



Ernfrid Andersson
1919 -



I had no idea I would meet Ernfrid when I went to Sweden in June of 2000. What a pleasant surprise that was! Elsa, Torvald's wife, had arranged for me to meet him on that great-coming-together day in June. We had the nicest family reunion of Grandpa Sven's family! We all met in the Örtofta Church on June 17, 2000. It was a brilliant, skyblue, cool day. We sat out in the churchyard and talked, ate, and looked at pictures of relatives. It was wonderful.

I don't know much about Ernfrid or what he did for a living or when he married Maja. That is primarily because I do not know Swedish and can't ask. Maybe this information will come to light some day.

Ernfrid brought this picture with him:



I had seen this picture amongst my grandparents photos and felt strongly that it was a picture of relatives, but I did not know who they were (does anybody write on the back of pictures?) . The picture was taken in 1925 probably just before my grandparents (top row) came to America. The others in the picture are Ernfrid's brother Algot and his parents, Maja and Johan Andersson.

Ernfrid also brought another gift. Brigadier Hjalmar Swembel wrote a series of 14 articles about Grandpa Sven in the 1968 Stridsropets and Ernfrid brought copies of all 14 of the articles to me in a loose-leaf notebook. A few days after this visit, I was visiting with my friends Ije and Sven Wickberg in Stockholm. Sven discovered the articles and very kindly translated them for me - he translated and I video taped. When I arrived back in the United States I transcribed them and they now comprise the greater part of Grandpa Sven's "story."

If Dad hadn't kept Frieda's letters which inspired to me find

Sven via the Internet,

and if Jan-Eric hadn't found me on the internet and learned I was coming to Sweden to visit Sven and Ije and thus a family reunion was arranged,

and if Ernfrid hadn't brought the articles,

and if Sven hadn't discovered them and translated them, well...

well, they might have been translated some day, but I am sincerely glad the translation hapened sooner than later. So thank you Ernfrid and Sven - from the bottom of my heart.

Ernfrid, however, was not finished giving gifts. After our luncheon, and after everyone had filled in more information on the family tree I had brought, we all took a stroll to the cemetary where Johanna and her last husband (Åke Bengtsson) and Torvald are buried. Ernfrid stood beside Johanna's grave and gave a short talk about her which I video taped. To date I have not had it transcribed, but hopefully someday it will be. It was quite a poignant moment when all of Johanna's ancestors stood around her grave and listened to Ernfrid talk about her. The Örtofta church has seen many of Johanna's offspring pass through her portals - from births to confirmations to weddings to death.



*The Ernfrid Andersson Family
June 17, 2000*

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