

by helping in the fields. (When a man entered a bank or other public place of business he removed his hat and coat in respect to the high position of those who served him.)

Shoes for the entire family were fitted and made by Skomakkarren who came once a year - after that it was up to the man of the house to keep the shoes in repair till the shoemakers' next visit. All this was done in the kitchen, the family living room. Besides the necessary spinning wheel and loom there were sofas lining the walls of the room, so it was an important part of the house. I have not mentioned rug making - they were fancy ones and others. The family washing was done once a year - outdoors. This meant making lye from ashes combining it with tallow to make soap. At this time, the house was given a thorough cleaning too, so when done there was indeed reason to celebrate. "Å, my, när allting va rent å grant då kunne vi njuta," said Mother, and I can see her now as she sniffed the cleanliness in the air - pure ecstasy it was, and a great joy in seeing a hard job well done. So you see from what I've told you that their lives were so full of doing the very necessary things - beginning from raw materials to feed and clothe a family, they had to live carefully and conservatively or they would not have had any best to reserve for Sunday. They could not permit such frivolities as unnecessary laundry, even though there was often a pig in the home, she had her duties, too.



With Father's help, I have been able to trace our family line back to 1775. The name was RASK, derived from military service. This man had one son that Dad knew of, grand father to both our parents, Anders Rask, born about 1805. He had 3 sons and one daughter, Johannes, Gustav, Petter (Mother's Dad) and Anna Maria. (Father's Mother) Mother's Mother, came from the family of Johan Magnusson, born about 1836. Father's Father, came from the family of Magnus Persson, born 1804. Perhaps this picture will clarify itself if you study the charts I have made.

By some of the names I have placed notes that I think are of interest - particularly in the case of Johannes Magnusson who comes from the Magnus Persson line. He lives on a farm in Sweden which has been held by some member of the family since 1500. Also, Gustav Andersson, born 1836, who came to this country by sailboat, a seven weeks trip - settled in Minnesota. Uncle John Björklund was christened Johann Hilmar Henriësson, but changed his name - he and Betty, his wife, eloped!