

June 1952

HOLMQUIST FAMILY HISTORY

Truid Holmquist was born in Stenbruhult, Kronebergelen, Sweden in 1813. He married Ellen (Eling) Moteson (or Motte's daughter) who also was born at the same place in 1815. Ellen was a widow with two children, Gustaf and Johan. Her first husband's name was Joneson. Truid and Ellen settled in their new home on a farm (1/4 heman) in Lindhult, Stenbruhult Sucken, Kronebergslan. Six children were born to them: Jonas, Christiana, Menny, John, August, and Anna.

Gustaf, the first of Ellen's sons by her first marriage, stayed in Sweden. Johan came to the U.S. with his five children, Joseph, Charlie, Emma, Tilly, and Anna. Joseph died from a blow in a fight. Charlie, when last heard of was single and lived in Chicago. Emma married Olaf Nelson who died in 1910 and she now lives in Cicero, Illinois, a widow with four children. Tilly married a brother of Olaf named Peter and died in August 1923. They had one daughter. Anna married a man named Nordstrom and they have one daughter.

Jonas died in Sweden in 1899 or 1900 at the age of 55.

Christiana also stayed in Sweden and married a man named Sunneason and lived in Elmhult, Nybyden. They had five children: Emma, Tilda, Albert, Bort, and Swen. Emma was the only one who came to the U.S. where she married a man named Hultgren, a bricklayer contractor whom she met in Chicago. They moved from Chicago to Brooklyn, N.Y. where she died in 1900 at the age of 25. Christiana died February 2, 1924 at the age of 72 years, 2 months, 13 days.

Menny came to the U.S. and married John Carlson who lived in Chicago and owned the Englewood Home Laundry at 6612 South Green Street. About 1900 they sold the business and moved to a farm in Grovertown, Indian, where they lived for many years. Both are now dead and are buried in the Swedish Lutheran Church Cemetary in Donaldson, Indiana. They had eight children, three of whom died very young. The other five were named Eddie, Enoch, Amanda, Esther and Arvid. Eddie, who became

deaf and dumb, married a deaf and dumb girl named Eva Dorchester from Sherman, Texas. She also was an artist (as was Eddie). Eva died in Texas about 1925 and Eddie died July 26, 1932 in Sawyer, Michigan. They had one daughter, Marjorie, who is married to Joseph Semmes of Dallas, Texas. Enoch, born January 4, 1887, married Edna Ballinger of Donaldson, Indiana, where they lived and had three children. Enoch died in 1946. Amanda, born in 1890, married Victor Charn of Chicag, a carpenter; they lived in Sawyer, Michigan and had three children. Esther married David Lovegren of Donaldson, Indiana, and now lives in Harbert, Michigan. They have three children. Arvid married a girl from Tyner, Indiana, and has two children.

August came to the U.S. at the same time as his brother John, in 1880. He lived for a while with his sister Menny and her husband, John Carlson. He then married Hannah Kampre and had six children: Bernard, Elsa, Alma, Ebba, Alice, and Violet. Bernard, Elsa, and Violet died when children. Alma married Arvid Westerdahl, a Methodist minister, who in later years studied medicine and is now a physician in Oak Park, Illinois. Ebba married Roy Lennstruum and had one daughter, Lois. Alice married Louis Becker and has three children: Janice, Jack and Jerry. Jack and Jerry are twins. August and his family lived in Chicago most of the time but for many years owned a 40 acre farm at Grovertown, Indiana, where his family spent considerable time. He was a railroad crossing maker and worked for the Ajax Forging Company. He was always in good health but died suddenly of a heart attack while taking his car out of the garage at 7625 Morgan Street. He is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery where his wife is also buried.

Annie came to the U.S. when very young and married Andrew Nelson of Escanaba, Michigan. They had five children: Nanny, Hildur, Ellen, Jennie, and Emma. The family moved from Escanaba to Chicago where they lived for a while with Annie's brother John before moving to a farm in Grovertown, Indiana. They lived in Grovertown for many years until Annie became ill. Annie had much faith in Dr. Dowie of Zion, Illinois, leader of the religious sect known as the Dowieites and they moved to Zion, Illinois in 1906. Mr. Nelson was one of the pioneers in helping

build the church at Zion. Annie continued to be ill and finally became mentally ill from which she did not recover, except that at her death bed, with her children around her, she seemed to entirely overcome her mental illness for a while just before she died in 1933. Mr. Nelson also died in Zion. Nannie married C. A. Caird of Helena, Montana, where they lived and where Mr. Caird owned a Mining Machinery Company. She has one daughter, Mrs. Robertson, who lives in California. Mr. Caird died in 1946. Emma married a nephew of Mr. Caird whom she met in Waukegan, Illinois. His name is Al Porte and is now part owner of the Caird firm in Helena. They have one son. Hildus married Christian Nielsen and had four children, one of whom was killed in World War II. Ellen married Silas Moote, son of an apostle and elder in the church at Zion. They have two sons. Jennie married Nels Fredrickson and also has two sons.

John Holmquist was born March 18, 1857 at Elmhult Station, Norkoping, Stenbruhult Sucken, Kronebergslan, Sweden. His home was called Lindhult where he lived until about 1877 when he went to Malmo, Sweden and worked for the Malmo Railroad until March 25, 1880. It was then that he left for the U.S., at the age of 23, with his brother August. He became a naturalized citizen in the Superior Court of Chicago, October 29, 1888. He made Chicago his home where he was a structural iron worker. One of his first jobs was erecting the ornamental iron work on the Old Union Station. At the age of 28 he married Hannah Erickson, age 17, and had four children: John Theodore, born January 3, 1886, Edward and William, twins, born July 22, 1887, and Waldemar Truvid, born September 11, 1889. Hannah, his wife, was born May 2, 1867 and died February 6, 1890 of pneumonia at the age of 22. She is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. She died saying she wished to see her husband and boys some day in Heaven. Hannah had two sisters and two brothers. One sister and brother bought a farm near Bismark, North Dakota. The brother died there and the sister married and continued to live on the farm. One brother,

Charlie, married and lived in Chicago. Not much is known about him as he was inclined to drink heavily and John did not associate with him. Tilda, Hannah's other sister, married John Larson and had four children: One died in infancy. The others were named Ellen, Charles, and August. They lived in Chicago for several years and then moved to Sterling, Illinois. Tilda died December 17, 1929. John Larson is also deceased. Ellen married Leslie Chapin of Prophetstown, Illinois. In 1912 they moved to Tampico, Illinois, where he was quite successful in the poultry and egg business which later included a butter and cheese business. Ellen died in December 1945. They had three children. August married a girl named Lois Graham and lived in Sterling. Lois died leaving a daughter and August remarried Althea of Sterling. He has two more children by this marriage. Charlie married Marjorie and now owns a wire specialty manufacturing plant where August is plant manager. This has been a very successful business. John Larson was a blacksmith foreman at the International Harvester Co. in Rock Falls, Illinois.

John Holmquist's sister Annie cared for the four boys after Hannah died for nine months until John married again, this time to Emma Charlotte Carlson, who was born in Ukna Sucken, Smaland, Carmarlen, Sweden April 28, 1855. They were married by a Rev. Anderson of the Mission Church in the home of a Mr. Helander on April 1, 1891. Two daughters were born of this marriage, Edith Marie, born February 9, 1892 and died August 2, 1892, and Emmy Elizabeth, born September 4, 1896 died from croup in 1900. Both are buried in Oakwoods Cemetery.

John built a house at 66135 Green where he lived until he died. He also owned a farm at Grovertown, Indiana, which he bought June 2, 1897 from Andrew Uncapher. The four boys spent their summers on this farm with Emma, their stepmother, picking berries, pickles and raising potatoes and other garden vegetables. Shortly after the death of his first wife, John became a converted Christian and joined the Mission Church which is on the North Side in Chicago. On January 31, 1897 he was baptized and became a member of the Englewood Swedish Baptist Church. Both he and

Emma were members there until they died.

Emma's father's name was Carl John Lock. His real name was Carlson but it was the custom in the Swedish Army to bestow special names in certain instances, so his legal name became Lock. Emma came to the U. S. August 31, 1887 and lived in Evanston, Illinois where she joined the Evanston Swedish Baptist Church. She was baptised in Vestervik, Sweden on March 14, 1879. She had four sisters and seven brothers: Carl, John, Andes Gustaf, August Theodore, Peter Enoch, Frans Otto, Nels Oscar, Tilda, Josephine, and the two other sisters' names are not known.

John worked for Wills and France for a short time after coming to this country and then worked for the Ajax Frog Company at 22nd and Leavitt St. for a number of years. There he taught his brother August how to make railroad crossings. From there he took a job with the Strom's Frog Co. which became Pettibone and Muliken Co. This company was started by a Mr. Strom who John knew at Wills and France where Mr. Strom worked in the blacksmith shop and John in the machine shop. John knew Mr. Strom from Sweden and they were always close friends. John worked for this firm (Pettibone & Muliken) for forty years. He was always very interested in this work and three years before he died he invented a frog and switch which would last much longer because of relocating the main point of stress. He spent much of his spare time on his farm at Grovertown. His last visit there was in August, 1924. He was ill at the time suffering from a heart condition which apparently developed quite suddenly as he had always been in excellent health. In fact, it was often his practice to ride a bicycle out to the farm, a distance of about 100 miles. The first attack of illness occurred during the summer of 1923 when his son, John and family took him and his wife to Sterling, Ill. for a visit. After eating supper at the golf course about a mile east of Tampico, he started across the course on the run to join up with his son John and Leslie Chapin who were looking at a new canal that had been dug. Although he became ill from this at the time he seemed to recover for a few days, but soon discovered he was developing heart trouble. He was always a man of great strength and was quite well known for this, especially in his youth when he commanded considerable respect from others because of f

He was very good-hearted and was always trying to help others. He disliked pride and often exhorted his sons to never let pride get the upper hand of them. He was a firm believer in the Bible which he read much. His last days were peaceful and thankful to those about him. As he died he imagined himself travelling on the way to heaven and although he had been unconscious and unable to talk for days before he finally passed away, he spoke very clearly just before he died saying Jesus was calling to him and "I will meet you there." It was during these last days of semi-consciousness at times that he recognized Waldemar's son, Richard, and tried to reach in his "pocket" for a dime as had always been his custom. Someone placed a dime in his hand and Richard still has the dime which he took from his grandfather's hand. He died at 5:30 Sunday morning, Nov. 15, 1925, and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.