

FLYDDA DAGAR



NR 3/2021

Årg.nr. 24/ nr. 62



Linde Bergslags Släktforskarförening

Grundades 7 mars 1996 med Lars Sundgren som initiativtagare. Föreningen skall tillvarata medlemmarnas intresse för släkt-, folkliv- och bygdeforskning om vår bygd och dess innehållare i svunnen tid.

Adress:

Linde Bergslags Släktforskarförening
c/o Ingegerd Nordin, Fanthyttan Sandgrund 308
711 96 Storå

Besöksadress:

Banvägen 26, Lindesberg

E-post: styrelsen@lindeforskare.se

Hemsida: www.lindeforskare.se

Org.nr. 875002-6349

Flydda Dagar

är föreningens medlemstidning och ges ut med tre nummer per år.

Pris för icke medlemmar: 50:- kronor/styck

Författarna ansvarar för innehållet i sina artiklar.

Ansvarig utgivare

Göran Jansson, Lindesberg

tel: 070-209 05 79

52goranj@gmail.com

Tidningsredaktion

Ann Charlotte Tegerhult

Calle Lindström

Layout Kjell Guldbland

Kursverksamhet

För kursverksamheten ansvarar:

Calle Lindström, Lindesberg

tel: 070-545 54 87

E-post: callel@telia.com

Kursledare

Göran Jansson tel: 070-209 08 79

Ann Charlotte Laudon-Tegerhult tel: 070-453 63 43

MEDLEMSAVGIFT 2022

200:- för enskild medlem

300:- för familj

bg 394-5854

Swish 123 484 47 18

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Styrelse

Ordförande: Göran Jansson, Lindesberg

tel: 070-209 05 79

epost: 52goranj@gmail.com

Vice ordförande: Sven Erik Larsson, Lindesberg

tel: 070-854 53 08 epost: svla518@gmail.com

Sekreterare: Ingegerd Nordin, Fanthyttan

tel: 0581-51097 epost: ing.nordin@telia.com

Ledamot: Pär Georg Johansson, Danshyttan

tel: 073 053 58 78

epost: pergeorgjohansson@gmail.com

Ledamot: Ann Charlotte Laudon-Tegerhult, Lbg.

tel: 0581-13063: 070453 63 43

epost: ann-charlotte.laudon-tegerhult@telia.com

Suppleant: Leif Göran Alvarsson, Lindesberg

tel: 070 242 14 68

Suppleant: Karin Ericsson, Lindesberg

tel: 0581-14106

epost: karin.ericsson47@yahoo.se

Suppleant: Margareta Nordahl, Ingelshyttan

tel: 070 293 89 52

epost: bergslagshasten@gmail.com

Kassör - adjungerad

Lisbet Nordlander, Lindesberg

tel: 070 204 61 41

e-post: rya.redovisning@telia.com

Valberedning: Calle Lindström, Lindesberg:

tel: 070 545 54 87

Karl Ove Granath, Lindesberg tel: 076 841 88 34

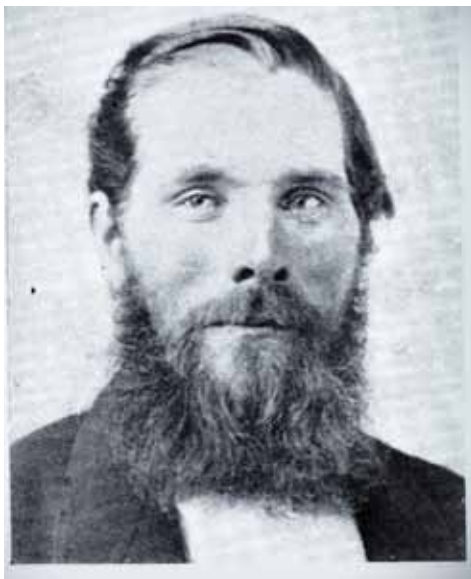
The Fahlberg story

- Kjell Guldbrand -

In the summer of 2018 I was contacted by my relative Gunnar Kager from Åhus whom I have previously been in contact with regarding ancestry. We both have connections to Öskevik, Öskebohyttan, Siggeboda and Siggebohyttan. Gunnar in a call told me that he had just been contacted regarding a visit from the USA later that summer. Six Americans - three siblings with their partners - wanted to meet him and I.

It turns out that both Gunnar and I had common ancestry in the Fahlberg Family.

- Anna 1832-1908 *Gunnars great-grandmother*
- Catarina 1837-1918 *My great-grandmother*
- Peter 1839-1905 *The siblings great-grandfather*



Peter Fahlberg



Anna Fahlberg



Catarina Fahlberg och Hans Erson

The letter regarding the upcoming trip

Hello Gunnar,

"Curtis Fahlberg is my cousin and we have been in contact with him regarding an upcoming trip to Sweden. We are aware that he has been there before and he mentioned you as someone we should try to meet up with if possible!

We would also very much like to meet Kjell Guldbrand, who is also a relative, in Lindesberg. Our ancestor Per (Peter) Fahlberg was born and raised in Siggeboda near a lake called Usken.

My name is Jane (Fahlberg) Smith, married to Wayne Smith; my brother Peter (Pete) is married to Doreen and my brother John is married to Sandy.

Us six will be visiting Sweden for the first time on the 20th-29th of august. Yes, we are aware that it is a short trip, but we all work as farmers and it is not easy leaving our farms during a longer period of time.

Sincerely,

Jane (Peter Fahlberg was Janes great-grandfather)

Peter Fahlberg

Peter Fahlberg was born on boxing day 1839 in *Siggeboda No 1*. His parents were Eric Fahlberg born 1805-12-29 in Järnboås and died 1855-10-11 and Maria Elisabeth Olofsdotter born 1801-12-08 in Nora and died 1850-05-22. Eric and Maria had eleven children all born between 1832-1846. Maria died in 1850 and at the time of her death all her children would with today's measures be seen as minors. As one of many tragic things happening to the family, Maria took her own life by drowning herself in the lake Usken which was located close to their home. Peter was only 10 years old and his youngest brother only 3 years old at the time. Two of the child-



Siggeboda No 1

ren had died, prior to Maria's death, as infants. Their father, Eric, who partly owned and partly held shares in two of the local mines, Erikagruvan and Fahlbergsgruvan, near Siggeboda and Siggebohyttan stayed at Siggeboda No1 with the children. He re-married on August 30th 1855 to a widower called Catrina Jansdotter, born 1808-08-08, who lived in Bohr No 2. She had given birth to 14 children in her previous marriage. Eric moved to West Bohr with 6 of his children in connection to the marriage. Catrina had at the time 12 children of her own living in the house, 3 sons and 9 daughters. The newlyweds had all together 18 children in the house at the same time. It was surely trying times for the family but it would soon get even harder. Just over a month after they got married and moved in together, on October 9th, Catrina died and two days later, on October 11th, Eric passed away as well. There was no cause of death recorded. Maybe it was an accident, or perhaps it was an illness that took the married couple's lives. Cholera(kolera) had been spreading since 1834 in the country as well as dysentery(rödsot). There was a cholera epidemic in the 1850s and especially the years 1850, 1853 and 1857 had noticeably higher numbers of cases. This increase led to circa 20 000 people losing their lives in the 1850s. In comparison, about the same number of people died in dysentery during the same time period.

A number of Eric Fahlbergs children ended up in fa-

milies, in many cases with relatives, around Usken. Becoming an orphan at 15 years old must understandably be problematic and the only viable option was to make your own money and make your own way into adulthood. A brutal start that came to reflect on the life Peter made for himself. He moved after the tragic event to Eric Andersson in *Hafsta No2* where he worked as a dräng until 1859 when he during a short period moved to the famous nämndemann Erik Olsson in Öskevik. Erik Olsson had adopted Peter's sisters Anna Stina, 1848, and Margareta Elisabeth, 1857. Peter then moved back to Hafsta and worked as "arbetskarl" until the year 1869 when he



Hafsta No2

decided to emigrate to the big country in the west, accompanied by his betrothed Cathrina.

The Emigration

Peter emigrated from Gothenburg with the ship MS Hero, which carried 301 people, on the journey to Hull to then continue to Chicago on May 21st 1869. Peter traveled with his betrothed Catharina Mathilda Nilsson, born 1848-03-07 in Uskaboda No 1. Her parents was Nils Nilsson and Kristina Carolina Persdotter. Peter and Cathrine arrived in America by boat in 1869 and later settled in Wataga, Illinois, after arriving in Chicago. The couple then married



on July 4th 1873 in Beresford, South Dakota, USA. The couple took a trip back to Sweden in early 1874 where they visited Siggeboda. When they returned to Galesburg they had Cathrina's sister Mathilda, age 17, with them as well as one of Peter's cousins, also named Mathilda and also age 17. Cathrina Mathilda passed away during childbirth on December 12th 1875, when she was only 27 years old. Peter worked for many years in Galesburg, Wataga, Illinois and was employed by a farmer named

Mr Henderson for most of that time period. Peter was reunited with his brother Johan, born 1842, who came to America with his whole family in May 1880, his wife Maja Ulla Jakobsdotter, also born 1842 as well as their children Erik, Anna Maria and Karl Johan.

The family emigrated from Gothenburg to Galesburg in April, 1880. They moved all together to



Shickley Nebraska where the brothers farmed together. Johan (later to be known as John) stayed the rest of his life in this area, whilst Peter bored of the conditions and returned after three years to Wataga.

Maria (Mary) Lundborg Fahlberg

A couple of years later a new swede entered Peter's life. On August 16th 1885 he married this swede named Maria "Mary" Lundborg who also had grown up in Usken, on Mårdshyttan No 1. Mary had emigrated in June 1885 and traveled from New York to Illinois to meet up with Peter in Wataga. The couple immediately went thereafter to South Dakota by a covered emigration-carriage in September the same year.

Mary's parents were Petter Persson (Lundborg), born 1824, and Maria Ersdotter, born 1829. The couple had 17 children, of whom 7 died at a young age. In the year 1886, a year after Mary emigrated, her parents emigrated, 62 years old and 59 years old at the time, with 4 of their children who were still living at home, a daughter named Esther and three sons named Carl-Erik (Charles), Ernest and Oskar. Mary, her sister Mathilda and her brothers Per and Anders had all previously emigrated at different years, 1871

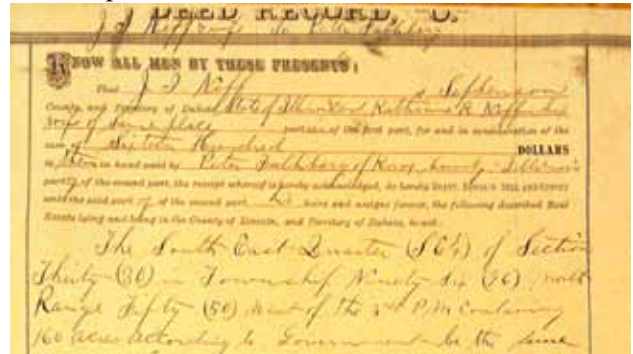


*Top row: f.v Oskar Lundborg, Ernst Lundborg, Andrew Lundborg, Charles Lundborg
Bottom row: Ester Reynolds, Karin Magnusson, Maria Fahlberg, Mathilda Lindrot*

and after. By the year 1886, 10 family members were settled in America, a few of them in the same city as Mary and Peter Fahlberg.

Peter and Mary made a new home for themselves near Beresford, South Dakota, where they bought real estate and 160 acres of land from a man named James Neff. The purchase was implemented in Illinois Beresford on July 1st 1884 and was registered in the Dakota-territory on December 2nd 1884. The couple settle here for good after the purchase and their marriage.

The couple had three sons named Samuel, David



The purchase contract from July 1, 1885

and Joel and all of them later ended up working as farmers. Joel stayed on the farm and later inherited it. His mother Mary lived on the farm as a widower for 17 years until her death in 1922. His father Peter passed away in 1905 and had suffered, multiple winters prior, of pneumonia. The year of his passing he suffered more greatly from the illness but made a recovery and he was thought to get his health back but relapsed and got ill once again. He died early in the evening on February the 10th, 1905.



Samuel f. 1887, Joel f. 1890, David f. 1892.



Familt farm ca 1920

The Family Farm in Beresford

Since Peter Fahlberg founded the farm in 1885, the farm has been in the family and still is to this day.

Peter → Joel → Wesly → Pete

Joel Fahlberg

Out of the three brothers it ended up being Joel who overtook the farm and his son Wesly (wes) after that who took over and continued developing the agriculture.

In November 1924 Joel and his wife Ruth Ingrid Kristina Swanström traveled to Sweden with their two children, Wesly age 2 and Addison age 4. One of the destinations was Ljungby which is where Ruth was born.



Wesly Fahlberg

Wesly Fahlberg was born on November 23rd 1920 and died on July 19th 2013 surrounded by his family. He was the oldest in the Joel and Ruth (Swanström) Fahlberg family, born on the farm his grandfather

Peter built in their hometown north of Beresford. He finished his studies in compulsory school at Pleasant Country School and graduated from Beresford High School in



1939. He loved the farm and chose to work with his father to enable his brother and sister to go to college instead of going to college himself. On February 11th 1949 Wesly married a woman named Maurine Norman and they were blessed with four children: Daphne, Jane, Peter and John. They lived and worked on the farm where Wesly was born and created a lifetime of memories.

Peter (Pete) Fahlberg

The fourth generation with “young” Pete Fahlberg is currently living at the farm with wife Dooren Tjerdsma and three children. Two sons, Benjamin and Brian who are working at the farm as well as daughter Rachel Lyn.



The Family farm 2021

Family memories

There are a few memories that keep being told through the years about Peter Fahlberg.

“The only pairs of boots he wore when going out were the ones his father wore before his death. During a time he had to work for his living (and we have eagerly listened to the stories about his trials in life). One winter when they cleared woodland for farmland, he accidentally set fire to his gloves and without the possibility to make or buy new ones he had to work outside with bare hands in the cold, snowy, winter.”

Peter Fahlberg was known as the area's “strongman”. He entertained himself on tivoli-markets by hitting a reader that read a person's strength with a sledgehammer and Peter was always number one. It was also said that “he could carry three sacks of grain at the same time”.



The trip to Sweden

On Saturday August 25th at 10 o'clock, six Americans arrived to Lindsberg and at Blombergsgka, **Jane**/Wayne, **Pete**/Doreen and **John**/Sandy. The people mentioned in bold are siblings born 1951, 1956 and 1960, their parents being Wesly and Ruth.

After a discussion about their sightseeing around the surrounding area, showing the miniature model of Lindsberg, was first on the agenda.

Chairman of Lindsbergs Hembygdsförening, Ingrid Nordmark, told us about the model.

In addition to Ingrid, my sister Britt-Marie, her son Carl and Eva Karlsson were at the “cousin meeting”. For many years, Eva had contact with another part of the Fahlberg family in the USA.



F.v. Ingrid, John, Carl, Doreen, Eva, Whyayne, Jane, Britt-Marie, Kjell, Pete, Sandy

At a school graduation Eva had with her schoolclass, she met Curtis and Patti Fahlberg. They became good friends and have kept in touch throughout the years. My selves have recently been in contact with Curtis and he told me a little about his interest in Sweden, Lindesberg, the mines around Bergslagen and several good friends that the couple made during their visits. Both his wife, brother and son had visited the "fathers' trail" several times, among other things. Siggeboda.

After the show, we went through common genealogies as we did and then mainly with the Fahlberg family.

At the end of our room, the visitor group sang a beautiful song - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." - and told about the families' interest in music.

The next stop was Munkhyttan's school museum



where we could show what a school looked like at the time when their first ancestry emigrated.

We continued on the way to Usken and went up to Siggebohyttegården. After a walk to the smithy, we had the opportunity to show around the farm and tell that my grandfather was the last private owner 1902 -1905. We then continued to Siggeboda, Anna, Catarina and Peter Fahlberg's birthplace. The guests were impres-



sed by the beautiful view down to Usken and we could also point out approximately where the mines were located in which Erik Fahlberg was a partner.



Siggeboda No 1

The last stop in the old home areas was Hafsta, where Peter as a fifteen-year-old started working for Eric Andersson at Hafsta No2.



At the portal: John, Jane och Pete.

Photographers: Doreen, Wayne och Sandy.

In the house interrogation county Lindesberg (T) AIa: 47 (1861-1871) Peter "profession" changes from Dräng to Arbetskarl. Could it mean a change of status among the servants' foreman?

It was a nice summer day and the visitors were happy this year with this nice photo motif at the Hafsta portal.

The last stop before we parted was a coffee break at Nora-Anna's with some shopping and then a joint thank you and goodbye at the coffee tables.

Sources:

- Digital Archive, Emihamn, Emibas
- Find a Grave, Family Search
- Myheritage, Ancestry, Fahlberg Family

**In Lindesberg 20180825
Discussion about
Fahlberg Family**



” The Family Couir”
sang a beautiful song -
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

Listen at You Tube here



