

**Anders Andersson (40)**

Born: 1 Sept 1792, Nusnäs, Mora, Sweden

Married: 30 Mar 1812, Mora, (20)  
Sweden

Died: June 6, 1833, Nusnäs, Mora,  
Sweden

**Brita Olsdotter (54)**

Born: 1793, Mora, Sweden

Married: 30 Mar 1812, (19)  
Mora, Sweden

Died: 1847

Children: Anders Andersson, 1813-1844 (31)  
Anna Andersdotter, 1815-1866 (51)  
Britta Andersdotter, 1819-1820 (1)  
Olof Andersson, 1821-1822 (1)  
Britta Andersdotter, 1823-1844 (21)  
Olof Andersson, 1827-1827 (at birth)  
Kerstin Andersdotter, 1830-?  
**Olof Andersson, 1833-1904 (71)**

Source: Sweden Baptisms 1611-1920s, Födelse, död: HFL

It is sad that Olof Andersson, our ancestor, grew up without his father. It must have been difficult for his mother, Brita, to raise the family on her own. She only had her eldest son, Anders (20), to help her. Her daughter, Anna, was 18 so she would have been able to get work outside the home and perhaps send some money to her mother.

During the 18th century, the area around Mora was struck by famine, and many citizens abandoned their homes. Most went to Stockholm and southern Sweden where they learned new craftsman skills. Returning to Mora they used their new knowledge to build up new industries. During the end of the 18th century and the 19th, cottage industries of clocks, sewing machines, knives and water taps were important to the economy. Water taps and knives are still thriving industries.

In April 1812, King Charles John (Charles XIII) formed an alliance with Russia against Napoleon. In 1813, Sweden joined the war against France. At the end of the year Charles XIII turned on Denmark. At that time the Danish king ruled Norway, and Charles XIII wished to make it his own. In this he succeeded. In January 1814, the Danes surrendered Norway to Sweden.

King Charles XIII died in 1818 and Crown Prince Charles John became the new king. By then the population of Sweden was about 2 1/2 million. It rose to 3 1/2 million by 1850. Part of the reason for the increase was reform of agriculture. In the early 19th century farmland in Sweden was enclosed. In 1800 most land was farmed using the 'open field' system. Land was divided into small strips and each farmer owned several strips scattered around the village. In the early 19th century the land was 'enclosed', that is, it was divided up so each farmer got a single block of land in one place. Enclosure allowed Swedish agriculture to become more efficient. The rise in population was despite large scale emigration. Many Swedes emigrated to the USA in the 19th century.

In the early 19th century, Sweden was an overwhelmingly agricultural country. However, in 1846, trade was deregulated. Until then it was controlled by organisations called guilds. In that year the guilds lost their powers. Meanwhile, in 1842, universal primary education was introduced in Sweden. The first railway in Sweden was built in 1856.

Oscar I became king of Sweden in 1844. In 1865 he agreed to constitutional reform. In 1867 the old Riksdag, which was divided into four estates, nobility, clergy, burghers and peasants, was replaced by a parliament with two houses.

In the late 19th century and early 20th century, Sweden was transformed by the industrial revolution. Production of iron and steel boomed. The Swedish engineering industry also flourished. Swedish industry was helped by the introduction of hydro-electricity at the end of the 19th century. The industrial revolution brought a drop in fertility rates. This, in conjunction with the rapid emigration of Swedish people to North America, resulted in low increases in population rates.

“Oakta” – out of wedlock - parents may have married later, maybe having been already betrothed, and the child considered legitimate.

By this time, having a child out of wedlock was not necessarily a shame. In Stockholm in the mid 1800s, many couples lived together and had children without being married. These unions were called “Stockholm marriages”. In the 1840s, more than half the children born in Stockholm were born out of wedlock. Five percent in the countryside were illegitimate.

Extramarital sex was technically illegal until 1864. Thus, parents of illegitimate children could be charged. If a couple was found guilty of extramarital sex, the woman could be forced to appear in front of the congregation in the church (“shriving”). Interestingly enough, men guilty of extramarital sex did not often receive this punishment.