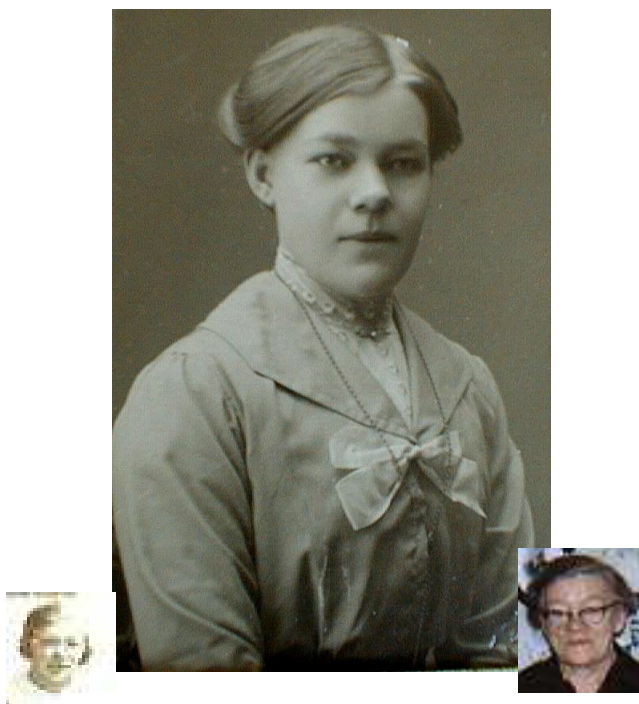


Signe Cecilia Magnusson 1897 - 1971



The more I learn about Signe, the more I realize what a salvation she was to this family. She was a God-send many times over.

She was born in Huskvarna, Sweden, in 1897. When she was 16, her mother, Edla, died of tuberculosis. Being the oldest, it probably fell to her to take care of her father and the other four children, the youngest of whom, Hugo, was five years old at the time. A few years after her father Emil's mill burned in 1917, the family moved to Skärsågen, Tranås, where Signe continued as caregiver until the children were grown.

When Signe was 24 years old she went to live with my Grandparents in Göteborg where they were stationed as Divisional Officers at the time. Grandma's sister Augusta wrote a letter to Grandma dated December 29, 1921:

... Oh!, little Signe is coming to you soon, she is so clever and it will be nice for you to have her there, and nice for S [Signe] to get out also.

Hugo, Signe's youngest brother, would have been 13 in 1921, so perhaps it was okay to leave him at home with Dad. When my Grandparents were transferred to Stockholm to be the Training College Principals in 1922, Signe went with them - two years before her cousins, Hugo, Sam, and Kal, left the nest for good. The boys seem to have developed a great fondness for their cousin because they write home frequently and always ask about her:

Sam, from the boat S.S. "Japan" on The Sea of China, February __, 1923:

I wonder what kind of a winter you have had---if Sven has had a chance to use his "Spark" and if our Signe is still there . . .

Signe Cecilia Magnusson
1897 - 1971

Kal, from Columbia University in New York City to his mother on May 13, 1923:

I have been thinking of you a whole lot today. Not that I don't do that every day, but today is a special day for you. Mother's Day. Today I am truly sorry I cannot follow with my thoughts over to the old country to sit down with you and pa and Sven and have a long chat. Imagine the surprise you would have as you were sitting down to your lunch suddenly to have someone ringing at the door. Signe would open it with her characteristic softness, but there would be no softness on her part after the door was once open. She would leave the visitor to make his way in best he could, while she would break away on a wild scramble to the dining room door with the white face of her'n all suffused with redness, like a peony, and she would blurt out, "Kaleb."

Dad, from Redlands, California, on June 27, 1923:

It pleases me to hear that Signe is still with all of you. I have often wondered if that were the case. Please give her my heartfelt greetings!

On September 16, 1923, Grandma wrote to Dad:

Signe left on Aug. 1, and yesterday little Bojan jellström--Olga's sister---came here.

So Signe lived with the family for almost two years before she went back to Skärsågan at age 26.

Two years before her father died, he sold the farm to her brother Gunnar. I believe it was at this time that she and her brother Karl (neither ever married) moved into the house across the street. But once again her help was needed. In 1948, when she was 51 years old, she lovingly took care of her brother Gunnar's children, Erik (age 9) and Dagmar (age 7), for two years while his wife Ingrid was in a tuberculosis sanitorium.

Dad saw Signe once again in 1968 - 46 years after she had lived with them in Göteborg and Stockholm. On Saturday, June 1, 1968, Mom writes in her journal:

. . . went to Hugo's cousin Signe in Skärsågan . . . A long delightful ride through the woods to Signe's home where was also waiting Karl Magnusson [Signe's brother]. Signe and Karl have never married. Signe's home is typical Swedish style; so neat and clean. Floor boards scrubbed white where they showed. She and Tyra [her sister] do not look alike. Tyra resembles Grandmother somewhat in the face. She lives in a lovely location, close by a small lake. I like her! Had coffee.

On June 2nd, all the cousins assembled at Gunner's home. On leaving, Mom says:

Signe was very talkative this afternoon; seemed very much moved when she said goodbye.

**Signe Cecilia Magnusson
1897 - 1971**

I'm sure she was. From the tone of the letters the boys write, and from what Dagmar tells me, Signe was very shy but a warm and caring woman who was much beloved by all.

I am so glad that Mom and Dad made that trip because Signe lived only three more years.

+

Vår älskade Syster
och Svägerska

**Signe Cecilia
Magnusson**

* 18/1 1897

har i dag lämnat oss, släkt och
vänner i djup sorg och saknad.

Skärsågen, Tranås
den 18 juni 1971.

Carl
Tyra och Joel
Gunnar och Ingrid
Hugo och Ruth
Syskonbarnen

Stilla Du somnade in från
världen
Soliga minnen Du lämnade kvar
Tårfyllda ögon Dig följa på
färden
Tack kära Signe för allt vad
Du var.

Jordfästningen äger rum ons-
dagen den 23 juni 1971 kl. 14.00
i Huskvarna kyrka. De som
önska följa vår kära inbjudes
efter gravsättningen på Hak-
arps kyrkogård till minnesstund
i Ungdomsgården, Hakarp.

Klädsel: Kavaj.

O. s. a. till telefon 036/130201,
130266, 130440 senast tisdagen
den 22 juni.

Meddelas endast på detta sätt.

Signe Cecilia Magnusson
1897 - 1971