

LARS AND LISA LARSSON

LARS AND LISA LARSSON

A Record of Three Generations, 1827-1990



Written and collected by
Roy A. Johnson

2008

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This is copy of thirty copies.

The photograph on the title page is of the Nedre Ullerud parish church, Värmland, Sweden.

In Memory of

“Jean the Genealogist”

Jean Emily Larson

a.k.a.

Jean Astrid Larson

1941 – 2005

Table of Contents

Preface	ix
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Part 1. Three Generations. Lars and Lisa (Gustafsdotter)

Larsson, Children and Grandchildren	1
Introduction	1
Lars Larsson	6
Lars Gustaf (“Gust”) Larsson/Larson	8
Maria Lena Larsdotter	11
Carolina Larsdotter	12
Sophia Larsdotter	13
Fifth Child, Stillborn	14
Johan August Larsson/Larson (a.k.a. Charles Smith)	14
Anna Lisa Larsdotter	15
Otto Larsson/Larson	19
Adolf Larsson/Larson	37
Emma Larsdotter	38
Elvina (“Ella”) Larsdotter	45
Oscar Larsson/Larson	47
Related History	47
Boomerville	47
A Photographic Record of a Visit to Itasca State Park	50
Swedish Potato Sausage and Other Ethnic Foods	52
Cards and Letters	53

Part 2. Additional Photographs

Lars Larsson	55
Lars Gustaf Larson and Family	56
Maria Lena Larsdotter	57
Sophia Larsdotter and Family	57
Otto Larson and Family	58
Emma Larsdotter and Family	62

Oscar Larson	64
Unidentified Photographs	65
References and Notes	68
Part 3. List of Photographs	71
Part 4. Genealogy	78
Introduction	78
Ancestor Report for Lars Larsson	79
Ancestor Report for Lisa Gustafsdotter	83
Descendent Report for Lars and Lisa Larsson	89
Appendix	94
Map. Parishes of Värmland, 1890	94
Index	96

Preface

In a letter sent to me in 1981, Jean Larson reflected upon gift ideas for the fiftieth wedding anniversaries of two of her uncles, Edgar and Leonard Larson. In her trademark green ink, she wrote: "... nothing special came to mind – until now. What I'm doing is having sets of copies made of photos of their Larson & Hedin grandparents (my grt-grandp.). That doesn't do much for the non-Larson spouses, which is too bad, but it *is* something worth doing, as the sets can become heirlooms in each family. And with luck, it may even inspire those interested in the non-Larson ancestry to do likewise with any photos available on those lines." She continued her letter with comments about some Larson photographs described by me in a previous letter to her.

The above-described note was but one of many that I received from her over the years in which she excitedly told about her latest genealogical efforts and discoveries. She also would exhort me to find and save photographs and to interview elderly relatives about the "old country and the pioneer days" before "it is too late." Although I had considerable information of my own about my ancestors and relatives, I greatly benefited from her encouragement of and interest in my genealogical endeavors. More importantly, she shared with me the results of her research into the Larson family tree. Since my grandmother, Emma (Larsdotter) Johnson, is one branch of that tree, the data that Jean collected was relevant to my own Larson ancestry.

Now in the winter of 2008, more than twenty-five years have passed and it is, indeed, "too late" to collect more stories and information from the generation that included our fathers and mothers. Sadly, it also is too late to benefit further from Jean's vast knowledge of Larson ancestry and genealogy since she died on 26 Jul 2005. After her death, my geographical proximity to her estate in San Francisco allowed me to help retrieve her genealogy files and collection of family photographs. As I prepared an inventory of her photographs, I was reminded of the large collection of portraits and snapshots that were handed down to me from my grandmother Johnson. I always marvel at the clarity of the images in some of these photographs considering that many are now more than one hundred years old.

An aura of "before it is too late" also hangs over these photographs. The photographs themselves, with careful storage, likely can be preserved for another one hundred years or more. But it now may be too late to determine who the unidentified persons in some of the photographs were and what their position in the family tree may have been. It is not, however, too late to make a better record of those persons who are identified. One purpose of this book is to create such a record. Another aspect of this collection of photos is that, while they are admirable to me when I pull them out of their storage box, they are not readily accessible to others – primarily family members – who might also marvel at the images when they see them. Another purpose of this book, therefore, is to make the collections of Larson family photos from Jean and my grandmother more widely available.

The focus of this book is on three generations of the Larson family, beginning with Lars and Lisa Larsson who were born in the province (or county) of Värmland, Sweden, in the first half of the 19th century. Photographs, when available, and brief biographies of Lars and Lisa (first generation), of their eleven children (second generation), and of their twenty-eight grandchildren (third generation)

are given in Part I of this book. There are entries for each person but these vary in length from a single sentence to several paragraphs, depending on the amount of information available.

Some family members appear in more photographs than could conveniently be included in Part I. These additional photographs are collected in Part 2. There also are a number of old portraits in Part 2 for which the identifications are unknown. Because these photos came from Emma (Larsdotter) Johnson's photo album, it seems likely that some of the persons were members of the Larson family.

A list of photographs is given in Part 3. Because many of the photographs were cropped, enlarged, or reduced in size for use in this book, the original dimensions are given in the list. The list also includes information concerning the origins of the photos and how identification of the persons shown in the photographs was made. There are 124 figures in the book reproducing 117 photographs, six greeting cards, and one map.

Larson family genealogy is given in Part 4 in three traditional genealogy reports. Two ancestor reports (in a format also known as an ahnentafel) give the ancestors of Lars Larsson and Lisa (Gustafsdotter) Larsson. The third, a descendent report, gives the two generations of descendents of Lars and Lisa Larsson covered in this book. The preponderance of data presented in these reports was collected by Jean Larson. The reports given here were generated from this data with the aid of the genealogy software, Family Tree Maker™.

My warmest thanks go to my second cousins who gave encouragement to this project and contributed biographical information as well as a number of key photographs and to Håkon Bergström who provided new genealogical data for the maternal ancestors of Lisa (Gustafsdotter) Larsson. These contributions are acknowledged at the appropriate places throughout the book.

Roy A. Johnson
Sausalito, California

January, 2008