

Swedish Roots in Oregon

An Immigration Research Project



June 2016 Newsletter

Editor: Rhonda Erlandson

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Midsommar hälsningar!

In a very real sense, life is all about arrivals and departures. If, like me, you are interested in the history of Swedish immigration to the United States and to Oregon in particular, you know how momentous arrivals and departures can be in the course of one's life. These transitions change everything. They ripple out to affect not only ourselves and our families' lives but also our culture and society at large. In 1906, as the great waves of migration from Sweden were winding down, prominent Swedish statistician Gustav Sundbärg wrote, "There is scarcely any question, be it political, social, or economic in our land that is not directly or indirectly affected by the emigration."

While Sweden was affected by emigration, so too was the United States. As they created new lives for themselves in America, the Swedish immigrants had a significant impact on how this country developed. Whether they made their living as farmers or teachers, loggers or ministers, fishermen or doctors, politicians, journalists, architects, artists, industrial workers or entrepreneurs, they demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility toward their communities, building churches, schools, hospitals, libraries, businesses and other institutions.

During the past year, Swedish Roots in Oregon has experienced its own series of significant arrivals and departures. First of all, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Rhonda Erlandson, and I have recently arrived as SRIO's newly elected president. Before accepting this office, I served as SRIO's secretary for two years and a member at large for a year before that. My father and grandparents immigrated to the U.S. in 1948 when my father was 17 years old. In my own family, that sense of departure from the Old Country and arrival in the new was very much a part of my growing up years.

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Swedishrootsinoregon.org

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Your donation is tax deductible and supports research into the lives and history of Swedish immigrants in Oregon.



The Genealogy Corner:

An Unusual Death Certificate, by Ann Stuller

A Death Certificate is only as accurate as the informant; sometimes the informant does not have accurate knowledge of the deceased. This was the case with Isidorus Axel/Axel Isador Nyström who was born in Sweden and died in Oregon City, Oregon on March 5, 1945.

One of SRIO's genealogists, David Anderson, found Isidor's certificate, and the names attributed to him drew attention: Gustaf Adolf Bernadotte and Gyllenstierna. Wondering if some royal stray had died in Oregon, David emailed me a copy of the certificate. Sensing that something was not quite right about the name, I decided to pursue the matter by going to ancestry.com and other sources to confirm the information on the death certificate.

Swedish church records revealed the birth date as listed on the death certificate as incorrect: Axel Isidor Nyström was born in Stockholm on February 12, 1869; his father was a sea captain and the family first lived in the Hovförsamling, and later moved to the Mariaförsamling. In the database Rotemannen, Axel Isador's occupation in 1895 was listed as a sailor living in America and no longer residing in Stockholm. That would tie in with the number of years spent in America listed on the death certificate. He was granted citizenship in San Diego, California, in 1896. Naval records show he enlisted in 1899 in California, and from various census records and city directories, he worked in restaurants as a waiter and later, as a manager. However, his position as a "restauranteur" cannot be established from the records available.

Oregon State Board of Health
Division of Vital Statistics

Standard Certificate of Death
STATE OF OREGON

State File No. 1438
Local Registrar's No. 62

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
(a) County Clackamas
(b) City or town Oregon City
(If outside city or town limits write RURAL)
(c) Name of hospital or institution:
425 Prom St
(If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution _____ (Specify whether
In this community 6 yrs In state 40
years, months, or days)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State Oregon (b) County Clackamas
(c) City or town Oregon City
(If outside city or town limits write RURAL)
(d) Street No. 524 Prom St
(If rural give location)
(e) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? 50 Yrs years

3. (a) FULL NAME Isidorus Axel Gustaf Adolf Bernadotte Gyllenstierna
(b) If veteran, name war no (c) Social Security No. no

4. Sex M race W 5. Color or no 6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced M
6. (b) Name of husband or wife Hester 6. (c) Age of husband or wife 60 years
if alive

7. Birth date of deceased Feb 12 1848
(Month) (Day) (Year)

8. Age: Years 97 Months 22 Days 22 If less than one day
hr. min.

9. Birthplace Stockholm Sweden
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

10. Usual occupation Ret Restraunteer

11. Industry or business

12. Name unknown

13. Birthplace _____ (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

14. Maiden name unknown

15. Birthplace _____ (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

16. (a) Informant's own signature Hester Nystron
(b) Address Oregon City

17. (a) Burial (b) Date thereof 3/7/45
(Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month) (Day) (Year)

(c) Place: burial or cremation Riverview Cemt.

18. (a) Signature of funeral director Holman Hankins
(b) Address Oregon City Rillence 200

19. (a) 3-8-45 (b) Don P. Trullinger
(Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)

20. Date of death: Month Mar day 5
year 1945 hour 7 minute 15 PM.

21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from 1-1-43
19____ to 3-5-45 19____; that I last saw him alive
on 3-5-45 19____; and that death occurred on the date
and hour stated above.

Immediate cause of death aut Myocardia Duration _____

Due to Senility

Due to _____

Other conditions
(Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)

Major findings:
Of operations _____

Of autopsy _____

PHYSICIAN
Underline
the cause
to which
death
should be
charged
statistically

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____
(b) Date of occurrence _____
(c) Where did injury occur? _____
(City or town) (County) (State)
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place,
in public place? _____
While at work _____ (Specify type of place)
(e) Means of injury _____

23. Signature W. R. Kanti (M. D. or other) MD
Address Camp 44, Ore Date signed 3-7-45

Isador was honorably discharged in 1902, and eventually made his way to Portland where he married Hester Elizabeth Baker in 1912; she had a millinery shop and he was a waiter at the Oregon Hotel. Additional military records show him applying for a military pension both in his name and also in the alias of William Brown.

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Nyström, Isidores</i> | | | | |
| NAME OF DEPENDENT: <i>Widow, Minor,</i> | | | | |
| SERVICE: <i>E 1 Calif Inf. 5</i> | | | | |
| DATE OF FILING: <i>1925 July 8</i> | CLASS: <i>Invalid</i> | APPLICATION NO. <i>1521602</i> | CERTIFICATE NO. | STATE FROM WHICH FILED: <i>Oregon</i> |
| ATTORNEY: | | | | |
| REMARKS: <i>C 2934762</i> | | | | |

Databasen Rotemannen

5 valda

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Nyström, Axel Isidor | 12/2 1869 | (1878)-1879 |
| Nyström, Axel Isidor | 12/2 1869 | 1879-(1881) |
| Nyström, Axel Isidor | 12/2 1869 | 1879-(1886) |
| Nyström, Axel Isidor | 12/2 1869 | (1887)-1895 |
| Nyström, Axel Isidor | 12/2 1869 | 1895-(1897) |

Hushåll för Nyström, Axel Isidor (häfte 18094)

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Nyström, Johan Axel | 9/6 1830 | (1887)-1889 |
| Nyström, Amalia Charlotta | 8/11 1839 | (1887)-1890 |
| Nyström, Axel Isidor | 12/2 1869 | (1887)-1895 |
| Nyström, Fredrika Sofia | 5/2 1868 | (1887)-1890 |

180940020030 4 av 5

Nyström, Axel Isidor

Sjöman

f. 12/2 1869 (Hovförsamlingen, Stockholms stad)
Ogift, barn fött inom äktenskapet

Lilla Badstugatan 10 (Lappskön Större 3)
Rote 19 (Skinnarviksroten), Maria (litt. C 52)

In (1887) (kvarstår i fastigheten)
Ut 1895 (till bilagan)

Övriga uppgifter:
Ej vaccinerad
Uttflyttningdatum i flyttningenslängd: 1895

Fastighetsägare (från förstasidan):
Stockholms Stad Fol

Kyrkoskrivningsuppgift:
Hoffors.

Militäruppgift:
Uteblef 1891 1892 1894

Namn, yrke eller näringsstäng:
I Amerika

Alternativa uppgifter:
Födelseort: Hoffors.

Källa:
Rote 19, häfte 18094 (1887-1902), sida 2, rad 3
Överståthållarämbetet, Skatteverket: Rotemännens arkiv (SE/SSA/0032/03/19), Dia

SÖK! RENSA SKRIV UT

1885 1917-1934 1930 SIDAN HÄFTET

While Isador had a variety of birth years and answers to the census questions, it is no wonder that there are inaccuracies on his death certificate. There are still many unanswered questions but perhaps the diagnosis of senility helps to explain the addition of royal names.

Accessing the SRIO Databases

By David A. Anderson



A lot of the information the dedicated members of Swedish Roots in Oregon are gathering can be found on the Swedish America Heritage Online website (sweame.org). This website, started by David Borg, hosts trees submitted by individuals, and trees with data extracted from various State's 1900 Censuses as well as other sources.

Swedish Roots in Oregon (SRIO) currently maintains three databases. The SRIO data base, the Swedes in Oregon, and the Clackamas County databases. Most of the new information gathered is added to the SRIO data base so that is the fastest growing database. Information updating individuals already in the other two databases are updated when found, but generally individuals not found in the other two databases are now being added to the SRIO database.

How do you search for information in the three databases? First go to the sweame.org website and follow the links to the three Oregon databases:



Click on the Oregon link from the Home page and you will eventually get to the page with links to the three databases and a link to the SRIO home page.



Swedish America Heritage Online..

Home Search Login Find Media Info English

Search People

No results found for Last Name contains sodergren AND First Name contains peter AND Tree equals Swedish Roots In Oregon. Please try again.

Tree: **Swedish Roots In Oregon**

Join with: AND

Results per page: 50

Last Name: contains sodergren

First Name: contains peter

Person ID: equals

Gender: equals

Birth Place: contains

Birth Year: equals

Christening Place: contains

Christening Year: equals

Death Place: contains

Death Year: equals

Burial Place: contains

Search Reset

Search Families

If the search does not provide any hits because the person you are looking for is not located in the SRIO database, you can then change the Tree to: Oregon, Clackamas, or All. Peter Sodergren is actually in the Oregon database and on his page you will find a lot of information on birth, residency and burial, including his death certificate and a photo of his headstone. There is more information on Peter than there are for most people found in the database so far.

If you have typed in a common surname, such as Anderson you will probably come up with quite a few names. If the person you are looking for isn't in the database, go up to the Search button and then click on the Advanced Search link:

Swedish America Heritage Online..

Home Search Login Find Media Info English

Search Advanced Search

First Name: Last Name: ID: Search

Matches 1 to 50 of 239 for Last Name contains anderson AND Tree equals Swedish Roots In Oregon

| | Last Name, Given Name(s) ▼ | Born/Christened ▲ | Person ID | Tree |
|---|---|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1 | ☛ (Fallidin) Anderson, Mia (Kristina) Annette | b. 4 Jul 1893 | 1308 | Swedish Roots In Oregon |
| 2 | ☛ (Pettersson) Anderson, (Hilma Kristina) Christine | b. 8 Sep 1878 | 1580 | Swedish Roots In Oregon |
| 3 | ☛ Alexanderson, Erick | b. Sweden | 13874 | Swedish Roots In Oregon |
| 4 | ☛ Anderson | | 13937 | Swedish Roots In Oregon |
| 5 | ☛ Anderson, Aaron | b. 31 Aug 1871 | 12243 | Swedish Roots In Oregon |
| 6 | ☛ Anderson, Albert | b. About 1861 | 1797 | Swedish Roots In Oregon |
| 7 | ☛ Anderson, Albert | b. About 1866 | 1759 | Swedish Roots In Oregon |
| 8 | ☛ Anderson, Albert | b. About 1879 | 11384 | Swedish Roots In Oregon |
| 9 | ☛ Anderson, Alexander | b. About | | Swedish Roots |

Clicking on the Advanced Search tab will take you back to the Search screen where you can change the tree, or modify the search parameters. Have fun looking for your relatives in SRIO's databases! Next time we will explore how to search for something else found in our databases.

My presidency in SRIO follows the departure of former president Lars Nordström. For many years, Lars lead SRIO in new and exciting directions. Under his leadership, the organization published three books and provided support for the spring 2016 Oregon Loggers exhibit in Karlstad, Sweden. Lars left SRIO in the fall of 2015 when he decided to remigrate to Sweden. We miss him greatly and extend deepest gratitude for his hard work and stellar leadership.

SRIO offered another heartfelt farewell to long-time member Ingeborg Dean when she relocated to the Washington D.C. area last year. Ingeborg was a champion of oral history and spent countless hours interviewing and transcribing the immigration stories of Swedish Oregonians. She continues to support SRIO from a transcontinental distance with translation and editing services as the organization works on its fourth book, slated for release in the Fall of 2016.

SRIO salutes the arrival of two new members, David Anderson and Eric Lindquist:

David, whose passion is genealogy, joined the Board about a year ago and, along with genealogist Ann Stuller, continually researches and adds vital family information to the nationwide database, *Swedish American Heritage Online* (SweAme). Thanks to SRIO's genealogists, there are more than 5,500 entries to date for the Swedes of Oregon. SRIO extends its appreciation and thanks to Gunnilla Rohdin for her assistance in advancing this project, and also a shout-out goes to David Borg, founder and curator of SweAme, for his support and technical assistance.

Eric, our most recent arrival, joined the group in March 2016. He has already made great strides for SRIO with the formation of SRIO's new Facebook Page. Like us at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swedishrootsinoregon/>

As we celebrate Midsommar 2016, we acknowledge the accomplishments SRIO has made since its founding in 1999. Our goals continue to revolve around researching the lives, settlements, and achievements of Oregon's Swedish immigrants. SRIO's interest in oral history continues and we invite you to visit the Stories section of our website to peruse the histories we have posted there. If you enjoy learning about the Swedish immigrant experience, be sure to pick up a copy of *Swedish Roots, Oregon Lives*. Published in 2013, this book is a compilation of immigration stories spanning the years 1923 to 1957. Since its publication, five individuals featured in the book have passed away. SRIO is honored and grateful for the opportunity we were given to capture and preserve these individuals' compelling stories. At this midsommar time, we commemorate them and celebrate their lives and the contribution they made to Swedish Oregon.

Per Jacobson

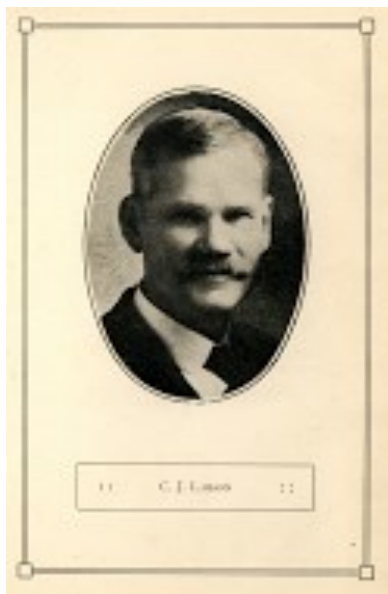
Morris Lillich

Nils Arne Lindström

Christina Eriksson Merryman

Karin Thorin





Forthcoming in Fall 2016
from Swedish Roots in Oregon Press

ACROSS SIXTEEN COUNTRIES

By C. J. Larson, Translated by Mike Timshel

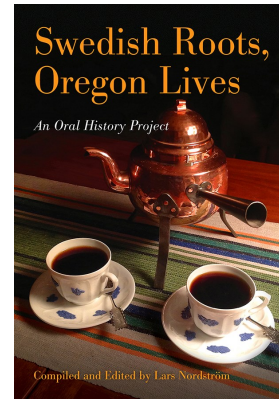
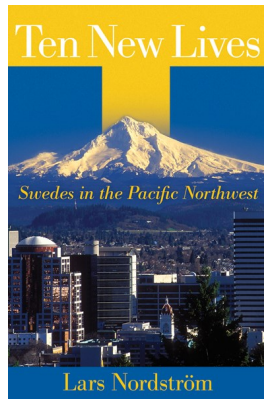
Translated into English for the first time, "Across Sixteen Countries" offers a unique opportunity for armchair traveling in the early twentieth century. Moreover, it illuminates the unique perspective of travelers who were new Americans, immigrants already experienced in enough travel to fill numerous lifetimes. Ultimately, it brings to life the story of C.J. Larson, a remarkable man whose legacy lives on today."

C. J. (Carl Johan) Larson was born in 1861 in Södermanland, Sweden. His parents were members of the "läsare" or "readers" movement that sought independent thinking and worship outside the State Church. Evicted from their home for holding unsanctioned Bible studies, the family joined the stream of emigrants from Sweden to the United States in 1869 when C.J. was eight years old. The family began their new life in Kansas and underwent enormous hardship before securing farm land through the Homestead Act of 1862. In 1906, at the age of 45, C. J. fell in love with the Pacific Northwest and moved to the Swedish American community of Warren, Oregon, along with his wife and young daughter. C.J. founded the Bethany Lutheran Church in Warren and was widely known and respected as a prosperous farmer and noted community leader.

Across Sixteen Countries offers an account of C.J.'s 18-month-long journey throughout Europe and the Middle East in 1920-21. Traveling with his daughter Anna and her friend Signe Ekström, the memoir provides insight into Europe in the immediate aftermath of World War I, highlights American and European missions and colonies in the Middle East, tours Bethlehem at Christmas time, and looks at Sweden 52 years after C.J.'s emigration to America.

SWEDISH ROOTS IN OREGON PRESS

Titles available for ordering at
SwedishRootsinOregon.org



And now SRIO is on Facebook!

Be sure to stop by and Like Us at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swedishrootsinoregon/>



SRIO is seeking **Volunteers** to assist us in our efforts to re-search the history of Swedish immigrants in Oregon, particularly in the area of adding genealogical information to our online databases. We also need help with tabling events such as Midsummer and ScanFair, and we welcome individuals who would enjoy further involvement as Board Members. Contact Rhonda Erlandson at president@swedishrootsinoregon.org