *When June comes*.

In addition to his authorship, Vernal Lind has been a freelance writer for various journals, including his own chronicle in *Teachers of Vision*. He has been active in the Minnesota Christian Writer's

Guild. For his writing he has received awards from the Write to Publish Conference as Best New Author and Writer of the Year.

Bachelor Vernal has also been involved in church life, where



he held various functions including as a part-time organist. He volunteered at a health-care facility, where he played, sang, and led reading circles. He also participated in various charities.

*Vernal Lind,
Christmas 2015.²⁸*

Pastor Ernie

Loth and Lizzy Holm's youngest son Ernie Holm was born in 1906. He was married in 1938 in Gwinner, North Dakota, to Ethel Warn.

Ernie became a pastor, and worked as such in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Scandia, Canada. There, he also baptized his son, Paul Luther, born in Calgary 1939.²⁹ The family later returned to Parker's Prairie, Minnesota, where Ernie Holm died in 1969 and his wife Ethel in 2012.

Annie and Peter

Annie Emelie was number three of Andrew's and Cecilia's children. She married Farmer Jonas Peter Peterson in 1894. The couple lived a few miles south of Eastern in Spruce Hill, Minnesota. They had four children, but only two of them reached adulthood. Sometime in the 1920s the family moved to Parker's Prairie, where Annie died in 1939 and Peter in 1945.

Adolph and Elvida

Andrew and Cecilia Rosenquist's son Adolph was born in 1872. In 1900 he rented a farm in Eastern, Minnesota, on "dwelling no. 19", adjacent to no. 18 where his parents lived. Adolph's brother Joseph was his co-worker and his sister Mathilda their housekeeper.

In the summer of 1905 Adolph married Blekinge-born Elvida Kanberg. Five years later Adolph owned the farm he previously had rented. By that time, Elvida's brother John also worked on the farm. Elvida and Adolph did not have any children of their own, but by 1920 they had a three-year-old nephew named John as a foster child.



Adolph died at their farm in Eastern in December 1928, while Elvida passed six years later.³⁰

Farmer Joseph

Joseph, born in 1876, was number six among Andrew's and Cecilia's children. Joseph Rosenquist was a farmer. He was married to Kersten (Katie) Pearson in 1902. They settled in Alexandra, Douglas County. The couple had six children, including Verner Reynold, born in 1908.^A Joseph Rosenquist died in 1961, followed three years later by his widow Katie.

Bank owner Nils

Joseph's brother Nils Theodore was two years younger than Joseph. Around 1900, Nils studied at Valparaiso College in Indiana.

^A Verner Rosenquist married Verna Kopp in 1937. Their son Kerwin Rosenquist has published a lot of genealogy information on worldconnect.rootsweb.com under "kopprose".

He later married Anna Josephine Nelson known as “AJ”. They lived in Epping, North Dakota, where they owned and operated a bank. That is how several pieces of property in North Dakota became part of the Rosenquist family trust, since the bank foreclosed on a few properties when the loans could not be paid back.^{31, 32}



Nils and AJ Rosenquist.

Their son Newton Theodore was born in August 1914. Newton suffered from pneumonia when he was four years old but survived. Newton’s mother AJ died in 1924, at age 42.

In 1928 Nils Theodore was retired, married to Dorothy Hill and lived on Wigger Avenue in Epping. He left retirement and was back at work in 1940, now as a fire and life insurance agent. Five years later, Nils Theodore Rosenquist died and was buried at the Epping Cemetery.

Newton, Blanche, and their sons

Nils and Anna Rosenquist’s only child Newton married Blanche Nelson. They lived in Marin County, California, when their son John was born in 1943.



The family then moved to Portland, Oregon. Their second son, David, was born there in 1950, followed by their third son Paul Ethan in 1955.

Newton and Blanche Rosenquist were divorced in 1972. Two years later Newton married Rae Pederson. Newton died, 75 years old, in August 1989, in Portland, Oregon.

*Newton and Blanche Rosenquist.*³³

John and Chris

Newton's and Blanche's son John Theodore Rosenquist enlisted in the Air Force, where he served in Vietnam and Cambodia. He then attended Parks College in St. Louis, Minnesota, and received his bachelor's in aeronautical engineering and later, at The United States Industrial College of the Armed Forces, a master's in engineering management. He later worked for Lockheed and Boeing as a test engineer, and then became a power generation specialist at the Voice



John Rosenquist, 1980.³⁴

of America^A. The position led to various missions in countries such as Liberia, Morocco, and the Philippines.

John married Christine (Chris) Renfro in 1980 and they had two sons: Benjamin Ethan in 1984 and Stephan Alan in 1986.

John left the Voice of America in 1993, choosing to accompany his wife Chris on her government assignments in various countries. But John did not stay idle. He stayed up to date in his field and had assignments as varied a physics teacher in Uruguay and doing security engineering in the Netherlands, Moldova, and Kazakhstan.³⁵

In 2004, John and Chris returned to Pennsylvania, where John bought a 200-year-old house in Milroy, Mifflin County. There, John Theodore Rosenquist died in September 2009. John Rosenquist's widow Chris earned degrees in Education and Radio Frequency Engineering. In 2020 she was employed by Pacific Architects and Engineers (PAE)^B, the US defense contractor in

^A Voice of America (VOA) is a U.S. multimedia agency which serves as the United States government institution for non-military, external broadcasting. It is the largest U.S. international broadcaster (en.wikipedia.org).

^B PAE manages the personnel supply for special functions at US embassies around the world, but also to the research station at the McMurdo Strait in Antarctica.

the field of defense and government. She lived and worked at the US Embassy in Moscow.

Admittedly, I have retired twice, from the National Institute of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs, but I was bored and looking for a challenge. And I really got it here! ³⁶



Chris' and John's son Benjamin became a graphic designer at the California Institute of Technology and married Emily LaMarca. His younger brother Stephan graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point and works in logistics. Stephan and his wife Moriah have two sons, John, Daniel and Wade Alan.

"I grew out my hair a little longer for last year's [2019] Marine Ball. I've since cut it back to its normal short length." ³⁷

David and Paul

As for 2020, Newton's and Blanche's second son David lives on the American West Coast. He is married to his "high school sweetheart" Kathleen Fowler and has two children.

David's younger brother Paul served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1973 to 1977 and was involved in the Vietnam War.³⁸ Paul married Tina Slater in 1986. Their son Michael now lives in Texas and has two daughters. Paul Rosenquist died in 2010 in Newburg, Oregon.

Many descendants migrated

Parish constable Åke Månsson and Kjerstina Kristensdotter had quite a few descendants that chose to migrate to America.

Åke Månsson was born around 1750 and was my ancestor Ola Månsson's brother^A. Åke, his wife Signe and his six-year-old grandson Per were all killed in 1809 in connection with a fire in a house in Häglinge.

Åke Månsson's daughter's son Jeppa Nilsson lived in Häglinge. Jeppa's oldest daughter was Boel Jeppsdotter. She was born in 1826 and married to *torparen* Pål Pålsson in Vä.

Pål and Boel had eleven children. The two eldest, Måns Pålsson Roos and Anders Pålsson, became the first in the family to emigrate. They probably boarded the same ship across the Atlantic in March 1869. They were followed a year later by their brother Nils. In the fall of 1880, the brothers Per and Pål traveled together to Galva, Illinois. In 1883 their siblings Inger, Jöns and Sven also emigrated.

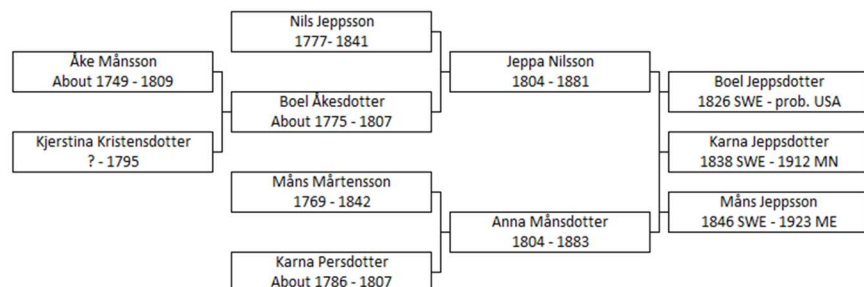
Boel Jeppsdotter's sister Karna was born in Träne in 1838 and married the *dräng* Per Jönsson Brink. After three years of marriage, they left Ignaberga in 1869 and went to America. They were followed two years later by Karna's brother Måns.

Apparently, things went well for those who emigrated, because in September 1886, the 60-year-old Boel Jeppsdotter, 61-year-old Pål Pålsson and their 18-year-old daughter Elis eventually left their home in Mannarp in Södra Rörum. Via Copenhagen and Liverpool they finally reached their destination Kearney, Nebraska.

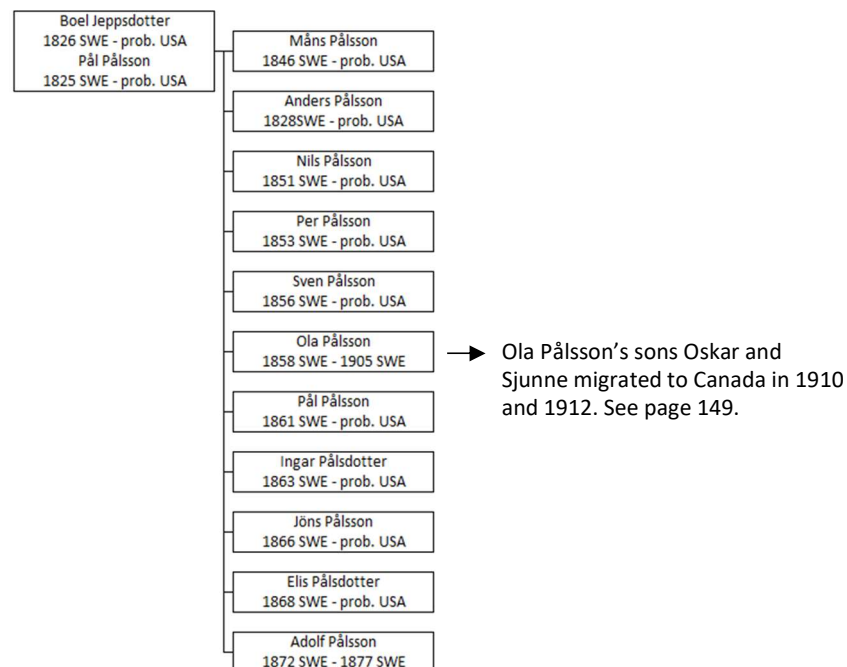
Let us now take a closer look at some of these emigrants and their lives in their new country.

^A Ola Månsson was my FFMMFF.

Ancestors of Boel, Karna and Måns Jeppsson



Descendants of Boel Jeppsdotter and Pål Pålsson



Migrated during a year of starvation

Many Swedes left their homeland during the worst starvation years of the 19th century. The farm tenant's daughter Karna and her family were among them.

Sweden was hit by extremely bad harvests during 1867–1869. It led to starvation among a large part of the population.

The cold year 1867, with an extreme cold paralyzing Norrland, was followed by 1868 with a rare drought affecting large parts of southern Sweden. Then everything culminated in 1869, in what for a long time in Småland and Blekinge was called “the hard year”.³⁹

Although Skåne did a little better than the neighboring areas, poverty and famine also spread in the country's southernmost province. Here as well, the hard time contributed to the fact that people to an even greater extent than before chose to emigrate; previously unmatched records were broken in 1869 when a total of 39 064 Swedes left the country. Some left for Denmark and Germany, others chose to travel all the way to North America.⁴⁰

Pigan Karna and drängen Per

Karna Jeppsdotter was born in the beginning of 1838. She was the daughter of *åbo* and former hussar Jeppa Nilsson and his wife Anna Månsdotter in Träne, in what was then Kristianstad län.^A

As a fourteen-year-old, Karna moved to Norra Mellby in 1852, where she became a *piga* with an *åbo* in Asmoarp. She remained there until the fall of 1865, when she became *piga* at Norra Mellby no. 9. There, in December, she married the worker Per Jönsson. Per was the son of a hussar named Jöns Brinck, who had died in 1862. Per lived in a *torp* in Tykarp with his mother Elna Pålsson.

Karna gave birth to a daughter named Elna in May 1867. Towards the end of the following year she and Per had another daughter, Johanna.

^A Karna's FMF Åke Månsson was a brother of Ola Månsson, my FFM Emelie's MFF.

Vasa, Minnesota

In Goodhue County, Minnesota, and about 35 miles south of Saint Paul, there is the small town of Vasa. It was founded in 1853 by immigrants who mainly had come from northern Skåne. Born in Önnestad in 1832, Hans Mattson came to the United States in the



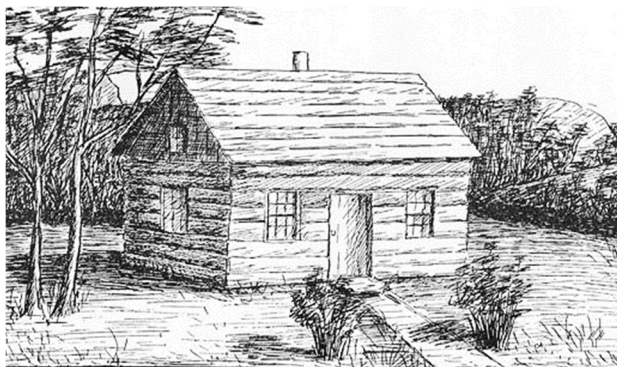
summer of 1851. He was one of the first to settle in what was to be called “Hans Mattson’s settlement” before it was named Vasa in 1855. About ten years later, Mattson became a representative of Minnesota’s immigration board. He went back to Sweden in 1867–1868 to recruit more settlers.⁴¹

Per and Karna Jeppsson and their daughters left their croft in Tykarp in May 1869. They traveled to America and settled in Vasa.

Hans Mattsson, Vasa.

Carna and Peter Brink

Per had already by the 1870 census adapted his first name to Peter. He had also taken his father’s surname Brink as a family name. As was common for Swedish immigrants, Peter was a farm worker while his wife Carna was in charge of the household. During 1871–1880 she gave birth to three girls and one boy.



*Log house in Vasa, Minnesota.*⁴²

The family remained in Goodhue County, but in addition to Vasa they also lived for a while in Welch and Featherstone.

From 1880 they were noted as living in the, at that time, Burnside municipality near the town of Red Wing^A by the Mississippi River. Here Peter, at least from 1900, owned the farm where they lived and supported themselves by farming.

A few years into the 20th century, Peter and Carna left the farm and moved to Red Wing. There in 1910 they lived on West 3rd Street with their daughter Amanda and her husband Charles A Benson^B in 1910. However, Peter Brink probably contributed to the household, as he was noted as having some own income.

After Carna had died in August 1912, the widower Peter moved to their eldest daughter Ellen (Elna). She lived with her husband Oscar Johnson in 1920 on Bluff Street, Red Wing. In 1930, Peter was back with Amanda and Charles Benson, now on West 6th Street. Peter Brink died there on July 2, 1931, aged 88.

The Brink children

Carna and Peter Brink's two eldest children were born in Sweden. The other children were born in Minnesota.

The girls were

- Ellen (1867–1953).
Married 1887 to Oscar Frank Johnson (1866–1954)
- Johanna (1868–1938).
Married 1887 to Andrew North (ca 1868–1943)
- Emma (1871–1889)
- Amanda (1874–1964).
Married 1904 to Charles A Benson (1869–1964)
- Esther Mary (1880–1969).
Married 1903 to Robert Charles Gust (1872–1956).

^A In Red Wing, with ca 16 000 inhabitants in 2020, the Minnesota Elementarskola (a predecessor to Gustavus Adolphus College) was founded by the Swedish priest Eric Norelius in 1862.

^B Benson was born somewhere in Sweden around 1869 and would probably have been born as Karl Bengtsson.

The couple's only son Arthur Herman Brink was born in 1878. Like his father he was a farmer. Arthur probably took over the family's farm in Burnside, where he also had farm workers employed. In December 1907, he married Carolina Nyberg, born in Dalarna. Maurice (Morris) and Dora was two of their four children.⁴³

Arthur and Carolina remained at the Burnside farm until the early 1940s, when they appear to have moved to nearby Welch^A. They lived in Welch when Arthur was mustered in 1942 during the Second World War. He was then 63 years old, 5' 8" tall, blue-eyed, gray-haired, and weighed 170 pounds.⁴⁴

Arthur's wife Carolina died in the spring of 1949 in Welch, while Arthur was living in Olmstead County when he died in 1963.



Dora (b. 1910) and Maurice (b. 1909), children of Arthur and Carolina Brink.

^A The accounting boundaries between the places seem somewhat fluid. When Arthur was mustered around 1917 in connection with World War I, his and his wife's address is stated to be "# 2 Welch", but in the censuses of 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 they are noted as living in Burnside. Thus, it is possible that they still lived on the same farm when Caroline died in 1949. On the other hand, Olmstead County, where Arthur died, is about 35 miles south of Burnside and Welch.

Old Sweden and New Sweden

The state of Maine is as far northeast as you can go in the US. The northernmost county of Maine is Aroostook. There you will find the small town of New Sweden, where a 29-year-old farm hand from Skåne settled in 1875.

Born in 1846 in Vå, Måns Jeppsson was the son of the Åbo Jeppa Nilsson and his wife Anna Månsdotter. He was the youngest of three siblings to migrate to North America.^A

After growing up with his parents at Rya 3 in Västra Vram parish, Måns worked as a *dräng* in Norra Åsum and other parishes before returning to his parents' home in 1866. In the fall of 1868, he became one of John Carlsson's farm hands at Tullsåkra No. 2, Västra Vram.

That fall the *piga* Elna Olsdotter also went to Tullsåkra to work for John Carlsson. Elna was born in Elastorp, Östra Sallerup in 1847. She was a daughter of the Tolånga-born åbo Ola Nilsson and his wife Kjerstina Olsdotter from Andrarum.

Converted and baptized

The *Konventikelplakatet* (The Conventicle Act) had been issued in Sweden in January 1726. It was a ban on individual gatherings for exercise of devotion. Thus, private edification meetings, conventicles, without the presence of priests from the Lutheran state church were prohibited. Religious life was to be kept standardized. The doctrine of the state church was, according to the law, the only true and acceptable doctrine. Thus, priests and county officials had the legal right to intervene in the revival movements that emerged during the 19th century. The regulation was repealed in 1858, but the power of the state church was for many years very dominant. This was seen by many as a threat to their personal conviction.⁴⁵

^A Måns' FMF Åke Månsson and my FFMMFF Ola Månsson were brothers.

Three years after the abolition of the conventicle act, a Baptist congregation was formed in Rya in the parish of Västra Vram.

... formed 15 members from the Baptist congregation in Ullstorp in 1861 Rya baptistförsamling^A at Petter Larsson's in Rya and joined Svenska baptistsamfundet^B. There was a great revival in the area and by 1870 the congregation already had about 50 members. However, during the emigration wave that swept across the countryside, nearly 20% of the members traveled to America during just a few years. ^{C, 46}

During 1866-1868 when Måns Jeppsson was back living with his parents at No. 3 Rya, he had the aforementioned *åbo* Petter Larsson^D as a neighbor. Thus, it was perhaps no wonder that Måns was “converted to God and baptized and united with the Baptist congregation in 1869 in his native place”⁴⁷. This experience he shared with Elna who that same year “was converted, baptized and joined her home church”⁴⁸.

Måns left his job as a farm hand in Skättilljunga in May 1871 and traveled to North America. Elna Olsdotter followed him the next year.

Did Elna and Måns marry before they left Sweden? That is kind of an open question, since I have not been able to find any information about their marriage in the Swedish banns- and marriage books. But official American documents and the 1923 obituary of Måns state that they were married in Sweden in 1871.⁴⁹

My theory is that they got married in a ceremony in the Baptist congregation back home. Such a ritual was not legally valid in Sweden at that time and nor for many years thereafter.^E

^A Rya Baptist Congregation.

^B The Swedish Baptist Denomination.

^C During the year Måns Jeppsson migrated (1871), 31 adults and children left the Västra Vram parish for America, of which 28 came from Rya no. 3.

^D Petter Larsson was born in Västra Vram 1829. He and his wife are noted as “Baptists” in the *husförhörlängd* of 1867–1874.

^E At the same time, Måns was listed in the *Förteckning över emigranter 1783-1991* (List of Emigrants) as “unmarried”. Although he probably was married in a Baptist context, he was still unmarried when he left Sweden according to the law. Not until the religious reform in 1952, “free church” ministers were granted legally valid marriage rights.

Recruited Swedes to settle in Maine

During the American Civil War in the 1860s, President Lincoln sent consuls to various countries. William W. Thomas, Jr. from Portland was one of them. He was sent to Gothenburg. Thomas liked Sweden and learned Swedish quickly.

After the war, Maine's management wanted to increase the population of the sparsely populated northern part of their state. As a result, Thomas received the governor's support for recruiting Swedes to establish a new agricultural settlement in the forests far north. A decision was made on this issue in 1870. Thomas was appointed immigration commissioner for Sweden. He returned to Gothenburg where he began recruiting the first group of emigrants.



William W. Thomas, Jr.

Thomas and 22 men, 11 women, and 18 children, as well as their relatives and friends, gathered on Midsummer Eve 1870 for a farewell party at the Baptist Church in Gothenburg. On June 25, the migrants went by ship to Hull. From there they took a train to Liverpool where they boarded a ship to take them across the Atlantic. After various transports via Halifax, they reached what was to become New Sweden on July 23.

Each family was to receive a cabin and 100 acres of forest with 5 acres cleared. The one and a half story homes were 18 by 26 feet and built of logs. The settlers immediately started cutting down more trees, building houses and preparing arable land. They also built a road for the state. For their work they were paid \$1 a day as credit in the colony's shop.

Maine allocated additional money to the colony in early 1871. A prospectus was printed in Swedish for distribution in Sweden. It was also published in an American immigrant newspaper.

The campaign was highly successful. In 1873, there were 1,500 Swedes in Maine, including 600 in New Sweden. 2200 acres of forest had been felled and 1500 acres were almost ready for use.⁵⁰

The Baptist and the Lutheran

The Baptist and Lay Preacher Nils Olsson was among those who came to New Sweden in 1870. The Lutheran Priest Andrew Wiren arrived the following year.

Nils Olsson was born in 1821 in Maglehem in eastern Skåne. He married in 1860 the eighteen-year-old Elna Persdotter with whom he had ten children. A few years before Nils left Sweden, the priest in Västerstad noted that Nils had four unbaptized children, and that he and his wife were “baptister”⁵¹.

Andrew Wiren was the first priest of New Sweden’s Lutheran congregation. He also started the first school in town and was considered the leader of the colony as well.

Pastor Wiren is now teaching school four days a week in that part of New Sweden known as New Jemtland, about six miles from the Capitol Building. Teams are so scarce in the (Swedish) Colony, and the traveling by horse so little, that it is impossible to keep the roads broken (clear of snow) between the Capitol and New Jemtland, so that all going to and from between the two parts of the settlement is done on Swedish “snow shoes”.

Pastor Wiren takes a ride on these long and narrow runners every Monday morning to New Jemtland where he instructs the children four days, then returning Thursday evening, he teaches the children that assemble at the Capitol on Friday to keep them from forgetting what they have previously learned.⁵²



Baptist preacher Nils Olsson with his double-sided violin, and the Lutheran priest Andrew Wiren.⁵³

Wiren and Olsson initially held their services respectively in the small town's Capitol, which served as a combined town hall and assembly room. Later the two congregations were inaugurated and in the 1880s both a Lutheran and a Baptist church were built.⁵⁴

New Sweden's population amounted to 517 people in 1880, while 905 lived there in 1910. At the census a hundred years later, there were 602 inhabitants in this little town.

The Jepson family in New Sweden

After arriving in America, Elna Olsdotter and Måns Jeppsson lived in Rumford near Providence, Rhode Island. Their children Joseph and Annie were born in Rumford. But in 1875 it was time for the family to move north to New Sweden in Maine. Also, this time, Mons Jepson (his American name) first set out on his own, to buy a farm. He performed part of his journey on foot. When a farm had been purchased Mons returned to Rumford.

The entire family then traveled by train and horse drawn carriage to New Sweden⁵⁵. There, Elna and Mons became members of New Sweden Baptist Church. They had six more children between 1877 and 1889. They farmed in New Sweden and stayed there for the rest of their lives.⁵⁶

House and home

After Mons and his family had arrived in New Sweden, they immediately began to expand the area of arable land. Every year they cut down more trees. The fastest way to get rid of the about three feet high stumps was to rake up wood chips around them and set fire to it. Then the soil was prepared for cultivation using a horse drawn harrow.⁵⁷

They grew potatoes, rye, and wheat. A crop of turnips was favored since it could be harvested late in the autumn. When planting potatoes, one of the children dug a hole with a hoe-like tool made for the purpose, another child followed and cut the potato, planted it and covered it with soil. Harvesting the potatoes was often difficult, as they entangled themselves in the tree roots that had not been burned out.

As for other settlers, the farm initially comprised of 100 acres and a log house, as well as two to three acres cleared land. At the farm they had after being established two horses, several cows, chickens, and a large St. Bernhard dog named Nancy.

The house was built of roughly cut square logs with the gaps chinked with moss. Jepson's log cabin was already built when the first settlers arrived. When it was demolished in 1944, it was the oldest in the town. It had two windows on each side and a front porch. The roof was covered with shingles that were two feet long. They were cut on the farm.

The first barn was built against the right-hand end of the house. Around 1888 it fell, and another barn was built.

Inside the cabin there was a kitchen, a bedroom, and a pantry. The space on the upper floor was after a time furnished into a bedroom for the boys. In the absence of closets, the clothes were hung on nails on the bedroom walls. Under the kitchen was a small cellar where they kept some of the harvest from their vegetable garden.



Mons Jepson's family. Front row Davida, Annie, and Eddie; middle row Otto, Elna, and Mons, Joseph; back row Hilma, Ella, and Fred.⁵⁸

The beds consisted of straw mattresses that during the day were folded into sofas and covered with fabric. The family made the table themselves of boards. There were two chairs for Mons and Elna, while the children were sitting on blocks of wood.

There was no kitchen sink and no well; they got their water from the brook which ran in front of the house. The stove was small and circular. Two pipes went up from the back of the firebox to heat the round oven overhead, and a single pipe went from there through the roof. Most of the cooking was done with an iron kettle and an iron frying pan, and among the frequently prepared foods were vegetable soup, pea soup, and rice pudding.⁵⁹

Most of their land had been cleared by the end of the century. Mons then started to build a framed house and a new barn. The house was intended to become the largest in New Sweden, but since the children gradually were leaving home, the house was never fully completed as planned.

In older days

At the time of the 1900 census, all of Elna's and Mons' children were living at home, except for their eldest son Joseph, who was born in 1873. Their sons Otto and Eddie were farm workers (probably on the family's farm) while their youngest children Hilma and Fred attended school. Nothing was noted regarding sisters Annie, Davida and Ella, but they and mother Elna were probably just as involved in the farm duties as their brothers. Most likely, women's work in their homes was not considered a job in those days.



*Mons Jepson.*⁶⁰

Ten years later the farm had been given the address Jemptland Road. By then, the household included only Mons, Elna and their son Fred, the latter being "laborer on home farm".

If we then look at 1920, Fred now formally owns the farm, but the parents still live there.

Mons Jepson died in 1923, while Elna passed in December 1927.⁶¹

Later generations

Mons and Elna Jepson's children would mostly live in or near New Sweden. Joseph was one of the exceptions, as he moved to Wyoming and died unmarried in 1901.^A

Joseph's siblings were

- Annie (1875–1970).
Married 1902 to John Erik Bergquist (1868–1941)
- Artur (1877–1961).
Married 1906 to Hilma Lundin (1882–1861)
- Eddie (1879–1967).
Married 1908 to Emmy Svensson (1885–1967)
- Davida (1881–1959).
Married 1902 to Fred Hjelm (1868–1951)
- Rosella/Ella (1883–1970).
Married 1908 to Olof C Nylander (1880–1943)
- Hilma Lillian (1885–1970).
Married 1907 to Karl O.A. Lundeen (1887–1971)
- Fred (1889–1982).
Married 1921 to Martha Osell (1902–1926).



Härmed tillkännagives för släkt och vänner, att det bebagat Herren i sitt allvissa råd till den eviga vilan hemkalla vår älskade make och fader.

MONS JEPSON.
den 16 april 1923. Han föddes i Kristianstads län, Skåne, Sverige, den 25 mars 1847, där han tillbragte sina barn- och ungdomstid. År 1871 emigrerade han hit till detta land och under några år var han bosatt i Rönneby, R. L. År 1875 flyttade han med familj hit till New Sweden, Me., och köpte den farm, han för några år sedan sålde till den yngste sonen. Här arbetade han och hela familjen hårt för att bli oberoende i sitt eget hem, vilket lyckades. År 1871 ingick han äktenskap med Elna Persson, som troget stått vid hans sida i alla dessa 52 år. Detta äktenskap välsignades med åtta barn, av vilka Josef gått före fadern till den eviga vilan.

Han blev omvänd till Gud och döpt samt förenad med baptistförsamlingen 1869 i hembygden. Han förenade sig med församl. här 1875 på betyg tillsammans med sin maka. Han hade således varit en verksam medlem av New Sweden bapt.-församl. i 48 år. Han höll ut!

Han slutade sin strävsamma jordevandring i en ålder av 76 år och 21 dagar.

Han sörges närmast av maka, sju barn och tolv barnbarnsbarn. Många andra släktingar och vänner samt den församl. han i livstiden tillhörde.

Frid över hans minne!

Mrs. Elna Jepson,
samt barnen: Döttrarna
Mrs. Anna Bergquist,
Mrs. Davida Hjelm,
Mrs. Ella Nylander,
Mrs. Hilma Lundeen,
samt sönerna
Otto, Eddie, Fred.
Enligt uppdrag,
O. C. Wiedén.

^A Joseph was probably living in the state of Wyoming at the time of his death. His is buried in the New Sweden Cemetery.



*Fred Jepson
and his family.*



*Hilma Jepson and Albin Lundeen
on their wedding day, 1907.*



Davida Jepson.

Hilma and Albin Lundeen

Child number seven among the siblings was Hilma. She married Karl Oskar Albin Lundin in 1907.

Albin Lundin was born in 1877 in a *husartorp* (hussar's croft) in Lönneberga in Småland. When he was eight, his 32-year-old mother Christina Karlsdotter died in childbed fever. Two years later, the widower Lars Magnus Lundin brought the children with him to Hässleby, where in 1889 he married Ida Karlsdotter.

According to what Albin Lundin tells us in his little biography, he left home early to provide for himself. A religious experience at young age would have a great impact on his future life.

While working at the sawmill at Sandö, Norrland, I was invited to preach and take part in the Baptist Church at Sandö. I met many Finnish people, and at their request, and without promised support and by faith and prayer I went to Finland as missionary in the fall of 1897.⁶²

Lundin writes that he came to Närpes (Närpiö), south of Vaasa in Finland. At a gathering there, he deprecated himself from the (Lutheran) child baptism and argued in favor of the baptism of faith^A. He then became a member of the Baptist congregation in Närpes. He continued to preach and practice baptism of faith. His granddaughter, Donna Anderson, says that he

... mentions that due to persecution by the Russian and State Church at that time he was advised to leave the country. The issue seems to be over infant baptism vs believer's baptism. I'm not sure how long he stayed in Finland, but he headed to America and arrived in NY in Sept 1900.⁶³

From church books and other documents, it is proven that Albin Lundin formally left his father's house in Hässleby in February 1895^B. He became an artillerist in the 6th battery of the Gothenburg garrison for a period starting February 27^{64, 65}. At an unknown date, he then left for Finland. Further documentation

^A Baptist movements deny child baptism and believe that only those who have taken a stand for faith and make a conscious choice can be baptized. Baptism should thus follow as a consequence after conversion, hence the term *baptism of faith*.

^B Until that time, he was still noted as living with his father.

states that in 1900, Rev. A. Lundin, at age 24 and a resident of Finland, left Southampton with S.S. St. Paul and arrived in New York City on September 22.⁶⁶

Pastor in several churches

In New York, Lundin was invited to preach in the Swedish Baptist church. He was later called to preach in a church in New Haven, Connecticut. There he was a pastor for a year, and then moved to Manchester, New Hampshire. By that time, he had probably modified the spelling of his name to *Lundeen*.

From Manchester he moved to Boston, where he sought and gained admission to Dr. Gordon's school^A. At the same time, he served the congregation in Norwood, Mass. After studies were completed, he was called as pastor to New Sweden, Maine. At this place he stayed for five years, during which time the congregation gained strength and increased in both material and spiritual regard. A new congregation arose in Stockholm, Maine and a church was erected there also.⁶⁷



First Baptist Church, New Sweden, where Albin Lundeen was a pastor.⁶⁸

^A Gordon Divinity School was a theological seminary with education based on the Baptist doctrine.

The organist in the Baptist Church in New Sweden was Hilma Jepson. On August 14, 1907, Albin and Hilma were married. Albin's choice of career led him and Hilma to live in several states, including Maine, Kansas, Connecticut and Minnesota. The couple had four children during 1908–1925. Only Helen (1914–1998) and Gordon (1926–2014) survived childhood.⁶⁹

Sometimes he was called Albin, but for the most part A.O. Lundeen. Fun Facts: A.O. Lundeen married Hilma Jepson and his sister Hilma Lundin married A. O. [Artur] Jepson, brother of Hilma Jepson Lundeen. So, their children became double cousins! ⁷⁰



Pastor A.O. Lundeen was one of the speakers at a meeting in New Britain, Conn. on February 14, 1913.⁷¹

From 1941 to 1951, Albin Lundeen was superintendent at Elim Park Home in Shelton, Connecticut. The Home was started when the First Swedish Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, in 1906 decided to open a “home in the country” for summer guests. The Home was later moved to Cheshire. It is currently targeted at the 65+ age group.⁷²

After serving in Shelton, Albin Lundeen served as superintendent at the Oregon Baptist Retirement Home for a year, and Albin then moved to Saint Paul. There, Hilma died in 1970 and Albin the following year.

My grandmother, Hilma Jepson was the second to the youngest child of Mons and Elna. She was a great support to my grandfather as a pastor's wife. I don't know as much about her life story since much of what is written is about my grandfather. We would travel to Minnesota every summer on vacation to spend time with my grandparents. My grandmother had a toy drawer in the dining room with little items that we would always look forward to playing with. I was 12 when she died so I really only had 7 or 8 days a year with her. I have very fond memories of her though and remember helping her with dishes and ironing!⁷³

Gordon and Shirley

During the time that Albin Lundeen was superintendent of the Swedish Baptist Home in Shelton, their son Gordon met his future wife Shirley Ann Goodenough.

Her dad had left the family and eventually her mother got a job at the home in Shelton and they both lived there. That is where my mom and dad met.⁷⁴

Shirley Goodenough had a brother, Wyman, who died in a plane crash in 1950.

Young Goodenough was on training flights in the Mediterranean Sea when his plane crashed last September 18; the body was not recovered, the Navy reports. Prior to his sea duty which began July 1, 1950, he was stationed at the Naval Air Base in Atlantic City N.J. ... He held rank of Aviation Electronics Mate First Class. Goodenough, age 20, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Goodenough, formerly of North Main Street.⁷⁵

Gordon and Shirley married in 1953 and lived mainly in Connecticut, except for a few years in Minnesota. There Shirley had a job, while Gordon found it difficult to find employment. So they moved back to Shelton, where Gordon got his job back at BF Goodrich.

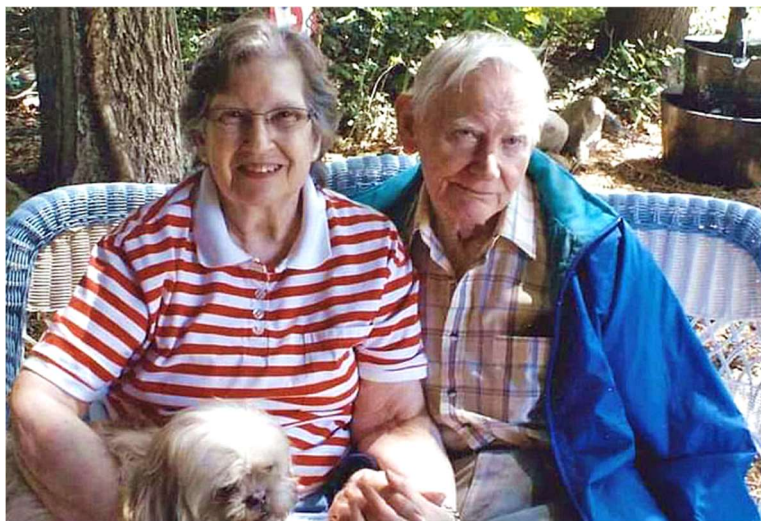
Devastating arson

The rubber and car tire company BF Goodrich had a large factory in Shelton. They made washing sponges. On March 1, 1975, a powerful explosion and a fire broke out. It devastated the three-block big factory that just had been sold to a man named Charles Moeller. The investigation that was carried out showed that the fire was due to arson. The fire had been started by placing a number of gasoline barrels linked around the factory with a fuse. The purpose was considered to have been to get access to insurance money in the order of \$60 million. Ten people were indicted, including owner Moeller, but he was, however, acquitted.⁷⁶

The fire was a major blow to Shelton with its approximately 30,000 inhabitants. Nearly 4,000 employees lost their jobs through the fire, including the 49-year-old Gordon.

My dad was out of work for a while and had some temporary jobs. He eventually ended up at Farrell Company in Ansonia which manufactured processing equipment for plastics plants. He had health problems after

he retired and developed macular degeneration which caused him to be legally blind. He also developed dementia or Alzheimer's – he died in 2014. My mom is still living.⁷⁷



*Shirley and Gordon Lundeen.*⁷⁸

Donna Anderson

Gordon and Shirley Lundeen's children are Douglas, Donna, and Darrick. Donna Correlle Anderson^A lives in Shelton, Connecticut with her husband Richard. Donna has previously been a nurse, but for almost twenty years she has now (2020) worked in the office of a large church in Fairfield.

Richard Anderson has remained in the manufacturing industry and is now supervisor of a company that makes medical equipment. The couple has two sons who were both in the army and served in Iraq. One of them also served in Africa.

^A I got in touch with Donna Anderson when I learned that we had some DNA in common (we are sixth cousins). Her FMFFMFF Måns was my FFMMFF.

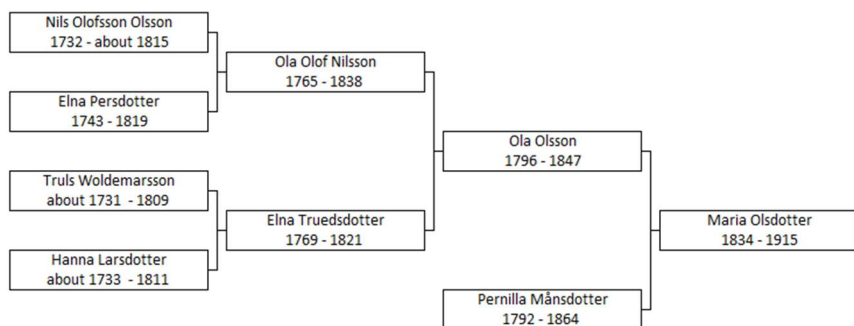


Donna and Richard Anderson "in the potato fields of the Jepson Farm".⁷⁹

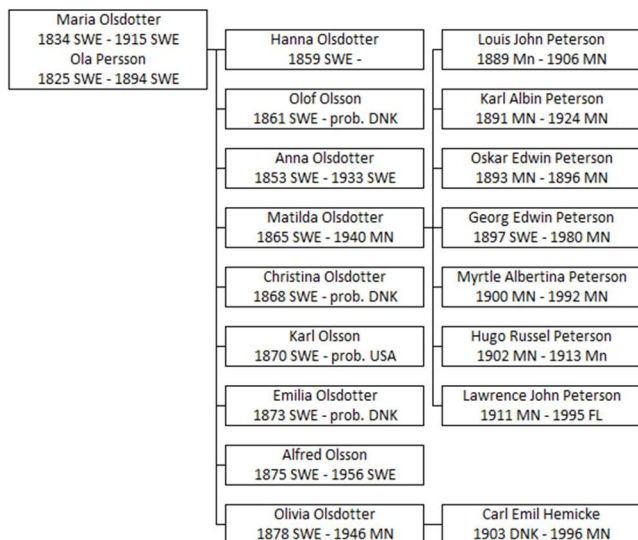


Clyde Jepson and Donna Anderson. Clyde is Fred Jepson's son, and Donna's paternal grandmother was Hilma Jepson Lundeen.⁸⁰

Ancestors of Maria Olsdotter



Descendants of Maria Olsdotter and Ola Persson

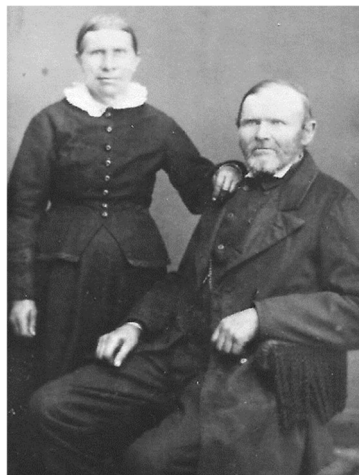


First Denmark, then America

Maria Olsdotter and Ola Persson had nine children. Seven of them either migrated to Denmark or to the more distant North America.

The relation between me and the migrants in this chapter goes back to Ola Nilsson and Elna Trulsdotter, both born in the 1760s. They lived at Kalva-husen, Östra Strö parish. Among their children were Ola Olsson^A, who married Pernilla Månsdotter. In 1834 they had a daughter called Maria.

Maria Olsdotter married the ten years older dräng Ola Persson, born 1825 in Hurva, in the summer of 1859. They had nine children. Of the siblings' fate I have chosen to concentrate on Matilda's. But first let us give her sister Olivia's story some space.



*Maria Olsdotter and Ola Persson.*⁸¹



*Lyby no.8
where
Maria's
and Ola's
daughter
Matilda
was born
in 1865.*^{B,82}

^A Ola's brother Nils born 1806, was my FFFF.

^B Photo probably taken around 1890.

Olivia was a great beauty

Ola Persson's and Maria Olsdotter's youngest child was the 1878-born Olivia. She moved in the autumn of 1894 to Copenhagen.

Her sister Matilda's brother-in-law Johannes^A seemed to have had warm feelings for Olivia:

... he was smitten with Olivia Olsdotter, Mathilda's sister. Our family told me Olivia was a great beauty. Unfortunately for our family, Olivia chose to marry a Dane who was an actor who also lived in America. Hemicke was his name.⁸³

A few years after she moved to Copenhagen, Olivia married the Elsinore-born Lembrecht Hemicke in January 1901 in Sankt Jakob's church. The couple would later travel further west.

On Christmas Eve 1913, S.S. Hellig Olav arrived at New York harbor with Olivia Hemicke and her children Karoline, Karl and Hildora. Most likely, her husband Lembrecht had traveled a little ahead to prepare for the arrival of the others. The family settled in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where Lembrecht provided for them as an iron worker. They lived on Beech Street, in the home of Olivia's sister Mathilda and her husband John Peterson.

Olivia died in March 1946, followed about six months later by Lembrecht.

Saint Paul, Minnesota

The fifteen-year-old *piga* Matilda Olsdotter left her home at Lyby No. 6 in the fall of 1880 to become a *piga* in Reslöv, before she moved to Denmark the following year. She may already by then have had a dream about America, even though she waited until 1888 before she decided to go there.

Mother [Eva McClaren] told me about when Mathilda was a young woman. She used to hire out to the Persson's, #6 Lyby, at harvest time and work in the field gathering up the shocks^B of grain. One day, a field mouse ran up under her long skirt. Without hesitation, she grasped her

^A Johannes Persson (1869–1918) was the brother of Matilda Olsdotter's husband Per Persson. See *The mystery of John Peterson* below.

^B A *shock* (alt. stook, stack) is an arrangement of sheaves of cut grain-stalks.

skirt, placed it over the mouse running up her leg and squashed it to death. I like that about her, a real can-do person.⁸⁴

The parish book of Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca, Minnesota, states that Mathilda Peterson was born in December 1865 and came to America from Denmark in 1888. She was married to John Peterson in July 1889. He had arrived in America already in 1887.

Mathilda and John had an understanding before John left for America. He paid her passage once he had prepared a place for her on Beech Street in St. Paul.⁸⁵

The mystery of John Peterson

According to the Milaca church register, Mathilda's husband John Peterson was born at Lyby no. 6 on June 25, 1867.⁸⁶

John Peterson	Lyby förs.	Malmöhus län	Sw. 6 25 1867	Sweden
Mathilda (w)	Lyby förs.	"	Sw. 12 3 1865	"
Lawrence John (s)	St. Paul	Min.	5 11 1911	8 13 1911

But there is no John to be found in Lyby's birth register on that date. Well, the Swedish *Johannes* could easily have been changed to *John* in the US, and Persson could have become *Peterson*.

But there was a Per Persson born at Lyby No. 6 on that date, who also had a brother named Johannes, born in 1869. Any confusion?

Then I found that a son of Mathilda and John had been born on Christmas Eve 1897 while they were visiting the home of John's parents in Lyby. The baby was named Georg Edvin. In Lyby's birth register, the boy's father is noted as "Per Persson shop keeper, born June 15, 1867, from St. Paul in North America".⁸⁷

Dec 24	Georg Edvin	Fader: Per Persson, Handlande	67 25/6
		fr. St. Paul i Nordamerika	
		Moder: Mathilda Olsson	65 3/12

Thus, in connection with the migration, Per Persson had taken the name of *John Peterson*. Was it perhaps because his brother Johannes died early, and Per therefore took that name to honor him?

But this was not the case. It turned out that Per's brother Johannes had moved to America in 1890, but then returned to Lyby two years later.^A

So even if Per Persson called himself John Peterson in America, he still used the name Per Persson when his fourth child Georg Edvin was born in his old parents' house in Lyby, Sweden.

Borgholm, Minnesota

Mathilda Olsdotter was thus married in July 1889 in St. Paul, Minnesota, to the man we henceforth call John Peterson. The couple lived at Beech Street and Brick Street in St. Paul. They had seven children during 1889-1911. However, only Karl, Edwin, Myrtle, and Lawrence reached adulthood. Their first child, Louis, died at his school desk from brain hemorrhage when he was 16.



John provided for the family with the income from his dairy, while Mathilda was a housewife in the spirit of the times. She has been described as “a very funny person, always laughing, always had the coffee pot on the back of the stove in case anyone came to call”⁸⁸. Even though she never learned to speak much English, she could communicate quite well, at least with her Canadian daughter-in-law Eva.^B

*John, Mathilda, Louis, and Carl.*⁸⁹

^A After his return to Sweden, Johannes married Anna Svensson in 1899. He died in 1918 in Bosjökloster.

^B Eva McClaren was married to Mathilda's son Lawrence.

Sometime around 1917, John Peterson gave his dairy to his two sons Karl and Edwin. He then took the rest of the family to Borgholm, about 60 miles north of St. Paul, where they became members of the aforementioned Lutheran Church in nearby Milaca. John bought and ran a dairy farm in Borgholm.

The land in Milaca countryside was similar to that of Lyby, Skåne, where the earth heaves up the underground rocks every spring. He must have been lonely for the land where he and Mathilda grew up.⁹⁰

Mathilda died in April 1940 due to stomach cancer, while John died in the summer of 1954.⁹¹

John's and Mathilda's children stayed mainly in St. Paul. Karl was born in 1891. He married the Dalarna-born Helga Brask. Karl operated the dairy until he got the Hodgkin's lymphoma and died in 1926.

Karl's sister Myrtle Albertina was married in 1923 to the eight years older John Beesley, a fireman who became fire chief. After World War II, President Truman commissioned John to the Japanese Island of Okinawa to form a fire district and build fire stations for Japan. His wife Myrtle joined him living in Okinawa for several years.⁹²

John died in 1975, while Myrtle died at the age of 92 in 1992.

Granddaughter McClaren

Karl's and Myrtle's younger brother Laurentz (Lawrence) was born in 1911. His sister Myrtle offered to pay for his college education, but he was not fond of school and left after the eighth grade. As an adult he moved back to St. Paul. There he entered a barber school, but disliked working as a barber.



*Eva and Lawrence Peterson.*⁹³

Then he became a construction worker. He learned to build houses, doing all the electrical and plumbing, and heating except for the plastering of walls. He built three of our houses when I was a child. He also worked as a landscaper, teaching me everything I know about growing plants and making gardens beautiful. Then he worked as a truck driver, and impressed his employer in his abilities, so that he was sent to trade school to learn heating and air conditioning. He was so accurate in his work and such a genial man, the pipefitter's union assigned him a journeyman's title and he trained all the apprentices.⁹⁴

In December, 1934, Lawrence married Eva McClaren, born in Canada 1913. After living in St. Paul, they moved about ten miles north to White Bear Lake. They returned to St. Paul in 1954 where they lived until retiring to Sarasota, Florida in 1991. Lawrence died there in 1995 and Eva in 2009.

Dad was so dear to me and to his family. He let people be themselves. He was funny and fun, a great dancer.⁹⁵

Lawrence's and Eva's only child, daughter McClaren, was born in 1940 in St. Paul. McClaren Peterson studied at the University of Minnesota and Yale University.

At the time I was there, I was running a drug prevention program, applying for a federal grant to fund another year of drug prevention, and writing my thesis for graduation.⁹⁶

McClaren was married in 1960 to Douglas Wilder. They had two sons, Douglas (born 1961) and Daniel (1965). The marriage lasted eleven years.

McClaren returned to university in the early 1970s and joined a group of professional and civic-minded people. This gave her direction for a new career.



*McClaren with her son
Daniel's daughter Emily, 2005.*

The cable TV industry was blanketing the State of Minnesota, city by city, with proposals to build their cable networks. The problem arose that cities did not have the expertise to deal with the industry. Hence, rights

granted by the Federal Communications Commission were overlooked by the industry. The most egregious omissions included no public access that the Federal Trade Commission (FCC) had granted to municipalities public access channels while the cable companies failed to build systems they had contracted for.⁹⁷

McClaren's group recognized the problem and formed a coalition of communications experts. The purpose was to get legislation passed to form a State Arbitration Board. The board would hear disputes between the cities and the cable industry and resolve the issues between the parties.

I was involved in writing the legislation, lobbying, and getting passage for the bill. What I learned in the process was this. Minnesota, with the influence of Swedish immigrants, had established a rule of thought and conduct that to this day is strong. It is that the state takes care of all the people. With that value, and working for the public good, our group felt confident in gaining passage of this important bill. And we did.

When I visited Sweden for the first time shortly after, I learned that the same value is alive in Sweden to this day. I am so proud of Swedish culture and thankful that I could live in a state in tune with that culture.⁹⁸

Since then, writing has been McClaren's professional field. She has lent her writing skills to various organizations such as World Health Organization and the South-Central Connecticut Council on Drug Abuse.

I have worked on commission most of that time along with other endeavors most of which involved fiction, nonfiction, research, reports and interviews.⁹⁹



*Richard and
McClaren
Davies.¹⁰⁰*

By 2020 McClaren has lived in Sarasota, Florida, since the late 1980s. On Christmas Eve 2004 she married Richard Davies. Together they ran a guesthouse in Sarasota as a hobby project until a few years ago. Richard once was international marketing director for a US computer company, and stationed in Taipei, Taiwan.

Although McClaren is now in her eighties, writing is still an important part of her life.

Now that I am retired, I dictate my own projects and am having a ball. I am finishing up a memoir project and writing some fiction on the side.¹⁰¹

Uncle Ed

As previously noted, McClaren's uncle Georg Edvin was born in 1897 while his parents visited his grandparents in Lyby, Sweden. When in 1918 he mustered due to the war, his name was written as Edwin George Peterson. It was recorded that he was "tall, slender with blue eyes and dark brown hair"¹⁰².

"Uncle Ed" became a milk truck driver. In 1929 he married Ruth Mildred Johnson whose parents came from Denmark. The couple lived at 1651 Burns Avenue in St. Paul. Edwin was part owner of the Peterson Dairy Co. and had routes throughout the city of St. Paul.

Edwin Peterson sang in the Minnesota Male Swedish Chorus. He wanted to travel with the Male Swedish Chorus that was scheduled to perform for Swedish audiences in the fall of 1979. He also planned to connect with family members while in Sweden. His brother Lawrence and his niece McClaren encouraged him to do so.

But then Edwin had a car accident. His car ran off the road and hit a tree. The car was considered a total wreck. He lost his car license. His doctor discovered at that point a serious heart problem but did not recommend surgery.

Dad and I could not believe it. Surely, the doctors were wrong or at the least too conservative. We encouraged Uncle Ed to have the surgery. After all it was his dream to return to Sweden where he had been born and also to perform with the Male Swedish Chorus. We wanted that so much for him.¹⁰³

The surgery went ahead, but Edwin did not survive. He died of heart failure, aged 82.

Uncle Ed was such a dear man. He had the freshness of a child's curiosity and interest in life. I hope he knew how much I loved him. I know he loved me. When I was a teenager, he carved a glove box for me, all chip carving with my name carved in the cover.¹⁰⁴

But – there is more to tell about the Lyby, Sweden-born Edwin Peterson. And who can tell it better than his beloved niece, McClaren.



Marion McClaren (McClaren Davies' grandfather) with twin daughters Eva and Iva, Canada 1917.¹⁰⁵



Olof Olsson (no relation) from Nerikes Kil (Örebro län) migrated to Rush City, Minnesota, about 1880.¹⁰⁶

Ed's other wife

A story about Edwin (Ed) Peterson, written by McClaren Malcolm.^A

Back in 1940's Minnesota, our family's best storyteller was Uncle Ed. It wasn't that he was so good at the telling, although a person could see he enjoyed a story, slapping his knee for emphasis, his eyes sparkling. His stories were interesting because he had a sense of adventure and abandon that led him to odd places and unusual people.

His marital arrangement was a good example. He proposed marriage to a pretty little thing, Ruth Johnsen, not knowing that she came with a bonus – her elder sister, Christine^B.

Christine had been devoted to her baby sister ever since their mother's death at Ruth's birth. Even the prospect of my handsome uncle's devotion to Ruth was not enough to separate the two. So, the three set out on a honeymoon, the details Uncle Ed never revealed.

Upon returning to Minnesota, the threesome moved into Uncle Ed's new craftsman bungalow. Christine settled into the attic room while Uncle Ed and Aunt Ruth shared a double bed downstairs. Christine carried out housekeeping duties just as intensely as she felt devotion to Ruth. When certain of her tasks required some brawn, she pursued Uncle Ed in flat-footed assurance with her orders. If his work didn't measure up, she was equally assured in scolding him.

Christine had a keen interest in her health. She wore copper bracelets to ward off rheumatism. Smells of camphor mysteriously trailed the air when she crossed a room. Her loyalties included a marcelled hairstyle she adopted in the 1920s. Rows and rows of opposing waves hugged her head, the symmetry broken only by one precise curl in the middle of her forehead.

^A Used by permission. McClaren Malcolm is McClaren Davies' pen name.

^B Christine Johnsen was born in Minnesota in May 1887; her sister Ruth in November 1898. Their parents came from Denmark.

Both sisters had a fear of early death, and on a trip out West in the hot summer of 1949, it appeared death was imminent. They reached Denver, Colorado, around lunchtime, so Uncle Ed parked the car near a downtown restaurant. As Christine grabbed the doorframe to hoist herself from the car's backseat, she slammed the door. Unfortunately, her fingers were still clutching the door frame. She screamed, then crumpled to the ground.

Uncle Ed ran to her side. He hooked his arms under hers to lift her dead weight. "Help me, Ruth grab her ankles." They struggled up a grassy slope and lowered her to the ground with her feet pointing to the top of the incline. Aunt Ruth assured Uncle Ed that this would increase the blood flow to Christine's head. Uncle Ed paced, and Aunt Ruth knelt by Christine's head, flapping a handkerchief in front of her nose.

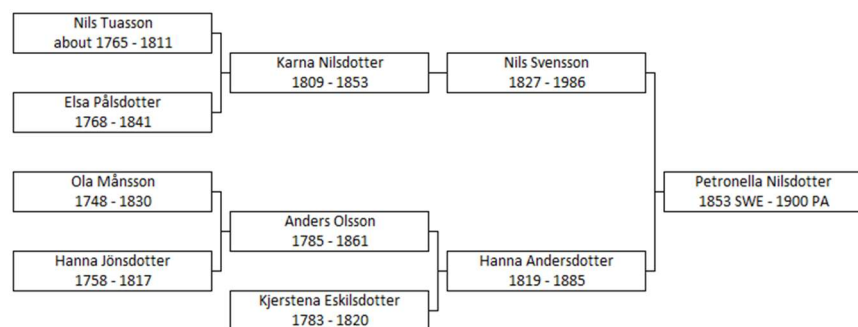
Ruth's eyes fretfully scanned Christine's body for any sign of consciousness. Then she caught sight of Christine's fingernails. "Oh, she's dying! Her nails wouldn't be turning blue if she weren't dying. Do something, Ed. Hurry, call an ambulance. I'll get some ice."

Uncle Ed rushed off to the restaurant to find a phone and Aunt Ruth followed him. With the ambulance called and ice in hand, they left the restaurant only to see a distressful sight. An old mutt, with matted fur hanging in clods between his short legs, stood on Christine's chest, sniffing and licking her face.

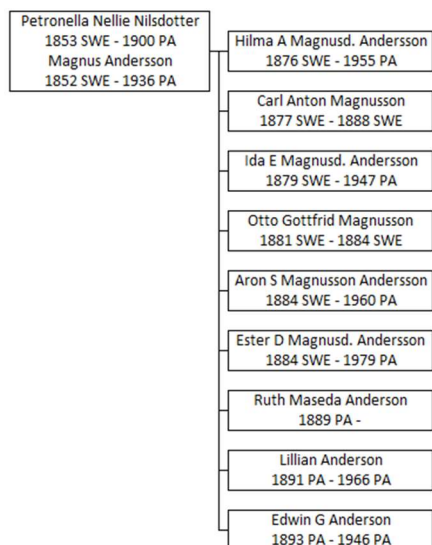
Uncle Ed and Aunt Ruth ran down the grassy slope shouting and waving their arms, but the dog wouldn't budge. He continued to lap Christine's pale cheeks, her eyes and nose, and worked his way down to slobber her mouth. Suddenly Christine's eyes flickered. She bolted up through the heavy summer air like a drowning person gasping for breath, yelling and flailing her arms. Aunt Ruth called it a miracle, but Uncle Ed said, "Let's get out of here before the ambulance comes".

The family might never have heard about Christine's brush with death except it apparently was the highlight of the trip for Uncle Ed though he never told this story when he was with Aunt Ruth or his other wife.¹⁰⁷

Ancestors of Petronella Nilsdotter



Petronella Nilsdotter's and Magnus Andersson's children



From Höör to Philadelphia

Petronella Nilsson and her children were among the 45,000 Swedes who migrated in 1888 to America.

Petronella Nilsson^A was born in May 1853 at the *torp* Tullskog^B north of Höör. She was the daughter of Hanna Nilsson and her husband, the *torpare* and Forest Ranger Nils Nilsson.

Petronella was 22 years old when she married the tailor Magnus Nilsson. A year later they moved to Höör where they had three daughters and three sons during 1876–1886. However, two of the sons only lived a few years.

We can only speculate about what caused Petronella and Magnus to consider emigration to North America. But they were surely not the only Swedes that had such plans.

A total of 11,148 Swedes emigrated to America during the years 1851–1855, but that was just the beginning. The 1880s were the years when emigration culminated, with the peak year being 1887. That year 50,786 people were reported to have left Sweden, of which 46 252 settled in the United States.^{108, C}

Destination Pennsylvania

Tailor Magnus Nilsson left Sweden via the port of Malmö on September 1, 1887. His final destination was Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. Petronella and their children Hilma, Ida, Aron and Esther followed, probably about a year later.^D

Petronella gave birth to daughter Ruth in August 1889, followed in 1891 and 1893 by Lillie Marie and Edwin. Early in

^A Petronella Nilsson was my FFM Emelie's sister.

^B Tullskog was also the birthplace of my uncle Gustaf (1913) and my father Hugo (1915).

^C In 1887 Sweden had 4.6 million inhabitants. Thus 1.3 per cent emigrated during that year only.

^D Magnus alone is noted as leaving Sweden on September 1, 1887 in the Malmö administrative police authority's register. According to US Census 1900, he was followed in 1889 by the rest of the family.

1900, the family rented a residence at 1214 South Clarion Street in Philadelphia. Magnus then worked from home as a tailor, and several others in the family were involved in the business. Their daughter Hilma was a trouser seamstress, Ida a vest seamstress, and Aron a tailor. The youngest children went to school.

Magnus' 47-year-old wife Nellie (Petronella) Anderson died on October 25, 1900. She was buried at Northwood's cemetery, Philadelphia.

The widower Magnus later lived with his daughter Ruth in Philadelphia. He traveled to Sweden on one occasion to visit his brother Sven Ljunggren in Hua-röd. When Magnus returned to his new country with S.S. United States from Copenhagen on August 27, 1923, he was described as 5 feet and 11 inches tall, having gray hair and blue eyes.¹⁰⁹

Magnus continued to live with daughter Ruth and her husband Frank Wagenhols in Philadelphia. He died there in June 1936 due to inflammation of the cardiac valves.



Market Street, Philadelphia 1897.

Hilma and ivory carver Victor

Magnus' and Petronella's oldest daughter Hilma Amanda was married to Victor Palmgren in 1901. The couple moved to New York City, where they lived in Queens in 1910. Ten years later, they had moved to 109 W 46th Street on Manhattan, where Victor as a talented artist provided for them as ivory carver. In 1930, Hilma and Victor were back in Queens, where they lived on 62nd Street.

Hilma died of pulmonary edema in April 1955, while her husband Victor died of "Apoplexy, Arteriosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease"¹¹⁰ later that year.

No information has been found to indicate that Hilma and Victor had any children.

Vest seamstress Ida and metal worker Fred

Hilma's sister Ida Elvira worked as a vest seamstress in Philadelphia before she married the three years older Stockholm-born Fritz "Fred" Henricson in April 1901. The couple seems to have lived in Philadelphia all their lives, with addresses at Gillespi Street and Poplar Street. Fred was a metal worker when they married, and later became foreman in a sheet metal factory.

Fred's brother and sister-in-law, Edwin and Mathilda Henricson, had a son in June 1907 named Fred. However, Edwin died in December 1912. Fred then lived with Ida and Fred, perhaps as an adopted child.

Ida died in December 1947, while her husband Fred passed three months later. It appears that Ida and Fred had no children of their own. Their possibly adopted son Fred Henricson Jr. died in New Jersey 1960.

Affected by tuberculosis

Ida's brother Aron Samuel was born in February 1884. At age twenty he worked as a machinist at the railroad.

Aron Samuel Anderson remained unmarried, as far as I know. He suffered from tuberculosis for many years and was admitted to the Pennsylvania State Sanatorium for Tubercular in Windsor, Pennsylvania in 1930.

At the time of the 1942 World War II draft registration, 58-year-old Aaron was cared for at a sanatorium in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. According to the registration card he was 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighed 155 pounds, and had blue eyes and gray hair. Under

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
1. SERIAL NUMBER	2. NAME (Print)	3. ORDER NUMBER	
U. 1855	Aaron Samuel Anderson		
4. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)	(Town, township, village, or city)	(County)	(State)
T. B. Sanatorium	Hamburg		
5. THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL.			
6. MAILING ADDRESS			
Same			
(Mailing address if other than above included on this card. If none listed, write none)			
7. TELEPHONE	8. AGE IN YEARS	9. PLACE OF BIRTH	
	58	Norr Skene	
	Feb 1 1884	Sweden	
10. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS			
Mrs. Ruth Wagenhals - 5226 Sylvester St., Phila.			
11. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS			
Penna. Dept. of Health			
12. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS			
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
13. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT		14. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	
Aaron S. Anderson		Larson S. Anderson	

"name and address of person who will always know your address" it stated "Mrs. Ruth Wagenhals - 5226 Sylvester St., Phila.", i.e. Aaron's younger sister.¹¹¹

Aaron died of respiratory failure and chronic bronchitis in May 1960 at Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, after battling with his lung problems for 45 years.¹¹²

Ester and Irishman James

Ester Desideria was the youngest of the children born in Sweden to Magnus and Pernilla Andersson. She was married in Philadelphia in 1911 to the two years older Irishman James Nelson. Around 1930, they lived in their own residence on S. 60th Street. At that time, the Gaelic-speaking James worked as a salesman in a department store, while ten years later he was a clerk in a grocery store.

Ester and James later settled at 35 E. LaCrosse Avenue in Lansdowne, just west of downtown Philadelphia. James died there in 1961. As a widow, Ester moved to the neighboring Drexel Hill. There she died on Christmas Eve 1979.

The couple's son James William was a clerk at a bank and lived with his parents in 1940. In September of the same year, the 28-year-old James William married Elinor Smith at Ninth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Their children Stephen James and Susan Elinor were born in 1947 and 1949.

James William Nelson was drafted in October 1940 during preparation ahead of the Second World War. He was registered as being 5' 10" tall, weighed 145, and had brown hair and blue eyes.¹¹³

He served in the Army from August 1943 to April 1946, including 11 months abroad and 20 in domestic service. In early 1950 he applied for compensation for war veterans and was granted a total of \$365. By then the family lived at 333 S. Rolling Road in Springfield, a suburb of Philadelphia.¹¹⁴

James William Nelson died in July 1981, while his widow Elinor died eight years later. They are buried with James' parents at Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill.

Hairdresser Ruth and welder Frank

Ruth Maseda Anderson was born August 22, 1889. She was confirmed on May 11, 1905 at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, along with five other young people with Scandinavian names.

When Ruth was 25, she was married in Philadelphia to Frank Wagenhols^A. Their daughter Ruth was born in 1916. It is possible they had a few more children later. Ruth and Frank stayed in Philadelphia, where Frank was a welder. The family lived at 5226 Sylvester Street.

Their daughter Ruth lived at home with her parents in 1940 and worked as a hairdresser in a beauty salon.

Prisoner of war

Magnus and Petronella Anderson's youngest child Edwin Gott-hard was born in 1893. Edwin lived with his sister Lillie Marie in Philadelphia in the early 1930s, where he was involved in railroad-related work.



US field artillery in Château-Thierry.

During World War I, Edwin joined the 109th Infantry Regiment on April 3, 1917. He served in France in July 1918 and participated in the battle of Château-Thierry^B. On July 15 he was gassed, captured, and held as a prisoner of war until he was released on December 9, 1918. He was then treated in a hospital until he was honorably discharged on March 26, 1919.^{115, C}

Back in the USA Edwin Anderson worked in the retail business. He died in Philadelphia in August 1946; 53 years old. As far as can be verified, he was not married or left any children.^D

^A Spelling variations Wagenhols and Wagenhals exist.

^B French and American forces successfully attacked the German troops at Château-Thierry. The attack was part of the second battle of Marne and the Allied counterattack to force the Germans back.

^C An armistice was signed on 11 November 1918, but it took a while before practical arrangements, like releasing of war prisoners, could be settled.

^D Information from the appliance for World War II Compensation for war veterans indicates that Edwin may have been married to a woman called

Lillie Marie and the Freemason Otto

Magnus and Petronella Anderson's youngest daughter Lillie Marie married the German-born and nine years older Otto William Roesberg. At first Otto had a small restaurant in Philadelphia, but then he began to work for the ice cream company Breyers Ice Cream^A where he managed the vanilla division.

Otto and the owner, Henry Breyer, became good friends. The Roesbergs were often invited to dinner at Breyer's grand house. Their son Clarence Roesberg loved pudding, and Breyer would ask him if he wanted some more pudding. Breyer then stepped on a buzzer on the floor to summon the servant to bring additional pudding.¹¹⁶

During the 1930s and 1940s, Lillie Marie and Otto lived at 4433 Paul Street in Philadelphia with their children Henry, Otto, Clarence and Lillie.



Clarence Roesberg.



Otto was a member of a Freemason Lodge in Frankfort, Philadelphia, with its premises just opposite the Town Hall and John Wannamaker's. Wannamaker's was one of the first department stores in the United States. It influenced the development of the retail trade, partly because it was the first store to use price tags.

Otto W. Roesberg with his lodge medal and Freemason pin.¹¹⁷

Mary (or Mae), and that he also had a son, Albert. No other documents to support this information have so far been found.

^A The company was founded by Henry's father William A. Breyer in 1866, and for many years they only used natural ingredients. But later the company became a part of the Unilever concern, and a few years into the 2000s there were almost 40 ingredients in the ice cream, and it contained such a small portion of milk products that they no longer were allowed to call it *ice cream*. It is now called Frozen Dairy Dessert.

Otto was also a member of the Shriner's club. They are affiliated with the famous Shriners children's hospital ... Otto would visit the hospital and bring Breyer's ice cream Dixie cups to the children. He also used to bring ice cream to my Mom's school when she was a kid.¹¹⁸



All of the Roesberg boys were musicians. My grandfather Otto played the trumpet. My Uncle Harry (Henry Roesberg, also my godfather) played the accordion. I cannot remember what Clarence or Lillie played. My grandmother Grace played the violin and piano.¹¹⁹

Otto Roesberg died in August 1943, while Lillie M. was suffering from uterine cancer when she died of a heart attack in December 1966.¹²⁰

*Lillie Marie with grandchildren Kathleen and Lillie.*¹²¹



*Otto W. Roesberg and his family, 1930s. Clarence, Otto W, Harry, Lillie, Lillie Marie, and Otto J.*¹²²

Asbestos worker Henry

Lillie Marie's and Otto's son Henry (also named Breyer in honor of his father's employer) was born in 1919. In 1941 he was working at the Philadelphia Asbestos Company and married the three years younger Pauline Ivester. That same year he was registered by the military officials as being 6 ft. 2 in, weighed 180, and had blonde hair and blue eyes. He wore glasses and had a "piece of metal in bone – left wrist"¹²³. A few years later, he was considered to be a skilled asbestos and insulation worker.

Henry Roesberg died in February 1980 in Burlington, New Jersey, while his widow Pauline died in 2012. The couple had three sons, Ronald, Richard and Henry.

My Mom^A remembered that her brother Harry [Henry] would dress up at Halloween as a hunter (his favorite hobby) and carry a fake gun and hang stuffed animals from his belt, as if they were the animals he shot. Mom thought this was funny!¹²⁴

Otto the metal worker

Born in 1921, Henry's brother Otto John first became an ice cream maker, probably with his father, and later a metal worker. He married Pennsylvania-born Grace Hughes when he was 18. In the 1940s the couple had two girls, Lillian and Kathleen.



Just like his brother Henry, Otto J. was drafted. At the 1942 World War II mustering he weighed 210, was 6 ft. tall, blue-eyed, and brown-haired. Otto J. served in the army for three months until he was "honorably separated from active service" in November, 1944¹²⁵. He then worked on pipe insulation and similar jobs, like his brother Henry.

*Otto John, Grace, Lillian, and Kathleen.*¹²⁶

^A Lillie Roesberg Coyne.

Otto John Roesberg was only 42 years old when he died in July 1963, while the widow Grace lived until July 2004.

Otto J. Roesberg, 42, of 730 Willits Ave., Audubon, died Sunday in his home. He was an asbestos worker in Philadelphia. He was a member of Local 14, Asbestos Workers; Haddon Heights Lutheran Church; Haddonfield Lodge 130, F&AM. He was an army veteran of War II.¹²⁷

Kathleen married young

Otto J. and Grace Roesberg's daughter Kathleen was in her teens when she started seeing William Sutkus.

My mom and dad meet in South Jersey in a diner. My mom was very young, 16, and my dad 21. My mother's parents did not like my dad because he was Catholic and they were Lutheran and probably for other reasons [as well]. They tried to keep my mom from seeing him.

Once my mom and dad and another couple drove from South Jersey to North Carolina to elope. Apparently, the local sheriff scared them so badly they drove home immediately. My mom was past curfew and was punished from seeing my father for weeks. If my grandparents only knew.¹²⁸

Because Kathleen's parents disliked her boyfriend so much, things were not good at home for her. Anyway, Kathleen Roesberg was

married to William Sutkus in Runnemede, New Jersey, in November 1957.



Kathleen and William with his grandmother, Catherine Conroy.

Her parents did not accept this, did not go to the wedding and had nothing to do with her for a year. When my brother was born^A, they started speaking again. In the end, my grandfather Otto Roesberg and my dad became best buddies.

My parents ... were very social, always having family and neighbors over to the house for holiday celebrations and parties. Once a month through the winter my mom's side of the

^A William Sutkus, Jr. was born in October 1959.

family (Roesberg) would have card night. Each month the host would change. Usual participants were my parents Bill and Kathi Sutkus, my mom's sister Lillian and Carl Fuhs, my mom's Aunt Lilly and Russ Coyne, Uncle Harry and Pauline Roesberg ... and sometimes Uncle Clarence and Glenda Roesberg. It was so exciting when we hosted it. We never had many treats in our home, but my mom would buy lots of yummy foods for card night.¹²⁹

I too used to enjoy when my parents hosted "card night" at our house. Lots of fun and laughs and it was always good to see my aunts and uncles.¹³⁰

After Kathleen had given birth to William, Jr. she had two daughters, Grace and Colleen. The family left New Jersey in 1976 and moved to Hillsborough, Florida.

Kathleen and William were divorced in 1978. Kathleen then married Ed Smith. He died in 1987, while Kathleen lived until May 2017.

Colleen and Bobby Dow

Kathleen and William Sutkus' daughter Colleen was born in 1963 in New Jersey. Colleen married Arkansas-born Bobby Dow in Florida in 1997. They moved to Aubrey, Texas, the same year. Both Colleen and Bobby are in the IT field and met at work.



For the last 19 years, Mrs. Dow and her husband have run their own company, PublicSoft, Inc. Her expertise is in real estate tax collections software and during the last 31 years she has assumed many roles in the process, including developer, business analyst, product specialist, software support analyst, QA tester, documentation specialist and trainer.¹³¹

"In the early 80s I was a water skier for a theme park called Cypress Gardens^A. I did it for just a short while, but it was a lot of fun."¹³²

^A Cypress Gardens, Winter Haven, Florida.

Colleen Dow was elected to the Aubrey ISD School Board of Trustees in 2011.

I have been on our local school board for over nine years. I have to run for election every three years which is NOT fun. I am probably in my last term.¹³³

Prior to serving on the board, Mrs. Dow previously served as a commissioner and coach with the Aubrey Area Youth Sports Association. She also enjoyed helping to serve the pregame meal for the football players, volunteering in the athletic concessions stands and most recently organized the first Lady Chaps Basketball Program.¹³⁴

Bobby and Colleen have three children born around the millennium. Their daughter Kathimae finished High School in 2020 and wants to be a nurse. She did a great job with her studies and was also a successful basketball player and athlete.

Both my sons are premed. My oldest son Bobby is applying now for medical schools. His brother William is a year behind him. William was his high school class Valedictorian ... They are all good kids and take their academics very seriously. They are all attending Texas A&M.¹³⁵



Bobby and Colleen Dow with their children Bobby, Kathimae and William.¹³⁶

Colleen describes her husband Bobby as an extremely hard worker whether at his job or at their home.

He loves working in the yard and being outside. He and my son William have a huge vegetable garden every year. We have 20 acres not far from our home and that is where we have cattle. We have black angus heifers. We purchase them just weaned and let them graze in our pasture until the grass dies from frost. Then we sell them and rebuy in spring. We don't eat them, only because I have issues with nurturing and protecting something and then eating it. They are pets to me ... I actually am not a big meat eater anyway. Would rather have a salad, nuts, a potato, or fruit than a steak. My husband likes meat though.¹³⁷

Clarence in the Navy

Lillie Marie and Otto W. Roesberg's third son Clarence Ederer was born in 1926. He served in the Navy during World War II between July 1944 and spring 1946 on board the USS destroyer John W. Weeks^{A, 138}.



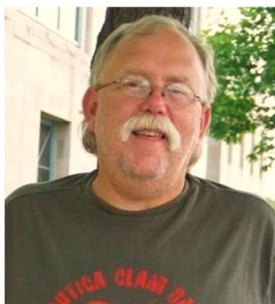
From left: Grace Roesberg, Otto J. Roesberg, Russel Coyne, Lillie Roesberg Coyne, and Lillie Marie Anderson Roesberg.¹³⁹

^A USS destroyer John W. Weeks was launched in June 1944. The ship was taken out of service in 1970 and was sunk as a target outside of Virginia in November the same year.

Clarence E. Roesberg married Glenda Graham in the summer of 1963, and they became parents to James and William. Clarence died in Camden, New Jersey 1985.

Lillie and Russell Coyne

Otto and Lillie Marie Roesberg's daughter Lillie was married in 1940 to Russel A. Coyne, Jr. Their children Steven, Robert, Thomas, David, and Nancy were born between 1954 and 1965. Russel was a lift truck designer, a trade he learned as an apprentice, while Lillie was an executive secretary.



Lillie's and Russell's son Robert entered the Navy at a young age but left after a couple of years. Robert suffered from cancer when he was 20 but was treated and survived. He died in 2013 when he was 55 years old.

Robert Coyne
(1957–2013)

My mother's musicality was also the piano, as well as my brother Bob (Robert). When my uncle Harry passed away, my Aunt Pauline gave Bob my uncle Harry's accordion, which he quickly self-taught himself how to play.¹⁴⁰

Lillie's and Russel's son Steve went to West Chester University, where he graduated with a Health & Physical Education. He is currently (by fall 2020) a professor at Bucks County Community College, and also a referee at basketball games.



*Lillie and Russell Coyne.*¹⁴¹

Steve married Judy Platt in August 1980. Their son Ryan's college studies included film production, and he has worked for television shows. Steve's and Judy's daughter Jillian studied teaching at Acadia College and is an elementary school teacher. She married Aaron Oliver in May 2019. They had their first child, daughter Emerson, on Nov 1, 2019.

My brother Tom went to school for Electrical Engineering and graduated from the University of Pittsburg. He is now VP of sales at ADA Carbon Solutions. He married Susan King in September of 1984. They have two daughters, Jackie and Danielle, both currently attending college.¹⁴²

Tom's brother Dave studied at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he graduated with a degree in Computer Science. He is by 2020 a Senior Corporate Director of IT at Universal Health Services. Dave has two sons, Dale and Evan, in a previous marriage with Lori McClinton. He married Marissa Manfredi in 1999, and they have three sons: Tyler, Dylan, and Mason.

Nancy, Trever, and Zoe

Lillie's and Russel's daughter Nancy was born in 1965 in Philadelphia.

We enjoyed spending summer vacation down at the New Jersey shore, going fishing. My Dad used to make his own "hand lines" to go crabbing. He also used to enjoy playing volleyball at the swim club we belonged to.¹⁴³



*Tom,
Nancy,
Steve,
and Dave
Coyne.¹⁴⁴*

Nancy studied at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania where she received her BS in medical technology. For many years she worked as a laboratory technologist before she became a supervisor in the Immunochemistry department. In 2016 she became a quality assurance manager for Quest Diagnostics.

In May 2002, Nancy was married to Trever Brice. Trever was born in Florida. He went to trade school for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; and later learned about security and alarm systems. In 2020 he was an area manager in home automation and security.

Nancy and Trever live in Houston, Texas, with their daughter Zora, born 2004.



*Nancy and Trever Brice, 2019.*¹⁴⁵



*Zora Brice.*¹⁴⁶

DNA results proved successful

When I wrote my first family history *Man har ju lite minnen* (2001), I had found no information about what happened to my maternal grandmother's father Per Nilsson Nyborg after he probably left for North America.

On the wrong track

Information emerged later that indicated that he was to be identified as a Per Nilsson/Nelson, who had come to New York in 1894. By excluding other less likely candidates, I finally assumed that I was on the right track. When I published information on our website about some of my family's emigrants in *Med hopp om ett bättre liv* in 2012, I had written that

A year later, he migrated to America, where around 1895 the Norway-related Olana became his third wife. In 1900, they lived on East 38th Street in Manhattan, New York, where Per (now with the surname Nelson) conducted tailoring at home and Olana was engaged in "house-work".

Per and Olana got their daughter Ruth in 1906, and sometime in the next few years, tailor Per died. The widow Olana and her daughter lived on East 38th Street in 1910, where Olana provided them by doing cleaning work. Subsequently, there is no information on Olana's further fate. As

far as Ruth is concerned, there are some data available that might lead to her, but it has not been possible to establish, with reasonable certainty, that the information concern this particular Ruth Nelson.

Towards the end of 2018, I found in web published family tree information that corresponded well with the aforementioned Ruth Nelson. I contacted the family tree's author Brian Anderson^A in the Bronx^B, New York, and received the following message:

^A Brian Anderson has been a commissioner at the Municipal archives, New York City,

^B The Bronx in New York City got its name from the Småland-born Jonas Bronck, who already in 1639 came to the Dutch colony Nieuw Nederland on the eastcoast of America.

You clearly have the wrong Ruth Nelson. Her father was Per Nilsson from Tolånga, my great grandmother's brother. He was not married previously and died here in New York City in 1909. Ruth's mom re-married and the Ahlfors family all moved out to Toledo, Ohio. Ruth never married. It would have been nice to have found another cousin, however. I am glad that you took the time to write.¹⁴⁷

So that was the end of that. But why give up?

On the right track

I submitted DNA samples to Ancestry in November 2018. I then got access to a list of people with whom I have varying degrees of common genes. Upon contact with one of them, Christina Nyborg Fowler in Oklahoma, it emerged that her paternal grandfather was Ola Nilsson Nyborg, brother of my grandmother's father Per. From Christina I got a lot of interesting information about Ola and his descendants in the US, though it didn't give me more information about Per Nyborg's fate.

I made new attempts to find Per Nyborg around Christmas 2019, by taking a closer look at some other people on my list of DNA-matches. There I eventually found a person under a pseudonym with quite high share of mutual DNA. When I then looked at the family tree that she had published, I found a "Peter Nils Newbury". Both his age and profession corresponded very well with Per Nyborg.

And – then it would really be him, wouldn't it?

After contacting the person behind the pseudonym, Dianne Foster Anelli, I was told that Peter Newbury (Per Nyborg) was her mother's grandfather. So she was actually my "half-second-cousin". Dianne wrote that she had forwarded my message to her mother's cousin Ted, who had done extensive research on the Newbury family. Very soon thereafter I was happy to receive a message from a man who turned out to be my mother's (half) first cousin^A, Ted Newbury in Tulsa, Oklahoma:

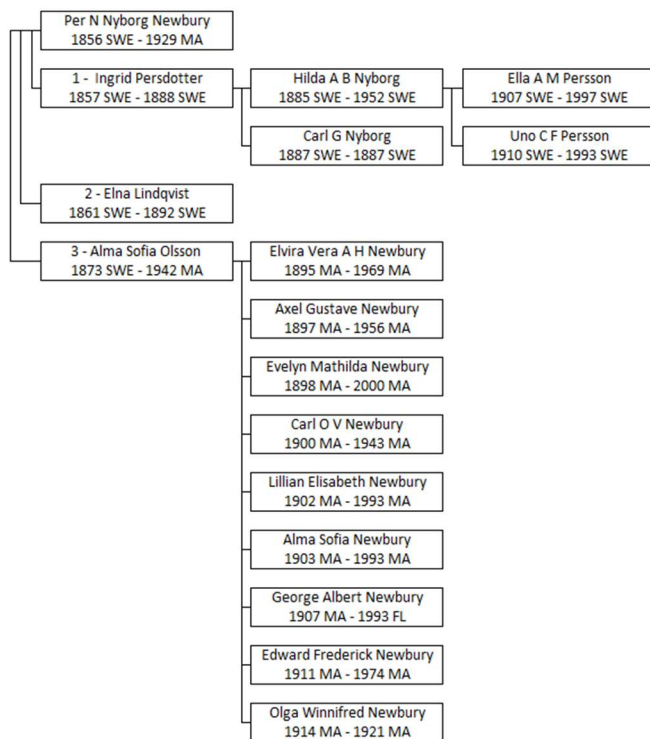
... I am so happy to get some family information from Sweden. In fact just the few bits of information you have given me solved a family mystery

^A Per Nilsson Nyborg/Peter Newbury was Ted Newbury's MF, and my MMF.

decades old. The mystery is “Was Peter Nils Newbury previously married in Sweden?” That was a secret which was only rumored to be true, at least to me, and that was from my Aunt Evelyn (Newbury) Amundsen. Now finally the answer to that question has been answered. Thank you.¹⁴⁸

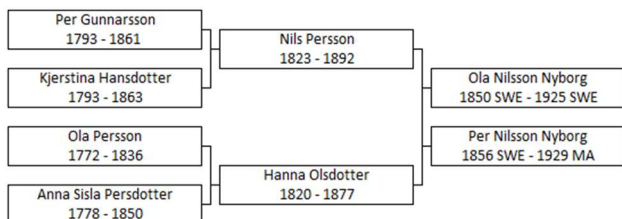
Thus, thanks to the results of DNA-analysis, unsolved questions for relatives on both sides of the Atlantic found their answers.

Descendants of Per Nilsson Nyborg (Newbury)



Tailor Per from Billeberga

Nils Persson and Hanna Olsdotter had two sons. Both became tailors and added Nyborg to their surname Nilsson. One of them migrated to North America; the other one stayed in Sweden but had three sons who became Americans.



Ancestors of Ola and Per Nilsson Nyborg.

Torparen Nils Persson in Källs-Nöbbelöv was born in 1823. He had been married for nine years to Hanna Olsdotter when their fourth child, Per^A, was born on March 17, 1856.

Like so many others in those days, Per Nilsson started working as a *dräng*. He lived with his parents until 1872 when he became an apprentice to a tailor in Norrvidinge. Five years later he left the tailor-career. He chose military life and became a soldier in the 4th Company of Göta Livgarde (Lifeguards) in Stockholm, from March 1877 and the following six years. After living in Stockholm for another year, he returned home to Skåne and Billeberga in August 1884 as “Nyborg Pehr Nilsson, ex. Guardsman. Tailor”¹⁴⁹.

Pers’s five-year-old brother Ola had adopted the name Nyborg (first recorded in 1873¹⁵⁰) in connection with his education to be a tailor. The same probably applied to Per, as he was listed as Per Nilsson Nyborg at the Lifeguards.

Ola Nyborg’s sons Hugo, Nils and Svante would later leave for America^B, but let me first tell you the story of his brother Per Nyborg and his life.

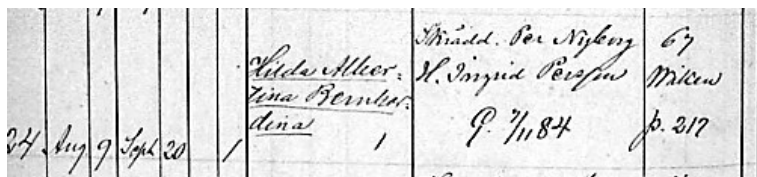
^A Per Nilsson Nyborg (Am. Peter Newbury) was my MMF.

^B See chapter *Tailor Ola’s children*, page ____.

Grandma Hilda's parents

Ingrid Persson was the daughter of a country constable named Pehr Larsson. On November 7, 1884, Ingrid and tailor Per Nils-son Nyborg stood before the priest P. Thulin in Asmundtorp's church and promised to be faithful to each other.

Per and Ingrid settled in Viken, between Höganäs and Helsingborg. Their daughter Hilda, my mother's mother, was born in August 1885. On New Year's Day, 1887 Ingrid gave birth to a son who died when he was only five days old.



Born Aug. 9, 1885, Hilda Albertina Bernhardina. Her parents were Tailor Per Nyborg and his wife Ingrid Persson, living at no.67, Viken.

The family moved to Helsingborg in November 1887 and settled in the south part of the city between the streets Södergatan and Hantverkargatan. There, the 31-year-old Ingrid was afflicted with pneumonia and died in April 1888.



Motherless child adopted

Ingrid's sister Hanna was married to worker Olof Jönsson. They had no children, so they immediately took care of the barely three-year-old motherless Hilda and later adopted her. In the summer of 1890, Olof, Hanna and Hilda moved from Näs in the middle of Skåne to the coal mining areas in the northwestern part of the region.

Ingrid and Per Nyborg's daughter Hilda.

They settled in Billesholm, where Olof first found employment at brickworks and later in the mines. He bought a house at Ljungsgård, Billesholm, in 1901. It was a house that was big enough for two families.

In November 1906 Hilda married construction worker Oskar Persson. A few months after their wedding they moved to Lund, where Oskar worked as a mason. Their daughter Ella, my mother, was born in October 1907 in Olof's house at Ljungsgård.

Oskar, Hilda, and Ella lived for a while in Lund, where Ella's brother Uno was born in 1910. One year later they moved back to Ljungsgård, where they lived in one of the apartments in Olof's house. Oskar later got a better paid job as a foreman, so the young family moved to a house in Billesholm in 1921.

Olof and Hanna died in 1933, and Hilda inherited their house. Hilda and Oskar remained at their Billesholm home, but also kept ownership of the house at Ljungsgård that they leased to other families.

In 1945 Oskar and Hilda finally moved to Ljungsgård. A few years later I spent many Fridays and Saturdays there, while my parents worked hard at their bakery in nearby Bjuv.

Around 1951 Hilda got sick and was hospitalized for a longer period. She became well enough to go home but was marked by the disease. One night in December 1952 my grandfather Oskar came knocking on our door. He told us that Hilda had died. Hilda Persson, who died at age 67 of myocardial infarction and vascular constrictions, was buried at Norra Vram's cemetery.



Olof and Hanna Jönsson (sitting), with Hilda and her family: husband Oskar, children Ella and Uno.

Per's second marriage

After his wife Ingrid's death in 1888, Per Nilsson Nyborg had continued to live in Helsingborg. In December 1889 he married the 28-year-old maid Elna Lindquist who was a carpenter's daughter.

Tailor Per Nilsson Nyborg soon became a widower for the second time. His first wife Ingrid had died after three and a half years of marriage, and when second wife Elna died of tuberculosis in April 1892, only two years had passed since the wedding.

By then, however, the couple was already separated, albeit not legally. In fact, in mid-March 1891 Per had "migrated to America with his wife's consent".¹⁵¹ Whether this was due to problems in the marriage, bad times in the tailoring business, or just a general longing for break-up, we can only speculate about. Regardless, it was not uncommon for the husband to be the first to migrate, and then, after he had arranged housing and work, the wife followed. This may well have been the intent in this case as well.

North America, 1891

On April 6, 1891, the Danish-owned vessel Hekla arrived in New York harbor with 35-year-old tailor Per Nilsson Nyborg on board¹⁵². The following year, Per was married in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Alma Olsson, born in Fleninge, Skåne, in 1873. They settled in Cambridge, a neighboring city of Boston. Per was employed by a tailor on Newbury Street in Boston, and Americanized his name.

It was difficult for people to pronounce his name, so he changed it to Newbury.¹⁵³

Also his name was Nyborg which he changed to Newbury, sort of a sound alike name, but at the time of the change he was working in Boston, Massachusetts as a Tailor. The tailor shop was located on Newbury Street in Boston; I guess he liked the name.¹⁵⁴

His given name was also changed. He applied for American citizenship in the fall of 1906 under the name of Peter Newbury, and thereby he also "renounced his allegiance to Oscar II King of

Sweden”¹⁵⁵. By then, Peter and Alma had moved about 12 miles north of Boston to Saugus and had six children.

it is his bona fide intention to become a citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, State, Potentate and Sovereignty whatsoever,— more especially to ~~Edward VII., King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,~~

Oscar II King of Sweden

whose subject he has heretofore been. He therefore prays that this, his Declaration and Intention, may become a record of this Honorable Court, agreeably to the laws in such case made and provided.

Peter N. Newbury

Peter continued to support his growing family as a tailor. By 1920 Alma had given birth to three more children, although the youngest, Olga, died when she was seven years old.

Peter was a tailor, he lived at 26 Avon St, and their house was not large with eight kids! The family probably had a hard time because he died in 1929. Most of the children had to work and most did not marry young.¹⁵⁶



*Peter and Alma Newbury's family, 1915.*¹⁵⁷

Peter Newbury died towards the end of March 1929, aged 73. The 17 years younger widow Alma continued to live on Avon Street in Saugus, where in 1940 five of the children still lived with her.

Peter Newbury's third wife Alma died in Saugus in 1942.



Lilian, Vera and their Dad, about 1919.¹⁵⁸



Vera and Lillian.



Vera, August 1924. Carl Newbury.



*Far left:
Edward, Alma,
Lillian, and
Olga.*

*Left: Alma,
Carl, and
Lillian.*

Peter Newbury's children

Most of Newbury's surviving children (my grandmother's half-siblings) stayed in the Boston area. Of three of them I found that

- Carl Oscar Victor (1900–1943), died unmarried
- Lillian Elisabeth (1902–1993), married Arthur Ross (1897–1958)
- Olga Winnifred (1914–1921) died after being affected by edema.

But here are more to tell about their siblings.

Vera and the painter

Elvira (Vera) was born in the summer of 1895. She was occupied as a cashier at a department store in 1924 when she married Richard Syjatz, a painter from Dresden, Germany. The couple had three daughters, Bertha, Alma and Virginia, all born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1927–1934.

Elvira was suffering from diabetes when she died of pneumonia in Boston in 1969. Her husband Richard lived for another 33 years and turned 102 before he died in 2002.

Axel and the hairdresser

Peter and Alma Newbury's son Axel worked for a while in a sheet metal factory and was then employed as a driver. Around 1929 he married the nine years older Florence Graham, who previously had been married to a Canadian carpenter named Clifford Palmer.

Axel married Florence, a hairdresser. She gave me my first [hair] permanent. They had no children, but she had two by her first marriage, a girl and a boy. Her name was Dorothy, I don't remember his name. Axel died from a lung ailment, probably caused from smoking.^{159, A}

In 1940, the family lived on Grove Street in Saugus's neighboring town Melrose, along with Florence's children from her first marriage, Dorothy and Kenneth. After being a widower for eight years, Axel died in Boston in 1956.

^A Florence had four children born 1906–1917 in her marriage to Palmer.

102-year-old Evelyn

After her school years, Evelyn Newbury became a stenographer at an insurance company. She had reached the age of 43 before she married the Norway-born Charles Amundsen, a marriage that was childless.

First, she was great! Always happy and loved to play canasta. She had such patience for me as I tried to hold 20 or so cards in my hands (if you are not familiar with the card game, it uses about 7 decks of cards. Not easy when you're a child!). She stayed with my brothers and I sometimes if our parents were going away for a week-end and didn't make us adhere to schedules like bedtime, phone time, or playtime. She never had children, and my mother said she didn't want any as she helped raise her younger brothers and sisters.¹⁶¹



*Evelyn and Alma, abt 1919.*¹⁶⁰

Evelyn lived in the Boston neighborhood-town of Everett. When she was 60, she got problems with her feet. Since then she never went outdoors unless it was very warm, not even into her little garden. She became convinced that she had Raynaud's disease^A, and that it affected the blood circulation in her feet so they became cold and sore.

Thus, Evelyn became something of a loner. Her doctor came home to see her, she had her food and medicines sent home, and she also had neighbor children willing to mow her lawn.

The clothes she wore at home were probably from the 1940s and 1950s, and as internet shopping hadn't arrived, she pretty much wore what she had; or my mother, a neighbor, or cousins would pick things up for her. I remember her always in slacks and a sweater or pull-over shirt.

^A Reynaud's disease, a kind of vascular spasm that often affect the fingers and in few instances the toes. It causes reduced blood supply which leads to paleness and pain. More commonly affects women than men (*Bra Böckers lexikon*, 1988).

But one day, Evelyn's regular doctor couldn't visit her, so another one came. He said she didn't have Raynaud's disease at all and gave her some new medicine. After a while she no longer had any pain in her feet.

So, she went for a walk in the city she hadn't seen in probably 25 years. (The trolley system converted to buses in the early 1960s.) And she couldn't believe all the changes that had taken place, and that the trolleys were all gone! It must have been as much a sight for her, as she was to the people around her.

Evelyn's husband Charles Amundsen had died as early as 1957, while Evelyn, before she died in 2000, reached the same age as her brother-in-law Richard Syjatz, 102 years.^A

We all loved her. She had, at 102, all her faculties, could remember every president (which is more than I can say), and loved to learn new things. She was not "old and fragile" by a long shot!

Alma and her eloping daughter

Evelyn's sister Alma Sofia married tailor Allister Allan in 1929. They had a daughter named Jean. After ten years of marriage Allister died in connection with appendicitis, and Alma and Jean moved to Alma's mother in Saugus. A few years later Alma married a man by name of George Beckford.

Alma was very fond of her only daughter. When Jean became old enough to have a boyfriend, Alma strongly opposed Jean's choice of boyfriend. But Alma's sister Evelyn advised her not to be so stubborn, as the relationship of the young ones then might end anyhow.

But Jean eloped with her boyfriend and Alma had a fit. She persuaded her brother Edward, who was a police officer, to track down the elopers and stop them. Alma blamed her sister Evelyn for the eloping, and for several years she refused to talk to her.¹⁶²

^A In 2020 I received a transcription of a letter from Evelyn's nephew Edward (Ted) Newbury, Jr. I call it *Evelyn Newbury's Memories*. It was written in 1998 by the 100-year old and vision impaired Evelyn. I have used it in parts as a base and also quoted from it. In the quotes, words in brackets are comments from Susan and Ted.

Alma's husband George Beckford suffered from Alzheimer's when he died in 1981, while Alma passed in the fall of 1993.

Baker and truck driver George

Peter and Alma Newbury's seventh child George Newbury was born in 1907 (just like my mother, his half-cousin). George became a baker and a truck driver. He married seamstress Mildred Hunnewell in 1933, and they had two daughters, Janet and Lois.

George Newbury was 86 years old when he died in 1993, while Mildred reached 93 before she died in 2000.



George and Mildred.¹⁶³



Richard and Janet Foster.

Their daughter Janet Newbury was born in 1934 in Stoneham, Massachusetts. She married Richard Lawrence Foster. The couple settled in Connecticut, where their three children, Dianne, Brenda, and Douglas were born during 1958–1961.

Janet worked for a pharmacy and later for the hospital in Middletown, Connecticut. There she handled accounts payable until her retirement. In 1985 she married William Hinman, and moved to Old Lyme in New London County, Connecticut. William Hinman died in 1998, and Janet later sold her home and moved back to Middletown.

She is a kind and very patient person, my hero; she worked very hard to raise the 3 of us from a very young age. She moved ... back to Middletown, into a large apartment we all designed and built together, attached to our home in the South Farms area of Middletown, CT.



That was about 6 years ago, I believe. It's very pretty and peaceful here. Rob and I love having her so close. She is very healthy and independent (sans the Covid crisis).^{A, 164}

After high school, Janet's daughter Dianne^B went to a school for commercial art and illustration. Through several jobs she worked her way up to creative director for a retail clothing company.

When that company went through a corporate takeover, I ended up going off on my own, building my own client base for many years. I decided I didn't want to "chase the paycheck" anymore so I now work for a business in my hometown as a graphic/web designer part-time and love the people and relaxed pace.¹⁶⁵



Sisters Brenda and Dianne with Mother Janet. Designs by Dianne Anelli.

^A Written in July 2020.

^B Dianne Anelli has DNA-connection with me. We are half second cousins.



Dianne Foster married in 1983 Robert Anelli, carpenter, and construction supervisor. In 2000 they worked with a local contractor to build a home in the Connecticut River valley.

Robert and Dianne.¹⁶⁶

We are surrounded by protected wetlands and farmland. There are a lot of horses at the farm next door since there is a very successful non-profit leasing part of the farm next door where they do therapeutic horseback riding. We get to see all the children and PTSD veterans^A ride by our home. Our dogs Charlie and Cooper LOVE when they come by! ¹⁶⁷

By 2020 Dianne's sister Brenda lives in East Haven, Connecticut with her husband Dave Bodnar. Brenda is a nursery schoolteacher and Dave is a carpenter. They have two children, Heather and Josh, and eight grandchildren.

Dianne's brother Douglas is a carpenter but retired in disability due to severe rheumatoid arthritis. After a divorce he moved from Vermont in 2020 to live in a warmer climate in South Carolina.

His son Robert runs a bowling alley in Vermont, and his daughter Christina also lives in Vermont.



Brenda with brother Douglas.

^A PTSD, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. "Many military veterans have either witnessed traumatic events or directly experienced them ... making them increasingly susceptible to unwanted and troublesome symptoms associated with PTSD" (socialsunrisemh.com).

Policeman Edward

Edward Frederick was born in 1911 as the last of Peter Newbury's children to reach adulthood. Edward served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II from 1941 to 1946, including a period in India around 1944–1945. Then he became a police officer. In 1942 he married the three years younger Helen Coughlin. The couple lived in Saugus, Massachusetts, where they became parents to Edward, Walter, and Susan during 1947–1950.



Edward 1919.



I know he always thought of his profession not as police officers, but peace officers. I'm not sure when the term COP came to be for policemen, but he turned that around to "Constable on Patrol". And I know that he always tried to help people. I know there were instances where he was called to a situation, but I think the only time he drew his weapon was on a rabid raccoon. He said the worst cases to be called to were domestic disturbances. He never knew if the battered spouse would turn on the police as they were trying to get the truth of the situation. He said in any situation, there was his side, her side, and somewhere in the middle was the truth.¹⁶⁸

Helen's family came from Ireland and was Catholic, while Edward was not a church attendant but was assumed by his children to be a Methodist (or Lutheran).

In order for my mom and dad to be married in the Catholic Church he had to promise to raise the children as Catholics. Well, my father was a man of great conviction and when he gave his word it was carved in stone forever. He always made sure that we children went to church with my mother, without argument.¹⁶⁹

Edward used to drive Helen and the children to the church. While they were there he walked around and placed parking violation tickets on all the illegally parked cars nearby.

The Catholics were enraged and called him a damn protestant cop, writing tickets on honest Catholics. It got so bad that the priest, Father Culhane, spoke of it during a sermon on Civic responsibility. My mother made all of us kids go to that mass and sit up straight while Fr Culhane talked about my father.¹⁷⁰

Edward, Helen and the children used to go camping. Every summer they spent a week at a campsite in the White Mountains in New Hampshire. Nearby, Edward's sister Evelyn and her husband used to rent a small cabin.

One time we went camping with another family to a remote Lake in New Hampshire. We could only drive in so far to a lumber road, and then had to hike all our stuff in. The site was an old logger's bunkhouse with an outhouse – and infested with bats!



*Helen and Edward Newbury.*¹⁷¹

It was over the July 4th holiday, and my dad had gotten some firecrackers which we shot off. After we got home my dad started a fire in the fireplace as the heat was turned off while we were gone, and it was very cool. Walter walked by the fireplace and tossed some tissues in the fire that had been in his pocket. He didn't realize he had some firecrackers in there too. You can just imagine the scene with the firecrackers going off – not to mention the language! Our poor dog bolted under the table and refused to come out!¹⁷²

Where the cattle roam

You and I are the same age as I was born May 1947 and currently live in the state of Oklahoma which is in the middle of the country out where the Indians, cattle and horses roam.¹⁷³

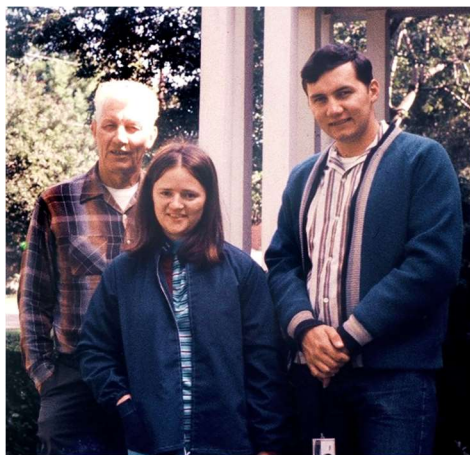
Edward (Ted) went to High School in Saugus, Massachusetts, and enlisted in the U.S. Army for three years. After being discharged

he moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma to attend Spartan School of Aeronautics to pursue an aviation career.

– After several years I re-enlisted into the Army, says Ted Newbury. I retired with 33 years total service. I started off being a helicopter mechanic and finished in an Infantry Battalion as their Logistics NCO where I managed the battalion's ammunition, food, fuel and transportation. Then during my last couple of years, I went back to college and completed my bachelor's degree and my master's degree.

Ted then started his own business. He worked as a quality control inspector for engineering companies, primarily in the oil field service.

– This part of the country is very heavily into oil production, refining and transportation of petroleum. I had several clients, international as well as national clients. And it was my business, a very small one. It was just me. They would hire me to go and examine equipment on job sites so I would go and do that and publish reports – and they paid me. And it was great fun. I worked in that business for about 14 years and retired in 2017.



Edward, Ted's wife JoElla, and Ted.¹⁷⁴



Ted and JoeElla got married in November 1969. They had three boys, but one of them died. They have four grandchildren, three girls and one boy.

While his wife JoElla is, in Ted's words, "a rabid hockey fan", Ted's interest is in a completely different field.

Edward "Ted" Newbury.¹⁷⁵

– What I like to do is a thing called Cowboy action shooting. It's a worldwide organization. We pretend that it's 1880 in Oklahoma territory. This is where the cowboys were. We dress up like cowboys in cowboy hats and clothing and have our shotguns, rifles and pistols, all correct for the period 1865 to 1899. We compete for time and accuracy, and it's great fun!



Ted's sister Susan was born in October 1950. She graduated in forestry, plant, and animal care at the University of Rhode Island in 1972. She worked as an arborist in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. During 1973–1993 Susan was married to Andrew Thomas. After



Susan and Bill, wedding day 2003.¹⁷⁶

meeting her current husband Bill Pettipas, she moved to Maine, where they married in 2003. They own an auto repair shop that specializes in Saabs.

I've had a variety of jobs over the years, but the most fulfilling was as the Volunteer Coordinator for a Hospice in Massachusetts. I worked there for 9 years before we came to Maine. I play the flute and guitar, enjoy crafts, especially quilting. We live on China Lake, and love watching the ever-changing seasons and wildlife.¹⁷⁷

By 2020 Susan's 1977-born daughter Andrea lives in New Hampshire and is a massage therapist. Her two years younger brother Steven handles children's activities at a ski resort in Wyoming during wintertime and runs a window cleaning business during the summer.



Celebrating her 70th birthday with son-in-law Mike, Andrea, and Steven.¹⁷⁸

Evelyn Newbury's memories

Finally, I'll let my maternal grandmother's half-sister Evelyn Newbury finish this story about the tailor Per Nyborg/Peter Newbury and his Skåne-born American wife and their children.

My mother [Alma Sophia Olsson/Olsdotter] had 2 brothers and one sister: Gustave, John, and Matilda. I was named after her. Uncle Gustave was a seaman and visited our house whenever he came to Boston. He would pick up things in a hock [pawn] shop and bring them to us. He brought me a L.C. Smith typewriter that I used a lot and still have it in working condition. It's upstairs and I don't think I could type today. Gustave [Olsson] had diabetes and he died in New York.

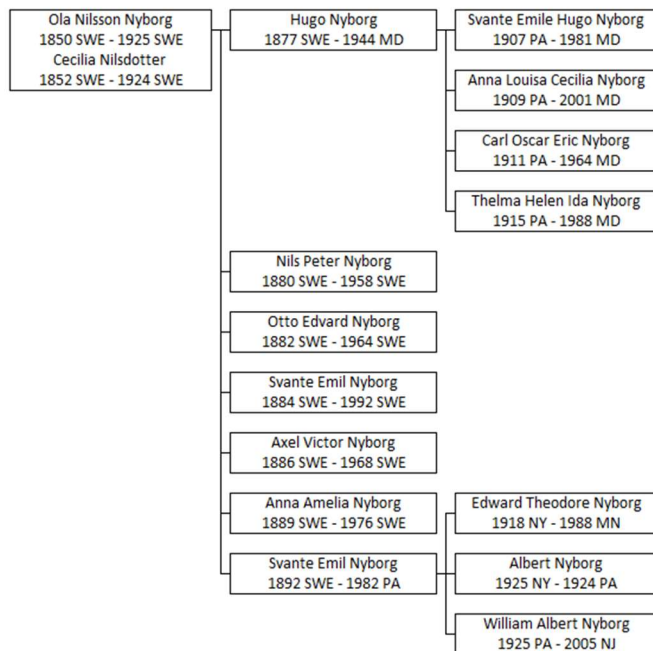


Evelyn Newbury Amundsen.¹⁷⁹

My other uncle, John [Olsson], lived with us until he died. He worked in a sausage factory, which was very damp, and got TB [tuberculosis]. He wasn't allowed to play cards or anything with us. Today we would not be allowed to live in the same house. We were lucky that none of us got it.

They said my father [Per Nilsson Nyborg] died of cancer. I don't know. My mother [Alma Sophia Olsson] died of pneumonia. She had diabetes, caught a cold and it turned into pneumonia.¹⁸⁰

Descendants of Ola Nilsson Nyborg and Cecilia Nilsdotter



Tailor Ola's children

Ola Nilsson was the son of a crofter and the first in the family with the surname Nyborg. Three of his children chose to migrate to North America.

My maternal grandmother's uncle Ola Nilsson was born in Källs-Nöbbelöv in December 1850. At age 16 he became an apprentice to the tailor Jöns Ohlsson at Billeberga no. 8. Thereafter he travelled around for a couple of years to learn his trade^A. When he returned to Jöns Ohlsson in 1873 he called himself "Ola Nilsson Nyborg" and obtained the status of "gesäll" (journeyman).¹⁸¹

The tailor in Billeberga

Upon completing his training, tailor Ola Nilsson Nyborg married Cecilia Nilsdotter in 1876. She was born in Tirup 1852. Together they had seven children during 1877–1892.

*Banns and marriages, Billeberga. Tailor Ola Nilsson Nyborg at no. 8, and tenant daughter Cecilia Nilsson at no. 9. Married August 4, 1876.*¹⁸²

1876 års Lysnings- och Vigsels-Bok											
Lysnings- nummer.	Lysnings-		Fästehjonens namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet och trosbe- kännelse (om främmande).	Födelseår.	Hvilet gifte.	Vigsels					
	månad.	dag.				Åar- nummer.	år.	mån.	dag.		
7	Julii	9	Bridegum Ola Nilsson Nyborg p. n. 8	1850	1	7	1876	August	4		
			brudbrud Cecilia Nilsson p. n. 9	1852	1						
			Billeberga								

The year of 1892 brought both sorrow and joy. Ola's father Nils Persson died on February 1, and on March 9 Ola's and Cecilia's seven-year-old son Svante Emil died of convulsions. But ten days later Cecilia gave birth to a son who was named Svante Emil after his dead brother.

^A In the *busförhörslängd* he is noted under "på socknen" (unknown whereabouts), during November 7, 1871 – November 11, 1873.

Violence against policeman

Cecilia's and Ola's fifth child was born in 1886 and was named Axel. When he was 21, Painter Axel Viktor Nyborg was arrested by chief constable Hårleman on June 25, 1908. He was suspected of violence against policeman. Axel's description was "dark hair, blue-gray eyes, straight nose, oval face, strong growth, 1.77 tall"^A,¹⁸³. On July 3, the previously unpunished Axel Nyborg was sentenced by Malmö Rådhusrätt (City Hall Court) for

violence on a policeman in his service undergo two months imprisonment, and to pay fines of SEK 10 for drunkenness, and that the defendant, in case of lack of assets to the fine, shall instead undergo another four days of imprisonment.¹⁸⁴

Axel began serving his sentence at the County Jail in Malmö on July 6, 1908.¹⁸⁵ He was released on September 10 and recovered his private clothes and 7:36 kronor in cash.

The painter and bachelor Axel Nyborg later moved to Stockholm, where he lived on Regeringsgatan until his death in 1968.



*Cecilia and Ola
Nilsson Nyborg.*¹⁸⁶

Axel's parents stayed the rest of their lives in Billeberga. Cecilia died of embolia cerebri^B in March 1924, and Ola died of cancer oesophagi^C in December 1925.

^A 1.77 meters = 5 ft. 10 in.

^B *Embolia cerebri*, the sudden blocking of an artery most often a blood clot.

^C *Cancer oesophagi*, cancer in the food pipe.

Eldest son Hugo migrates

Tailor Ola's eldest son Hugo was also a tailor. He was 22 years old when he boarded the S.S. Hekla in Copenhagen on March 7, 1900. He arrived at New York's harbor on the 24th the same month. The young man's destination was Boston, from where he intended to go to "my uncle in Worcester, Massachusetts"^A, 187.

Hugo Nyborg married Philadelphia-born Louisa Henning in 1907. Three years later they lived with their children Hugo Jr. and Louisa on Linmore Avenue in Philadelphia. Hugo worked as a tailor at Cleaners Co. in 1920. By then they had got two more children, Carl and Thelma. They all lived at 525 South Salford Street.

The family moved to Baltimore, Maryland sometime in the 1920s. There, at least from 1940 on, they lived in their own residence at 3139 Elmora Avenue. Hugo was a "clothing fitter" at a department store, and his 25-year-old daughter Thelma "supervisor of packing" at a department store.

Hugo Nyborg died in May 1944 at age 67. His widow Louise remained on Elmora Avenue until she died in August 1964.

Brother Nils followed



Hugo Nyborg's three years younger brother Nils Peter arrived at New York on June 15, 1904 with the S.S. Friedrich der Grosse^B. Nils lived for a few years on 32nd Street on Manhattan, where he worked as a tailor on 5th Avenue and a few other places.

Then Nils moved to Maryland where he applied for US citizenship in 1921. A little later he settled on Edmonds Avenue in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. He had about seven miles to his job at the tailoring firm Lindberg & Co in Philadelphia.

^A He probably referred to his uncle Per Nyborg, who immigrated to the US in 1891, and who during 1899–1901 lived in Chelsea, today a part of Boston. Worcester County is about 15 miles west of Boston.

^B *SS Friedrich der Grosse* was built in 1896 in Stettin, Germany. It sailed the Atlantic for North German Lloyd until being interned in New York Harbor in 1914 (wikipedia.org).

A few years into the 1950s, the retired tailor Nils Nyborg decided to travel to his old homeland Sweden. He stayed in Sweden^A, and lived (at least for a couple of years) with his brother, the mason and widower Otto Nyborg in Landskrona.

The American citizen and bachelor^B Nils Nyborg died on New Year's Eve 1958, in the home of his brother on Krokvägen 4 in Landskrona. The cause of death was "suicidium intoxicatio", i.e. suicide by ingestion of poison, according to Doctor C.G. Trope's statement.¹⁸⁸

Svante and his descendants



Svante and Anna Nyborg, 1917.

The youngest of the siblings, Svante, left Sweden in 1909. He arrived on August 29 on board the S.S. Haverford^C at Philadelphia. He lived with his brother Hugo for a while in Philadelphia, and then moved to New York City.

Tailor Svante Nyborg was married to Anna Helen Rosengren in June 1917. They lived on Manhattan with Anna's parents, and had a son named Edward in 1918. Their second son Albert was born in 1920, but he died when he was only three years old.

Svante, or "Svant" as his wife used to call him, and his family moved to Delaware County, Pennsylvania, in the early 1920s.

^A It is possible that he had returned to the US after his visit, and in that case had come back to Sweden a few years later.

^B In the Federal Census 1940 he is listed as "married", but no wife is noted at that address and I have found no other information about a marriage. But the censuses are not always accurate.

^C *SS Haverford* was an American transatlantic liner commissioned in 1901 for the American Line (wikipedia.org).

They lived on 945 Edmonds Avenue, Drexel Hill, for many years. Svante was at first employed as a tailor but started his own tailor's shop in the 1930s. In the 1940s, the blue-eyed, grey-haired Svante had still his own tailoring business on 1701 Walnut Street in Philadelphia.¹⁸⁹

My Far^A [Svante Nyborg] got a hernia when he was younger sometime after being married. I guess in those days the doctors told people not to do anything strenuous, so he didn't! He just did his tailoring job and also taught tailoring at some fashion design school in Philadelphia. Their entire basement of their house was his "shop." They lived first in Philadelphia and then moved to a suburb, Drexel Hill. This is where my dad and his brother grew up. The house is still there too!¹⁹⁰

Svante Nyborg's wife Anna has been described as a real hard-working woman.

During the war she made bread and sold it through the neighborhood. When she was living, at least twice a month we would go to their house for dinner. She always had a ton of food on the table, some kind of roasted meat, Swedish meatballs, coleslaw, etc. There were ALWAYS Swedish meatballs! Far even helped her shape them into balls, telling us he made 100 or so balls! We all grew up having pickled herring, of course! And pickled beets.

My grandma also sewed a lot. She also grew lots of vegetables in her garden in the backyard, one of them being rhubarb. She loved to make pies, and they even had a cherry tree in the back yard.¹⁹¹

Anna was 83 years old when she died in 1977. She was followed five years later by Svante, who had reached the age of 90.

Bank employee and scout leader William

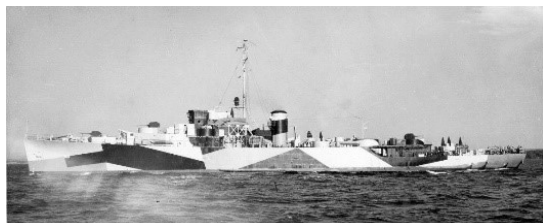
Anna and Svante Nyborg's son William was born on November 1925 in Drexel Hill. William and his brother Edward both enlisted in the Coast Guard during World War II.

They had a much safer job than a lot of others in the war. I never heard my dad speak bad of his experience. I know he went to South America during that time.¹⁹²

^A The Swedish word *farfar* means paternal grandfather, and *morfar* means maternal grandfather. Thus, *far* = father, *mor* = mother.

William did military service for several periods, including 14 months on the USS Greensboro in 1945–1946.¹⁹³

The Greensboro frigate was launched in 1944. She was at first stationed in Curtis Bay, Maryland, for coastguard missions, and later its home port became Boston. Rescue and weather patrolling, as well as occasional escorts to Brazil, were carried out while the ship was based in Boston. S.S. Greensboro was taken out of service in March 1946 and scrapped in 1948.¹⁹⁴



*USS Greensboro.*¹⁹⁵



William Nyborg.

William graduated from Drexel University in Philadelphia. He apparently had lots of girlfriends, but the one he wanted to marry didn't want to marry him.

He worked for a few different companies. He ended up working at Philadelphia National Bank as an officer in the Printing Department. He liked developing forms. Before this bank position, he was a traveling salesman and worked in New York a lot. That's where he met my mom [Ruth May Clemments], who worked for her dad! They hit it off and got married I suppose a year or so afterwards. Her parents liked him and he liked them. My dad pretty much got along with everyone.

William Nyborg and Ruth Clemments were married on March 14, 1953. On their honeymoon they went to Bermuda, from where they returned on March 26.¹⁹⁶

William was active in the Lutheran Church in Nether Providence. He was also a Boy Scout leader in the 1960s.¹⁹⁷

They met at our church for their meetings and went on lots of camping trips. The most horrible part was when they came home and they smelling atrocious! That campfire smell was all over them and reeked so much. It was good to have them gone over the weekend though!

My dad was always a churchgoer. We were brought up as Lutherans. He was part of the church choir. His brother was also a singer. My mom was very intelligent. She knew accounting/bookkeeping inside and out. I wish I had gotten some of her brains.



Ruth and William Nyborg with Wendy, Christina James, and Richard. Probably fall 1958.¹⁹⁸

William and Ruth visited England in the fall of 1991 to do some research on their family history. Ruth didn't feel so well on the plane, so she saw a doctor when they arrived in England. But soon her condition got worse and she was taken to a hospital.

She had fluid in her lungs. They hooked her up to a respirator since it was so bad. They tested her for everything under the sun but couldn't figure it out. She died from one of those horrible streptococcal bacterial infections. It was so surreal with her dying since she was basically very healthy. She was overweight, but no heart problems or anything else. It was just one of those things. I still can't believe she's been gone this long.

Ruth died on November 21, 1991, while William passed in the summer of 2005. Both were buried at the Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, where also William's parents' graves are located.¹⁹⁹

Keeping traditions alive

Ruth and William Nyborg had five children. Their second child, Christina (Tina), was born in 1955 in New York City.

Some Swedish traditions and words were still in use in the family when Tina grew up. She has told me that when she and her siblings got a bit older, they started calling their parents “Mor” and “Far”.

My parents would always make glogg^A at Christmas and Far would sing a traditional song with my dad chiming in. Boy was that tasty!!! My mom would take the leftover fruit and make fruitcake, which unfortunately I do not like at all.²⁰⁰

*Ruth and William
making glögg. Note the
thermometer – just
warm it, don't heat it!*



Tina used to live in Alaska, where she married Jimmy (Jim) Fowler in 2001. Jim has most of the time earned his living by designing and building houses. When the housing market crashed in 2007, he started to work in the New Orleans area to rebuild homes.

He came back every 3 weeks, but it was just too short, and then I would have the miserable ride home from taking him to the airport. I ended up moving down there, but to Nashville, Tennessee instead. So, he came to visit me every 2 weeks while in Nashville. He was looking for jobs there, but they all paid extremely low pay.

Tina had found a good job in the Nashville area as a pathology transcriptionist, but she had a very long drive to get to work. After

^A *Glögg* is a warm (if hot the alcohol is gone!) drink mostly associated with the weeks around Christmas. It is usually made of red wine, spiced with cinnamon, ginger, cloves etc; and (depending on taste) with brandy or other spirits added.

a while she got depressed and started losing weight. She was diagnosed with cancer and needed chemotherapy.

I told Jim there is no way I can stay up here and have to drive to Nashville to get chemo. It will kill me—literally! I needed to be with him. So, I quit my job and Jim found us a really nice house to rent in Metairie, Louisiana. I had cancer in 2 lymph nodes, and they found 2 masses in my breast, one of which didn't even show up on the mammogram!

The good news turned out to be that while living in that area, one of the top 3 breast reconstruction surgeons worked in New Orleans! He specializes only doing breast reconstructions ... I have had no problems since, and that was 12 years ago now!

Tina and Jim later moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is really meat that counts when it is dinner time in that region, while fresh fish – not to mention pickled herring – belongs to the rarities.

Do you just love pickled herring like I do? I grew up on it and absolutely love it, but it is sometimes hard to find. It was available all the time growing up in the Philadelphia area, but I am now living in Tulsa, Oklahoma and so only one store I know of has it. I also cannot get much fresh seafood living here – very disappointing. When I mention pickled herring to my friends, they think it sounds absolutely horrible! They just don't know what they are missing! People are so into eating beef out here, like eating barbecued ribs. I would much rather have fish.²⁰¹

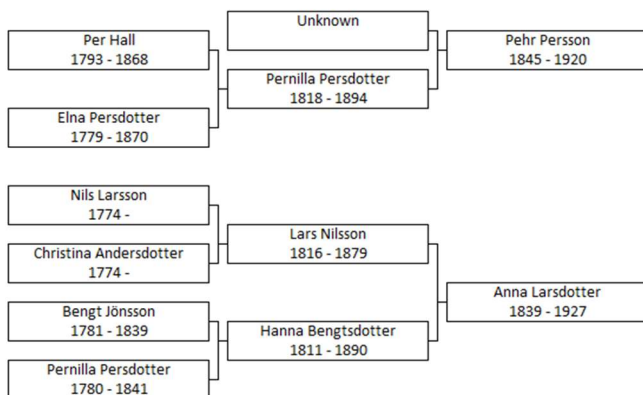
By fall of 2020, Tina and Jim live in a house that they rent from a friend of theirs. Jim is a foreman and is down the road from them rebuilding a burned down-house that he also has redesigned. Tina works at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

I have worked nearly my entire life, until the last 4 ½ years, as a medical transcriptionist. That occupation has diminished drastically. There are nearly no jobs available at any hospital in America due new computer programs where the doctors can do their own dictations. The only problem is the reports do not look very good! Mistakes all over the place!

When her original job assignment was terminated, she found a position in her department, Health Information Management, where she would be answering telephones, among other things. She didn't like the job, but after a while she got more comfortable with it.

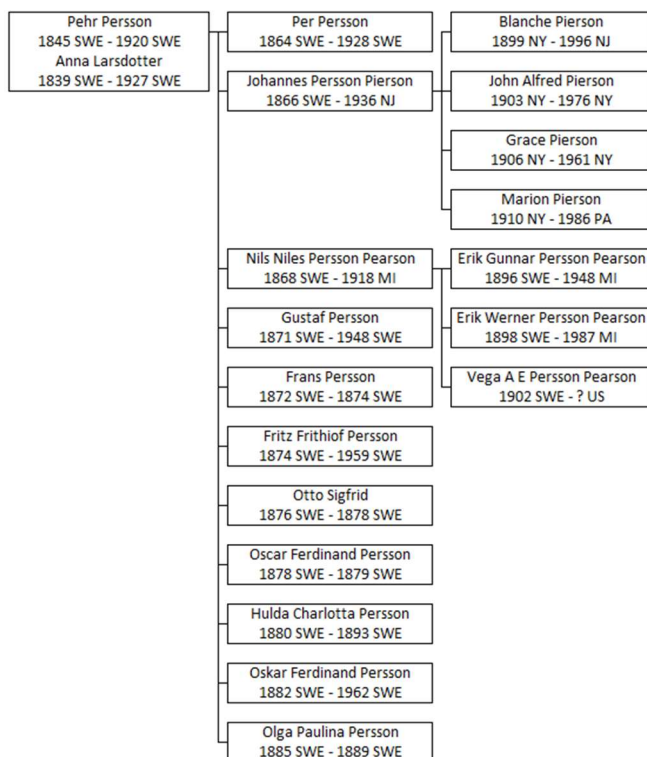
I have also been doing Discharge Analysis, where you analyze a chart to check that the correct doctor's name is there, whether it has been signed, and lots of other things ... It's very interesting for me, like it was with transcription, to learn about all sorts of things about the body, medicines, tests, etc. I have learned from when I see with the COVID patients that are here that most of them already do have a preexisting co-morbidity, like obesity, diabetes, or end-stage renal disease. I am so glad I don't have any of that!²⁰²

Ancestors of Pehr Persson and Anna Larsdotter



Pehr and Anna Persson (probably with a daughter-in-law and grandchildren) outside their home on "Husara'n" (The row of houses) in Billesholm. These houses were built for the coal miners and their families. Photo prob. from the 1910s.

Some descendants of Pehr Persson and Anna Larsdotter



Unknown foreign place

Uncertainty prevailed for a long time about Johannes Perssons's fate. He hardly seems to have been interested to keep in touch with his parents and siblings.

At Hardeberga farm east of Lund, a son was born to the unmarried *piga* Pernilla Persdotter on January 26, 1845. The son was named Pehr. In 1866 he married the six years older Anna Larsdotter from Borlunda. Pehr was a *dräng* at Skarhult's farm when their second child, Johannes, was born in October 1866.

After living in Gårdstånga and Ekeby, among other places, Pehr Persson and his family settled in the Södra Vram coalfield (in Norra Vram's parish) in 1873. The area is almost equivalent to what today is the community of Billesholm. In Södra Vram in November 1882, Anna gave birth to child number ten, Oskar Ferdinand Persson.^A



Pehr Persson (5th from left) surrounded by fellow workers.

^A Oskar Persson (1882–1962) was my mother's father.

Going back to Johannes, my findings are that on November 6, 1883, the 17-year-old Johannes obtained a moving certificate to the nearby Risekatslösa parish, though he was never registered in the church books of the new parish. Thus, the provable traces of Johannes ceased there, except that in 1920, Johannes is mentioned in the estate inventory after his father Pehr Persson. The inventory states that Johannes is among the inheritors as “the son Johannes Persson in unknown foreign place, of authority”. So, it seems like he wasn’t particularly concerned about staying in touch with the family back home in Skåne.

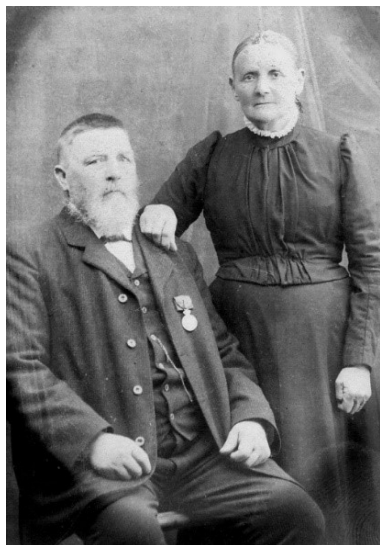
Hot-blooded father

When I grew up, we had an expression in the family, *Pehr Persa-näsa* (Pehr Pers’ nose). This referred to the rather distinctive nose shape that characterized Pehr Persson and at least some of his descendants. Another hereditary trait associated with Pehr Persson was the *Pehr Persa-humöret* (the Pehr Persson temper). As for Pehr Persson himself, my grandfather’s father, there is at least one well-documented event in which he showed his temper.

On Saturday afternoon, March 30, 1874, Pehr and three other men visited a shop to buy beer. While there, they behaved badly, and said nasty words to shopkeeper Gustafsson and his wife. Pehr and the other beer-drinking men were asked to leave the premises. They finally did so after a heated discussion. Gustafsson then closed and bolted the door, while Pehr and his friends continued to make a lot of noise outside.²⁰³

After a while they came back to the shop and in loud voices demanded to be let in, because they wanted more beer. But Gustafsson refused to open the door. Pehr and his friends got mad. Together they pushed and kicked at the door, until it finally gave in and fell into the room. Then they threw the shopkeeper on the floor and demanded more beer.

They continued to be loud. Finally, Gustafsson called the parish constable, who arrived and ordered Pehr and the others to leave.²⁰⁴

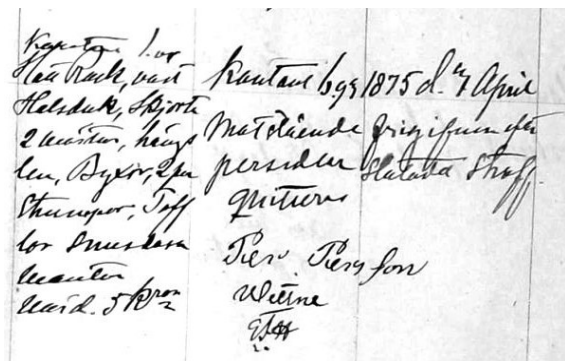


Pehr and Anna Persson.

But that wasn't the end of the story. Two weeks later Pehr was in court. He was sentenced to a three-month imprisonment, as well as paying a fine, for violence against shopkeeper Gustafsson, and for *hemfridsbrott* (unlawful entering of a person's house).²⁰⁵

On January 2, 1875, the 29-year-old coal miner Pehr Persson arrived at the Malmö county jail to serve his sentence. He was described as “blond hair, blue eyes, straight nose, oval face, ordinary constitution, 5 feet 8 inches tall”.

On April 3 Pehr picked up his hat, coat, scarf, shirt, socks, trousers with suspenders and, with clogs on his feet and snuff-box in his pocket, he left the prison and went home to his family in Billesholm.²⁰⁶



List of Pehr's belongings, with his signed acknowledgment that he had received them when he was released on April 3, 1875, after three months in prison.²⁰⁷

So, maybe some temperamental dispute between the teenager Johannes Persson and his father was the reason for Johannes to leave? Also, his brother Oskar was sent away from home in 1889

when he was six years old. He lived with relatives for the next ten years. If that was because of the *Pehr Persa-humör* or something else (like finances), I will never know.

For some reason things like these were never talked about when I grew up, as far as I can remember. The above story about Pehr I'd never heard about until I, about twenty years ago, stumbled upon a short note in the *husförhörlängd*, which prompted me to dig further into judicial documents.

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "Dömd för hemfridsbrott till 3 månader fängelse 15/4." The note is written on a piece of paper with horizontal lines, and the handwriting is in dark ink.

"Sentenced for hemfridsbrott to 3 months imprisonment".²⁰⁸

But let us now get back to Johannes.

Immigrant John Pierson

According to rumors within our family, Johannes Persson may have migrated to Australia, but no evidence of that has been found. On the other hand, there is no evidence that he stayed in Sweden, or came back to Sweden from somewhere else. All considered, it is most probable that Johannes migrated.^A

American genealogist Anne Frackelton Geyer has told me that her maternal great grandfather was named John Pierson, which is a fully adequate Americanization of the name Johannes Persson. He also had added Alfred as a first name.

From Anne I got a picture of a painting depicting her ancestor John Pierson^B. It is believed to have been painted while John was

^A Attempts to accurately pinpoint the time of Johannes Persson's migration have failed. Exact birth data are not stated in migration- and ship registers, and Johannes Persson was not an unusual name among Swedes.

^B Comparison of likeness with a photo of his parents and siblings from about 1900 (see page 127) in no way excludes that John (who is absent in the picture) is the person in the painting. That person also shows likeness with other photos of his brother Oskar.

“working on a ship around the world before he settled in Long Island NY in 1890s”²⁰⁹. Thus, it is quite possible that he spent some time in Australia during those years.

In 1900 this John Pierson lived in his own house in Smithtown, Suffolk County in New York. The documents²¹⁰ state his birth date as October 1866^A and that he had immigrated in 1892 or 1893. He was married on June 19, 1898 to Mary Frances Mansir, born in April 1873. They had a daughter called Blanche in May 1899.

In 1915, the family lived on New Market Road in Dunellen, New Jersey^B. John worked as a mechanic and Mary was a housewife. Their 16-year-old daughter Blanche attended Plainfield High School, and her siblings John Alfred and Grace attended Whittier Public School while Marion was not yet old enough for school.

Five years later, John, Mary and their four children lived on Stelton Road in Piscataway, New Jersey^C. At that time John worked as an inspector at Inter Motor Co. Ten years later, their son John Alfred had left home, while the others lived at 509 Haight Avenue—11th Street in a rented residence. John was now a construction carpenter, Blanche was a teacher, Grace was a nurse and their younger sister Marion machine operator.

John and Mary later moved to New Market, New Jersey, where John died on January 17, 1936 and Mary in 1961.



“...before he settled in Long Island, NY in 1890s”

^A That is correct. John was born October 11, 1866.

^B New Market is about 18 miles southwest of Manhattan.

^C Piscataway is some 15 miles southwest of Manhattan.

The children

Regarding three of John and Mary Pierson's four children I have found that

- the 1891-born Blanche became headmaster of a school and married a German dairyman by the name of Herman Bieler
- Grace was born in 1906 and was married in 1940 to the Canadian architect Herbert Murton. Prior to their marriage she had been nursing Murton's first wife, Haze. Herbert and Haze had two daughters. After Hazel died, Grace married Herbert Murton²¹¹
- Marion was born in 1910 and married the sales manager Theodore Merker.

John Alfred Jr. and his descendants

Mary's and John's son John Alfred Jr. was born in 1903 in St. James, New York. He was married in 1928 to Mary Elizabeth Bush. Twelve years later, they lived at 415 Stout Avenue in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, where John Alfred served as an inspector in the public sector. He had an annual salary of \$3,000.

When mustering in February 1942, the 39-year-old John Alfred stated that he was a Union County employee and worked at the court in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He weighed 180, was 6' 2" tall, with ruddy complexion, brown eyes, and brown hair²¹². By then, the couple had two daughters, Mary Joan and Ruth Ann.

John Alfred Pierson died in Auburn, New York in 1976. His widow Mary reached 87 before she died in Blue Point, New York in 1992.

Their daughter Mary Joan was born in 1931. She married Douglas Chapman Frackelton in 1954. From 1955 to 1964 the couple had five children. The 1957-born Anne was one of them.

Mr. and Mrs. John Alfred Pierson of Aurora announce the marriage of their daughter, Miss Mary Joan Pierson, to Ensign Douglas Chapman Frackelton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Frackelton of Auburn ... She wore a candlelight satin gown, an illusion veil and carried white roses and carnations ... The bride is a graduate of Wells College and Ensign Frackelton, a graduate of Yale University, is on active duty with the Naval reserve.²¹³

Fruit and berry grower Anne

Anne Frackelton and her husband Charles (Chuck) Geyer met shortly after their college graduations. They worked at the University of Maryland's Research and Education Center on a USDA berry production study. They married in 1981. The following year they moved to Tidewater, Virginia where they rented land. For 25



Anne Frackelton Geyer.

years they farmed and sold different kinds of fruits and berries. The family grew with son Pierson and twin sisters Colleen and Mary.

But they had a dream of owning their own farm. In 2008 Anne received a special cultivation grant from the Ministry of Agriculture to start a berry farm. Initially, she leased 10 acres of land located along the banks of the Pamunkey River in Virginia.

However, the Geysers purchased 25 acres in 2011 near Hannover Court-house, Virginia. There they built dwelling houses and packing rooms, and gradually expanded the business. Anne was also the initiator of a successful CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program.



Douglas and Mary Frackelton and their children, November 2019. Front: Molly and Susan, middle: Mary and Anne, back row: Douglas, Sarah, and John.²¹⁴

The Geyers also arrange a summer-long Young Worker Training Program that gives young people opportunities for work and cultivation experiences.²¹⁵



Pierson, Colleen, Mary, Anne, and Chuck Geyer. ²¹⁶

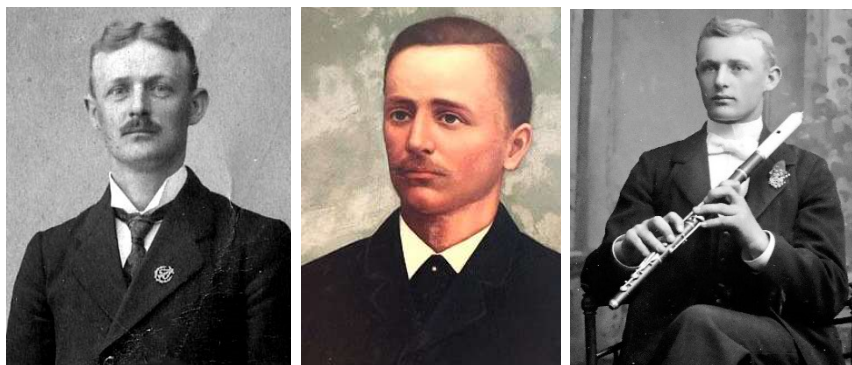
Having their own land fulfilled the dream all farmers share, and Chuck soon began building their “forever home” on the property. As Anne says, “I just have to keep pinching myself.” The family adds new plantings each season at Woodberry, where they currently grow red, black, and purple raspberries, more than 10 varieties of blackberries, plus peaches, nectarines, plums, apples, blueberries and cherries.²¹⁷

John Pierson = Johannes Persson

Based on the facts that so far have emerged, I believe that the case was that my grandfather’s brother Johannes Persson did not want to devote his life to coal mining or farm hand work. Instead he went to sea early in his teens. Then, in accordance with what he stated during the 1900 census and according to Anne Geyer’s information, he settled in the New York City area a few years into the 1890s.

In addition, I've found that I have a lot of matching DNA with his granddaughter Mary Frackelton, as well as Mary's daughter Anne Frackelton Geyer and with a few others of John Pierson's descendants.

This further confirms that the John Pierson who died in New Market 1936 is identical to Johannes Persson, my maternal grandfather's brother, who was born in Skarhult, Sweden, on October 11, 1866.



Johannes Persson (John Pierson) surrounded by two photos of his brother, my maternal grandfather Oskar Persson.

From coal mine to car factory

Besides Johannes another of my grandfather's brothers also left Sweden. Nils chose to leave the coal fields of northwestern Skåne and migrated to America with his family.

Nils Persson was born in September 1868 in Skarhult. He was the son of Anna Larsdotter and her husband Pehr Persson. From 1873 the family lived in Norra Vram's parish, where Pehr was working in the coal mines.

When I wrote the family history *Man bar ju lite minnen* around 2000, I had no traces of Nils after 1883. That year he got a certificate of transfer from Norra Vram's parish to his birth-parish Skarhult. However, his move was never entered in the registers at Skarhult parish.



Pehr, Anna, and their family. The photo was probably taken at the time of Nils' son Werner's baptism on September 24, 1898. Nils is standing to the right, with his wife Kerstin holding Werner and with Gunnar standing beside her. Oskar my maternal grandfather, is third from left in the back row.

I later found that instead of moving to Skarhult, the 15-year-old Nils came to Östra Strö in 1883 to work there as a *dräng*. After a couple of years, he returned to Norra Vram's parish. There he, like so many others, found work in Södra Vram's coalfield. In 1890 he married the two years older Kerstin Andersson. During 1896–1902 they had three children, Gunnar, Werner, and Vega.

To Pennsylvania and Michigan

But Nils Persson got tired of the coal mine. In 1904 he set off for America. Via Southampton, England, he arrived in New York City on May 22, after eight days of sailing across the Atlantic with the ship Saint Louis. When he registered at Ellis Island, he showed that he had \$20 in cash. He named a friend in Yatesboro, Pennsylvania, as his contact person.²¹⁸

A few months later, Nils's wife Kerstin and their children went to America. They boarded the S.S. Germanic on August 6 at Southampton and arrived in New York on the 15th with \$7 in their pockets. Under "relative or friend" was noted "Husband Nils Persson, Box 124, Yatesboro".²¹⁹

The car factories in Flint

In 1914, the family moved from Yatesboro, Pennsylvania, to Flint, Michigan. A few years later they were enrolled there as members of the Salem Lutheran Church. Flint was a major automotive industry town in Genesee County. Flint is known by the fact that General Motors was founded there.

The family lived at 529 Dayton Street when the 49-year-old Nils (his name Americanized to Niles Pearson) died of stomach cancer at Hurley Hospital in Flint on April 16, 1918.

Two years later, 56-year-old Kerstin and the children still lived on Dayton Street. Kerstin is noted as having no profession, while all the children worked in the automotive industry: Gunnar was a foreman, Werner an inspector, and Vega made molds.

In the summer of 1921, widow Kerstin (Kersty) Pearson married the 61-year-old merchant Charles Gustafsson. She moved with him to Youngstown, Ohio. However, the marriage soon ended since Charles died in May 1924. Kerstin Pearson thereafter

returned to Flint, where she married a man named Daniel Holmquist in 1929. Kersty, now Holmquist, died in Flint 1952.



The grave of Niles Pearson at Gracelawn Cemetery, Flint²²⁰.

Foreman Gunnard

Kersty's and Nils's son Gunnard (Gunnar) was born in 1896. On April 4, 1923, he was married in Flint to Norway-born Carolyn Tobine Anderson. In 1930, they lived in Flint with Carolyn's brother. Gunnar was still a foreman in a car factory, while Carolyn was a teacher at one of the city's schools.

In 1940, Carolyn was still working as a teacher. Gunnard had no work, probably due to illness or disability, because when he was mustered in 1942, he was deemed "totally disabled".²²¹

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)					
SERIAL NUMBER U. 1931	1. NAME (Print) Gunnard Erick Pearson (First) (Middle) (Last)				ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 321 East Keweenaw Flint GENESEE Michigan (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)					
(THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL)					
3. MAILING ADDRESS 321 E. Newell Street (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)					
4. TELEPHONE 3-8062	5. AGE IN YEARS 46	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Sweden (Town) (County) (State or country)			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. E. Dahl 320 W. Rankin Street (Number and street) (Town) (County) (State)					
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Totally disabled					
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS					
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.					
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 4-1-42)		Gunnard E. Pearson (Signature)			

Registration card for Gunnard E Pearson.

Gunnard died in April 1948 at age 52, while Carolyn died in June 1972. They were buried at Grace Lawn Cemetery in Flint.

No children of Gunnard and Carolyn Pearson have been found in the registers.

Chief Inspector Warner

At 19, Gunnar's brother Warner (Werner) was an inspector at one of Buick Motor Company's factories in Flint. In June 1922, he married the seven years older Marvel O Ullman. Four months later their daughter Kathryn Louise was born. In the 1930s and 1940s, Warner was "chief inspector" in the automotive industry. He had moved with his family a bit south to Grand Blanc.

Warner died in August 1987 in Tawas City, Michigan, while Marvel died on New Year's Eve the same year.

At a young age, their daughter Kathryn worked for the telephone company Bell and at the University of Chicago. She thereafter spent nineteen years at the University of Michigan campus in Flint as secretary to the university chancellor. Finally, she became a secretary at the television company WFUM, before retiring in 1984.²²²

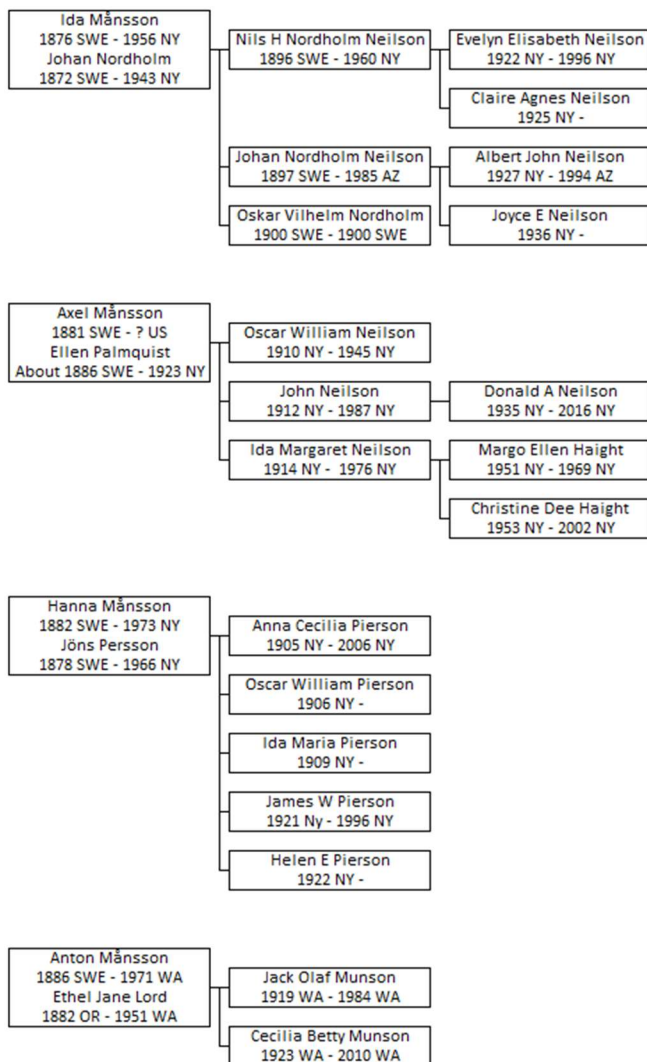
Kathryn married Frank Michalek in 1944. Kathryn was 92 years old when she died in Grand Blanc, Michigan, in December 2014. Kathryn and Frank had three children: Patricia, Mark, and David.

Vega and police officer Dahl

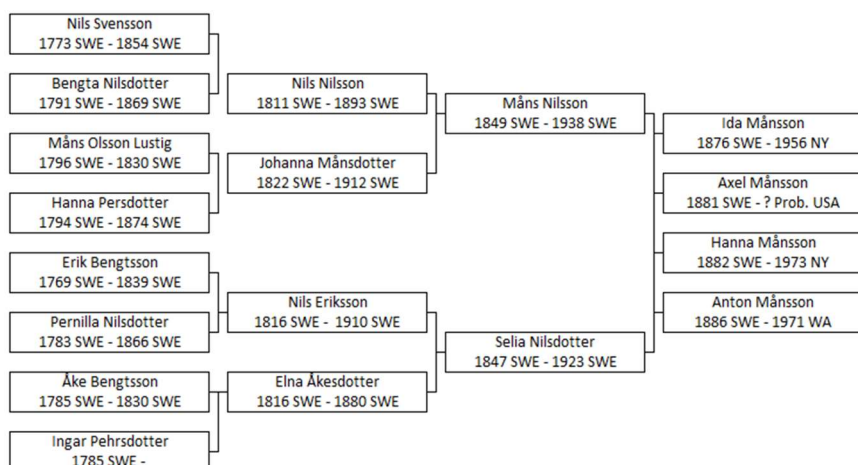
Finally, as far as Warner's and Gunnard's sister Vega is concerned, she was in 1922 married to Enoch Dahl, born in Norway 1899. The couple lived in 1930 at South Saginaw 2506 in Flint. Enoch was a traffic police officer. They lived in the 1950s at 3817 Proctor Avenue.

Enoch died in 1974 in Flushing, Michigan. No information about Vegas's death has been found. The couple had no children as far as I know.

Descendants of Ida, Axel, Hanna, and Anton Månsson



Ancestors of Ida, Axel, Hanna, and Anton Månsson



Månssons from Häglinge

The crofter Måns Nilsson and his wife Selia Nilsdotter had eleven children. Four of them migrated to North America.

In Kullahyttan, a *soldattorp* in Brönnestad, the 28-year-old Hanna Persdotter, wife of soldier No. 77 Måns Lustig, gave in November 1822 birth to a daughter called Johanna. On almost the same day 22 years later, this Johanna married a 33-year-old *åbo* in Horröd, Nils Nilsson. The couple had eight children, including their daughter Anna^A, who was born ten months after the wedding.

Two of Anna's siblings, Nils and Hanna, are supposed to have migrated to North America in 1879 and 1891 respectively, but I have not been able to find sufficiently accurate information about their journey and life on the other side of the Atlantic. So, let us instead concentrate on their brother Måns and his migrating children.

Måns Nilsson was born in Horröd, Brönnestad in 1849. When he had just celebrated his 25th birthday, the *dräng* Måns was married in Norra Mellby to the slightly older *piga* Selia Nilsdotter in April 1874. Two months later, their first child Olof was born. They then moved to Stenshult in Häglinge parish. There the couple had ten children during 1876–1891, of which Ida, Axel, Hanna and Anton would migrate to North America.

Dutchess County, New York

Dutchess County is on the east side of the Hudson River in the state of New York and some 60 miles north of Manhattan. It is the county seat of Poughkeepsie. Arlington is today one of Poughkeepsie's neighborhoods, while La Grange and Union Vale are areas within some ten miles east of it. Around 1910, Dutchess County had more than 85,000 residents (about 280,000 in 2000). Around one tenth of them lived in Poughkeepsie.

^A Anna Nilsdotter was my FMM.

Prospective husband migrated in advance

Selia Nilsdotter's and Måns Nilsson's daughter Hanna was born in 1882. She became a *piga* in Rickarum in Häglinge's neighboring parish, Äsphult. The *äbo* Jöns Persson lived in Nockarp, Äsphult, and it can be assumed that they both met then or already knew each other.

In March 1903, Jöns left home and crossed the Atlantic to settle in the Poughkeepsie area. In December the same year, Hanna Månsson^A left her job in Äsphult and moved back to her parents in Stenshult, only to leave for America in March 1904.

Hanna Månsson and Jöns Persson (who Americanized his name to James Pierson) got married around 1905. They took loans and bought a farm in Union Vale with focus on milk production. The couple had five children during 1905–1922. They ran their farm at least until 1940. In their older days they moved to Poughkeepsie, where James died in 1966 and Hanna in 1973.

In 1921, their son James William moved to Dutchess, married Eleanor Putnam and had four children. James W. Pierson died in Poughkeepsie in the fall of 1966.

Neither anarchist nor polygamist

On May 25, 1904, the 18-year-old and unmarried worker Anton Månsson left his home in Stenshult to travel to North America.²²³

In Copenhagen, Anton boarded the S.S. Hellig Olav, and arrived in New York on June 13. From what he stated at the arrival, as well as one day later at the migration control on Ellis Island, it appears that he was going to his sister Hanna in Poughkeepsie, who also had paid his trip.^{B, 224}

^A Note that *-dotter* was no longer used; women now also had a *-son* in the surname. See *Useful to know*, page 13.

^B Anton's sister Hanna had, as previously stated, migrated in March the same year (1904), and just as her sister Ida she settled in the Poughkeepsie neighborhood.

Anton Månsson, or John Munson^A as he was called in the US, worked on the railroad across the US during 1904–1918. He eventually made his way to the much farther west Washington state.

In the fall of 1916, John married the four years older and Oregon-born Ethel Jane Stubblefield. At the time of mustering in the fall of 1918 in connection with World War I, John was a farmer in Alfalfa, Yakima County.



Ethel and John Munson.

Four years later, he applied to become an American citizen, certifying that he was neither an anarchist nor a polygamist, and in addition solemnly surrendered allegiance to foreign states and potentates, especially “Gustavus V King”.²²⁵

I was born in Malmo, Sweden
on the 21st day of March, anno Domini 1882; I now reside
at Toppinish, Garima Co., Wash
(Give number, street, city or town, and State)
I emigrated to the United States of America from Malmo, Sweden
on the vessel Helliglow of Scandinavian American Line; my last
(If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given)
foreign residence was Malmo, Sweden; I am — married; the name
of my wife is Ethel; she was born at Enterprise, Ore.
and now resides at Toppinish, Wash
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Gustavus V King
of Sweden, of whom I am now a subject;
I arrived at the port of New York in the
State of New York, on or about the 14th day
of June, anno Domini 1902; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

John Anton Munson
(Original signature of declarant)

Part of naturalization document signed by John Anton Munson in 1922.

^A John was sometimes also called *Jack* Munson.

John and Ethel got their son Jack Olaf in 1919. Four years later they had a daughter, Cecilia Betty. In the early 1930s, they all lived with Ethel's parents in Ringold, Franklin County, Washington, where they farmed as leaseholders.

The couple remained in Washington, where Ethel died in 1958 in Yakima, while John died in February 1971 in Richland, Benton County.



Alma and Jack Olaf Munson with Their first daughter Jacqui, born 1945.²²⁶

Their son Jack Olaf was married in 1944 in Spokane to Alma Ambacher, whose family had come from Germany in 1906. Railroad engineer Jack Olaf and his wife had five children, including the 1946-born daughter Cintra.

In 1967 Cintra Munson married teacher Vernon Hess. The couple spends their winters in Scottsdale, Arizona, near their youngest son and his family. Their summers are spent in Tualatin, Oregon, where their eldest son and his family live.



*Cintra (Cindy) and Vern(on)
Hess and their dog Abby
at Crater Lake, Oregon.²²⁷*

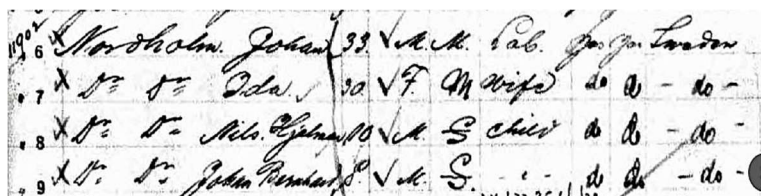


*Cindy and Vern Hess celebrating Christmas in Scottsdale, Arizona. Sitting
Cindy with her grandsons Ashton and Rona, and daughter in law Meghan.
Standing Vern with youngest son Jon.²²⁸*

Ida and the dragoon

Ida Månsson, born in 1876, left home as a fifteen-year-old to work as a *piga* in various places within the Häglinge parish. When she was 19, she married the farm worker and former dragoon Johan Nordholm, and had three sons with him during 1896–1900. The youngest was only five weeks old when he died.

On June 15, 1906, the family took a steamship across the Öresund to Copenhagen, intending to unite with Ida's sister Hanna in Poughkeepsie, New York. On June 20, the ship *Baltic* left the major shipping port of Liverpool with third class passengers Ida, Johan, Nils and Johan Bernhard on board. Nine days later they arrived in New York and were immigration checked at Ellis Island.



Ida and her family as registered in the S.S. *Baltic*'s passenger list 1906.

As was common among Swedes arriving in America, they modified their names. Their surname Nordholm became Neilson. Johan was smoothly Americanized to John. The sons were called Neil and John respectively.

The family settled in Dutchess County. Around 1910 they lived in a rental home in Union Vale where John worked as a farm hand. When he applied for US citizenship five years later, the farmer John Neilson declared Arlington as his place of residence.

By 1920, their sons had left home, and Ida and John lived in La Grange. Ten years later, the address was No. 41 Manchester-Noxon Road, where they owned their home and ran their own agriculture. They also had farm hands employed and could even listen to the radio in the house.^{229, A}

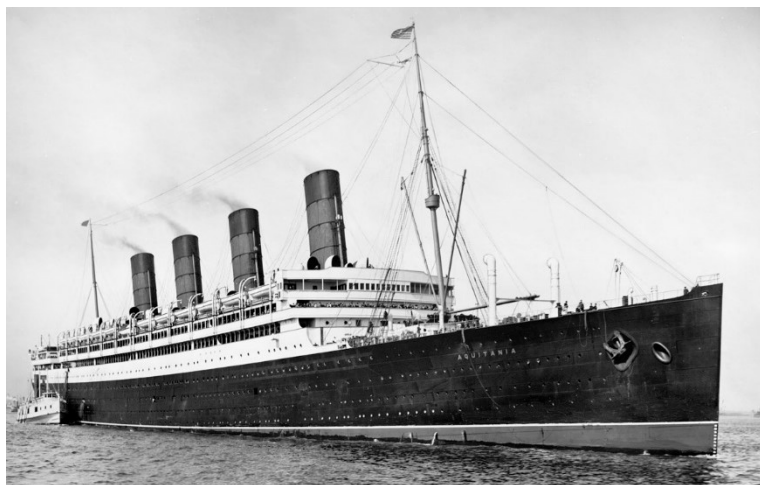
^A Obviously, radios were hardly in everybody's possession in the 1930s, as that was especially noted in the census.

John Nordholm Neilson died in May 1943. He was buried at La Grange Rural Cemetery, where Ida Månsson also was buried in September 1956.

Neil at the Machine Gun Battalion

Ida and John Neilson's eldest son Neil was 21 and a farm worker in Arlington when, for World War I, he mustered in June 1917. He was described as "tall, medium physique, blue eyes, black hair, not bald, all body parts retained"²³⁰.

In March 1918, Neil began his service in Portland, Maine, as a member of the C Company at the 305th Machine Gun Battalion. He was stationed abroad until April 18, 1919, when he left Brest in France with RMS Aquitania and arrived in New York on April 24. Neil Neilson was honorably discharged on demobilization as sergeant on May 9, 1919.²³¹



RMS (Royal Mail Ship) Aquitania was a British ocean liner, built by John Brown & Company in Clydebank, Scotland. She sailed on her maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York on 30 May 1914. During World War I she was first transformed into an auxiliary cruiser before being transformed into a troop transport and a hospital ship. Aquitania was a twin ship to Lusitania that was torpedoed in 1915 by a German submarine. Almost 1,200 persons were killed.

In November the same year, Neil married New York City-born Signe Johnson. The couple settled in the Bronx, New York, where they lived in 1930 at 2275 Davidson Avenue with their daughters Evelyn and Claire. Neil had previously worked as a fruit merchant. He became a director of a wholesale company, a position he also held ten years later.

In early 1960, the 63-year-old Neil Neilson died in the Bronx. Shortly after her husband's death Signe moved to Poughkeepsie, where she passed in November 1969.

John at the Balloon Company

Neil Neilson's brother John Bernhard was born in December 1897. He was eight years old when the family moved to the US.

When John was 20 and living on 489 East 141 St. in South Bronx, he was drafted to military service. His first location in February 1918 was at Fort Slocum, New York. Until April of that year, he served there at the 67th Air Squadron. Thereafter he joined the U.S. Aviation School at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. He then served at the 19th Balloon Company, until he was discharged as a sergeant at the end of April 1919.²³²

Neilson, John B.		363,533	White	1½
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)	
Residence: 489 East 141 St. New York		NEW YORK		
(Street and house number)		(Town or city)	(County)	(State)
* Enlisted in	RA at Ft Slocum N Y		Feb 22/18	
† Born in	Malmo Sweden		20 2/12 yFs	
Organizations:	67 Aer Sq to Apr 11/18; US Aviation School Kelly Field Tex to June 4/18; 19 Balloon Co to disch			
Grades:	Corp Sept 19/18; Sgt Feb 9/19;		-	
Engagements:	-		-	
Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.				
‡ Served overseas:	Oct 21/18 to Apr 18/19		-	
§ Hon. disch.	Apr 29/19		on demobilization	
Was reported	0	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.		
Remarks:	-			

Registration card, military service during World War I.

From the Bronx, John moved north to Dutchess County. He was married in July, 1926 in Poughkeepsie to May (Mae) B Lauer. In 1927 they had a son named Albert. Around 1930, Mary and her fruit-trading husband lived in La Grange on a farm next to John's parents. Their daughter Joyce was born there in 1936. Ten years later, John was the owner of the farm, but still had employment as a salesman.

Mary and John Neilson later moved to Tucson, Arizona, where "Sergeant John B Neilson" died in the spring of 1985^A, followed in the fall of 1996 by May.

Their son Albert died in Tucson, Arizona, 1994.^B

Axel – first but last

Axel Månsson, who was born in 1881, was the eldest of the four Månsson migrant siblings, but the last of them to take the big step across the Atlantic.

Axel worked in Sweden for a number of years as a *dräng*, but in the spring of 1907 he went to Copenhagen to travel to New York with the steamship Hellig Olav. When Axel came to Ellis Island on May 15, he stated that his contact in the United States was his brother-in-law Jöns Jönsson^C at Driggs Farm, Arlington, New York. Axel was characterized by a "scar on the left side of the face".²³³

Around 1920 Axel, like some other relatives, lived in LaGrange near Poughkeepsie. He was a farmer and had, like his sister Ida and her husband John, changed his surname to Neilson. He was married December 1908 and rented a residence on Titusville Road. He lived there with his wife Ellen Palmquist and their children Oscar, John, and Ida.

^A John Neilson died in Tucson but was buried – like others in the family – at LaGrange Rural Cemetery.

^B Albert Neilson was my third cousin, and there is DNA-connection between me and two of his descendants.

^C The passenger list very clearly states the name of the brother-in-law as "Jöns Jönsson", but most likely it refers to sister Hanna's husband Jöns Persson, by that time called James Pierson.

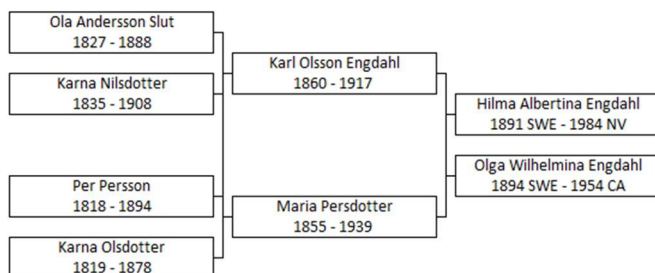
Ellen died in the fall of 1923. A few years later, the widower and fruit grower Axel Neilson employed the widow Louise Winters as housekeeper for him and his son John.

When Axel was registered by the military authorities in 1942, he and Louise Winters lived in Poughkeepsie. He was 5' 6" tall, weighed 150 pounds, and was brown-haired and blue-eyed.²³⁴

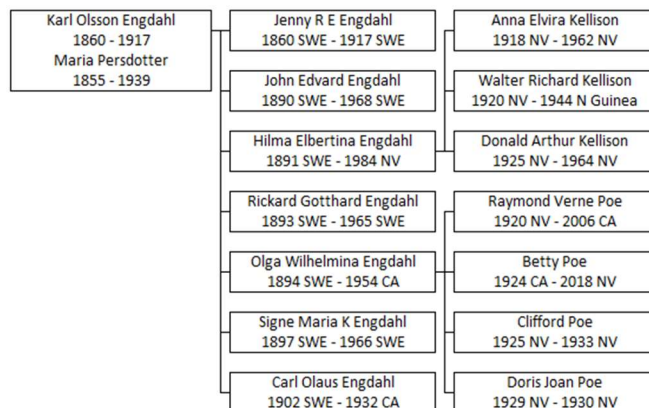
Axel's and Ellen's children all stayed within the state of New York, preferably in their county of birth, Dutchess:

- Oscar William (1910–1945), married to Ethel Gerth
- John (1912–1987), married to Harriet Stout (1914–2014)
- Ida Margaret (1914–1976), married to Chauncy Haight (1913–1980).

Ancestors of Hilma and Olga Engdahl



Descendants of Karl O Engdahl and Maria Persdotter



Carpenter Engdahl's daughters

About 27,800 Swedes migrated in 1910. Among them were two teenage sisters from Helsingborg who were attracted by the possibilities in America^{235, A}

Karl Olsson Engdahl was born in Höör in 1860. He was the son of Karna Nilsdotter and Ola Andersson^B. In 1886 Karl was married to Maria Persdotter from Vallby.



After Karl had been a carpenter in Helsingborg and Landskrona, he and his family moved to Norra Skrävlinge. In 1896 they returned to Helsingborg. There Karl was a shopkeeper for a number of years before he again worked as a carpenter until his death in 1917.

Maria and Karl Engdahl had seven children. Three of them chose to migrate.

In the summer of 1910, their 18-year-old daughter Hilma and her 15-year old sister

Olga left their home at Södergatan 12 in Helsingborg. They arrived with the S.S. Hellig Olav at the port of New York City on July 27.²³⁷

Hilma and cigar merchant Walter

Hilma Albertina Engdahl was born in October 1891. After the trip across the Atlantic, she was married in Three Forks, Montana in 1916 to the eight years older Walter Kellison.

The couple settled in Sparks, a few miles east of the (from the 1930s on for gambling and divorces) so famous city of Reno in Nevada. At the 1920 census, Walter was a cigar trader and Hilma had given birth to their first child, Anna.

^A In 1910 Sweden had around 5.5 million inhabitants, to be compared to 10.3 million in 2020.

^B Ola Andersson's mother Anna Hansdotter was my FFFM Hedvig Hansdotter's sister.

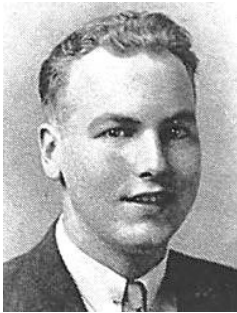
Cigar dealer Walter Bailey Kellison died in Sparks in 1962, while Hilma died in 1984 at age 92.

Ex-Businessman of Sparks Dies at Age 77

Walter B. Kellison, retired Sparks businessman, died at a local hospital today. Before retiring he owned and operated the Kellison and Poncia store in Sparks. A native of Indiana, he lived in Sparks for over 40 years. Survivors include his widow, Hilma Kellison; two sons, Milton and Donald of Sparks; two daughters, Mrs. Anna Freeman of Reno and Mrs. Marlene Stoutenburt of Camp Pendleton, Calif.; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.²³⁸

Missing in action

Hilma and Walter Kellison's son Walter Richard was born in 1920. At age 20 he worked in an ice cream factory, but then studied for a year at the University of Nevada in Reno²³⁹. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in January 1942 in San Francisco. There he stated that he was employed as an actor. He was unmarried but married shortly thereafter. After his military training, he participated in World War II, where he belonged to the 499th bomber squadron.²⁴⁰



By early 1942, Japan had invaded the Australia-controlled parts of New Guinea, as well as the Dutch western part of the island. From fall of the same year until Japan's surrender in 1945, the Allies, mainly represented by Australian and American troops, fought to liberate the area from the Japanese.

On May 19, 1944, bomber B-25D # 41-30815 took off on a bombing mission over Cape Moem near Wewak in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. Among the six on board were pilot Alan Anderson, shooter Frank Younkin, and 2nd Lieutenant and Bombardier Walter Kellison.²⁴¹

An eyewitness noticed that three bombs dropped by another B-25 ahead of them detonated near Walter's B-25. This likely caused damages that led the plane to crash on Mum Point, Cape Moem. The remains of the crew were never found. Walter Kelli-

son was declared “Missing in Action” after the incident and was posthumously awarded with Air Medal and Purple Heart. He left behind his wife Jean and a daughter.²⁴²



*North American
bomber B-25
Mitchell.^A*

Of Walter’s four siblings, his five-year-old brother, Donald, became a truck driver. Donald lived at 1204 E Street in Sparks when he died at 39 after falling into a diabetes-related coma. He also suffered from “chronic alcoholism”.²⁴³

Olga and engineer Thurman

Hilma Engdahl’s sister Olga Wilhelmina was born in August 1894. Olga also settled in Sparks, Nevada, and was married there in the spring of 1919 to the six years older Thurman Poe from Texas. The following year, the couple lived on 9th Street, when Olga became an American citizen.

During the next twenty years and maybe more, Olga and Thurman lived in Sparks. There Thurman provided for his family, with a growing number of children, as a locomotive engineer. Around 1950, the couple moved to Alameda near Oakland, California, where Olga died in 1954.



Olga Engdahl Poe.²⁴⁴

^A The bomber B-25 Mitchell was introduced in 1941 and named in honor of Major General William “Billy” Mitchell, a pioneer of U.S. military aviation. It was used by many Allied air forces during World War II.

Thurman returned to Nevada and was married to Myrtle Dailey in 1960 in Carson City. However, when he died in 1979 Thurman Poe was back in Sparks.



*Patricia Powell
(1926–2018) and
Raymond Verne Poe
(1920–2006).²⁴⁵*

Olga's and Thurman's first child Raymond Verne Poe was born in 1920. He married Patricia Powell in 1952 and became the father of Christopher Poe

Chris Poe and his wife Loretta (Lori) live in Mesa, Arizona.



Chris and Lori Poe with their family.

Carl the sailor

Maria and Karl Engdahl's youngest child, Carl Olaus, was born in 1902. At a young age he chose the life of a seaman. From 1922 onwards he was registered as absent in church books of Helsingborg.²⁴⁶

Somehow, he ended up as having his base in San Francisco, California, where in 1927 he was in the process of becoming an American citizen^A. In 1928 he was registered as a seaman and lived at 32 Sacramento²⁴⁷, while in 1930 he was a lodger at Drumm Street, still a seaman and unmarried.

Carl Olaus Engdahl died on April 22, 1932, at U. S. Marine Hospital, San Francisco, of "valvular heart disease, mitral stenosis and insufficiency aortic stenosis curricular fibrillation".²⁴⁸

Uncle migrated in 1903

Seven years before Hilma and Olga Engdahl migrated, their father's brother Elof and his family left Höör for America.

Elof Olsson was born at Åkersberga, Höör in 1866. In 1899 he moved to Landskrona, where in May the following year he married Cornelia Sigrid Mattsson. From 1891 to 1901 they had six children, two of whom died after only a few days.

In the spring of 1903, it was decided that the family would migrate to the United States. Elof had a friend named Herman Lindstedt in New Jersey who probably was helpful in planning the trip. To prepare the way for the rest of the family, the 36-year-old Elof boarded the steamship Hellig Olav on May 6 in Copenhagen. He arrived in New York City twelve days later, where he in the usual way was checked at Ellis Island.²⁴⁹

A few months later, Elof's wife Sigrid and the children Lorenz, Sture, Ruth and Gerda also crossed the Atlantic and were reunited with Elof in New York City.

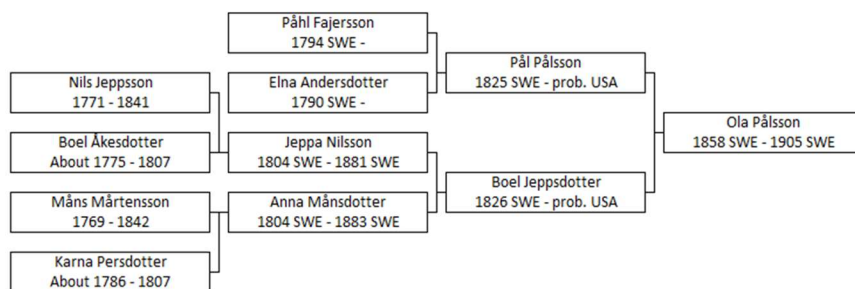
In 1905, the Ohlson family lived in the Bronx, New York, where Elof worked as a blacksmith. Five years later, Elof was recorded as a machinist and lived at East 135th Street in the Bronx. The family moved to Hempstead on Long Island in the early

^A According to the 1930 US Census he immigrated already in 1920.

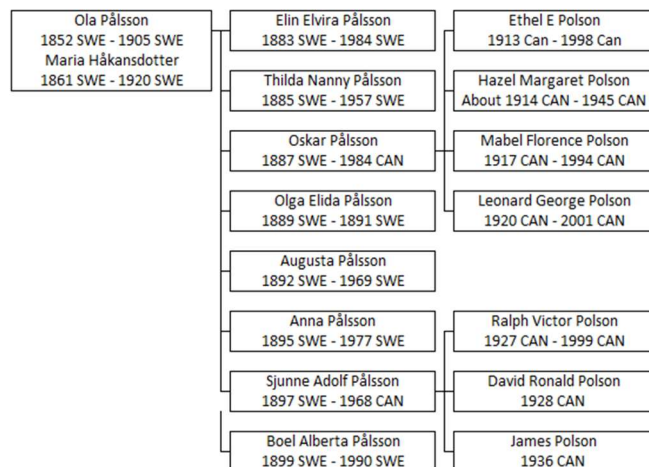
1920s, where in 1930 their daughter Ruth lived with her parents. She worked with newspaper ads.

The retired Elof and his wife Sigrid were in their 70's in 1940 and lived in their own house on Southard Avenue in Hempstead. No reliable information on when and where Sigrid and Elof died has been found.

Ancestors of Ola Pålsson



Descendants of Ola Pålsson and Maria Håkansdotter



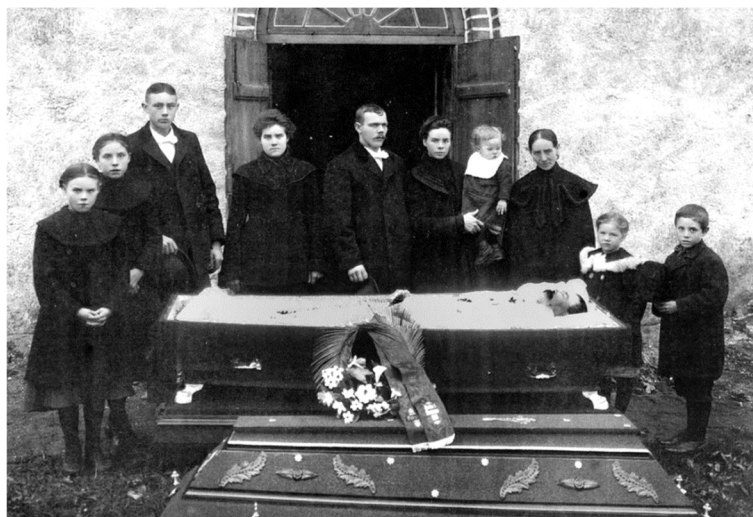
The Pålsson brothers from Kävlinge

In the beginning of the 1910s, brothers Oskar and Sjunne Pålsson left Kävlinge in Skåne, to seek their fortune in Canada.

The miller Ola Pålsson in Kävlinge was born in Södra Rörum 1852. He was married to Maria Håkansdotter. The couple had eight children when Ola died in a tragic accident.

On November 8, 1905, Ola's clothes got stuck in the mill, and he was "hit by the mill wheels and instantly crushed to death by fracture of the cervical column". His chest and left leg were also injured.²⁵⁰

When Ola didn't appear for supper, Oskar was sent to get him. When he got to the mill he didn't get an answer to his calls, so he took a lantern and climbed the long ladder to the top. When he got to the hub he found his father and dropped the lantern. Fortunately, it went out on its way to the ground. If it hadn't, I imagine the mill would have burned down. Oskar was quite traumatized by the incident, as one can imagine, and he was never able to go into the mill again. I suppose that's why he didn't carry on as miller afterwards and instead emigrated.²⁵¹



Ola Pålsson surrounded by his family: Anna, Augusta, Oskar, Thilda, Otto Isaksson (Elin's husband), Elin, Axel, widow Maria, Boel, and Sjunne.²⁵²

Ola's and Maria's six daughters, several of whom reached high age, stayed in Skåne while their two brothers took off for the other side of the Atlantic.^A

Pålsson became Polson

In September 1910, the 23-year-old Oskar Pålsson^B migrated, and settled in the Calgary area in Alberta, Canada. There the immigration officers registered his surname as Polson. In 1912 he married Malmö-born Emma Carlsson. They had four children during 1913–1920. At first, Oskar was a farm worker, and later he had a job in construction before he became an independent builder.

Having been a widower since 1944, Oskar then married a woman named Annie sometime in the 1960s. He died in Calgary in 1984 at the age of 96.

When Oskar had been living for two years in Canada, he thought it was time for little brother Sjunne to cross the Atlantic. Therefore, on September 16, 1912, the 15-year-old Sjunne left Kävlinge on Oskar's advice. He was accompanied by Oskar's bride-to-be, the aforementioned Emma Carlsson. Via Malmö they made their way to Liverpool, where they boarded the S.S. Empress of Ireland. They arrived in Quebec City eleven days later.



My father was a boy from Skåne. I'm sure his pronunciation of *Sjunne* would have been beyond the capabilities of a Canadian customs official. I know my mother couldn't pronounce it, but thought it was something like "Whinny". The customs official thought *Sam* was close enough, and my father was happy with it.²⁵³

*Oskar and Sjunne Pålsson.*²⁵⁴

^A Ola Pålsson's mother Boel and her sister Karna had already emigrated, see p. 35–37.

^B The patronymic name tradition was now changed. Thus, Ola Pålsson's children now had their father's surname.

After reuniting with his brother in Calgary, Sjunne worked on farms for a few years. Thereafter he went further west to Vancouver.

Sjunne (Sam) Polson was married in 1926 to Scottish-born Agnes (Nancy) McGhie. Sometime during the Depression, they were forced to leave their house, and lived for a period around 1931 with Sam's brother Oskar in Alberta. But one day there was a real fight between the two brothers. Sam took his family back to Vancouver and did not have contact with Oskar until fifteen years later.

During his life Sam worked primarily as a ship builder and carpenter, while Nancy took care of the household. The couple stayed in the Vancouver area where Sam died in 1968 and Nancy six years later.

Citizenship peculiarities

Nancy and Sam Polson had three sons. Their son James (Jim), born in 1936, has given me the following example of how the question of citizenship is not always a simple one.

I am actually the son of a Swedish mother who was born in Glasgow and a British father, born in Kävlinge!

It was because when my parents got married in 1926 the rule was that the wife always took her husband's nationality, so my mother became Swedish. When my father applied for citizenship in 1932, he did not cross the small box that applied to his wife, so he became a Canadian citizen and she remained Swedish.

Because Canada was part of the British Commonwealth, Canadian citizens were considered British subjects at the time, even though Canada was completely independent.

After the war, my mother wanted to go and visit her family in Scotland, but then the authorities did not want to issue a passport to her because she was Swedish. But she quickly gained her citizenship and Canadian passport. Authorities were quicker in those days!²⁵⁶



*Nancy and Sam Polson.*²⁵⁵

A different kind of wedding night

When Jim married Lin Cook in 1958, they had to cross the border to the US state of Washington. That was because Lin (born 1939) was only 19 and needed parental consent, and her mother did not agree to her marriage.

Jim's family did not oppose it and attended the wedding. That included his uncle Charley, who brought a bottle of champagne that he smuggled across the border in the car's boot.

Later in the evening, when I struggled to open the bottle, the cork flew off and hit me in the middle of my eye. So I got to spend the wedding night in hospital with my injured eye. But the nurses got a good laugh, because it was actually a little funny! We used that champagne bottle as a rolling pin for many years. We were poor students!²⁵⁷



*Jim and Lin Polson, 1958.*²⁵⁸

Teacher and librarian

After college, Jim became an English-teacher in high school. It was a job that he was not comfortable with.

– I was always more of an intellectual, and high school was not an intellectual place. The teachers were all watching sports on television, and not having interesting discussions or anything like that. The kids, they were all nice kids, but my God, it was soul destroying in a way.²⁵⁹

But then in 1970 Jim found what he sees as his real profession

– So, I became a reference librarian, a specialist in finding information. And I got a job that was at Sir George Williams University^A in Montreal. It was a very good fit and I flourished there, and it wasn't very long before I was head of the reference

^A The university was founded in 1926, but after a merger of Loyola College and Sir G. Williams University in 1974 it is called Concordia University.

department there, which was fairly big and million dollars to play with in my budget. And I found that I was a very good administrator as well as an excellent reference librarian. I could find out anything! And this was in the days before the computers.

During the years that Jim, Lin and their son David (born 1965) lived in Montreal there were politically troubled times in the Quebec province. Strong forces wanted to liberate the French-dominated province from the rest of Canada. The terrorists in the Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ) still raged for a time into the 1970s.

– It was exciting times, but then finally an open separatist government came into power and us poor Anglos, y’know, were having a hard time. Lin wanted to move back to Vancouver and was offered a position as a librarian at Simon Fraser University.

Return to Vancouver

So the family made their way back to the Vancouver area in 1977. But Jim, who left a managerial job in Montreal, had a hard time finding a suitable job, much due to tough times in the library field.

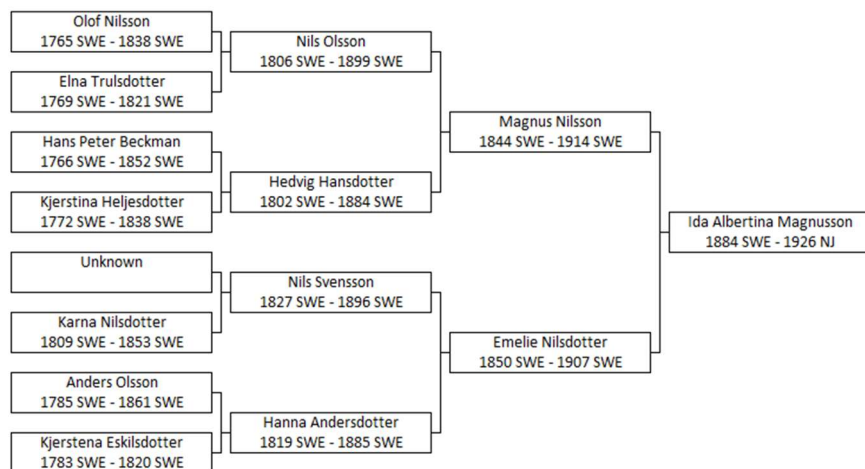
– So what it eventually turned out to be as the situations were, I was a house husband and Lin brought in the income. So, I managed the house, and did the cooking and cleaning and all that sort of things. And it worked out all right. I’m not a proud person; I know the value of labor in all its forms, so it worked out OK.

As for 2020, Jim Polson and his wife Lin live in Coquitlam, near Vancouver. Jim is a dedicated genealogist and has accumulated a lot of information about his and Lin’s relatives. In addition, he is interested in people’s lives and stories and is a good storyteller, something I have greatly enjoyed.

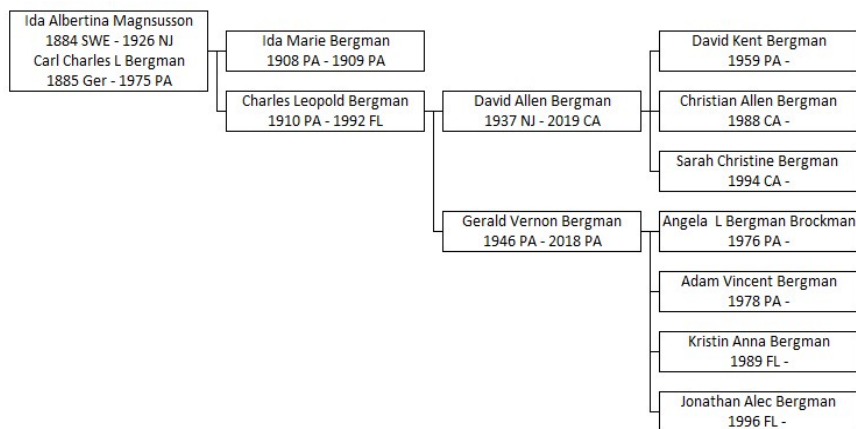


Jim Polson on a visit to Sweden in 2006.²⁶⁰

Ancestors of Ida Magnusson



Descendants of Ida Magnusson and Carl Bergman



Grandpa's sister Ida in Pennsylvania

37,107 Swedes left Sweden in 1902 to seek their fortune elsewhere. One of them was the 17-year-old Ida Magnusson, my grandfather's sister.

Ida Albertina Magnusson was born on December 27, 1884, in the small *torp* Tullskog^A under the homestead Tollerup, a few miles northeast of Höör. Her parents were Emelie Nilsdotter and her husband, the crofter, clog maker and (a few years later) local Baptist congregation leader Magnus Nilsson.^B



Magnus Nilsson and his family, prob. 1900. My grandfather Nils is in the middle in the back row, with Ida right in front of him.

^A Six of Ida's siblings were also born at the croft Tullskog, and later my father Hugo and his brother Gustaf as well.

^B Magnus Nilsson (1844–1914) was my FFF.

After her six years in elementary school in Höör, Ida moved to Malmö. According to her son Charles she came there “to further her education”²⁶¹. In my opinion it probably just meant to work as a maid. It seems likely that she didn’t stay in Malmö for long, as nothing is to be found in the church registers about her leaving Höör parish for Malmö, or about her coming back to Höör. Anyway, during her time in Malmö she learned to dance, something she liked very much.

From what I know of her younger days, from bits and pieces I have gathered from my father, my aunts and my own memories as a child, I form a mental picture of her as she then must have been. A tall slender girl (she was at least two inches taller than my father) with a zest for life.

From what she has related to me I can also picture events as she returned home from Malmö. She told me that she went whirling into the house all excited, wanting to tell of her life in Malmö and showing off her dancing ability. But her reception was other than she had expected. It seems that her mother felt that dancing was a sin and told mother that she hoped she would never dance again. Mother never again danced. She and dad did do quite a bit of ice skating together and I understand that both were quite good.

Dreaming of America

From 1900 Ida lived and worked as a maid in the home of the baker Lars Jönsson, Höör and at the cooperative dairy. But the dream of a better life in America was Ida’s dream as well. She also had several cousins (her mother Emelie’s siblings’ children) in America who urged her to come over. One day at the end of July 1902, she left the small *torp* in the middle of Skåne. With a cousin from Denmark, she left for the Promised Land.

My impression is that her original plans were not necessarily to remain here in the United States. However, after visiting cousins^A in New York, Washington and Philadelphia she went to work as a governess in a home in Philadelphia. Here she met Marie Bergman, my father’s sister, who was the cook for the family. Through her she met father.

^A *Cousins* may here be seen in a wider context, i.e. *relatives*. A fact is, though, that Ida had first cousins (children of her mother’s sister Petronella) in New York and Philadelphia. See also the chapter *From Höör to Philadelphia*, page 69.

In June 1907 Ida learned that her mother Emelie was seriously ill, so she resigned her job and went home to Sweden. A few days after Ida came home, Emelie died of pneumonia, 56 years old.



Ida's parents and siblings in front of Tullskog, about 1905.

Ida marries

Ida returned to the United States a few weeks after her mother's death. At that time the States was the home of nearly 600,000 Swedish-born persons and 700,000 second-generation Swedish-Americans. Sweden had 5.5 million inhabitants. Thus, it can be claimed that about every fifth Swede lived in the USA.²⁶²

One month after returning to America, Ida married the nine days younger Carl Leopold Bergmann. Carl was born in Bad Salzflén (roughly 50 miles southwest of Hanover, Germany). He was about six years old when his father Casper died. His mother Wilhelmina then took the children Marie and Carl with her and went to America, where they arrived in Philadelphia in 1892.

Carl and Ida Bergmann settled in the southern part of Philadelphia after their wedding in August 1907. Philadelphia was at that time, with its 1.5 million inhabitants, the third biggest city in the United States.^A

Their first home in Philadelphia was at 2316 South Woodstock Street; a narrow, tree lined street in South Philadelphia. Here my sister, Ida Marie, was born July 18, 1908. She lived only a year. July 17, 1910, I was born in the same home. In 1912 we moved to 2813 West Clementine Street, the first home I can recall.



Ida Bergman.

In 1921, the family moved to East Camden, New Jersey, where they owned an ice cream shop on 116 North 27th Street. Around 1923, Ida became ill which significantly affected the family's finances.

With her illness it became necessary for me to be at home to help out more in the store. As a result I lost a great deal of time at school and ran into difficulties in keeping up with my studies. I was nearly 16 now and since times were hard I went out looking for work.

Ida's son Charles found work at the Keystone Telephone Company. He also enrolled at Temple University evening school to continue his education.

In those days there was no Blue Cross–Blue Shield or other medical coverage as we know it today. As a result, any extended illness soon depleted one's savings. To augment his income father went back to his old trade of welding. This time he went to work for the Heinz Manufacturing Company in North Philadelphia. This meant about three hours travel each day. Then after he arrived at home after a day's work he started again and worked in the store until about midnight. This was a long, long workday. During the day, mother, a girl about 20 who lived with us, and I ran the store.

Ida's health became so poor in 1926 that her husband had to quit his welding job and instead to be at home and take care of the business. Ida was admitted to a hospital in early July and passed

^A It was actually a group of Swedes that already in the 1640s were the first to settle at the place which later became Philadelphia.

on her son Charles' 16th birthday on July 17. Ida was only 41 years old. She was buried four days later in a burial ground that Carl bought at Fernwood Cemetery in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

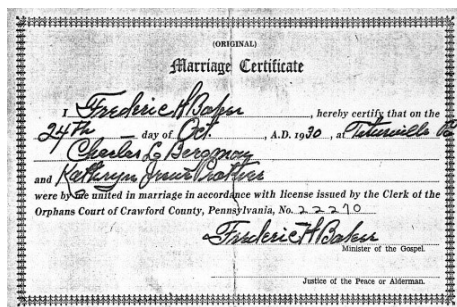
The widower Carl soon lost all interest in the store. He sold out for what he could get and fought his way through the Depression^A in various ways. He worked, for example, for a bus company and on his son Charles' chicken farm before retiring in 1957. Carl Bergman died at the age of 90 on October 1, 1975.

Chicken farmer and education manager

Charles lived with his father in the fall of 1929. Besides working and studying, he also took violin lessons under William F. Hapich, "one of the best violin teachers in Philadelphia"²⁶³.

He also met Kathryn Irene Prather. She was 19 years old, came from Titusville, Pennsylvania, and was the daughter of John Vernon and Roxie Peebles Prather. John Prather descended from one of three Prather brothers who came to America from England in the early 18th century. He was a well-known veterinarian in Titusville and its surrounding area. He specialized in larger animals such as horses and cows, as he was not particularly keen on taking care of dogs, cats, and the like.

During this period, I had been rooming, with my father, in a rooming house in central Philadelphia. It was while living here that good fortune smiled on me when I met that certain girl on September day in 1929. Events moved swiftly and we were married October 24, 1930. As it turned out, the best move I ever made.



^A The Great Depression was the economic crisis that hit the US after the stock market crash in 1929. One reason was that the workers' and farmers' income was too low in proportion to the price of food and other necessities. This meant that people were not able to buy all the merchandise that was produced. The result was that banks and companies went bankrupt and unemployment increased heavily (www.so-rummet.se).

This was the time of the great depression and life was not easy. However, we had each other, and we were very happy. Working conditions were so different at that time. We received no paid holidays, no vacations, and no paid sick leave. Likewise, there was no unemployment compensation. When you were out of work, you were out of money. One was expected to work eight hours for eight hours pay. Coffee breaks? Unheard of! Pay rates were very low, for those lucky enough to have work, with many people working for less than \$20.00 per week. Clerks in stores received \$12.00 to \$15.00 per week and were very happy to get it. Although goods were cheap, at those incomes, people could buy just the bare necessities. Most people could not afford automobiles and such things as summer homes were unheard of for any but the very rich.

In 1932, Charles and Kathryn Bergman moved from Philadelphia to the New Jersey countryside where rents were cheaper. Then they moved to a house in Runnemede, New Jersey, in 1934. The property had a henhouse, so they were able to reduce food costs with the help of some hens as well as with what they could grow in the garden. This was also the beginning of Charles' and Kathryn's chicken raising business.

A few years later, they bought an old farmhouse and had a henhouse with about 500 chickens. They received their son Allen, after Kathryn first had given birth to a stillborn girl as well as to a girl who died shortly after birth.

March 31, 1937, proved to be quite a day. On that day our first son was born, the chicks hatched out and the cat had kittens! As I said, we were expanding!

While Charles and Kathryn ran their chicken farm, Charles also worked at the Keystone Telephone Company^A, later taken over by Bell. Charles chose to stay after the takeover and worked for Bell until retirement.

In order to get to work in Philadelphia, I took a train to Camden, a ferry boat to Philadelphia, a subway train to the center of the city, and then walked nearly half a mile to the office. In order to be at work at 8:00 A.M. I left home at 6:10 A.M. I got home again at 6:30 P.M.

^A Keystone Telephone Company of Philadelphia conducted business beginning January 1902 until September 1945 and utilized telephones manufactured by American Electric with attributes specific to Keystone (www.phonemandave.net).

Charles got transferred to Bradford, Pennsylvania, in 1945. Charles' and Kathryn's second son, Gerald Vernon, was born there in December 1946.

Charles was numerous times promoted within the company, which resulted in quite a few relocations for the family. Among other places, they lived in Warren, Pennsylvania, for some years in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Kathryn and Charles were members of the Grace Methodist church in Warren. Charles often played his violin in concerts and services. He played Andantino by Fritz Kreisler at a concert in September 1948, and "Mrs. Bergman accompanied her husband's violin selection"²⁶⁴. Charles was also active in the church as a scout leader.

The family came to Pittsburg in 1957, after Charles had been appointed head of certain parts of the company's internal training. He was given an administrative managerial post in 1964 but did not like it much there, so he retired as a 60-year-old in 1970.

Shortly after retirement, Charles and Kathryn moved to her childhood town of Titusville, Pennsylvania. During the next few years they bought a house for themselves and a couple of houses that they renovated and rented out.



Kathryn and Charles Bergman.

Searched for his roots

When Charles' mother Ida died in 1926, the family's contact with Sweden was broken, except for occasional letters. It was not until many years later that Charles seriously and with great interest began to try to reconnect with his Swedish relatives.

About 1932 or -33 I received a letter written in English from my cousin Emil ... We corresponded for a short time; then the Second World War started, and we lost contact with each other. Unknown to me, Emil had tried to contact me after the war, but had been unsuccessful. When the possibility of a trip to Sweden became apparent, I attempted to contact him. I also started studying Swedish, by records, self-help books and private tutoring at the University of Pittsburg.

The letters Charles sent to Emil were returned with “addressee unknown”. Charles then wrote a letter in English to the Postmaster in Höör, asking for help in locating the cousin. Time passed without Charles receiving any response.

Contact established and visit to Sweden

A new letter from Charles, this time in Swedish, resulted after a few weeks in a reply with a request for further information about age, other relatives etc. Charles supplied the information he had about his Swedish relatives. Shortly thereafter he received a reply with names and addresses for Emil and his siblings. Emil and Charles exchanged letters for a while, but then Ester became Charles’ main contact in Sweden.

– It was he who took the initiative. Otherwise we would never have had contact with each other, says Charles’ cousin Ester Nilsson. We no longer had addresses for anyone in America. It was a great joy to get in touch with them!²⁶⁵

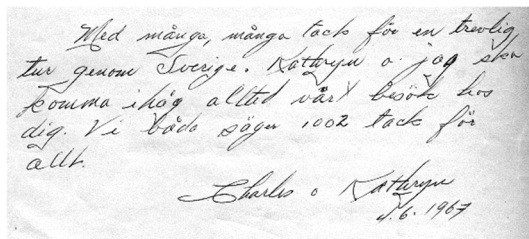
Her letters were interesting and told us much about their lives and work in Sweden. They did not, however, tell us just what kind of people all my Swedish relatives were.

But Charles and Kathryn decided to go to Sweden to meet their Swedish relatives. On May 18, 1967, Kathryn and Charles left Pittsburg at 4:30 PM and arrived in Malmö at 9:40 A.M (local time) the following day.

It was with some concern that we embarked on the trip to Sweden to meet all my Swedish relatives. On meeting them we soon found them to be our “kind of folks” and we got along well together.

Charles had learned quite a bit of Swedish by that time. He was therefore able to speak a great deal even with his older Swedish relatives that did not speak English. They managed to communi-

cate despite their relatives' strong Skåne-dialect that was not like what Charles had learned through the language training records. A few years later, Charles and Kathryn were back in Sweden, but then on a shorter visit since Charles at that time mainly wanted to connect with his father's roots in Germany.



"With many, many thanks for a nice tour through Sweden. Kathryn and I will always remember our visit with you. We both say 1002 thanks for everything."

My aunt Ester, her brother Gustaf and his wife Maja visited their relatives in the United States in the early 1970s. A couple of years later Emil's daughter Ulla stayed with Charles and Kathryn for three weeks in connection with an international scout jamboree.

Because my parents didn't know any English, it became my role in our family to maintain contact with Charles and Kathryn. In the 1980s Charles and Kathryn moved to Florida, where Charles died in 1992 followed four years later by Kathryn.

Four generations in 1972.

Front: Charles and his father Carl (Charles, Sr.); Al's son Kent), Kathryn, and Al's wife Nancy; Gerald (Jerry,) and Allen (Al).



Credit manager and dedicated motorcyclist

Charles and Kathryn's son David Allen (Al) Bergman was born in 1937 in Runnemede, New Jersey. The family lived in Warren, Pennsylvania, in 1950 when Al got involved in a serious accident.

At about 8:15 p.m. on December 13, Al and two other boys were riding a sled on a street in Warren when they crashed into a car. Carl Stapfer, 18, was the most seriously injured of them.

His condition is listed this morning as poor, and it is thought that he is suffering from a skull fracture. In fair condition are Theodore G. Huber, 13 ... and Allen Bergman, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Bergman, 205 Dartmouth street ... The Bergman boy is suffering from a fracture of the left leg, possible fracture of the collarbone and a large laceration of the left arm.²⁶⁶

According to newspaper reports, the accident occurred about 20 feet south of the Lincoln avenue intersection. There was only one streetlight and "a dark shadow ... making it almost impossible to see any vehicle not lighted".

All three boys were riding the sled, a brand new one with the price tag still hanging on a string on the guiding bar. The Stapfer youth was at the bottom of the pile attempting to guide the sled. Huber was in the middle and Bergman on top. Police said that it was impossible to control the sled in such a manner. One of the boys told police that he said to Stapfer, "Do you think you can miss him?", and that was all he remembered until he regained consciousness in the hospital.²⁶⁷

While Al and Ted Huber recovered from the accident, their five years older friend did not survive.

Coroner Edward Lowry will conduct an inquest in the death of Carl Statford^A, 18, victim of a sled-automobile crash which occurred on Central Avenue here last Wednesday evening. Statford died in the Warren General Hospital Saturday night without regaining consciousness. The inquest will be delayed pending the recovery of the of the dead boy's companions – Allen Bergman, 13, and Ted Hunter, 14 – who were on the sled with him at the time of the accident. The funeral of the unfortunate lad will be held tomorrow.²⁶⁸

^A Correct name: *Stapfer*.

Music, work, and family

Al attended high school a few years after the accident. And he was a keen violin player, just like his father.

Fourteen members of the Warren High School Orchestra left by train early this morning for Erie, where they will participate in the three-day Northwest District Orchestra Festival. Comprising the group were ... Allen Bergman ... and Arlene Rydgren.²⁶⁹



December 1954: "Registering the first student, violinist Allen Bergman of Warren, Pa."

Al graduated in 1955 from Grove City College in Pennsylvania after studying economics and other subjects. In 1958 he married Nancy Lee Young and in May 1959 their son David Kent was born. The family moved north to Erie^A a few years later followed by a move to the Pittsburgh area around 1965. Among other jobs, Al worked during 1965–1970 for the multinational steel company US Steel, whose head office is in Pittsburgh.



Al and Nora Bergman October 16, 1982.

Al, Nancy and Kent moved to California in 1970. Their marriage was dissolved in May 1980.

In October 1982 Al married Nora Chuck in Berkeley, California. A few years later they settled in Benicia, about 30 miles northeast of San Francisco.

^A Erie is situated by Lake Erie in the northwestern part of Pennsylvania.

Al and Nora created their family through open adoption with Christian (born 1988) and Sarah Christine (born 1994).

Open adoption established identities, answered the *why's*, provided other significant connections/relationships for our children and is an integral part of our lives. The gifts of open adoption are other adults providing unconditional love and soft places to land for our children, who in turn feel empowered to try, fail, regroup, try again and ultimately flourish. And for our children's birth families, comes the peace of mind in seeing the children mature and being able to play important roles in their development.²⁷⁰



Nora and Al Bergman, 2014.

Upon moving to California Al became district credit manager at US Steel in San Francisco in 1970. In 1980 he became vice president and general credit manager of the paper distribution company Unisource Worldwide, a position he held until 2000.



He was also a reserve police officer at the East Bay Regional Park District between 1975 and 1997, and later a part time public safety officer at the California Maritime Academy.

When Al became a Reserve Police Officer with the East Bay Regional Park District, he combined his love for the outdoors with his desire for helping people. He often called himself "Officer Al, the people's pal", and believed he was helping to right wrongs and make his small corner of the world a better, safer place.²⁷¹

"Officer Al, the people's pal".

Long journeys on his HD

As far as his hobbies were concerned, Al was a dedicated photographer, but perhaps even more a dedicated motorcyclist. He did not hesitate to make really long trips. At least twice he drove across the continent to his brother Jerry, in Pennsylvania. Such a round trip is more than 5000 miles.

Recently, Allen drove his Harley-Davidson across the country, and stayed with us for a few days. It was a very nice visit, and I wish we didn't live that far apart. I have respect for the energy and courage needed to make such a journey at the age of 77.²⁷²

Al Bergman was also active in Heritage Presbyterian Church. He loved singing in the choir. He was for a time also the congregation's treasurer.

Al was a perfectionist. He let the family know which hymns were on the choir's schedule because he practiced – often, loudly, and early on Sunday mornings!²⁷³

Unfortunately, over the years Al suffered multiple accidents with his Harley-Davidson. The accidents took its toll on his body and led to increasing pain over the years. David Allen Bergman died on January 18, 2019; 81 years old.^{A, 274}



^A Al and I had quite frequent contacts after Charles and Kathryn had died. In 1995, our son Pär was the first in our family to visit Nora and Al. One year later Ingemo and I had a very enjoyable stay with them. A few years later our other son, Johan, visited Al and Nora. Ingemo and I made two more visits to them in Benicia, in 2004 and in 2014.

Following are a few excerpts from the family's remembrance of Al at his memorial service.

Al was quick-tempered but was equally quick to get over it and apologize. Beneath his seemingly rough exterior was a soft and sensitive side – and those who saw it knew they had a friend for life who had their backs. He was especially gentle and tender with children and animals. He was a humble man who would be amazed at this gathering and wonder what all the fuss was about.

Al was stubborn! He had many accidents falling off ladders, step stools, brick walls, etc., and almost amputated his own arm with a reciprocating saw after he lost his balance and fell. All of his doctors warned him to stay off ladders, but he ignored their advice, saying, “They don't know what I can *do*!”

Al was generous but also economical. He seldom spent money on firewood – likening that to literally burning money! When Al and Nora were driving for errands or medical appointments, and he spied fallen tree limbs, he would circle back, survey the area and return with his chain saw for free wood. He refused to pay for handyman repairs that he felt he could or should be able to do. He did not consider the time it took to complete the repairs that he inevitably puzzled over, or how long the toilet, sink, bathtub or whatever he was working on was unusable until he was done. His thinking was that at least he did not *pay* anybody to do what he was capable of repairing.



Last Christmas together: Al, Nora, Christian, Sarah, and Sarah's boyfriend; 2018.^A

Al lived more in one lifetime than many. We were blessed to have him for as long as we did and are relieved, he is no longer suffering. He has joined his parents, brother Jerry and many other relatives and friends and they are enjoying a reunion of the ages.²⁷⁵

After Al's death, his widow Nora stayed in the house in Benicia.

I have held accounting positions – private and public (Certified Public Accountant) my entire career. I am now retired, enjoying family, friends, gardening, reading, hiking, raising our dog and volunteering in our church and community.

Al is missed every day in every possible way. I have found comfort, though, in words like these:

“When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn’t tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy that we had so many years.”

“Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.” ²⁷⁶

Salesman, guitarist, and radio DJ

Having previously been married in a childless marriage, Al and Nancy Bergman’s son David Kent got married to Mary Greenham in September 2014. That was a wedding my wife Ingemo and I had the pleasure of attending. Kent and Mary lived in Scotts Valley, north of Santa Cruz, California.

While his wife Mary has been a social worker for the Santa Cruz County, Kent has worked primarily in the refrigeration, focusing on factories, restaurants, and the like. He is an inside salesman for United Refrigeration. He worked for them in San



Wedding, 2014.

Leandro for ten years, and has now (2020) worked in San Jose for the last two years. Kent also carried out extra work at concerts arranged by a former winery.

– I’ve also recently worked for Mountain Winery in Saratoga^A. It’s pretty cool. They have a lot of concerts up there where I’ve been hooked up as an usher. I’ve been doing it this season too, like from end of May to first part of October. I worked 34 shows last year, all kinds of bands.²⁷⁷

^A Mountain Winery was founded by wine maker Paul Masson and was previously called Paul Masson Mountain Winery.

Kent is very interested in music, and with his guitar he has performed in a variety of contexts. He has also presented the voluntary radio program Six String Heaven, that is broadcast live from KKUP in San José every Wednesday at 3-6 a.m.^A



– I told them I was gonna quit the radio show, ‘cause next month it’ll be two years I’ve been doing that. But from April I’ll shave an hour off my show and do 4 to 6, so I’ll get an hour more sleep.

Could it be the diligent walking in the Californian nature that gives Kent so much energy?

– We’ve been hiking a lot, and we did 22 miles in two days last weekend. So, we’re hiking a lot, working a lot!²⁷⁸

Education through military service

Al and Nora Bergman’s son Christian graduated in 2010 with a degree in neuroscience. For a few years he studied medicine as a Navy officer, and in 2020 he was continuing his education.

I was commissioned again as an officer, this time through the United States Air Force, and attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. I will be graduating in May 2021, with the goal of joining the field of Emergency Medicine.²⁷⁹



Christian in Banff, Canada, 2018²⁸⁰.

Christian married Caitlin Gooding in 2013, but the marriage has been dissolved.

^A Broadcasted through both FM-radio and Internet and can thus be heard worldwide. Kent sometimes gives a shout out to “my cousin Charley in Sweden” – great fun to hear “live” on my side of the Atlantic! Broadcasting hours later changed to 5–8 a.m.

Al's and Nora's daughter Sarah was trained as a mechanic in the Navy. In 2019 she left the navy, and in 2020 she is pursuing her Airframe and Powerplant Certificate through the Aviation Institute of Maintenance.



*Giving Mom a Christmas hug.
Nora and Sarah Bergman.*

Pioneer in Internet commerce

Al Bergman's brother Gerald "Jerry, Vernon was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania in 1946. Jerry started his school years after the family had moved to Warren, Pennsylvania. He showed artistic talents already at the age of 6, when he and other pupils of Warren elementary schools, under the guidance of their teachers, made posters in recognition of Dental Health Week.



Jerry, and his mother.

Motivated by their lessons in health ... children used art as a means of expressing their awareness in the proper care of their teeth. The contest was sponsored by the Warren County Dental Association ... the posters were judged on readability, originality, problem solving and sensitivity to design ... The following pupils were given recognition for their work. Grade one ... Second prize, Jerry Bergman, Lacy School; Third prize ...²⁸¹

After graduating from Penn State University at State College majoring in psychology, Jerry, applied to the Navy. There he became a lieutenant and was rewarded in 1971 with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal of Merit. While in the Navy, he met Linda Conrad in Washington, D.C. and they married in 1973.



Ester Nilsson visiting her American relatives, about 1978. Charles, Ester, Kathryn, Linda, Angela, and Jerry.

The couple moved to State College, Pennsylvania, where Jerry, earned a master's degree in business administration (MBA).

Linda and Jerry then settled in Pittsburg, where their children Angela and Adam were born in 1976 and 1978. When Jerry's parents Charles and Kathryn settled in Deland, Florida, Jerry, and his family located to Orlando to be closer to them.

Jerry, had a successful and varied entrepreneurial career over the years. He owned the health food business Harvest Time Natural Foods in Orlando. His children Angela and Adam have many fond memories of the store where they sold dried fruits, nuts, and vitamins. They even had a restaurant at the back.



The family moved to Palm Beach Gardens in 1986, where Kristin and Jonathan were born in 1989 and 1996. There Jerry became a pioneer in starting up Internet businesses.

Linda, Adam, Angela, and Jerry; about 1981.

After twenty years in Florida, Jerry,, Linda and their two youngest children returned to Pennsylvania, where they settled in State College.

Jerry's real passion was family and chess. His love for chess had begun already in his younger days.

Nine members of The Pennsylvania State University Varsity Chess Team will participate in the National Intercollegiate Chess Championship to be held at Fondham University, New York, N. Y., from Dec. 26 through Dec. 29 [1953]. Participating will be ... Gerald V. Bergman, Pittsburg ... and Robert J. Szendro, Allentown.²⁸²

Jerry, taught all his children to play chess. He never gave up and let them win, because he wanted them to be good enough to win by their own power. In recent years, Jerry dedicated a lot of time and passion to a local chess club that he formed in honor of his mentor, Donald Byrne.



Jerry and Linda with Swedish guest. Ohio River, Pittsburg, October 2012.

There he organized tournaments and liked to teach children and adults, and thus shared his love for the game.

On August 30, 2018, Jerry Bergman died after battling Myelodysplastic syndrome, a pre-leukemia that results in bone marrow overproducing blood cells that are not functional

Sad to report that Jerry, passed away on Thursday 8-30. On the bright side, he is no longer suffering. Love to all, AI.²⁸³

Victim of Agent Orange

The cancer was believed to be a result of the exposure Jerry suffered during the Vietnam War by the herbicide Agent Orange.

The US military used that to spray over North Vietnamese forests and crops. It led to terrible suffering and hundreds of thousands of malformed Vietnamese children.

In June 2018 I received the following message from Al:

I spent June 5-June 9 with Jerry. Had I not known it was him, I would not have recognized him /.../I had a conversation with Linda on Wednesday - not good news. Jerry is now considered ineligible for a bone marrow transplant. His own marrow is not producing the blood elements needed. Radiation and chemo are not considered helpful. So, he is being taken home on the 21st and I guess they will be talking with hospice people. He has been given about 6 months to live.²⁸⁴

According to Al, Jerry had been exposed to Agent Orange during his service on the USS Regulus as they were storing containers with the poison on the ship. In addition, they used boiled water containing Agent Orange believing that the water would thereby be safe as washing and drinking water.

The USS Regulus (AF-57) was a cargo ship acquired by the United States Navy. The ship's task was to carry stores, refrigerated items, and equipment to ships in the fleet, and to remote stations and staging areas. From 1964 on, it was used to support the Seventh Fleet's operations outside Vietnam. While riding out a typhoon at Hong Kong, Regulus got grounded on Kau I Chau Island on 17 August 1971, ripping open her hull. The damage was so severe that the ship was taken off duty and scrapped.²⁸⁵

When Jerry, was 52, he had problems with his immune system, which made him periodically very weak and unable to resist infections. Several of his companions on the ship had died when they were about that age, but Jerry managed to survive them by nearly 20 years.

Gerald Vernon Bergman, age 71 years, of State College, quietly passed from this life to the next at 5:30 a.m. on August 30, 2018. Jerry was surrounded by loved ones at home, after a valiant battle with cancer.²⁸⁶

Jerry, was buried at Boalsburg Cemetery in Boalsburg, with military honors following a memorial service, on September 4 at Mount Nittany United Methodist Church in State College.

We miss him very much, but consider ourselves so fortunate to have had him in our lives. He was honest, good, caring and kind. My mom is thank-

ful for him as a husband and partner in life and each of us (my siblings and I) are thankful for his positive and enduring influence in our lives. We consider ourselves very blessed.²⁸⁷

Linda continued to live in the house on Asbury Lane in State College after her husband died. She had a long absence from work, but then went back to her job as a preschool teacher. In 2020, Linda moved to a house on Cedar Boulevard in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania to enjoy more time with family, including her daughter Angela who lived just a couple of streets away.

Next generation

Jerry's and Linda's daughter Angela met and married Brodie Brockman while living in southern Florida, but in 2002 they moved to Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. Angela has a psychology degree from Penn State^A, and worked there as an administrator in 2020.

Angela and Brodie have three children, Carson (born 1999), Sophia (2001) and Conrad (2005).

Angela's brother Adam attended Harvard Medical School and has thereafter undergone further training. He became endodontist^B with his own practice in the Orlando area.

Adam married Camille Cañelas in 2004, and my wife Ingemo and I had the pleasure of attending their wedding.



Adam and Camille, July 18, 2004.

^A Pennsylvania State University, State College.

^B *Endodontics* is a part of odontology that includes the pulp disease condition and its prevention, treatment, and prognosis. It is also a clinical specialty where a specialist trained dentist (endodontist) performs particularly complicated root canal treatment. (en.wikipedia.org).

At that occasion we also got to meet Jerry, Linda, and their family for the first time. Camille and Adam have two sons, Joshua (born 2011) and David (born 2013).

Adam's sister Kristin lived in Hillsborough, North Carolina, in 2020 with her partner Jameson Parker and their two cats, Poésy and Bear. Kristin works in global public health. She graduated with her Master of Public Health in 2018 from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has worked with North Carolina Division of Public Health (as an epidemiologist and statistician) and with the United Nations (as a data analyst). She likes nature and crossword puzzles and meeting new people from around the world.

I love my family and find myself lucky to have grown up with two awesome, loving, lovely and supportive parents. My favorite memories are of family road trips (both as a child and the trips my parents took to visit me in Atlanta and North Carolina while I was in graduate school), talking about genealogy and family history with both my mom and my dad, baking with my mom, and doing crossword puzzles with my dad.²⁸⁸

Jerry's and Linda's youngest child Jonathan graduated from Penn State. He then had medical training at Saint Louis University in Saint Louis, Missouri. After his second year in the program, he spent the summer of 2019 completing research at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He then returned to Saint Louis University to complete the final two years of his medical degree program. His goal was to concentrate his research and surgery on the neck and face, specifically on how to remove cancer-affected tissue and skeleton and restore the facial shape to help people return to a more normal life.



*Jonathan, Kristin, and Angela 2018.*²⁸⁹

Afterword

The first time I had contact with an American relative was in 1967. That was when my father's first cousin Charles Bergman and his wife Kathryn visited Sweden. Since then I have met other members of the Bergman family, and during the last couple of years I have also been in touch with people in North America who are related to me through other common ancestors.

It has been a great experience to get in touch with, and to learn at least a little bit about some of my relatives on the other side of the Atlantic. Most of them are people that I did not know existed just a couple of years ago. I do hope we can stay in touch even after this book is published.

But it all started with the Bergman family. Although my wife Ingemo and I have only spent a few days on a couple of occasions with them, the friendship with Al and Jerry Bergman and their families has meant a lot to us. Their generosity and warmth when we have met, as well as the letters, emails and occasional phone calls over the years, has meant that despite all those miles of distance, we still have felt a closeness and friendship that has continued to this day.

Rydebäck, December, 2020
Charley Nilsson

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Sources and notes

The information that to a great extent form the basis of this story has been taken from countless church registers, US censuses and other official documents. These have been obtained via genealogical databases such as ArkivDigital (arkivdigital.se) and Ancestry (ancestry.se, ancestry.com). These sources are too numerous to be included here but are referred to when direct quotes have been used as well as in some other cases.

All the information that relatives, genealogists and others have so generously shared with me are of great importance (see *Author's notes*, page 5).

Among the books that have been used for historical information are

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- 28 Photo: Vernal Lind, Christmas 2015. From Lind's Facebook.
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- 30 Photo Adolph and Elvida Rosenquist from Samantha Frederick family tree, Ancestry.
- 31 Chris Rosenquist.
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