

THE EARLY SWEDISH IMMIGRATION TO IOWA

SWEDES IN THE UNITED STATES BEFORE 1841. GUSTAF UNONIUS AND THE PINE LAKE, WISCONSIN, SETTLEMENT. THE FIRST SWEDISH SETTLERS IN ILLINOIS. THE BISHOP HILL COLONY. THE COURSE OF MIGRATION TO IOWA

The history of Swedish emigration to this country properly begins with the sailing of the *Kalmar Nyckel*¹ and the *Fågel Grip*² in the latter part of the year 1637 and the establishment of the Swedish colony on the Delaware in the following year. The colonial enterprise which thus resulted in the founding of the state of New Sweden in what now comprises Delaware, the city of Philadelphia, and adjoining parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey was first projected by Wilhelm Usselinex, the organizer of the Dutch West India Company, and definitely planned by Peter Minuit, one time Governor of New Netherlands.³ It had the sanction and indeed the active support of Gustavus Adolphus, and upon his death at the battle of Lützen in 1627 was promoted and executed in accordance with the king's wishes by his great chancellor, Axel Oxenstjerna.⁴ The history of

¹ The Key of Kalmar.

² The Griffin.

³ From 1626 to 1632.

⁴ The proposal submitted by Usselinex aimed merely at the formation of a commercial company. The warrant for the establishment of such a company was issued and signed by Gustavus Adolphus on December 21, 1624. On May 1, 1627, a commercial company, endowed with the privilege of founding foreign colonies, was then incorporated at Stockholm. According to the broader plans

New Sweden as a political state forms an interesting and important chapter in American political history; but to discuss that history in this connection would take us beyond our present purpose.¹ Nor can we give it anything but the briefest mention even as a part of Swedish American immigration history. That the expedition of 1628 was the first one from Sweden to America has been definitely established, although certain historians have stated that an expedition took place in 1627; others again that one took place in 1631.² The expedition of 1638 was composed of about fifty colonists from Sweden and Holland. How many Swedes there were we do not know. The lieutenant, Måns Kling, is the only one expressly named. He is, then, as far as can be ascertained the first Swede to visit America. Reorus Torkillus,³ a minister, is named as accompanying the

of "the Defender of the Protestant Faith in Europe," it was not, however, to be merely a commercial enterprise, but, in the language of Provost Stillé, "The colonists were sent out under the King's express protection as the vanguard of an army to found a free State, where they, and those who might join them, from whatever nation they might come, might be secure in the enjoyment of the fruits of their labor and especially of their rights of conscience." It was to be a refuge for oppressed Protestants from every country.—See *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. I, p. 160.

¹ The Pennsylvania Historical Society has published a great deal of material relative to the colony.—See *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vols. I-XVI; especially the article by Professor C. T. Odhner on *The Founding of New Sweden, 1637-1642*, in volumes III-IV, translated by Professor G. B. Keen; and an article on *The History of New Sweden*, by Professor Karl K. S. Sprinchorn, in volume VII; also numerous contributions by Professor George B. Keen, Secretary of the Society, himself a descendant of Jöran Kyn, who emigrated from Upland, Sweden, to Delaware in 1642. Provost Charles J. Stillé, (University of Pennsylvania) President of the Society, who is quoted above also comes of the Delaware stock. His ancestors emigrated to Delaware at an early date.

² Incorrect also is the date 1634, given by Nicholas Collin in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. XVI, p. 349.

³ Certain writers are mistaken when they say that Torkillus came in the first expedition.

second expedition in 1640. No list of the colonists of 1638 and 1640 has been found, but the Royal Archives in Stockholm contain a roll of names of persons in New Sweden still living in May, 1648, and specific mention is made of several who came in the Key of Kalmar.¹ Among these is mentioned Peter G. Rambo, Magistrate of the Swedish colony, who died in Philadelphia County, 1698, as the last survivor of the first two expeditions. There were in all ten expeditions, the last one arriving in 1656, after the colony had passed into the hands of the Dutch.

We have seen that already in the second expedition a minister accompanied the colonists, while in the fourth expedition, commanded by Governor Printz, the government sent a second preacher of the Gospel, Johannes Campanius, from Stockholm. The home church, then, established at the very beginning a mission in New Sweden; and this mission lasted 151 years, or 136 years after New Sweden had ceased to exist as a political state.² Linguistically also the colony continued to be Swedish through all the period of Dutch and English occupancy and almost to the end of the eighteenth century.³ During all this time the state church at home supplied the colony with teachers and preachers of the gospel, who taught and preached in the Swedish language and were answerable in every way to the Consistory at Stockholm. Moreover, the church records of

¹ Cited by Professor Odhner, p. 402. They came, therefore, in 1638 or 1640; but it would seem that those mentioned by Professor Odhner came in the latter year.

² See *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, January, 1905, p. 349; and *Ungdomsvännan* for February, 1903.

³ That is, a very considerable number still understood the Swedish language.

the colony offer much valuable material regarding the later history of the colony. Thus we learn that in 1754 there were three hundred and fifty-three persons in Racoon and Pensneck parishes only who could read the Swedish language well.¹ Down to this time at any rate we may say that in general the colony was bilingual and largely Swedish. After about 1750 the Americanization of the younger generation was more rapid. In 1758 Wicacoa vestry petitioned the Consistory that a clergyman should be commissioned for that parish and that he should be permitted occasionally to preach in English.¹ In 1765 there are instructions to Rev. Borell to preach alternately in Swedish and English in the new church at Kingsessing.² The last Swedish minister in the colony was Nicholas Collin; he was commissioned in 1770 and was after 1791 the only Swedish minister left. Almost down to his death in 1831, he preached twice a month to a small congregation in Wicacoa parish. Norelius writes in his *History of the Swedish Church*³ that in 1868 he met in Philadelphia a Swede, Erik Alund, who had come to Philadelphia in 1823 and who remembered well Rev. Collin. A writer⁴ in *Ungdomsvännan* for February, 1903, states that there are still living in Philadelphia

¹ Facts gathered from *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*.

² New churches at Upper Merion (now Swedeboro) and Kingsessing (now Darby) were built in 1762.

³ *De Svenska Luterska Församlingarnas och Svenskarnes Historia i Amerika*, Rock Island, 1890. The work covers 871 pages. For many facts in this article I am indebted to this valuable work and hereby acknowledge gratefully help otherwise given me in letters by its eminent author, Rev. E. Norelius, of Vasa, Minn., President of the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod.

⁴ Editor Ander Schön, of Chicago, whose series of articles in *Ungdomsvännan* for 1902-1903 forms the most thoroughgoing investigation of the later history of the colony that we have.

those who remember "The Swedish Doctor Collin."¹ It is an interesting fact that one of the first immigrants from Sweden in the nineteenth century found in this country the last living immigrant to the colony founded in 1638 on the Delaware and with whom he could still speak in his native tongue.

If it be asked why there resulted no permanent Swedish immigration to a colony so firmly established, the answer will not be difficult to find. It was purely a government undertaking, and with the loss of the province the Swedish government no longer had any interest in it as a colonial enterprise; and furthermore, the colonists had not been recruited from those classes whence any extended emigration movement would have to come. It is doubtful if knowledge of the existence of the colony had really reached the common classes of Sweden and the rural districts. Ambassador R. L. Smith writes that during two years residence in Sweden as Ambassador (1810-12) he never heard any mention made of the colony on the Delaware beyond the fact that a mission had early visited America and had built churches and preached the gospel there.² And, finally, it must also be borne in mind that the difficulties in the way of emigration from Sweden before 1840 were well-nigh insurmountable to that class that has always been most largely represented among immigrant settlers in America.

In the eighteenth century a number of Moravians emigrated from the Scandinavian countries³ to Pennsylvania and

¹ See also *German American Annals* for 1903, p. 372.

² *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. I, p. 154.

³ See *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, January, 1905, p. 68.

North Carolina. A Moravian society had been formed in Stockholm in 1740. As early as 1735 German Moravians established a colony in Savannah, Georgia, and in 1740 a larger and more permanent colony was founded at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.¹ In a later colony established at Bethabara, North Carolina, not a few Scandinavians took part, as many Swedes seem later to have emigrated to the church at Bethlehem. This latter was located not far from the Delaware colony and the records show that there was considerable intercourse between the two and that some of the Delaware Swedes joined the Moravians at Bethlehem. Thus in 1744 a Danish Moravian minister, Paul Daniel Berzelius, preached in Gloria Dei church² in Philadelphia and made many converts among the Swedish Lutherans.³ He was assisted by two Swedes, Abraham Reinke and Sven Rosen, who had immigrated a few years before, the former from Stockholm and the latter from Gothenburg.⁴ A Swedish minister, Lars Nyberg, who had come to America as pastor for a German Lutheran church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but who later joined the Moravians, is named as especially active in these parishes.⁵ There are documents in the collections of the Pennsylvania Historical Society that give much information with regard to these facts. A Swedish book, printed in 1702, that is found in a museum in Delaware also contains

¹ See *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, January, 1905, p. 68.

² This church was erected by the Swedes in the latter part of the seventeenth century. The building is still standing, but is now the property of the Episcopal church.

³ Especially in Raccoon and Pensneck parishes.

⁴ *Ungdomsvännan*, 1902, p. 339.

⁵ Later he returned to Sweden and again entered the state church.

much material on the Delaware Swedes, and particularly with reference to their religious activities.

No record of any other Swedish immigration in the eighteenth century has come down to us. A writer is authority for the statement that the early Swedes who came to this country in the nineteenth century found in Charleston, South Carolina, Swedes who had emigrated in the preceding century.¹ If so, they would seem to have been members of the Delaware or Moravian colonies who had (temporarily?) left those colonies. Swedes from Delaware took part in the War of Independence, and the author of a recent book recalls the fact that Baron von Stedingk, a Swede, fought on the side of America.² W. W. Thomas, once United States Minister to Norway-Sweden, writes that "The man who, as a member of the Continental Congress, gave the casting vote of Pennsylvania in favor of the Declaration of Independence was a Swede of the Delaware stock—John Morton."³

We now come to the nineteenth century. The records of individual immigration from Sweden in the early part of this century are very meagre. The first name that appears is that of Jacob Fahlström, who may have been in Canada as early as 1815. He seems to have come to Canada by way of London. In 1819 he was in northern Minnesota⁴

¹ O. N. Nelson in *Scandinavians*, Vol. I, p. 36.

² Dr. Carl Sundbeck in *Svensk-Amerikanerna, deras Materiella och Andliga Sträfvanden*, Rock Island, 1904. This book is an account of present Swedish-American conditions.

³ *New England Historical Register*, quoted by Nelson. Dr. Carl Sundbeck also recalls the fact that it was a woman of the Delaware stock who made the first U. S. flag at Philadelphia. Her name was Betsy Griscomb Ross.

⁴ See *Scandinavians*, Vol. I, p. 306, where biography of Fahlström is given.

and Wisconsin. In that year he was employed by the American Fur Company to trade with the Indians around Lake Superior.¹ At one time he was a Methodist missionary among the Indians, with whom he also lived for a time as a native.¹ In 1837 he settled in what is now Washington County, Minnesota, being therefore the first Swede in that State. He died in 1859 at Afton, Washington County, Minnesota, where his descendants still live.

Reference has already been made to Erick Alund, from Alund, Upland, who in 1823 came in a Swedish ship and located in Philadelphia. Whether others emigrated in the same ship² is not known, nor have we any further facts regarding Alund. Neither of these two early immigrants seem to have continued any connection with friends at home, and consequently they played no part in promoting emigration to this country.

Our next name, however, occupies a very much more important place in Swedish American history. Olof Gustaf Hedström, the "Father of Swedish Methodism in America," was born in Tvinnesheda in Nottebeck's parish³ in the province of Kronberg, southern Sweden, in 1803. He emigrated to New York in 1825, there married Caroline Pinckney, and became converted to Methodism. In 1833 he made a visit to Sweden, where he converted his parents and a brother, Jonas Hedström.⁴ The latter emigrated to America with his brother and later became the father of Swedish

¹ See *Scandinavians*, Vol. I, p. 396.

² This ship was, I believe, laden with a cargo of iron.

³ Thus rightly corrected by Rev. Norelius from "Trenhed's Församling" as given by Rev. H. Olsen.—See Norelius, p. 16.

⁴ Norelius, p. 17.

Methodism in the West. From 1835 to 1845 O. G. Hedström preached among the English Methodists in New York. In 1845 he established a mission among Swedish Americans in New York.¹

During the later thirties and the forties the elder Hedström worked in the interests of Methodism among the Swedish settlers in New York and among immigrants who came from Sweden, and large numbers were converted by him. While he was primarily serving the church he was often also of much assistance otherwise to the immigrants and frequently directed them where to settle. In this way he exerted a very great influence upon the course that Swedish immigration took in this country. It was directly through his influence that Victoria, Illinois, received such a large share of Swedish settlers in the later forties, an event which gave the direction to Swedish migration for a decade more. Furthermore, he was instrumental in locating the first Erik-Jansenists at Bishop Hill in 1845-6. O. G. Hedström always remained in New York. His brother Jonas, who as a Methodist later did missionary work in the West in conjunction with his brother, remained in New York and Pennsylvania, employed as a blacksmith during the first few years after his coming to America.² In Philadelphia he met a Peter Sonberger (a Swede), and both of these together with a Mr. Pollock and wife³ removed to Knox

¹ Assisted by two Americans, Geo. T. Cobb and Wm. G. Roggs, and a Peter Bergner, the last named being a Swede.

² An interesting account of the two Hedströms is given by Norelius, pp. 23-26. See also *Svenskarne i Illinois*, Chicago, 1880, by Eric Johnson and C. F. Peterson; and *Sverige i Amerika*, Chicago, 1898, by C. F. Peterson.

³ Mrs. Pollock was born in Sweden and evidently emigrated to America early in the thirties.—See brief account in Herlenius' *Erik Janssens Historia*, Jönköping, 1900.

County, Illinois, in 1838, settling in what is now Victoria township. These formed the nucleus of the extensive Swedish colony which was established in 1846 and the years following in that locality.

With our scanty records it is impossible to say how extensive individual immigration from Sweden may have been in the thirties. With the stringent laws against emigration still in force it could not have been very great. But inasmuch as the movement had taken hold of several provinces in southwestern Norway and as ships loaded with cargoes of iron plied between Gefle, Gothenburg, and American ports at that time, it seems likely that not a few may have embarked in such ships for the New World. Among such is named H. P. Gryden, who came to Boston in 1838, living the first few years in Boston, New York, and Montreal, and who in company with an Englishman by the name of Henbury Smith established a wagon factory in Cincinnati in 1842.¹ S. M. Svenson, who directed the first Swedish immigration to Texas, emigrated from Småland in 1836, locating first in New York and later living for a time in Baltimore. He moved to Texas in 1838 and engaged in business at Brazoria.²

There were Swedes in different parts of the South at an early date. Thus, a brother of Rev. S. B. Newman (who emigrated in 1842 to Mobile, Alabama) was at that time engaged in business in Mobile. Reference has already been made to Peter Sonberger, who lived in Philadelphia in

¹ Gryden moved to Chicago in 1866.—See sketch of his life in *Svenskarne i Illinois*, p. 426.

² Norelius, p. 37.

1838, and to Peter Bergner, who is mentioned by Norelius as living in New York in 1845. Gustaf Unonius¹ says in his *Minnen* that he often found here and there in America Swedes who had been here many years before his coming, which was in 1841. Thus, in Buffalo he met a Mr. Morell who had been here a long time and had nearly forgotten the Swedish language. In Milwaukee he met Captain O. G. Lange who had been here many years; and in 1841 he was visited by a certain Friman, who together with two brothers had been living near the Wisconsin-Illinois boundary line for three years; and Carl Peter Moberg, from Grenna in Gefle province, was in America about 1840, returning to Sweden in 1844.¹ Nor shall we forget the immortal John Ericson,² the builder of the "Princeton" and of the "Monitor" whose coming to America in 1839 had such far-reaching effects for America and for the world in general.

The first attempt to found a settlement in this country in the last century did not take place before 1841. The locality is Pine Lake, Wisconsin, and the founder was Gustaf Unonius,³ a graduate of Upsala University. In the summer of 1841 he with his wife embarked from Gefle, arriving in New York in September. After 1840 the laws regarding emigration were made much less stringent in Sweden and as a result, says Herlenius, the so-called America-fever had begun to take hold of the country. Before that time the

¹ See below.

² John Ericson, the son of a miner in Värmland in Sweden, was born on the 31st of July, 1803. The *Magazine of American History*, Vol. XXV, offers an excellent likeness and biography of John Ericson.

³ *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for January, 1905, p. 95.

intending emigrant was required to secure the King's permit and to pay 300 *Kronor*¹ before he could leave the country. It can easily be seen how extensively this would operate as a barrier to emigration. In his *Minnen*, first part, Unonius says: "Emigration to America which since has become so general had then not yet begun. As far as I know, we were the first who availed ourselves of the right which recently had been given Swedish citizens, to leave the country without special royal permission."²

In company with Unonius there were, perhaps, a dozen persons who located at Pine Lake, near the present Nashotah, about thirty miles west of Milwaukee. The settlement was called Upsala. Like Unonius, most of the settlers were not accustomed to coarse work in Sweden and consequently were entirely unfitted for pioneer life in the New World. Herein certainly lies the principal cause why the colony did not thrive. Instead of developing into a prosperous community as did the later settlements in Iowa and Illinois, it soon began to wane, and in 1858, according to Unonius himself, it did not contain more than three Swedish families. Furthermore, it seems that some of the settlers were merely adventurers, who could not possibly have any influence upon emigration. Among those who for some time lived at Pine Lake are Capt. P. von Schneidau, E. Bergvall from Gothenburg, a Mr. Vadman, merchant from Norköping, Rev. Wilhelm Böckman,³ E. Wistér, Capt. Pehr Dahlberg,

¹ About \$81 in our money.

² Quoted by Norelius.

³ The first Swedish Lutheran minister in America. He was born in Söderhyddinge in 1806, came to Pine Lake, 1844, as a missionary, and returned to Sweden in 1849. He died in 1850.

and Ivar Hagberg.¹ Baron Thott, from Skåne, is also mentioned as having spent some time there; and in 1849 the well-known Swedish novelist, Fredrika Bremer, paid the colony a visit.² Of these P. von Schneidau moved to Chicago in 1845; and the adventurer Wister plays some part in later settlements in Illinois. Eric U. Norrberg, who emigrated from Ullärfva, Vestergötland, in 1842, locating a short distance west of Milwaukee, was also probably a settler at Pine Lake.² Unonius returned to Sweden in 1858 where he published his *Minnen från en sjutton årig Vistelse i nordvestra Amerika*.

Influenced by Unonius' letters printed in Swedish papers, Daniel Larsen,³ from Haurida, Småland, and a company of fifty persons decided in 1844 to emigrate to America.⁴ Embarking with the Swedish ship Superior in October, 1844, they landed in Boston after a journey of ten weeks. Daniel Larsen located at Brocton, Massachusetts.⁵ D. Larsen's father and the remainder of the party are said to have gone as far west as Sheboygan, Wisconsin.⁹ Larsen, Sr., died there in 1846.

¹ Perhaps Capt. Berg and Akerman, two of the founders of the first settlement in Iowa (see below), were also in Pine Lake in 1842-44.

² For the purpose, says Sundén in *Svensk Litteraturhistoria*, of studying "the homes and the position of the woman" in the New World.

³ Born in Haurida parish, 1821.

⁴ Influenced also in part by Moberg, who had returned to Sweden from America in 1844.

⁵ Upon a visit to Sweden seven years later sixty persons decided to emigrate with him, many of whom seem to have located at Brocton, thus forming the nucleus to the very extensive colony of Brocton and vicinity.—Norelius.

⁶ Norelius, p. 26. The facts are, however, not absolutely clear. If they located in Wisconsin it seems likely that some of the party would have reached their destination at Pine Lake, the only Swedish settlement at the time. There is no record of such a number of Swedes having lived at Sheboygan at that time. The

We have already had occasion to refer to Jonas Hedström and Peter Sonberger and their coming to Illinois in 1838. They were undoubtedly the first Swedes in the State. In 1843 we find a Gustaf Flack located in Chicago, conducting a store in the neighborhood of the Clark Street bridge.¹ About the same time came also a Swede whose name was Åström (changed to Ostrum in this country) who had a jewelry business on South Water Street between Clark and Dearborn. Not long after he was joined by a Swede named Svedberg, who came from Buffalo, New York. In 1845 Capt. P. von Schneidau left the Wisconsin settlement and located in Chicago, as has been stated above. These three were the first Swedish settlers in Chicago. The distinction of being the actual founder of the Swedish colony in Chicago, the largest city colony of Swedes in the country, belongs, however, to the last of these, Capt. P. von Schneidau. Flack returned to Sweden in 1846.² Svedberg went to California in 1850. Ostrum made a visit to Sweden about the same time, nothing being known of his whereabouts since that date except the bare fact that he returned to America. P. von Schneidau, however, occupies a very important place in the history of the Swedes in Chicago. In the year following his locating there a party of fifteen families arrived from Sweden, and as none of them could speak English von Schneidau became their

early failure of the Pine Lake colony also precludes the likelihood that it received any considerable accession of immigrants. At any rate not *all* seem to have settled at Sheboygan.

¹ *Svenskarne i Illinois*, p. 233.

² Herlenius, *Erik Janssismens Historia*, p. 51.

interpreter and adviser.¹ During the early years of Swedish immigration to and through Chicago, von Schneidau was the Swedish immigrants' trusted friend and helper. Capt. von Schneidau was a few years later made the first Scandinavian Consul in Chicago.

On the 3d of October of the same year (1846) a considerable number of immigrants from Vestmanland arrived under the direction of Jonas Olsen,² bound for the Jansenist communistic colony which was just then being established in Knox County, Illinois. In Chicago, however, they changed their mind, remaining there instead. These two groups, then, both of which located in Chicago in 1846, formed the nucleus of the Swedish colony. The names are not given of any of the first party nor the locality in Sweden from which they came. In the second group were: Anders Larsen, Jan Janson and a son Charles, John P. Källman,³ Pehr Erson, Peter Hessling, A. Thorsell, Peter Erickson, and one by the name of Källström. The location of this original colony was on Illinois Street between Dearborn and State. Captain Ericson writes that as late as 1880 Larsen and Hessling were still living in Chicago, while the rest had removed to other parts of the State.⁴ The subsequent history of the colony we cannot discuss in this connection, although it should be mentioned that the before-named Unonius located there in 1849 and was one of the most

¹ *Svenskarne i Illinois*, p. 234, to which authority in the main I am indebted for facts relating to Chicago.

² Jonas Olsen was from Ofvanåker, in Helsingland.

³ Changed to Chalman in this country.

⁴ In 1847 forty families came and located in Chicago. In the years following the numbers given are as follows: 1848, 100 persons; 1849, 400; 1850, 500; 1851, 1000; 1852, 1000; 1854, 4000.

influential members of the colony down to the time of his return to Sweden in 1858.

The Jansenist colony in Bishop Hill, Knox County, already referred to, dates back to the year 1846. The briefest mention of this settlement will here have to suffice. There has been much written about the causes that led to the emigration of 1500 persons from Helsingland, Upland, Vestmanland, Gestrikland, and Dalarne from 1845 to 1854 and the establishment of the well-known communistic colony at Bishop Hill, Knox County, Illinois. A most thorough investigation of the whole subject was published by Emil Herlenius in 1900 under the title of *Erik-Janssismens Historia, Ett Bidrag till Kännedom om det svenska Sektväsendet* (Jonköping, Sweden). The best American study of the subject is that by M. A. Mikkelson entitled, *The Bishop Hill Colony*, in the *Johns Hopkins University Studies*, 10th Series, I. A large part of a work already referred to, *Svenskarne i Illinois*, written by Eric Johnson¹ and C. F. Peterson, also deals with the Bishop Hill colony.

The Jansenists were a religious sect founded by Erik Janssen, a dissenter from the state church.² Their stronghold in Sweden was and always remained the province of Helsingland. Through their intolerant fanaticism and the aggressive methods which they adopted in the practice of their belief they incurred much enmity, and finding no protection under Swedish laws they decided in 1845 to emigrate to America. In 1843 Gustaf Flack³ from Alfsta parish in

¹ The son of the founder of the colony, Erik Janssen.

² Born at Bishopskulla, Upland, in 1808.

³ See above, p. 596.

Helsingland had emigrated to America. We have seen that he located at Chicago in that year. He had also visited in Knox County. From America he wrote letters home to Alfsta praising American conditions and our liberal institutions; and his letters no doubt had much to do with the emigration of the dissenters of Helsingland. In the fall of 1845 Olof Olson was sent to America to select a suitable place in which to found a religious community. He was accompanied by his wife, two children, and two other persons. In New York Olson met the before-mentioned Olof G. Hedström, with whom he remained for some time; then, upon the recommendation of Hedström, he went west to Victoria, Illinois, where Jonas Hedström then lived. From here he wrote home to the followers of Janssen glowing descriptions of America and especially of Illinois. In July of the year following Eric Janssen arrived with a small party; and in the same month a larger company came with Linjo G. Larsen from Dalarne.¹ During August 400 more arrived; and in October, under Jonas Olson's² leadership, came three hundred. In all there arrived at Bishop Hill between 1846 and 1854 eight expeditions with about 1500 persons. Herlenius has shown that the communistic character of the colony had been decided upon and plans formulated accordingly by Eric Janssen himself when he left Sweden and appointed Jonas Olson, Olof Janssen, Olof Johnson (Stenberg), and Anders Berglund as "chiefs" of all the affairs of the emigrants. They sailed from Gefle, via Stockholm,

¹ Larsen, the wealthiest man who joined the society, brought with him 24,000 *Riksdaler* which he placed in the common fund.

² See Herlenius' work, pp. 59-60.

Söderhamn, Gothenburg, and Christiania to New York; and thence via Buffalo and the lakes to Chicago. Many of those who came first remained temporarily at Victoria. A colony was then located in Weller township, where a large tract of land was purchased. In 1853 it was organized into a corporation whose business was to be "manufacturing, milling, all kinds of mechanical business, agriculture, and merchandizing."¹ With this we shall have to leave the Bishop Hill colony.²

In the meantime Swedes were beginning to locate in other parts of Illinois and in Iowa. The very large settlements in Victoria township, Knox County, and in Andover township, Henry County, date from the year 1847, though three Swedes had already settled in Victoria in 1838,³ and Sven Nelson located in Andover township as early as 1840. The colony at Bishop Hill and those soon after formed in Victoria, Knox County, and in Andover, Henry County, in Galesburg, Moline, and Rock Island, and surrounding parts of Illinois stood in the closest relation to the early settlements in Iowa. From them as well as from Sweden direct the Iowa settlements were recruited. Of especial interest, however, is the first Swedish settlement at Pine Lake, Wisconsin, as the parent of the first Swedish colony in Iowa, that of New Sweden in Jefferson County, to which we shall now pass.

¹ The Charter of the Bishop Hill colony, Sec. 3.

² Besides the works mentioned above the reader may be referred to *American Communistic Societies*, by Arthur Hinds, New York, 1903; or *The Colony of Bishop Hill*, by J. Swainson, in *Scandinavia*, 1883, and reprinted in Nelson's *History of Scandinavians*.

³ See above p. 592.

THE FIRST SWEDISH SETTLEMENT IN IOWA. NAMES OF THE
FOUNDERS AND LOCALITY IN SWEDEN FROM WHICH THEY
CAME. ROUTE AND COST OF THE VOYAGE. RELATION
OF THE SETTLEMENT TO LATER WEST-
WARD MIGRATION

The first Swedish settlement in Iowa was located at Brush Creek (later New Sweden) in Jefferson County in the fall of 1845. It is the second Swedish rural settlement in America in the last century, and the first extensive settlement in the country.¹ There were in all something over thirty persons in the party, nearly all from Kisa, Östergötland, in east central Sweden. The director of the party and founder of the settlement was Peter Kassel, born in Åsby, Östergötland, in 1791. This was the first party of immigrants from that locality in Sweden. The causes that led them to emigrate and directed them to Iowa were as follows:—Among the earliest settlers in Pine Lake, Wisconsin, we have mentioned P. von Schneidau, who located there in 1842. From Pine Lake he wrote home to his father, Major von Schneidau in Kisa, Östergötland, letters setting forth the great opportunities for the immigrant in the West. These letters were widely read and awakened in many the desire to emigrate to America. Finally, in the summer of 1845 a number decided to emigrate. Among these was Peter Kassel, then a man of fifty-four, who was chosen leader. Kassel had been a miller and for some time overseer or *Rättare* of a large estate. He was a man of a fair, general education for the time; and he was something of a

¹ Being one year prior to that of Bishop Hill.

mechanic, having invented a threshing machine propelled by hand.¹

The party composed of Peter Kassel, wife and five children,² his brother-in-law, Peter Anderson, wife and two children, John Danielson, wife and five children,³ John Munson, wife and three children,⁴ a Mr. Akerman, Erik Anderson,⁵ Sarah Anderson,⁵ all from Östergötland, and a Mr. Berg and family, from Stockholm, embarked with the brig *Superb* early in July from Gothenburg. They landed in New York in the latter part of August of that year, after a voyage of two months. The cost of the voyage was \$20.00. The destination of the expedition was Pine Lake, Wisconsin. In New York the party accidentally met Pehr Dahlberg, who was there at the time to meet his family, which had arrived, August 12th, from Kimbrishamn in southern Sweden. Dahlberg had been in the Wisconsin colony, but had also visited Illinois; and it seems that he knew something about Iowa. Through his influence it was, according to the authority of his son, Robert N. Dahlberg,⁶

¹ These facts are taken from Norelius.

² Two girls and three boys.

³ Two girls and three boys.

⁴ Three girls.

⁵ Unmarried. Sarah Anderson was married in 1851 to John P. Anderson, who came to the colony in 1846.—*History of Jefferson County*, p. 543.

⁶ Dahlberg and family remained two weeks after the arrival of the family. Dahlberg writes: "One day during this time Captain Dahlberg noticed a Swedish vessel anchored near the Bethel ship, and taking a walk along the wharf, he met some of the men who had come on the vessel and learned that four families had arrived from Sweden. The party was delighted to meet him and learn that he could speak the English language; and soon a conference was held, and though the party was headed for Wisconsin they were not slow in understanding the great advantage to them in following one who could talk for them and look after their interests in this land of a strange tongue; and accordingly

that the immigrants decided to go to Iowa. Through Norelius we also learn that Akerman had been in America before, having served in the American army for three years. Later he had returned to Sweden, but came to America again in Kassel's company.¹ Information regarding Iowa may, perhaps, have come through him to the immigrants, but it seems clear that it was primarily Dahlberg who induced them to go to Iowa. [The overland route was by rail to Philadelphia, and from there by canal boat to Pittsburg; thence by the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers as far as Burlington, where they arrived in the latter part of September, 1845. From there the party went inland forty-two miles as far as Brush Creek in Lockridge township, Jefferson County, and located. The settlement which they founded was called by them New Sweden.² To the founders of the colony, then, are to be added, besides those named above, Pehr Dahlberg, wife and seven children.³]

The first government claim preëmpted was that of Pehr Dahlberg,⁴ which is recorded as No. 1043, Fairfield Series,

they entreated him to take them with him to the beautiful Territory of Iowa of which he had heard so much and to which he had determined to take his family." The Bethel ship mentioned was Rev. O. G. Hedström's mission ship. See above, p. 591.

¹ According to Norelius, Akerman was the interpreter for the immigrants on the inland journey (p. 87). In 1846 Akerman went to Fort Des Moines and again joined the army. He died in service in the Mexican war.

² R. N. Dahlberg says that his father and Mr. Berg, both of whom were from Stockholm, christened the place "New Stockholm."

³ The number of the original settlers is generally given as twenty-five or "several families." According to Rev. C. J. Bengston, Rock Island, in a letter to the writer it was thirty, which seems to be about correct, the number being thirty-four plus the members of Mr. Berg's family, which is not given.

⁴ See *Fairfield Tribune* for June 14, 1905, for an article on New Sweden by R. N. Dahlberg, son of Pehr Dahlberg.

and is dated October 7, 1847. The land claimed was the west half of northeast quarter, Section 26, Township 72, N. Range 8 West, upon which Dahlberg had previously built a log house and upon which he was living at the time. In the following year, however, Dahlberg left the colony for Keokuk and did not return.¹ In 1849 he removed to Columbus, Van Buren County, being, therefore, it seems, the first Swedish settler in that county.² The rest, however, all of whom were farmers, remained and the settlement developed into a prosperous community in a few years.

The leading spirit in the colony was undoubtedly Peter Kassel; his name is closely bound up with its early history. He was also the real promoter of further immigration to the settlement as well as to the settlements that were at the same time being formed in different parts of Illinois. [Most of the early Swedish immigrants to Iowa were led to emigrate through letters from Kassel to his old home in Sweden, and the destination of these was always "Kassel's settlement" at New Sweden. With him began the extensive emigration from Östergötland, much of which was, however, later directed to Illinois and other parts of the Northwest.]

The second party of immigrants came in 1846. In that year several families arrived, but the exact number is not known. In 1847 there came a small party from Stockholm,

¹ The reasons for his separation from the colony need not be recited here; they are related in the article in the *Fairfield Tribune* cited above.

² In 1851 he again moved to a place three miles north of Bentonsport, settling in Keosauqua, Van Buren County, in 1852. He died December 9, 1893, in Fairfield, Jefferson County, at the age of ninety-one years and six months. Brief biographies of his seven children who accompanied him to New Sweden in 1845 are given in the article referred to.

settling in New Sweden. In the same year a large party of emigrants who had exchanged letters with Kassel left Östergötland intending to go to Iowa. The settlement in Victoria had been founded in that year, and when they arrived in New York they were advised by Rev. Hedström, who represented to them the advantages for agriculture in Illinois, to take the route through Illinois and Victoria, where his brother lived. Arriving in Victoria they were induced by Jonas Hedström, and through an especially tempting offer to immigrants made by a land company, to settle in Andover; and thus they became the founders of one of the most exclusively Swedish settlements in Illinois. In the following year Andover also received a very large number of immigrants from Östergötland.

[The difficulties connected with getting passage across the Mississippi from Illinois to Burlington (which was the first landing place of all early Swedish immigrants in Iowa) often acted as a check to immigration into Iowa. Thus Nils Magnus Swedberg, who in 1849 came in a party of three hundred, all bound for Jefferson County, waited a long time in vain for accommodations from Rock Island to Burlington, and finally returned to Andover and settled in Swedona, Mercer County.]

Among those who came to New Sweden in 1847 was the well-known Magnus Fredrik Håkansen, from Stockholm, the first Swedish Lutheran minister in Iowa¹ and the founder of the first Swedish church organization in the State, which was located at New Sweden in 1848.² This was, further-

¹ Not ordained, however, before 1851.

² Formally organized, it seems, in 1850; but, see *Scandinavians*, p. 171.

more, the first Swedish Lutheran congregation in America in the last century. Until 1858 Håkansen was the only Swedish Lutheran minister located in Iowa. Swedish settlements had by that time been effected in several counties, and five congregations had been formed, of all of which Rev. Håkansen had charge. In 1856 he located at Berg-holm, Wapello County (see below). In 1849 Rev. Unonius visited the settlement in the capacity of Episcopal minister, and in the year 1850 Rev. Jonas Hedström came there and organized a small Swedish Methodist congregation, the first in the State. In the year 1854 Revs. G. Palmquist and F. O. Nilson, Baptist ministers, came and attempted to organize a Baptist church. The history of the colony during these years is in a large measure the history of religious contro-versies between the ministers.¹ Especially antagonistic to the Lutheran church was the aggressive and often unscrupu-lous Hedström, who succeeded in converting a considerable number of the settlers to Methodism. Kassel himself and Danielson were both converted to that belief and they were among the first Methodist preachers in that locality. In the following years and as late as 1870, the settlement received regularly new accessions from Sweden, mostly from Linköping in Östergötland. They numbered five hun-dred in 1858, including one hundred families.² The colony continued to grow and the settlers were prosperous.³ Among

¹ See the account by Norelius, pp. 88-97.

² *The Centennial History of Jefferson County*, by Chas. H. Fletcher, Fairfield, Iowa, 1876, gives the membership of the Swedish Lutheran church as 400. A writer in 1858 in *Hemlandet*, Chicago, says that "the relatively largest" (de jämförligst flesta) number are Lutherans.

³ The short history referred to says (p. 19) of the population of Lockridge township: "Lockridge Township is largely settled by Swedes who are improv-ing the land and accumulating much wealth in property and money."

New Sweden's prominent pioneers at this time may be mentioned especially Andrew F. Cassel, born in 1831, son of Peter Kassel, the founder; F. O. Danielson, born in 1839, who served in the war in the 4th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Company B; and S. P. Svenson, who with his wife, Anna M. Clementson Svenson and five sons came in 1849 from Horn, Östergötland.¹

[In the sixties removal to newer settlements began on a small scale, as especially in 1868-69 to Swedesburg in Henry County. The writer in *Hemlandet* for 1858 says: "The settlement lies in a forest tract between forty and fifty miles west of Burlington. [Here describing the locality and the growth and prospects of the colony, he continues] Eighty-six families own altogether 5,065 acres of land; 1,788 of this is improved. Only 360 acres were bought as government land at \$1.25 an acre. The rest has been bought of others at prices ranging from \$2 to \$24 per acre."²]

THE FIRST SWEDES IN BURLINGTON. OTHER EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN THE STATE DOWN TO 1855. SWEDE POINT. BERGHOLM. SWEDE BEND. MINERAL RIDGE. THE FOUNDERS OF THESE SETTLEMENTS. TWO EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN NORTH-EASTERN IOWA

Early Swedish immigration to Burlington is intimately connected with that of Jefferson County. Burlington was the distributing point for practically all the Swedish immi-

¹ Removed in 1865 to Ridge Port; the old homestead is now occupied by a son, Frank Swanson.

² These facts as given by Norelius are as follows:—1 family owns 200 acres; 10 families own between 100 and 200 acres each; 12 families own between 80 and 100 acres each; 9 families own between 60 and 80 acres each; 36 families own between 40 and 60 acres each; 13 families own between 20 and 40 acres each; 5 families own less than 20 acres each.

grants into the State. Thus, we have seen how all the parties who went to New Sweden passed through Burlington. The first Swedes in the city were, as far as we know, Kassel and Dahlberg and the party that came with them in 1841; but these did not at any time reside in the city. The first one who permanently located in Burlington and became the founder of its Swedish colony was Fabian Brydolf, who emigrated from Östergötland in 1841, locating in Cleveland, Ohio. His father was a clergyman, and Brydolf had received a good education. He was by profession a landscape painter. In 1846 he came to Burlington with a party of Swedish immigrants, being their interpreter on the journey as well as assisting them in securing land after they arrived at their destination.¹

Fabian Brydolf deserves to be remembered among Iowa's early pioneers. Mr. J. A. Larsen² gives me the following sketch of him which I take the liberty to print: "Brydolf enlisted for the Mexican War in the 13th U. S. Regulars, was in active service throughout the war. At the beginning of the Civil War he raised a company for the 6th Iowa Volunteers, Co. I. He lost his right arm at the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862, was rewarded for bravery with promotion to Lieutenant Colonel of the 21st Iowa. He received commissions from President Lincoln (in 1863) making him Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd Regiment Veteran Reserve Corps.³ Col. Brydolf has the record of being a gallant

¹ *Scandinavians*, p. 158.

² Of Burlington, Iowa.

³ In which capacity he served until 1886. See Nelson, who gives a fuller biography of Brydolf.—*Scandinavians*, pp. 158-159.

soldier and a good disciplinarian. He died at Burlington, Iowa, January 25, 1897."¹

The next Swedish settler in Burlington was Anders Norrman, who with his wife came in 1847 from Malander, Sweden. In that year came also M. F. Håkanson, mentioned above,¹ and in 1849 Johan Ingarson, from Norra Vi in Östergötland. Others certainly had settled in the town by 1849 but their names have not come down to us. By 1850 there were, according to several authorities, about two hundred Swedes in and about the city.² It seems, however, that many of these were not actual settlers, but located there merely temporarily, later moving inland into the State.³ Among those who settled there in 1850 the following may be named: John Augustus Johnson, from Norra Vi, came in August in the ship *Minona* via Boston, Albany, Buffalo, and Chicago, thence by stage to Rock Island; Anders Wall, four brothers, a sister, and mother arrived from Ulrika, Sweden, in October, 1850;⁴ and, finally, Charley Magnus Staff, wife and four children.

The next settlement was formed in 1846 in Boone County,⁵ 170 miles northwest of New Sweden. Those who first located in this locality were from Kisa, Östergötland, Sweden. With the intention of joining Kassel's settlement

¹ Who, however, soon went to New Sweden. Håkanson was born at Ronneby in Blekinge.

² J. A. Larsen, Burlington, (in letter), and also Norelius, p. 101.

³ Mr. Larsen writes that most of those who came at this date stayed only a short time. In fact, even as late as 1857 this was the case. M. F. Håkanson writes (quoted by Norelius): "There are not many who own real property. Most of them are families that remain for a time, and afterward they go farther into the country, but others come in their place."

⁴ Most of this party located north of Fort Des Moines.

⁵ In Douglas and Gardon townships.

they by mistake went west as far as Racoon Forks. A part of the company later went to Jefferson County; the rest, however, being attracted to the locality, decided to locate in Boone County, preëmpting claims twenty-five miles north of Fort Des Moines,¹ just across the Boone County line. These were Magnus Anderson and six minor children; Mrs. Dalander with four sons and two daughters, Emil, Lars P., John, Swan, Anna, and Ulrica,² all grown; Jacob Nelson with two adopted daughters; Andrew Adamson and wife; and John Nelson, an elderly man who in the first years was the religious teacher of the settlers. All were farmers except Andrew Adamson and John Dalander, who were carpenters.³ Among those who located there in the following years were Carl J. Cassel, son of the founder of the New Sweden settlement, and Fred Johnson (1851), son of Anders Johnson, who died in Keokuk in 1851. The nearest town was Fort Des Moines, and they were eighty miles from the nearest grist mill. Some of these settlers later lost their claims and moved twenty-five miles farther north, settling then in Webster County on the Des Moines River (see below). The first deed recorded in the county was given to Mrs. Dalander and her sons for the land which they entered from the government at the time of their arrival.⁴

In the fifties Carl J. Cassel and the Dalanders platted a town on their land and called it Swede Point. Those who

¹ Which at that time consisted of only a few log-houses, says Norelius.

² Ulrica Dalander married Carl J. Cassel (son of Peter Kassel) at Fairfield, Jefferson County, in 1846.—*History of Jefferson County*, Chicago, 1879, p. 418.

³ Facts furnished me by John Anderson, of Madrid, son of Magnus Anderson, who came from Polk County in 1847.

⁴ *A Biographical Record of Boone County*, 1902, biography of Eric Dalander.

located at Swede Point (now Madrid) were mostly Americans, however, but there were ten Swedish families there in 1855. The Webster County settlement increased steadily, being from the first one of the most prosperous in the State.

The settlement that properly comes next in order is that of Bergholm in western Wapello County, which was originally an off-shoot of the New Sweden settlement in Jefferson County. In 1847 Peter Anderson and wife,¹ Edd Fagerström, C. Kilberg,² wife and five children, and Sven Jacobson³ located there. Anderson and Kilberg took several hundred acres of land, were prosperous and did much to develop the locality in its early days. While the settlement never became large there were some immigrants the years following, especially in 1853 and 1854.⁴ Among these were Per Gustaf Anderson⁵ and wife (1851) from Dalhem, Kalmar, Gustaf Johnson⁶ (1852) and family (1853) from the same locality, Carl Johnson,⁶ Sven Burgeson, both from Knäred, Halland (1853), John Palson from Halland, Anders Pearson (Pehrson) also from Låholm Halland in 1853, Nels Pearson and wife (1854) from Knäred, Halland, Nels Swenson, Johannes Swenson, Sven Larsen

¹ From Fryserum, Province of Kalmar, Sweden, born 1817.

² From Låholm, Halland, Sweden. He died a few years ago at Seattle, Washington. The name was in this country changed to Chilberg. Consul Andrew Chilberg of Seattle is a son of C. Kilberg.

³ Also from Låholm, Halland, Sweden.

⁴ Norelius gives the number of Lutheran families in 1857 as twenty-two.

⁵ Born 1820, died March 13, 1904.

⁶ Still living at Munterville, Wapello Co. Mrs. Nels Pearson and Mrs. Sven Larsen are also both still living. Rev. E. T. Lindeen, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church at Bergholm, writes me that of those who took part in the organization of the church in 1856 eight are still living, four men and four women.

and family, the last three from Knäred in the year 1854. In 1857 there were twenty-two families. Norelius says of the settlement at the time: "They lived for some time almost without any intercourse with or knowledge of other Swedes in America. * * * Some became in time quite wealthy and all were comfortable. They owned from 40 to 400 acres of land each. Most of them had come from Halland, a few from Östergötland."

A settlement was formed in 1849 in Hardin township in Webster County near the Boone County line. This settlement, called Swede Bend and which later extended into Marion township in Hamilton County, was founded by those who had been forced to give up their claims in southern Boone County (see above, p. 610). The founder of the settlement was John Linn, born 1826, in Dödringhult, Småland, Sweden, who with his wife came that year. When he and a few others located in Hardin township there were no white settlers in that part of Webster County.¹ Linn lived as a farmer until 1854 when he became converted to Methodism by Gustaf Smith, a Swedish Protestant Methodist minister, who visited the settlement and made some converts there that year. Among the early settlers was also Andrew Erickson, who had emigrated from Bollnäs, Helsingland, to Victoria, Illinois, in 1849. He came to Swede Bend in 1854 as a Methodist (Episcopal) missionary, in which capacity P. Kassel also visited the locality that year. Through the work of Kassel, Erickson, and Linn the Meth-

¹ See *Scandinavians*, Vol. I, p. 184, where biography of Linn is printed. Nelson writes: "While log huts were being put up for the winter, Linn and his wife took up temporary quarters under the trunk of a basswood tree which had been felled so that its butt end rested on the stump."

odist (Episcopal) church¹ became established among the Swedes in Webster County several years before the Lutherans, in Rev. M. F. Håkanson, sent their first missionary there. Among the early pioneer leaders were P. J. Peterson (later ordained as a minister), John Nelson, Samuel Peterson, Peter Swedlund, A. P. Anderson, Hon. Augustus Anderson, Peter Linn, Gustaf Linn, John Lindberg, and Carl Monson. Some of the prominent pioneers among the Lutherans were: Hans Hanson, Peter Larson, Lars. Anderson, Andrew Johnson, G. A. Erickson, Adolf Hanson, John Bergqvist, C. J. A. Ericson,² Andrew Lundblad, Gustaf Rustan, Carl Felleron, and Hans Oberg. In 1860 the settlement numbered a little over 100; since that time it has grown to be one of the most influential settlements in the State.

A short distance south of Swede Bend across the Boone County line at Ridge Port (postoffice, Mineral Ridge) a colony was located in the earlier fifties. The history of this colony is closely bound up with that of the two colonies on the North. Some of the earliest settlers here were Anders Adamson, Lars Fallen, Nicholas Peterson, Adolph Hanson, and Jon Jonson.³ In the spring of 1859, C. J. A. Ericson⁴ came to Ridge Port and there opened a small store. From

¹ Linn was converted to the Methodist Episcopal belief by Kassel and Erickson.

² For a personal history of Senator Ericson, see *A Biographical Record of Boone County*, 1902, pp. 223-226; *History of Scandinavians*, Vol. II, pp. 164-166; and *Progressive Men of Iowa*, Vol. II, p. 227.

³ Thomas Olson, a Norwegian, also located there at the time. The facts regarding northern Boone County and in part also those for Webster County have been kindly furnished me by Senator Ericson, of Boone.

⁴ Senator Ericson came from Altona, Knox County, Illinois. As rental for the store building Mr. Ericson tells me he paid the sum of \$3 per month, and for the residence, a log house of two rooms, he paid \$1.50 per month.

a letter from Mr. Ericson I here quote the following as of special interest: "Times were hard and all the settlers were poor. There was practically no money in the country; the business was largely what was termed 'barter.' Products current at the store were, honey, beeswax, maple sugar, hides, furs, and ginseng. Flour was worth \$7 per 100 pounds, but none to be had. We used corn meal for bread, which was worth \$2 per bushel. Merchandise had to be hauled by teams from Iowa City, then the terminus of the railroad, 150 miles, at a cost of about \$1.25 per 100 pounds, usually requiring two weeks to make the round trip. The roads were mostly mere trails across the prairies with bridges lacking over many of the streams; the teamsters encountered many hardships and difficulties on these trips."

The settlements whose beginnings we have just discussed and which include the three counties of Boone, Webster, and Hamilton, count among their members many of the most enterprising and prosperous men in the State. It is the largest and most influential Swedish community in Iowa.

In Allamakee and Clayton counties two independent settlements were formed at a very early date, the first a little southwest of Lansing, the second between McGregor and Sny Magill. The earliest beginning of the settlement in Allamakee County dates back to 1850, when Erik Sannman¹ from Hudiksvall in Helsingland located there. In the same year G. A. Swedberg arrived from Hudiksvall, and Erik Sund from Tuna.² Further, in 1851, and from the same locality, came Anders Brorström and Anders

¹ Emigrated in 1849.

² These came in the same ship, but had remained a while in Illinois.

Erson, from Gnarp in Helsingland, together with a few others. Immigration continued in the following year, Anders Danielson from Östergötland, A. G. Olson,¹ Andrew Anderson, P. J. Amquest, and Ole G. Anderson being especially named; but the settlement never became large.

The second settlement, founded 1851, was located four miles south of McGregor, near the Sny Magill River.² The founders were Staffan Peterson, Staffan Staffanson,³ and Jan Larson. These were led to emigrate by a brother-in-law of Staffan Peterson who was an ardent Jansenist. Not thriving at Bishop Hill, they went north as far as McGregor, where they with Larson, whom they had met in Illinois, preëmpted land and located. In 1858 there were eight families in the settlement.

These two small settlements were, therefore, formed from Bishop Hill, Illinois. They have always stood isolated from the remaining Swedish settlements in the State; they have sent forth no founders of colonies to the West. The earliest settlement in Jefferson County is in its origin closely connected with those of Pine Lake, Wisconsin, and Victoria, Illinois. It in turn became in the following years a distributing point from which came many of the early pioneers of all the other early colonies to the west and the northwest, the beginnings of which we have endeavored to sketch in these pages.

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¹ The son of Andrew and Bertha Olson, who came in 1854.

² History of the settlement given in *Augustana* for December, 1889, by Professor S. M. Hill, of Augustana College.

³ From Härjedalen, Norrland. Jan Larsen came from Gestrikland.