

## Sophia Larsdotter (1858-1918)



Figure 10. Frank E. Johnson and Sophia (Larsdotter) Johnson

Sophia Larsdotter was born on 22 Feb 1858<sup>8,9</sup> at Carlsberg croft in Nedre Ullerud parish. She emigrated from Sweden to the U.S. on 19 Jun 1891. She was married (date unknown) to Frank E. Johnson (~1861-1941) of Småland province. They are seen in Figures 4 and 10. They farmed near Quamba in Kanabec County, Minnesota, (65 miles directly north of St. Paul) for a number of years (see Figures 80-83 in Part 2). They had no children of their own but raised their niece and nephew, Hildegarde Gladys and Arvid Rudolph Johnson, the children of Gotfred and Anna Lisa (Larsdotter) Johnson (see pages 15-18). Frank and Gotfred Johnson were brothers. Sophia died of complications from diabetes<sup>15</sup> on 19 Oct 1918 at the age of 60 and is buried in Union Cemetery, St. Paul.<sup>9</sup> In 1932, Frank Johnson was living with Arvid and Arvid's wife, Victoria, on the latter couple's farm near Solway, Minnesota.<sup>5</sup>

Fifth Child, Stillborn (1 May 1859)<sup>9</sup>

## Johan August Larsson/Larson (a.k.a. Charles Smith) (1860-1907)



Figure 11. Johan August Larson

Johan August Larson (Figure 11) was born 4 Dec 1860<sup>8,9</sup> at Carlsberg, Nedre Ullerud parish. He emigrated from Sweden at some time between 1876-1880 and settled in Lyons, Boulder County, Colorado.<sup>1</sup> He was regularly employed in railroad work, but in 1896 (22 Apr) he, together with brother Otto, G.R. Larson (not related), and S.H. Walstad filed a mining claim in the Longs Peak Mining District, Boulder County. From Jean Larson's family history, we find a description of the claim: "... a portion of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26, Township 3 North, Range 73 West, Variation North 14 degrees, 30 minutes East, running 1500 linear feet and 150 feet wide, twelve miles west of Lyons. This location is near the present town of Allen's Park, and very near the eastern border of what is now Rocky Mountain National Park. The claim was dubbed the 'Poor Man Lode' – and the name turned out to be an accurate one. It soon became clear that ... the cost of mining was greater than the value of the ore. As a result, the site was never 'developed' as the law required and ultimately reverted back to Uncle Sam."<sup>1</sup>

In Colorado, Johan changed his name to Charles Smith "because Larson was too common." He died on 26 Nov 1907<sup>9</sup> at the age of 46 near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, as the result of the cave-in of a railroad tunnel in which he was working. He is buried in Union Cemetery in St. Paul.<sup>1</sup>

**Anna Lisa Larsdotter (1862-1904)**

Figure 12. Anna Lisa Larsdotter

Anna Lisa Larsdotter, daughter of Lars and Lisa Larsson, was born at Carlsberg croft on 11 Apr 1862<sup>8</sup> (or 11 Nov 1862<sup>9</sup>). She emigrated from Sweden (port of Söderhamn) to St. Paul on 7 Jul 1884.<sup>1</sup> In 1887 she married Gotfred Johnson (~1857-1938) of Småland province, Sweden. She worked as a laundress in St. Paul, living at 595 Wells St. and dying of tuberculosis on 7 May 1904<sup>9</sup> at the age of 41. She and Gotfred were the parents of a daughter, Hildegard Gladys, and a son, Arvid Rudolph. Anna Lisa is shown in Figure 12 and with her husband and children in Figures 4 and 13,. After Anna Lisa's death, Hildegard and Arvid were raised by their aunt and uncle, Frank and Sophia Johnson (see above).



Figure 13. L. to r.: Arvid, Gottfred, Anna Lisa, and Hildegard Johnson

Hildegard Gladys Johnson, daughter of Gottfred and Anna Lisa (Larsdotter) Johnson, was born on 9 Dec 1890.<sup>20</sup> She is seen with her parents and brother in Figure 13. She married Paul Gustaf Peterson in the home of her uncle and aunt, Oscar and Hulda Larson, on 27 Jun 1917;<sup>21</sup> the wedding party is shown in Figure 14. Their children were Orville R., Lambert G., and Doris L. Peterson. Hildegard was active in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. She died in Grand Rapids on 19 Dec 1986 at the age of 96 and is buried in the Fairplains Cemetery.<sup>20</sup>

Photograph (Figure 14) on page 15. L. to r., front: Alverta Myrman, Paul Peterson, Hildegard (Johnson) Peterson, Mildred Anderson [daughter of Gottfred and Clara (Larson) Anderson]; back: Selma Larson (cousin of the bride), unknown, George Peterson (?), Esther (Larson) Quick (cousin of the bride), Arvid Johnson, Nellie Anderson (not related to Mildred Anderson in front);





Figure 15. Arvid and Victoria Johnson

Arvid Rudolph Johnson, son of Gotfred and Anna Lisa (Larsdotter) Johnson, was born in 1894. He is seen as a young boy in Figures 4 and 13 and as a member of his sister's wedding party in Figure 14. After his mother's death, Arvid was raised by Frank and Sophia Johnson on their farm near Quamba, Minnesota. He married Victoria Ellen Peterson (b. 7 Jul 1905; d. 3 Aug 2001)<sup>22</sup> on 28 Nov 1923 at Quamba<sup>22</sup> (see Figure 15). Arvid and Victoria purchased (date unknown) the farm adjoining the homestead of Gustaf and Emma Johnson in Lammers Township, Beltrami County, Minnesota. They farmed for a number of years, then rented the farm to another family for several years before selling it in 1942. They moved to St. Paul where Arvid worked as a barber for many years. Arvid and Victoria did not have any children. Arvid died in 1961.

## Otto Larsson/Larson (1864-1924)



Figure 16. Otto Larson, about 1890.



Figure 17. Anna Marta Hedin, standing left, with sisters.

Otto Larson was born on 16 Dec 1864<sup>8,9</sup> at Carlsberg croft, Nedre Ullerud parish, Värmland, Sweden. An extensive account of Otto's life has been written by his granddaughter, Jean Larson;<sup>1</sup> a few excerpts and highlights are repeated here. At some time between 1886 and 1890, he worked as an employee of the railroad in Sweden and was stationed in Jämtland province. During this time he met Anna Märta Hedin (Figures 17, 18, 84, 87, and 103), the fourth of nine children of Petter and Märta (Ersdotter-Öhrberg) Hedin (Figure 104), living at the Rista farm near Hålland in Undersåker parish.

Anna Märta was born on 30 Jan 1871.<sup>9</sup> Hålland can be found on a current map of Sweden some 80 kilometers (50 miles) by highway west of the larger town of Östersund in Jämtland province. Östersund, in turn, is about 250 miles north-northwest from Deje in Nedre Ullerud parish, Värmland province.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 18. Otto and Anna (Hedin) Larson

In 1890, Otto returned from Jämtland to the vicinity of his birthplace in Nedre Ullerud parish. “There, on 23 May 1891, he obtained an *Arbetsbetyg* (Employment Character Reference) from A.N. Beckman.”<sup>1</sup> He emigrated from Sweden, leaving on 4 Jun 1891 from Christiania (Oslo), Norway. Ocean passage was aboard the sailing vessel, *King Waller*, arriving in New York on 9 July 1891.<sup>23</sup> Anna Märta obtained a *Flyttnings-Bevis* (Leaving Permit) on 11 Apr 1892 and immigrated to the U.S. soon after. Otto and Anna Märta were married in Denver, Colorado, on 12 May 1892.<sup>1</sup> The ceremony, conducted in Swedish, was officiated by E. Thorell with L.G. Larson and Adolf Larson as witnesses. After their marriage, the couple settled in Lyons, Colorado. After losing their first three children at infancy, a daughter, Selma “Sally” Olivia born on 18 Jan 1896, survived.<sup>1</sup>

Otto purchased a house on Prospect Avenue in Lyons in July of 1896. Three more children were born in Lyons, Arthur Harald on 8 Oct 1897, Victor Eugene on 31 Oct 1899, and Edgar Gustave on 16 Nov 1902. Otto and Anna Märta sold their Lyons house on 7 Mar 1904 and moved their family to St. Paul where at first they lived with Otto’s brother, Lars Gustaf, at 910 Edgerton Street. They





Figure 19. L. to r.; Selma, Arthur, Victor, Edgar, Leonard, Roy and Florence Larson

soon moved a block away to a rented apartment above Erickson's shoe store at 970 Payne Avenue and then in August, 1905, to 566 Decatur Street. During this time Leonard Otto was born on 8 Apr 1905 while Otto worked as a stableman caring for the horses used by Abrahamson's Bakery. The family attended the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Mission Tabernacle that was located on the corner of Edgerton and Minnehaha Streets.<sup>1</sup>

On 8 Jul 1905 Otto purchased a lot in what then was a field on the edge of St. Paul. There he built a house that was ready for occupancy by his family in the fall of 1906; the address became 1288 Edgerton Street. Roy Adolf was born here on 13 Dec 1906. Otto was hired by the Great Northern Railroad to work as a freight car repairman in their Jackson Street shop, a job he remained at the rest of his life. The last child born to Otto and Anna Märta was Florence Margaret on 9 May 1910. Otto had earlier submitted an application for naturalization; after the requisite waiting period, citizenship was granted on 1 Dec 1913.<sup>1</sup>

Otto died on 4 Nov 1924 less than a month short of his 60<sup>th</sup> year as a consequence of stomach cancer. He is buried in Union cemetery, St. Paul. Anna Märta suffered from dementia, or similar illness, beginning in about 1925 and was a patient at the St. Peter State Hospital, St. Peter, Minnesota, thereafter.<sup>24</sup> Her illness has been attributed to the trauma caused by the illness of her daughter Selma and the loss of her husband to death (see Jean Larson account<sup>1</sup>). Anna Märta died at the age of 81 on 25 Dec 1952 of a heart attack. She also is buried in Union Cemetery.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 20. The "Larson Boys," l. to r.; Edgar, Leonard, Victor, Roy and Arthur.



Figure 21. Ed Martin's store, corner of Edgerton St. and Brainerd Ave., St. Paul.