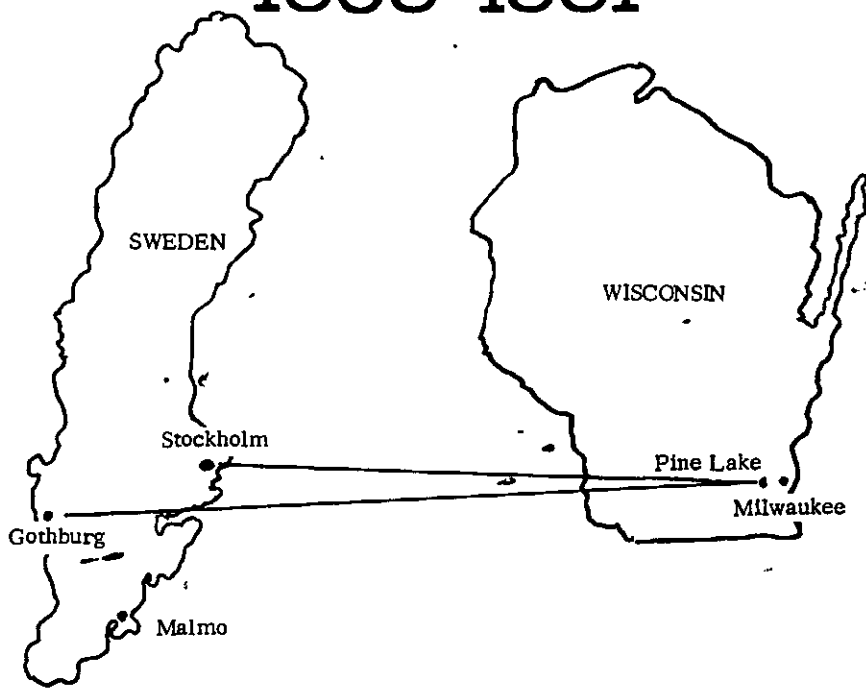
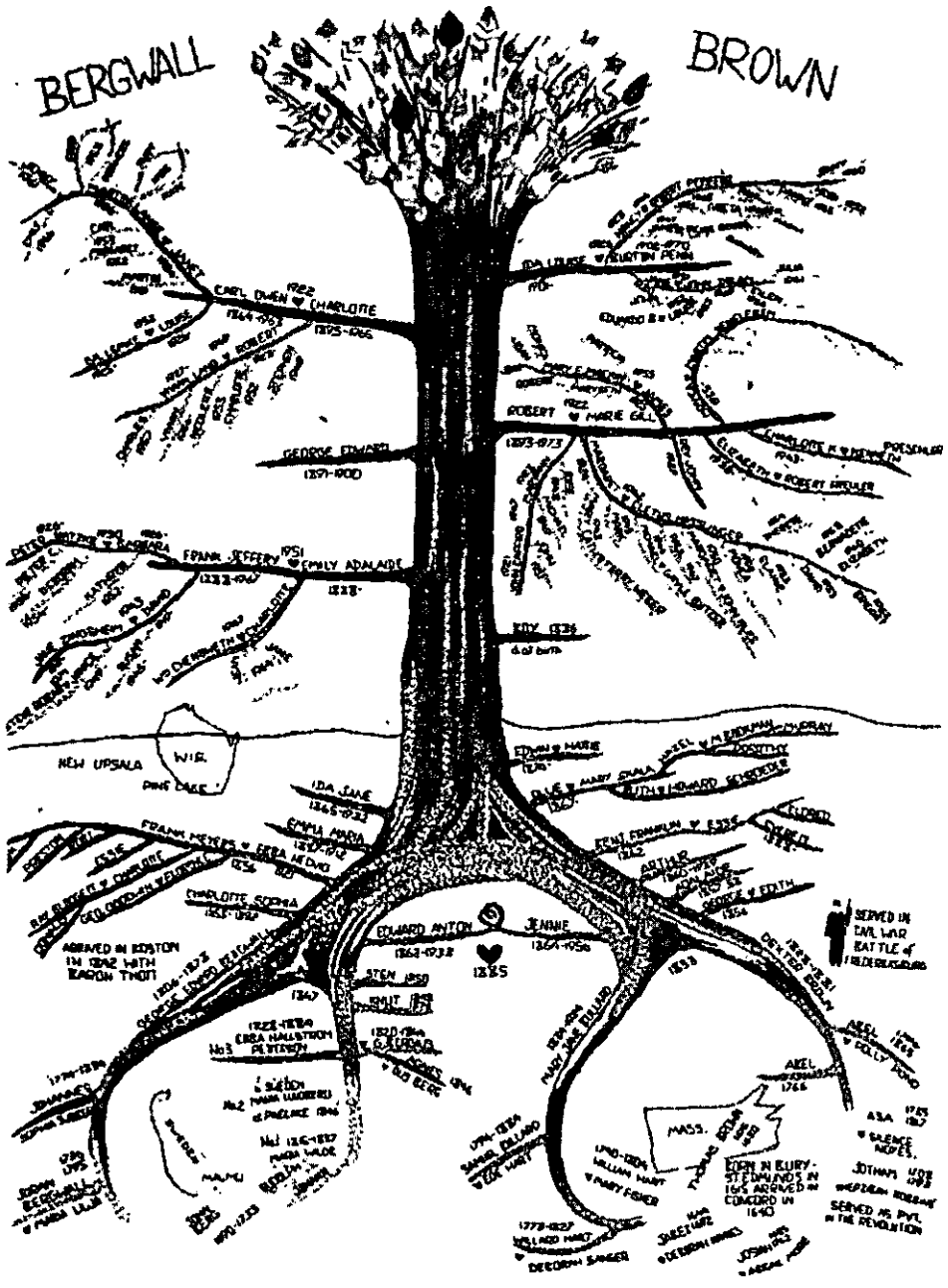


LETTERS
OF
GEORG EDVARD
BERGWALL
1858-1881



BERGWALL

BROWN



SERVED IN THE WAR BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG

JOHN WISE SERVED AS PVT. IN THE REVOLUTION

MASS. 1780

ASA 1780

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LETTERS
OF
GEORG EDVARD
BERGWALL
1858-1881

Dedicated to
EMILY BERGWALL JEFFERY

on her 88th birthday

July 28, 1976

George Bergwall left Sweden in 1840. After spending two years as a customs officer in the Netherlands, he set sail for North America in 1842, landing in Boston. Traveling by cart and horse, he arrived in Wisconsin in late 1843.

Bergwall was married to a Maria Wilde in Sweden. She died shortly after giving birth to their second son, Rudolf. Their first son Johann (John) remained in Sweden when Bergwall came to the United States. Rudolf died shortly after his birth.

Bergwall remarried a second time in Wisconsin. His wife Maria Lundberg died within a year of the marriage. There were no children. His third wife, Ebba Hallstrom Petterson, was a widow, with one child, Agnes. George Bergwall and Ebba Petterson were married in 1847. They had seven children, Knut, Steb, Charlotte, Ebba, Edda, Edward and Ida Jeanne. He died in 1871. His wife died in 1884.

EXCERPTS FROM NEW UPSALA.... THE FIRST SWEDISH SETTLEMENT

by Filip A. Forsbeck, M.D.

Based on the Narratives of GUSTAF UNONIUS

"One day when Carl and I were out in the woods to corral the cattle, I accidentally met a party of four unknown wanderers. One held a map in his hand and another a cane, which had a miniature spade for a lower end, evidently for conveniently digging and examining the nature of the soil. With the others they apparently belonged to the new sets of immigrants who poured into the country at the opening of navigation. Through speculators, land agents, and newspapers it seemed that Wisconsin had become very popular and it was spoken of as 'The best country in the world'. I had hardly greeted the four strangers before one of them said: 'We are now on section 33, I believe, and you are one of the Swedes who live here, I guess.' One 'guesses' here that the sun is shining in its midday glory, and if one is a Swede and questioned if such is the case, one may in perfect conformity with local use of vernacular very properly answer, 'I guess so'. I guessed, consequently, quite correctly that I was a Swede, and by intuition I also guessed that I was in the presence of other Swedes. The one who spoke to me, however, was an American, who now referred further conversation to his companions.

These were a Baron Thott from Skane, Mr. G. E. Bergwall from Gothenburg and Stockholm, and Mr. Wadman from Norrkoping, and they were heartily invited to a simple lunch at our cabin. No countryman, coming direct from Sweden, had visited us here since our arrival, and this proved then to be a red letter day."

"Bergwall had with pioneer spirit entered into the activities of frontier life and had learned to dexterously handle both the axe and the scythe. Blessed with good health and strength, he set about not to build but to dig himself a place to live in. A sort of underground trench compartment was the result, and by exceptional efforts and great ingenuity he succeeded in creating quite a comfortable dwelling. He was one of the few colonists who after a previous life of luxury understood and could accommodate himself to the hazards of bad fortune. He was happy and satisfied with everything; the trees on the hills around his 'Vanhem' -- Fair home -- were in his estimation larger and finer than others, the water from his spring was clearer and tastier than any other, and his 'hole in the ground' was the best, warmest, and most comfortable habitation around Pine Lake. Very unpretentious though it was, his contentment and self-satisfaction in its possession were often expressed in his, 'there is no place like home.'"

"George Bergwall who was a revenue collector at the port of Gothenburg, Sweden, after giving up his post at the University of Upsala, settled in 1842 one mile from the village of North Lake. Charles Balkman, a sailor, settled just opposite of Bergwall on the east shore of North Lake. Vohlene, another member, lived on the shore of Beaver Lake on the farm afterwards owned by Hiram Simonds. On the west side of Pine Lake were located the Nordberg and Bergius families. Others in the colony were John Johnson, Ernest Ekedahl, a harness maker, who did not stay very long, George Glerup and a man by the name of Blanxius. Bergius, Glerup, Blanxius and Bergwall married daughters of the Peterson household."

"The most romantic interest, however, lingers about Captain von Schneidau, his wife and family. Captain von Schneidau belonged to the staff of Prince Oscar of Sweden, and was his best friend and daily companion, until he became enamored of a great beauty, Froken Jacobson, a Swedish Jewess. As it was an infringement upon the matrimonial codes of Sweden for Jew and Gentile to marry, they journeyed across to Denmark, where they were united, and then to this country, joining the colony at Pine Lake. Thus they began life under the most trying circumstances and innumerable drawbacks, and they endured severe hardships. An infant son (or daughter, not sure) born to them at Pine Lake, died from exposure to frost and cold."

"Bergwall, of whom we have heard before, dug himself a cave in the side of a hill and made this his home. It was near the place where the tool shop on what was the Chenequa Hotel property now stands. The cave which he called, "Vanhem" he lined with logs and boasted that it was the warmest and finest home in the colony."

Waukesha Daily Freeman, April 24, 1939

