

Sweden's Surprises

Genealogy research has gotten much easier since the availability of online resources and worldwide connections. Add DNA testing and results become amazing. My research prior to the last decade was to ask my mother or question some relative and then try to record my notes in some helpful way. I didn't do much or dig very deep. After joining the Lodge, I got more interested and more organized. There is something satisfying about getting to know about the people and places from which I am rooted and have grown. Most of my family came from Norway and that has been my focus.

In August 2017 my three daughters, their husbands, and I went on a tour of Sweden to visit the areas where my husband's family, my son-in-law's family and my cousin's families had come from. My father's mother Anna came from Sweden, too, but I knew little about her. I learned that she was born in 1879 and came to the US with her mother and father in 1882 at age three. Her mother died shortly after arrival and her father soon remarried and began another family. Anna never knew much about her background. She grew up near Georgetown Minnesota, married my grandfather, and had children of her own, but died of stomach cancer in 1927 at age forty-eight.

I hoped to learn more about her on our trip, at least where she came from. Through the genealogy group at the Lodge, I got help from John Nordale. He located the little community of Öved in Sköne Sweden near Lund where Anna was born. Not expecting to learn more, I thought we could at least drive through the area.

Curious about DNA research, a few weeks before the trip I finally sent a saliva sample to 23 and Me, wondering if new information about any of my background would show up through my DNA. A few days before we left, I got an email from a Troed Sångberg in Sweden saying that he was working on his family's genealogy and found me in his DNA data results. It looked like we might be related. I replied immediately with details about my family and what I knew about Anna. He wrote back and said, "That was the quickest match I've ever done."

The parents of Anna's father Jacob were Anders Jönsson and Karna Persdotter. They were already in his ancestry tree, although he didn't have much detail on them. Jacob had a brother born 1852 named Jöns. He had a daughter named Selma, who had a daughter named Inez who had Troed's mother, Lena.

Yes, we had common ancestors! His mother, Lena, and I are third cousins. He mentioned that he lives in Lund. Surprised, I wrote “I plan to be in Lund in a few days. Could we meet?”

Troed said “Yes, I’ll make arrangements.” He reserved a little coffee shop and we met, along with his mother and father and his children. They came, excited and loaded with information and photos. It was like a familiar family reunion – a gift I could not have imagined. And there it was -- with a little help from the Lodge, the Nordales, and 23 and Me. Troed and we stay in touch on Facebook. Genealogy has given me a bigger family and a broader sense of belonging.

2020



The photo includes - front row: Bengt Troedson, Lynn Englund (daughter), Lena Sångberg, (children, don't have their names), Joanne Englund, Dick Steinle (son-in-law). Back row: Gayle Englund, Karen Steinle (daughters), Troed Sångberg. Son-in-law Lare Storm is taking the photo.

**Anders Jönsson – 1819
and
Karna Persdotter – 1820-1888**

GENEALOGY

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| Jöns Anderson – 1852 Hannah Jonsdotter – 1849 | Jacob Anderson – 1848-1892 Hannah Persdotter – 1849-1882 |
| Selma Jonsson – 1882 Johan Persson -1882 | Anna J. Anderson – 1879-1927 John Wickoren – 1879-1969 |
| Inez Linnea Jo Persson – 1913 Ture Algot Sångberg – 1906 | Alfred Wickoren – 1905 Audrey Sands - 1906 |
| Ingrid "Lena" Sångberg – 1950 Bengt Troedson – 1948 | Joanne Wickoren – 1930 Wilfred Englund – 1929 |
| Troed Sångberg – 1974 | Lynn Englund – 1953 Gayle Englund – 1956 Karen Steinle – 1957 |