

Augusta and Ivar Petersson

Although Ivar (as he was called) and Augusta had known each other in Sweden, it wasn't until about a year after Augusta emigrated that Ivar arrived in America. He looked up his childhood friend, they fell in love, and got married on June 29, 1889. Augusta was a little over eight months older than Ivar. Lars built a home for them on Bainbridge Avenue in New York city which is near the famous Woodlawn Cemetery. She and Ivar had four children: Elmer Lars Magnus (1890), Anna Augusta (1892), Hildur Sophia Isola (1896), and Harry Arvid (1898).



Ivar and Augusta
~1888

Hanna Augusta Andersson
1864 - 1935

One of the questions I asked Mom when I interviewed her in 1977 was if Grandma Lotten had any sisters. Mom replied:

Yes she did. I knew of Alma - and I can't think of the other - I'm sure two other sisters [Lotten had two sisters - Augusta and Alma], but I do remember meeting Alma and some of Grandma's cousins. I think Alma [actually, it was Augusta] was a Seventh Day Adventist and they lived not too many miles away from Grandma in Bergenfield, and we visited their home - Hugo and I - Papa and I. And she was a very nice person and her daughters and the son that we knew and whose address I must have somewhere at home - I'm sure he's not - Elmer - I'm sure he's not dead yet [in 1977] because he was not too much older than Papa.

I was only two years old when Augusta died, so I do not remember Augusta or her family. However, my oldest (born 1929) brother Sven (in a conversation I had with him on April 18, 2000) did remember meeting some relatives. He said he went with Grandma and Grandpa to visit one of Grandma's sisters and that there was a boy there [Panet, I believe] who was a little older than Sven. Sven was fascinated by a toy set the boy had that allowed you to pour molten metal into molds to make toy soldiers.

From research Marianne Lundgren conducted in Sweden on my behalf and information provided by Augusta and Alma's Great Grandchildren (Todd and Eileen), I now know a bit more about Grandma's siblings, i.e., how many there were, their birth dates, etc). I know a little more about Augusta and Alma than I do about their brothers (Karl and Emil) because the girls corresponded with Grandma. These letters are scattered throughout the "Wiberg Family Letters." You can learn more about Grandma's parents' family by reading their letters (see Augusta and Ivar's Table of Contents). Augusta and Alma's letters are "stream of consciousness" letters. There is a lot of information in them and many names are mentioned. The three sisters naturally knew the relationships, but I am only left with clues and guesses. Many of the relationships mentioned have been cleared up by relatives who have found me via the Internet, but if anybody reading this can fill in other missing information, please contact me (mcl1@psu.edu).

In 1905 Augusta returned to Sweden to see her parents. She took with her the three younger children. Ivar would not let the oldest child, Elmer, go. He said that if the mother left one child here in the States she would return. Otherwise she might not come back. It was a lengthy trip on a slow boat - maybe two or three weeks. His mother carried food for the trip in a large trunk. The chef allowed Augusta to come to the galley and make oatmeal for the children's breakfast. They all had a wonderful time in Sweden and returned to the States at the end of the children's school vacation. The children were speaking fluent Swedish by this time.*

Grandma talks about Augusta's failing health in a letter to Grandpa dated December 13, 1934, in which Grandma says that she thinks Augusta has had a stroke; Augusta would have been 70 years old at the time, as would Ivar. Augusta died 10 months later. Ivar died 13 years after Augusta in 1948 at age 84.

*Todd provided this story (via Beatrice May Fox Peterson - Augusta's daughter-in-law)