

"My Mother's Elopement" is a true story about my parents, Linus Markuson and Ester Victoria Naslund in the year of 1908. My father dropped his middle names and one "s" in his last name at the port of entry into the USA. I am the fifth child born to this marriage. I was christened Lesa Adelia Markuson. My birth was registered in Helena, Montana twenty years later as Elizabeth Adelia Markuson.

Children of Linus and Ester Markuson:

Ingrid Victoria	Born 21 June 1909	Columbia Falls, Mt.
	Died 7 Oct. 1909	Columbia Falls, Mt.
Ethel Dagmar	Born 24 Dec. 1910	Galata, Mt.
	Died 6 July 1945	Minneapolis, Minn.
Gunerd Valfrid	Born 28 Oct. 1912	Galata, Mt.
	Died 4 Nov. 1912	Galata, Mt.
Emmi Viola	Born 2 Oct. 1913	Galata, Mt.
Lesa (Elizabeth) Adelia	Born 17 May 1915	Galata, Mt.
Evelina Ruth	Born 25 Feb. 1917	Galata, Mt.
Harold Johann	Born 10 May 1918	Galata, Mt.
	Died 18 Dec. 1981	Galata, Mt.
Leonard Linus	Born 11 Nov. 1919	Galata, Mt.
	Died 2 Oct. 1970	Shelby, Mt.
Esther Marie	Born 23 Nov. 1921	Galata, Mt.
Lillian Katherine "	25 June 1925	Galata, Mt.
Mildred Elvira	Born 16 April 1925	Galata, Mt.

MY MOTHER'S ELOPEMENT

My mother had asked her father many times for permission to marry the man with whom she had fallen in love. Always the answer was, "No, not to a man of his low estate."

This man did indeed come from an impoverished home. His formal education ended with the fourth grade when his father died from a heart attack while out in the woods hunting for a certain kind of tree from which to make a coffin for the infant son who had died the day before. Now the fourth grader had to earn his own board and room. This he did by herding cattle in the wooded mountains.

Having made arrangements for a trip to America, which Grandfather approved thinking that it would make her forget this man in her life, Mother packed her things and said her goodbyes at Vilhelmina, Sweden. What Grandfather did not know was that her husband to be was waiting in Norway to join her on her trip to America. Because he had no money, Mother bought his ticket; and so they set sail! After a brief stop in England, they were again at sea. Traveling third class, they were crowded into small quarters. Mother bunked with three other ladies in a room scarcely large enough for their bunks. Dad always said that although they traveled third class, they danced first class all the way across. During the day they left their deck and went to the top deck where there was music and dancing.

They landed at Quebec the early part of September in 1908 about two weeks after leaving Sweden. Their original destination was a small town in Canada; however some newly made friends told them that that town had little to offer and that they should go to Warren, Minnesota where many Swedes had settled.

At the port of entry to the United States Mother had a brief bit of anxiety. Knowing that she had to produce two hundred fifty dollars before she would be allowed to enter, she had the money ready. The

rest of her money she had sewed to her under-clothes. When asked to show all of her money, she stood very still for a long time, then finally said, "I have more and it is mine". This sufficed, so she was allowed to go on.

The rest of the way they traveled by train. At one stop while Mother and Dad got off to eat, the train cars were switched and some cars were coupled to another train. My parents made the mistake of boarding the wrong train. All of their possessions were on the other train. The money that Mother had once sewed to her under-clothes she had given to Dad for safe keeping. She was more than a little disturbed when told that this was now in the pocket of Dad's coat which was slung over a seat in the other train. The train moved on in spite of their desperate feelings. Upon arriving at the next station, they found that their original train was waiting for them. Some friends had discovered that they were missing and had convinced the conductor to do something about it. Friends had never been so greatly appreciated! Many Swedes found other Swedes on this trip, but a great tragedy soon deprived them of many of these newly found friends. As my parents sat playing cards towards the front of the train, a violent impact shook them. Another train had telescoped their train from the rear. More than half of the passengers were killed. Dad went out to offer help to the injured. He told of boards which had pierced some people and decapitated others. Mother had some injury and so had retained her seat on the train.

When they arrived at Warren, Minnesota, they found that obtaining employment was easier for single people; hence the wedding was postponed for practical reasons. Mother had no trouble finding work in a hotel because she had worked in her father's hotel and knew the business very well. Her room was a tiny basement room and the working hours were from six in the morning until ten at night.

Inasmuch as Dad's job on a farm and Mother's job in a hotel both offered free board and room, the idea of a secret marriage appealed to them. And so one Saturday evening they were married. The next day both of them were to have a day off. This altered when the landlady came into Mother's room early Sunday morning and found a man there. She was angered to think that this nice Swedish girl was not so nice after all, and embarrassed because she herself was dressed only in her nightgown. Mother was ordered to the attic to patch mattresses. After dressing and regaining her composure the landlady went upstairs to question her employee who tearfully explained that she was married the night before and had expected the day off. The landlady remained suspicious until the wedding certificate was produced. Now the entire atmosphere changed. Mother and Dad were treated to a lovely wedding dinner party, and Mother was given the best of recommendations for a new job which would not require her to live at the place of employment. Thus they embarked on a new life together in this wonderful new country!

Name of Compiler Elizabeth Leighton

FOUR GENERATION ANCESTOR CHART

Address P.O. Box 193

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. 1 on chart No. 1.

Chart No. 1

City, State Chester, Mt. 59522

Date 6 Feb. 1984

8 Hans Ersson
b. 23 Sept. 1854 (Father of No. 4.
Cont. on chart No. _____)
p.b. Östra Noret, Åsele
m. Sweden

p.m.
d.
p.d.

9 Andrietta Anna Erika
b. 4 Oct. 1826 (Mother of No. 4.
Cont. on chart No. _____)
p.b. S. Latikberg, Vilhelmina
d.
p.d.

10 Jöns Ericksson
b. 26 May 1816 (Father of No. 5.
Cont. on chart No. _____)
p.b. Mårdsjön, Dorotea
m. Sweden

p.m.
d.
p.d.

11 Eva Magdalena Swensdotter
b. 9 April 1816 (Mother of No. 5.
Cont. on chart No. _____)
p.b. Forsnäs, Åsele
d. Sweden

p.d.

12 Johanne Eric Nelson
b. (Father of No. 6.
Cont. on chart No. _____)
p.b. Gidea, Sweden

m.
p.m.
d.
p.d.

13
b. (Mother of No. 6.
Cont. on chart No. _____)
p.b.
d.
p.d.

14
b. (Father of No. 7.
Cont. on chart No. _____)
p.b.
m.

p.m.
d.
p.d.

15
b. (Mother of No. 7.
Cont. on chart No. _____)
p.b.
d.
n.d.

4 Markus Leonard Hansson
b. 28 Sept. 1854 (Father of No. 2)
p.b. Latikberg, Vilhelmina
m. Sweden

p.m.
d.
p.d.

2 Linus Valfrid Kalixtus Markuson
b. 29 June 1887 (Father of No. 1)
p.b. Vilhelmina, Sweden
m. Sept. 1908
p.m. Warren, Minn.
d. 2 Nov. 1954
p.d. Whitefish, Mt.

5 Inga Karolina Jönsdotter
b. 15 Sept. 1856 (Mother of No. 2)
p.b. Lillånäs Tåsjö Jämtland
d. 15 April 1922
p.d. Cranbrook, B.C. Canada

1 Lesa (Elizabeth) Adelia Markuson
b. 17 May 1915
p.b. Galata, Mt.
m. 6 Dec. 1935
p.m. Galata, Mt.
d.
p.d.

6 Nels Eric Naslund
b. 16 June 1862 (Father of No. 3)
p.b. Gidea, Angermanlan
m. Sweden

p.m.
d. 16 Oct. 1919
p.d. Vilhelmina, Sweden

3 Ester Victoria Naslund
b. 30 Jan. 1885 (Mother of No. 1)
p.b. Risbacken, Gidea, Sweden
d. 6 July 1969
p.d. Spokanem Wash

7 Evelina Bodia
b. 1865 (Mother of No. 3)
p.b. Risbacken, Sweden
d. 1906
p.d.

Clifford Leighton
b. 1 Dec. 1912 Spouse of No. 1.
p.b. Mount Hope, Wisc.
d.
p.d.

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