

Om Gamla Landet

Our folks, like so many others, came to this land as immigrants. Mother and Dad were married Dec. 27, 1902, in Steneby, Dalsland, Sweden. They were impressed by friends who came back home displaying their wealth, the tales they told of good fortune awaiting them in the United States.



Tiger
Lilies

They sailed to America on the CEDRIC, with two small children, John Algot, almost 3 years old, and Baby Edith, only 6 weeks old. Immigrants of those days were quite different from tourists of today. On board ship Mother found time to wash clothes for some of the other passengers - the deck they were allowed to promenade had no railing - their arrival at Ellis Island July 13, 1905 proved disappointing because of the not too kindly treatment accorded them by officials who took advantage of the fact that these people could neither speak English nor understand when spoken to. A small satchel containing all of Edith's baby clothing had been carried off the ship by a friend, and in the confusion of landing he could not be located. After examinations were over, they traveled on to the home of Dad's brother, Andrew, in Worcester, Massachusetts.

But let's go back to Sweden and talk about the things of long ago and far away.

Sweden, in those days was still under a feudal system. Rich landowner's property was bordered by small share-cropper farms and farther out again were even the poorer farms, and their meager living, provided, I suppose, only the barest essentials to sustain life. These people lived in a t \ddot{o} rp, a tapp K \ddot{o} ja, a thatch hut or sometimes not more than a dugout in the hills. Visitors to Sweden now see tall trees growing atop these roofs. The Master Estate was called Herre G \ddot{a} rden and much of the social life centered around this place, and, if large enough was a small community of its own.