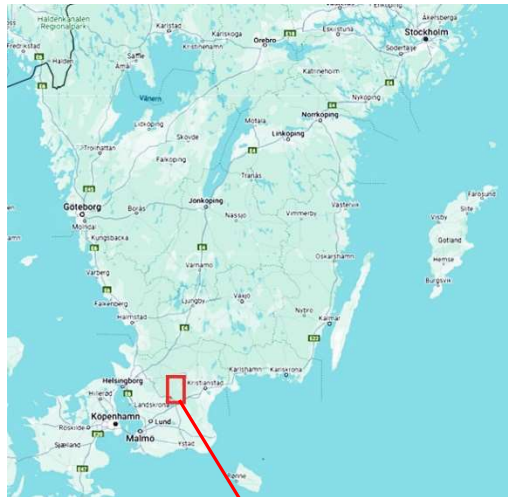


Genealogy trip in Skåne

2024



Genealogy trip in Skåne June 19–20, 2024

Having genealogy data on international websites may lead to messages from previously unknown relatives and meetings with them.

On April 11, 2024, I received a message via Ancestry from somebody called Jessica who lived in California:

My family and I are taking a trip to Sweden in June in celebration of my father's 70th birthday. His family came over to the US from Sweden and we've always talked about taking a trip to the area where his family lived. I've been doing some research to identify some of the towns and areas, and I saw your family tree come up a lot. You have done a lot of work on it!

I have been trying to figure out how our family is connected, and it looks like your great-grandmother, Anna Nilsson, was sister with my great-great-great grandfather, Mans Nilsson (married to Selia).

Mans and Selia had a daughter named Ida (married to Johan Nordholm) - they travelled to the United States with their children, one of whom was Johan Bernhard Nordholm/Neilson. Johan B had a son named Albert Neilson, who was my grandfather. His son, John Neilson, is my dad.

After a quick look in my genealogy files, I found that Jessica was right. This meant that Ida Månsson Nordholm, who migrated to the US in 1906, was first cousin to my father's mother Amanda. But as more years passed between the generations on the Swedish side than in the US part of the family, it also meant that I (b. 1947) was third cousin to Jessica's grandfather (b. 1927) while my grandson Filip was fifth cousin to Jessica.

Anyway, one message led to another, and on June 12 Jessica, her husband Kit and daughter Johanna, her parents John och Joan, and brother Adam and his girlfriend McKenna, came to Sweden. After a few days in Stockholm and Gotland, they went down to Sweden's southernmost region, Skåne, where they stayed a few days near Ystad.

With my wife Ingemo and grandson Filip I was honoured to show our American relatives some places where their ancestor **Ida Månsson** and members of her family used to live and were buried.

Charley Nilsson



With our American guests outside our house in Rydebäck. Front row: Ingemo, Jessica, Johanna, Filip, Joan; back row: Pär, McKenna, Adam, Kit, Johan, Annette, John and Charley.¹

Linderöd



The church in Linderöd was built during the latter part of the 12th century. Over the entrance is a relief of about the same age.

The migrant Ida Månsson's sister Hilda and her husband Oskar Persson were buried in the Linderöd graveyard.



Häglinge



Ida Månsson was born in Stenshult, about a mile south of Häglinge. Her parents were Mån Nilsson and Selia (Cecilia) Nilsdotter. Their gravestone is still standing in the old graveyard in Häglinge.

Ida and her family lived at Röslöv, just north of Häglinge, when they migrated 118 years ago.



At Mån's and Selia's grave: McKenna, Adam, John, Joan, Jessica with Johanna, and Kit.

John resting at the gravestone of his father's father's mother's parents.

Norra Mellby

The church in Norra Mellby was consecrated around 1150 and was added to a few hundred years later. The tower is from 1917.



Ida Månsson's mother Selia Nilsson's parents, Nils Eriksson (1816–1910) and Elna Åkesdotter (1816–1880), are buried in *Nils Erikssons familjegrav* (family grave) in Håglinge.

Kullahyttan

Less than a mile south of Hovdala Slott (castle) there once was a croft where Måns Lustig (1796–1830) and his wife Hanna Persdotter (1794–1874) lived. Their daughter Johanna Månsdotter was born there in 1822 and became mother of Måns Nilsson, Ida Månsson's father. Johanna's sister Anna Nilsson had a daughter called Amanda who became my father's mother.



Today nothing remains of Måns Lustig's croft, but most likely it was located just about here.

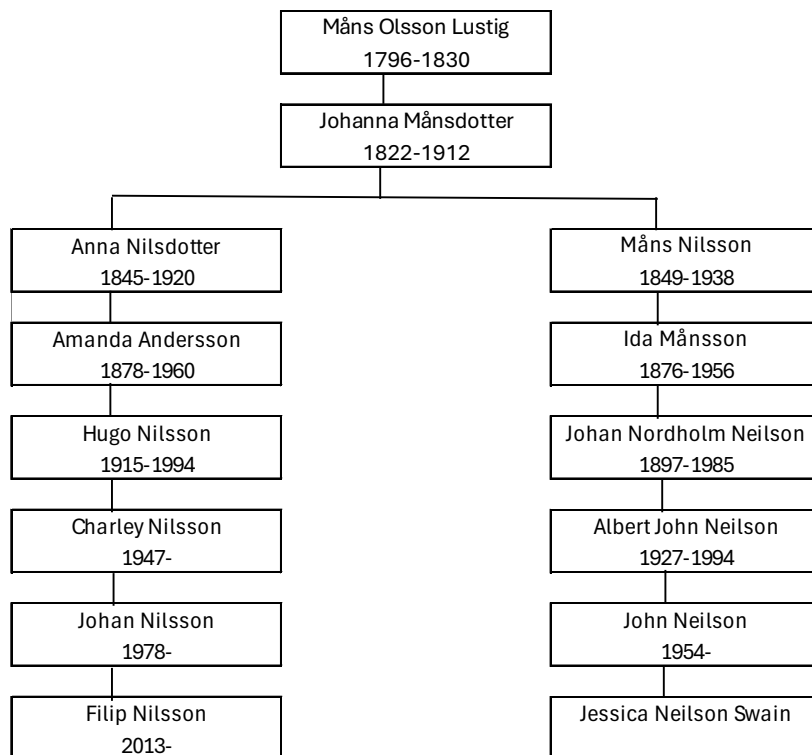




Kullahyttan in the early 1900's.²

Generations

Below are some of the descendants of Måns Lustig and Hanna Persdotter, just to show the generations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.



Höör

Höör in the middle of Skåne has two graveyards, one of them being *Klockarebackens kyrkogård* where Emma Jönsson (born Månsdotter 1891) is buried with her husband Oskar Jönsson and other members of their family. Emma was another of Ida Månsson's sisters.

Emma's first cousin Amanda had a son called Gustaf (my father's brother) who is also buried there with his wife Maja.

While visiting Höör we also showed our American relatives the place where Amanda's house once stood, as well as the house (still standing) where Oskar Jönsson had his bakery.

In 1932 my father Hugo started his career as a baker by learning the trade at Oskar's bakery. Five years later Ella Persson, a woman from Billesholm in the north-west part of Skåne, started working in Oskar's bakery shop. Ella and Hugo married in 1938 and had two sons, my brother Lennart (born 1939) and me (1947).



Dalby

Even though we (as far as I know) have no relatives buried in Dalby, we wanted our guests to see the old church there. Berit Olsson, a first cousin of mine, arranged on June 20 for us to be guided there (in English) by a friend of hers, Anita Larsson.

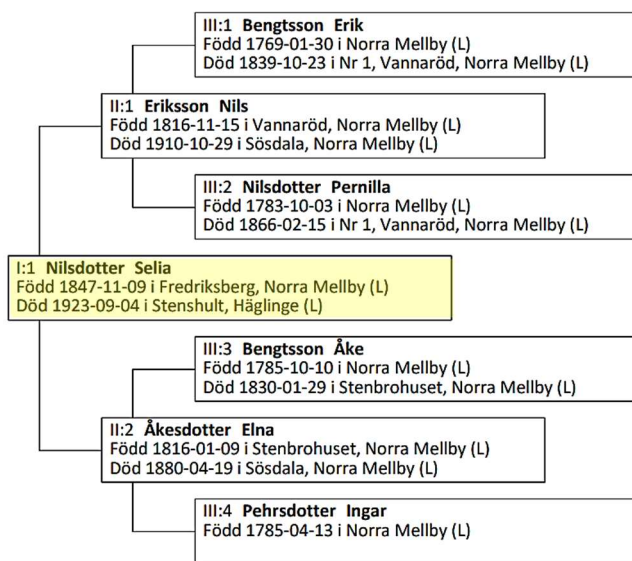
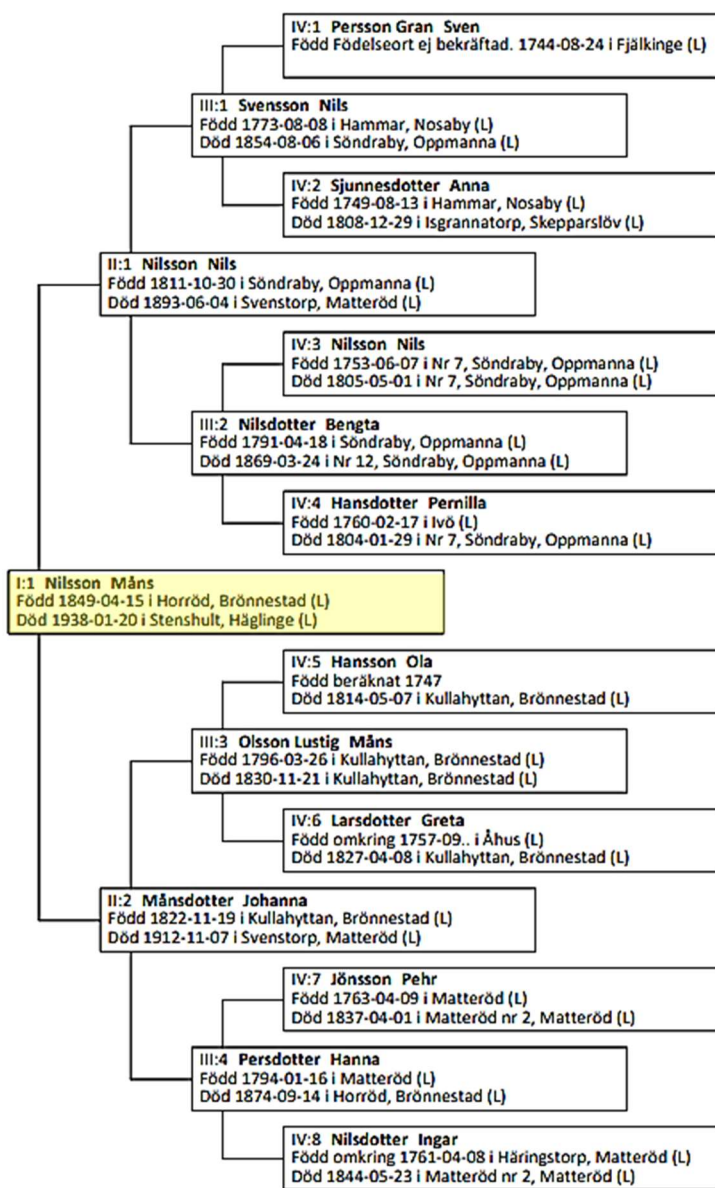
Dalby Church (Swedish: Dalby kyrka), sometimes also called the Church of the Holy Cross in Dalby (Heligkorskyrkan i Dalby) is a church in Dalby, Lund Municipality in the Swedish province of Scania. It is one of the oldest churches in Sweden. When it was built Dalby was part of Denmark, and the church was commissioned by King Sweyn II of Denmark. It was constructed during the second half of the 11th century. For six years, it served as the seat of a bishop, before the diocese was merged with the Diocese of Lund nearby. The church was built with inspiration from Hildesheim Cathedral, and masons from Hildesheim appear to have worked on its construction site.³



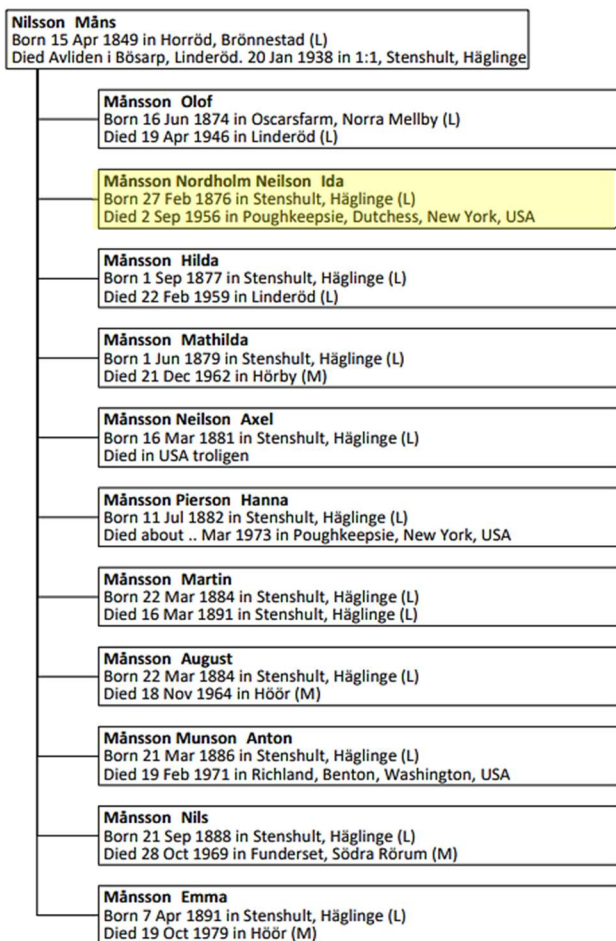
The original church was built in the 1060's, but it has been changed several times and was once twice the size compared to today. It is considered to be the oldest stone-church in Scandinavia still in use.

Ancestors of Måns Nilsson and Selia Nilsdotter

Please note that in Sweden we write dates Year–Month–Day!



Their children



Månssons from Häglinge

*This final part consists of excerpts (in a few cases slightly edited) from **Across the Atlantic – Swedish migrants and their descendants**^A, that I published in 2020. See that book for further details regarding other migrants in that family, as well as other migrating families related to me.*

Måns and Selia

In Kullahyttan, a soldier's croft in Brönnestad parish in Skåne, 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 farmer in Horröd, Nils Nilsson. The couple had eight children, including their daughter Anna^B, 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*^C Måns was married in Norra Mellby to the slightly older *piga*^D Selia Nilsson 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.

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 one 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.

As was common among Swedes arriving in America, they modified their names. Their surname became Neilson (John's family name was Nilsson^E before he got his soldier's name Nordholm). 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.^{4, F}

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

John at the Balloon Company

John Bernhard Nordholm Neilson 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.

^A This book, as well as other genealogy books that I have written, can be found on our website www.vindogatan62.se under *Släktforskning*.

^B Anna Nilsson was my father's mother's mother.

^C *Dräng* = farm hand.

^D *Piga* = farm maid.

^E Until the decades around 1900, a person's family names came from his/her father. See *Across the Atlantic*, page 13.

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

He then served at the 19th Balloon Company, until he was discharged as a sergeant at the end of April 1919.⁵

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 John. 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 John died in Tucson, Arizona, 1994.^B

To be continued

As Albert John Neilson's granddaughter Jessica contacted me in April 2024, and with her parents and others in her family visited us two months later, I hope to soon be able to update the information above!

Sources

All photos by Charley Nilsson unless otherwise indicated. Maps from Google maps and lantmateriet.se.

¹ Photo taken by our neighbours Maria and Anders Friberg.

² Photo from *Försvunna miljöer på Hovdalafältet* (P2 Kamratförening, 1988).

³ En.wikipedia.org.

⁴ Ancestry.com: USA Federal Census, 1930.

⁵ Ancestry.com. New York, excerpts regarding military service during World War I, 1914-1919

^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.