

The Letters of Georg Evard Bergwall -
The Inconclusive History of George and Ebba's Descendants
Obtaining The Letters from the Bergwall's in Sweden

Between 1881 and 1893

Charlotte Bergwall, daughter of George and Ebba, travels to Sweden, visits her Uncle Anton and his family in Lund and her Step-brother Johan and his wife in Gefle, reconnecting the American Bergwalls to the Swedish Bergwalls.

The Letters:

1893, May 30 (Lund, Sweden)

George's brother Anton writes to George's son Edward Bergwall to tender his sympathies on learning of Charlotte's untimely death and their loss of her "fostering, faithful love and warm devotion." The Bergwall family lawyer, Dreutzer, sent a newspaper obituary to Anton.

1893, June 13 (Gefle, Sweden)

Having received the newspaper obituary clippings and a note from his Uncle Anton, George's son Johan writes to his step-brother Edward Bergwall to commiserate on the death of their sister Charlotte. He promises he will have "a portrait in oil of our father- - as he appeared in youth" sent to Edward after his (Johan's) death.

1893, August 14 (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Edward writes to Johan to transfer probate papers to him for his signature. He also acknowledges Johan's shared grief and says, "Charlotte was both Mother and Sister." Edward then invites Johan to the U.S. and Chicago's World's Fair.

1893, August 27 (Gefle, Sweden)

Johan returns the probate papers to Edward, thanks him for the invitation but declines due to poor health. (Johan's odd suggestion that Edward look over a report listing Johan's duties and labor, suggests to this author that Edward, ever the salesman and in a letter we do not have, tried to interest Johan to purchase some of his drug company products.)

1893, December 11 (Gefle, Sweden)

Johan and wife send Edward, his wife and sisters wishes of joy and happiness for the arising year. He ends his letter by telling Edward that though he had signed and returned the probate papers, he had not heard back from him and is "afraid it got lost or miscarried, or else something happened to prevent you from writing." The string of correspondence preserved ends with this letter.

A new string of correspondence—interrupted by World War II—emerges. The letters are found and promised: `

1940, March 7 (Worcester, Massachusetts)

One of Anton's sons, Victor Bergwall, who immigrated to the U.S.A., responds to a letter he received from Jennie, Wife of Edward (George and Ebba's son) which informed Victor of the death of Edward and his sister Ida.

Victor writes that upon his father Anton's death, his family found
"several letters written by Edward's father (George Edward Bergwall) to my father, his brother (Anton), and we thought these letters might interest our cousins in America, so we were willing to send them to America, but now when my cousins all are dead, it is of no interest to the rest of the Bergwalls here." (How wrong Victor, indeed, was.)

Victor goes on to ask for genealogical information on the descendants of George Bergwall in the U.S. which Victor's uncle Carl requested in order to complete
"a book over all the Bergwalls and has written me several times to get the history of the American generation."

Victor completes his letter by inviting Jennie and "any Bergwall" to "come and see us."

1940, March 18 (Worcester, Massachusetts)

Having received a card from Jennie that apparently enthusiastically expresses her family's desire to receive the letters of George Bergwall, Victor writes,
"I have already written my brother Walter B., a doctor in Lund, Sweden, to mail you my uncles letters, so I am sure you will get them next month some time." Victor continues, "If you can send me those informations about about the Bergwalls in U.S.A. I will be very thankful."

1947, Note above the first of the Letters of Georg Edvard Bergwall in the booklet
"LETTERS RECEIVED FROM JOHN (Johan) BERGWALL OF STOCKHOLM THROUGH VICTOR BERGWALL OF BOSTON ON 1947"

John is George Bergwall's son who George left in Sweden when he left the country.

1948, Feb (Hartland, Wisconsin)

However, when Jennie responds to a letter dated February 17, 1948 written to her by Walter Bergwall, Medical Doctor of Lund Sweden, she writes,

“I speak for all of us when I say that the letters written by Edward’s father to Uncle Anton will be cherished and carefully studied when you send them. This is the year of the Wisconsin Centennial observance and interest in the history of the state is very high.”

Either Jennie (and Charlotte Bergwall Owen, who helped Jennie write the letter) is unaware of someone in the family receiving the letters or the note in the booklet mentioned above is incorrect in some of its details.

The letter goes on to tell news concerning the many Bergwalls in the Hartland area, to encourage more correspondence between the families and to invite the Swedish Bergwalls to visit the Hartland Bergwalls.

1949, November 1 (Lund, Sweden)

At the time of the writing of this letter, the Swedish Bergwalls appear to have not received genealogical data of the American Bergwalls that they have requested several times. Dr. Walter Bergwall writes to Jennie,

“In one of my letters to you, I asked if you kindly would give me informations about the Family Bergwall in the U.S.A. I send you here a register belonging what I know about the family. Please continue the register and give me so many informations as possible over all members of the family.”

Walter then provides information concerning the first known of the Bergwalls and thanks Jennie for a letter dated July 1948.