

**Johan Andersson
1874 - 1954**

Johan was born January 29, 1874, and was Johanna and Anders Martensson's fourth child (Johanna's fifth child). He was born nine years after Johanna and Sven Hanson's son Sven (my Grandfather). Johan was Grandpa Sven's step brother and of all the siblings, I think they were closest.

When I look at the family history through Johan's eyes, he seems to have had a fairly traumatic childhood. His sister Kerstin died when he was five; his older brother (Grandpa Sven), whom I think he adored, left to work in Jönköping when he was approximately 11; his Dad, Anders, died at just about the same time Grandpa Sven left home; and a year later his mother, Johanna, married again. A psychologist today might have wondered how he survived all these drastic life changes at such a young age, but Johan seems to have survived it all with flying colors. I believe he lived all of his 80 years in Örtofta and Marieholm, Sweden, with his wife Johanna and sons Algot and Ernfrid. I do not know what Johan's occupation was.



*Johan Andersson
and
Sven Andersson
(Wiberg)
~1905*



I also don't know when Johan and Johanna were married, but it must have been rather late in life. I'm going to guess they married about 1905 at which time Johan would have been 31 and Johanna would have been 26. I say this because their first son, Algot, was born in 1906 when Johanna was 27 and Johan was 32. They waited another 13 years before they had their second (and last) son, Ernfrid.

I am guessing that this picture was taken in 1925 just before my Grandparents left Sweden to take up their duties in America. In 1925 Lotten would have been 54, Sven 60, Algot 19, Johanna 46, Johan 51, and Ernfrid 6 - so the ages look right. Ernfrid gave me

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this picture when I visited Sweden in June of 2000.

The following letters were written after Johan and Johanna were Grandparents; I do not have any letters or information about his younger years. The letters, however, do contain a quite a bit of family information. When I met Johan's son, Ernfrid, it really pained me that I could not speak Swedish and thus could not ask him more about his father and his childhood.

Partial letter from Augusta to Lotten:

New York,
February 7, 1925

My own beloved sister,

A thousand thanks for the most welcome letter which I received a long time ago and for the photograph it was so dear to see you all and so welcome [to hear] that Sven's brother and brother-in-law* came to visit you,

***this is the Uncle Johan that Hugo refers to in his letter dated January 22, 1925.**

Johan and his brother-in-law (perhaps Herman Lind, Johan's sister Kisten's husband) did visit my Grandparents in Stockholm at least once as mentioned in this 1925 letter. However, I don't think this picture was taken at the time of the 1925 (nor is it the picture that Augusta refers to) visit because the men look too young. This picture probably was taken around 1904 or 1905 just before my grandparents left Sweden for Japan. Acutually, I'm not even positive this is Johan and his brother-in-law, because nothing was written on the picture. My only clue is that the two men are in civilian clothes and the gentleman on the left looks like Johan to me. If I am correct about the men and the dates, Johan would have been 31 in this picture - and that's just about how old he looks.



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Marieholm,
December 3, 1946

Dear Brother and Sister-in-law,

We must make a serious attempt to write, or it will look like we have forgotten one another again, but that surely hasn't happened, we think a lot about how things are with you [and] hope that Sven is still well enough so that he can be up and more or less take care of himself, [and] for that we must be grateful so long as we can. We are fine, as usual I have my work with my animals we have 15 chickens and a cat I get to take care of them and look out for Morsan* also, ride my bicycle to do the shopping, and also one has the garden, but that is finished for this year. So now there is a little free time, but soon it will be Christmas and one has to begin arranging for that, travelling to our children to celebrate. Ernfrid was home last Sunday, we had a party at Algot's for his 40th birthday, so we were all together there when everything goes so fast that one has such old children and we can send greetings from them all the little girls too. Algot has one, and Ernfrid two, they are so quick and clever they hug grandmother and grandfather when they come home so we are purely astonished [that] it is so good with grandmother and grandfather.

We can send greetings from Örtofta we were all there this summer, Betty [Johan's step sister] was 60 years old, time goes so fast one isn't able to keep up, when one thinks about the past one doesn't think it was so long ago since one ran and played in Radby, one remembers it as if it were yesterday. We are wondering if Lind has written to you, he got the address from us, he sold his house in Malmö, he lives with Herta now and he sends greetings from all of them [and] they are all well, Emil is [working] at the sugar factory Betty's husband is at Höösmöllarn, [and] all of us are so fine that we are very pleased with our lot in life.

I am hereby sending the most heartfelt greetings to all of you for a joyful Christmas from us our children and grandchildren.

Your brother Johan

Now I am going to add a few lines to both of you [to] thank you for the letter we received this summer Johan forgot to do it. I don't have anything special to tell you I wrote about our boys and their families the last time they are all fine and it is so much fun when they come home I don't know if we are going to Ernfrid's this Christmas it hasn't been decided yet, we were there for 4 days last Christmas but then one must go home again, well, such is life one thing after another [and] everyone is in such a hurry these days, cars go by here all day, the road isn't free from cars for 5 minutes. Bicycles and horse-drawn buggies, we hope that you all are in good health, such as we are, now finally many many dear greetings from all of us

Johanna and Johan

write to us again soon. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

P.S. Well, Johan and I were talking about what your grandchildren are named, it would be very interesting to know, we have forgotten to ask before, do it next time Lotten. I have surely written that Algot's little girl's name is Sonja Ingbritt, she was 9 years old on November 3 this year, so it is her third year in school.

Ernfrid's girls. There is Iris Gullbritt. She will be 5 years old on Christmas Eve. The youngest is Inga Sylvia Marianne, she'll be 2 on April 8, 1947, and they are all fine. We wonder if Lotten has any siblings in Huskvarna now, or other relatives who are still living at home in old Sweden. Well, goodbye for this time.

Johanna

Mary, there is a third P.S. written upside down on the corner of the first page, also in Johanna's handwriting. It says: Thanks for the picture of Sven we received, but you should also have been in it, Lotten.

****Morsan** is an affectionate form of "mor" which means mother; but he actually means Johanna, his wife.**

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Marieholm,
January 22, 1951

Well, Dearest Lotten, a sincere thank you for thinking of us here, we have been neglectful so long, one must really try to do it now, it isn't going as well as before, one's hands become a little shaky, but I shall do my best, it was nice to hear that you are healthy, as usual, as are we. Have just done the dishes after dinner here, string beans with ham, and apple cake, and now Johan is lying on the sofa and "Kitty Cat" in the rattan chair, so it is nice for us here. Yesterday, Sunday, Algot and Marta were home for several hours in the afternoon. Their daughter, Sonja, will be 14 years old in the Fall, [and] will be confirmed this summer. We were all together, both Algot's and Ernfrid's [families] for Twelfth Night, but we weren't more than 9 counting us, Ernfrid only has 2 girls, Gullbritt [who is] 9, Inga who will be 6 in April, all three girls are clever and we all have a good time. There are quite a few jobs at the wool factory, and that is good since everything is so expensive, clothing and groceries and firewood are all going up in price and it will be worse for us pensioners, but we have our house, and a family who is living with us, young people who have a girl who will start school in the Fall, her name is Birgitta. We haven't seen any of the siblings for a while, but everything is probably all right, we got Christmas cards from all of them. Lind was in the hospital in Lund last Fall but he is well again, we haven't heard anything, he is living with Hertha in Lomma, where they have a place on a large farm there, and Lind has worked at the asbestos factory there and may still do so if he is well enough. His youngest daughter Greta is a manager at Egg-central in Hälsingborg, she has been there for many, many years, she is married to a man who is a tailor, they have no children. Hertha and Torsten only have one son Egon, who will be 18 this year, he works in Malmö. Johan works here with his chickens during the day, there is nothing to be earned by it, but he has something to make the time pass, but that is how time passes, and with us, too. Well, you and I will soon have another birthday, you will be 80 on February 23 and I will be 72 on the 27th, and I am sending you many, many sincere wishes for happiness from all of the relatives in Skåne.

Lovingly,

Johanna and Johan

Sincere greetings to the children and grandchildren, they have probably completely forgotten Sweden.

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