



Research Summary & Life Story

Ellen Forsberg Yorgason

b. 3 Dec 1821 Kristianstad, Sweden
d. 6 Mar 1906 Utah, United States

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Background / Introduction

The fact that there was little known information about Ellen Forsberg Yorgason, the second wife of my ancestor Soren Yorgason of Fountain Green, Utah, was noted by well-known descendant and author Blaine M. Yorgason as far back as 1976, in his book, *Tall Timber: The Struggles of James Yorgason, A Mormon Polygamist*:

There is some indication that after Karna (Caroline), Soren's wife, was killed by the cow, that Soren married again. The name of Ellen Forsberg is found in the family records as his second wife, but absolutely no information has ever been found concerning her. All that is known is that she is buried next to Soren in the little family cemetery north of Fountain Green, Utah.¹

I found that this was still true when I reviewed the genealogical records in 2019. Soren and Ellen married in their old age, had no children, and left no known written stories or memories of her. She was a mystery. As a descendant of Soren and Karna, it became a challenge to me to discover who Ellen Forsberg was and where she came from.

Fortunately, clues about her origin came from records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Sanpete County, Utah. Her membership record in the Fountain Green Ward and her Manti Temple marriage record led to her family in Sweden.

After two years of research, the pages that follow represent the life of Ellen Pettersdotter Forsberg Yorgason as pieced together from various records. Although they usually only state facts such as who were her parents, where she lived, and who she married, they at least give us a glimpse into the forces that shaped her life.

¹ Yorgason, Blaine M. (1976) *Tall Timber: The Struggles of James Yorgason, a Mormon Polygamist*. Ricks College Press, page 99, footnote 28; microfilm 982,238, item 1, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Preliminaries

Naming Customs, Spelling

In Scandinavian countries, a patronymic naming system was in use from the late Middle Ages until the 1800's. If a father named Per had a son named Jöns, he would be called Jöns Persson--literaly meaning Per's son. A daughter born to Per would have the patronymic Persdotter. These patronymic surnames would change every generation. It was not until the 1860's or later that people began to adopt a permanent family surname that was carried down through the descendants.²

It is also important to know that when a woman married, she did not take her husband's patronymic name. (After all, she did not become the son of her husband's father.) If her husband had a family surname, she might take that name, but it was uncommon to do so.

In Sweden in the 1800's many names were interchangeable: a man named Peter could also be referred to as Petrus, Peder, or Per. Also, spelling was not standardized; a writer might record a name any number of ways—Per, Pehr, or Pär for example. This explains the variations in the original records.

Many families followed a tradition of naming children after grandparents and parents. In this way, given names were used over and over in families; many cousins would have the same given name. In general, there was not a large pool of given names to begin with. The result was that many names were very, very common.

All of these factors pose a challenge to the researcher; how can one be sure he or she is tracing the correct person? Proof that this Elna, born in Sweden to a Petter between 1815 and 1825—among hundreds of other Elna Pettersdotters—is the same person as Ellen Forsberg Yorgason of Fountain Green, Utah in 1888, is ultimately proved by tracing her through the years. The Swedish household survey records, explained in the next section, make it possible to positively identify our Elna, to track her moves to different Parishes, and to see her eventual emigration. The Elna I have found does indeed end up in Fountain Green, married to Soren Yorgason.

It has become somewhat customary to use a person's original birth record name and spelling for genealogical records and reports. Using a woman's maiden name is less confusing, especially if she has multiple marriages. Therefore, on family group sheets or other reports, and in FamilySearch, our Elna will be *Elna Pettersdotter*.³

2 For an excellent discussion of naming practices see Hans Högman's site: www.hhogman.se > English > History > "Swedish naming practices in earlier times."

3 Elna Pettersdotter, also known as Ellen Forsberg Yorgason, has FamilySearch ID# MR91-WP8. Dates, sources, ancestors, and families may be found, and family group sheets & reports can be generated at: FamilySearch.org > Family Tree> Find> By ID> MR91-WP8 [LINK](#)

However, across her lifetime she went by many different names; this document will embrace that reality.⁴ I will use her birth name *Elna Pettersdotter* before her first marriage and *Elna Forsberg* after her first marriage. When she emigrated, *Elna* became anglicized to *Ellen* in most of the subsequent records. She will be *Ellen Forsberg* after emigration and *Ellen Yorgason* after her second marriage. (You can see why using the birth name is preferred in genealogy!)

Swedish Records

The Lutheran Church was the state church of Sweden at this time period, and was responsible for recording births, marriages, deaths, and household surveys, which were somewhat equivalent to a census. These original record books were written and kept in the local Parish.

In the early 1800's, parish priests usually kept one book for the recording of births, deaths, and marriages. These were hand written entries on blank pages that progressed chronologically as events transpired. Usually, each type of entries would have their own section, but sometimes all types of entries were intermingled. Priests would format these entries how ever they wished. Some record keepers were more thorough than others. In the later 1800's, printed pages with columns were used for keeping the records, and separate books were kept for births, marriages, and deaths.

In addition to this Parish book the priest kept a household survey, or household examination book.⁵ It would track the families of the parish for a period about five years. The priest would record the residence name (the equivalent of an address) and everyone who lived there – the husband, wife, children, hired workers, and lodgers. For each person a title or relationship is noted, and their birth date and place is recorded. Each year the priest would update the record. Additionally, annotations were made to the record as births, deaths, marriages, or moves transpired. When people moved in or out of the Parish, a note of where they came from or went to was made, and what year. Whether a person had been vaccinated and where they were in their church catechism studies may also be noted in these records. After usually about five years, a new ledger book was started.

These household surveys are invaluable in genealogical research. They provide the information needed to uniquely identify a person--among so many same-named persons--by birth date and place, and to track his or her moves from residence to residence across the years.

4 See Appendix B for name variations used in the records over her lifetime.

5 The FamilySearch Wiki has a good description of these Household Survey records at: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sweden_Household_Examination_Records

Citing Sources from Sweden

Digital images of the original Parish books are now available through online databases. Three of these providers are:

- RiksArkivet.se -- the Royal Archives of Sweden, free access
- ArkivDigital.net -- by paid subscription
- FamilySearch.org -- free access

In this document, I cite only RiksArkivet and ArkivDigital. All citations of Swedish records will follow this format:

Description of information.

Parish name (County identifier⁶), record series code⁷ : volume number (years covered), page.

I also include hyperlinks to the page in both RiksArkivet and ArkivDigital whenever possible.

6 M = Malmöhus Län, L = Kristianstad Län. Explanation and map of counties is found at:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Counties_of_Sweden

7 An explanation of the letter codes for different record types is found here:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden:_Church_Archive_Cataloging_Plan

Young Life

Elna's Parents

Ellen Forsberg Yorgason was born as Elna Pettersdotter in 1821 in Färingtofta Parish, Malmöhus County to Petter Nilsson and Sissa Pehrsson.

Elna's father Petter Nilsson was born on 25 September 1799 in Hallaröd Parish,⁸ and her mother Sissela Pehrsson was born on 28 August 1798 in Färingtofta Parish.^{9 10} As a young man, Petter lived in the villages of Södra Hultarp and Wasteröd in Hallaröd Parish^{11 12}, then in Klinta No. 5 in Bosjöklöster Parish.¹³

Sissela lived at her parents' home in Bjärrödshus, Färingtofta Parish¹⁴ (also called Färntofta¹⁵), until 1818 when she moved to Hallaröd Parish and became a hired servant in Wasteröd No. 1. The couple most likely met when they both lived and worked at Wasteröd No. 1, from 1818 to 1821.¹⁶ From there, Sissela moved to her parents' home in Färingtofta in 1821, where she gave birth to Elna on 3 December 1821. Petter worked in Södra Hultarp,¹⁷ then moved to the home of Sissela's parents in 1823; they married there the same year.¹⁸

8 Birth of Petter Nilsson, 25 Sept 1799.

Hallaröd (M) CI:3 (1778-1823), page 85. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

9 Birth of Sissela Pehrsson, 28 Aug 1798.

Färingtofta (L) CI:2 (1795-1839), page 9. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

10 See the places list and maps in Appendix A

11 Residence of Petter Nilsson in Södra Hultarp, 1813 - 1818.

Hallaröd (M) AI:1 (1813-1818), pp 27, 28, 30. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

12 Residence of Petter Nilsson in Södra Hultarp, 1822 - 1823.

Hallaröd (M) AI:3 (1822-1827), page 45. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

13 Residence of Petter Nilsson in Klinta No.5, 1819.

Bosjöklöster (M) AI:1 (1811-1825), 1819 section, page 13. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

14 Residence of Sissela Pehrsson with her parents in Bjärrödshus, 1806 - 1813.

Färingtofta (L) AI:1 (1806-1813), page 54. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

15 "Färntofta" as a variant of "Färingtofta," in birthplace of Elna Pettersdotter, Wasteröd No.1, 1823 - 1824.

Hallaröd (M) AI:3 (1822-1827), page 19. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

16 Residence of Petter Nilsson and of Sissela Pehrsson in Wasteröd, 1818 - 1821.

Hallaröd (M) AI:2 (1818-1822), page 16. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

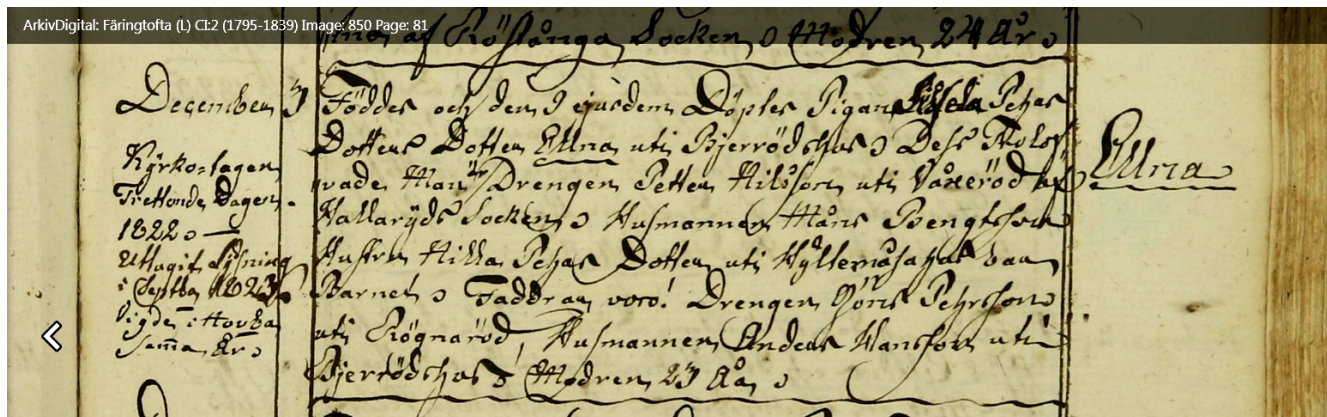
17 Residence of Petter Nilsson in Södra Hultarp, 1822 - 1823

Hallaröd (M) AI:3 (1822-1827), page 45. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

18 Residence of Sissela & Petter living with Pehr Mathisson & Bengta Jönsdotter in Bjärrödshus, 1819 - 1823; their marriage is noted. Färingtofta (L) AI:4 (1819-1823), page 33. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Birth of Elna Pettersdotter – 3 December 1821

Elna was born on 3 December 1821 to Petter Nilsson (age 22) and Sissela Pehrsdotter (age 23) in Bjärrödshus, Färingtofta Parish, Kristianstad, Sweden. Her parents were engaged but not married at the time. As noted in the birth entry, they married in 1823.



Her birth record,¹⁹ an image of which appears above, is translated as follows:

December 3rd, born, and the 9th of same [month] christened: unmarried woman Sissela Pehrsdotter's daughter Elna, of Bjärrödshus. [The father is] her betrothed man Petter Nilsson from Väneröd of Hallaryds Parish.

Tenant farmer Måns Bengsson's wife Nilla Pehrs Dotter [the sister of Petter's mother] of Hyllemåla carried the child [at the christening]. Witnesses were: Farm hand Jöns Pehrsson [Sissela's brother] of Rögnaröd, [and] tenant farmer Anders Hansson of Bjärrödshus. The mother is 23 years.

[Note to the to the left of the entry:] The mother was introduced 6 January 1822. The parents were engaged in 1823 and married that same year.

In the Lutheran Church at this time, a woman was considered unclean after childbirth; she would be introduced to the church congregation after about six weeks. This is why the mother is not present at the christening and another woman carries the baby.

As previously mentioned, this Elna Pettersdotter, among hundreds of other same-named persons, can be traced across her lifetime in the household surveys and other records. This Elna does indeed end up in Fountain Green, married to Soren Yorgason in her later years.

¹⁹ Birth of Elna Pettersdotter, 3 Dec 1821.

Färingtofta (L) Cl:2 (1795-1839), page 81. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Marriage of Elna's Parents – 15 November 1823

Petter Nilsson and Sissela Persdotter married on 15 November 1823 in Färingtofta Parish. The Färingtofta Parish marriage entry, in the year 1823, is translated as:

November 15th was married Petter Nilsson from Hultarp of Hallaröd Parish and Sissela Pehrsdotter from Bjerrödhus of Hallaröd Parish.²⁰

Conditions in Rural Sweden, early 1800's

The household survey record entries for Elna's parents across time give clues about their economic standing and living conditions. One excellent source of relevant historical information on life in rural Sweden at this time period is given by Ulf A. Beijbom and Lars-Goran Johansson in their essay "At Home in Old Rural Sweden":

[Conditions] in 1833 [were] characterized . . . in the following sarcastic manner: 'With the assistance of peace, vaccination, and potatoes the population has increased considerably. But since this development is not matched by new jobs the result is one-sided, and a badly planned system has come forth all over the society. The land is filled with dugouts inhabited by people with no other capital than their hands.'²¹

Hans Högman, on his genealogy and history website further explains that these dugouts were called *backstugar*; in the South of Sweden they were called *gatehus*.²² Of those who lived there, Högman says:

[They] were without any assets and were a motley crowd of people consisting of craftsmen, farm workers as well as old people and the very poor. . . They had no permanent employments and the [gatehusmän] were often underemployed and underfed. The number of [them] increased a lot between 1750 and 1850. It was common that the [gatehus] houses only had three proper walls-- dugouts, the fourth wall was made of earth. In other words, [they] were more or less hovels.²³

²⁰ Marriage of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsdotter.

Färingtofta (L) FI:1 (1795-1842), page 185. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

²¹ Beijbom, U., and Johansson, L-G. (1980). At Home in Old Rural Sweden. In World Conference on Records: Preserving Our Heritage, August 12 – 15 1980. Vol 8: Scandinavian Family and Local History, Series 611, p3, Family History Library. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/16686>

²² Högman, H. (2022, February 16). "Backstugesittare," The Old Agricultural Society and its People. Hans Högman's Genealogy and History Site. Retrieved April 1, 2022, from <http://hhogman.se/agricultural-society.htm>

²³ Hogman. "Backstugesittare",The Old Agricultural Society and its People. [LINK](#)

Beijbom and Johansson add: "The 'backward social trend' in an overpopulated rural society had brought [these dugout dwellers] to the lowest rung of the social ladder."²⁴

Unfortunately, these were the conditions of Elna's parents.

Residences of Elna's Parents – 1823 to 1887

Petter and Sissela moved quite often. Petter's title was given as *drang*, a hired farm hand, until 1827. They probably moved from employment to employment earning only enough to get by.²⁵

From 1827 to 1834 Peter was listed as an *Inhysehjon*-- this designation means he and his family were poor and living in someone else's home on charity, without paying rent.²⁶ From 1834 to 1842, Petter was again listed as *drang*.

For the next period, no title is given, but in 1847, Peter's title was given as *husmän*. In this case, since his residence is *Gatehus*, it means he was a *gatehusmän*. He and his family were living in a dugout, in the lowest economic rung of society.

Peter and Sissela did not move again after this; Peter died at this residence. A summary of residences is as follows:

All in Hallaröd Parish:

- 1823 - 1824, Wasteröd No.1,²⁷ w/ children Ohla & Elna
- 1824 - 1825, Norra Hultarp No.1,²⁸ w/ children Ohla & Elna
- 1825 - 1827, Södra Hultarp No.1,²⁹ w/ children Ohla & Elna
- 1827 - 1830, Esperöd Hussar Hus,³⁰ w/ children Ohla & Elna

24 Beijbom & Johansson. Old Rural Sweden, Vol 8, pg 3. [LINK](#)

25 Högman, "Legostadgor," The Old Agricultural Society and its People. [LINK](#)

26 Högman, "Inhysehjon," The Old Agricultural Society and its People. [LINK](#)

27 Residence of Petter Nilsson and Sissela Pehrsson, Wasteröd, 1823 - 1824. Hallaröd (M) AI:3 (1822-1827), page 19. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

28 Residence of Petter Nilsson and Sissela Pehrsson, Norra Hultarp, 1824 - 1825. Hallaröd (M) AI:3 (1822-1827), page 55. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

29 Residence of Petter Nilsson and Sissela Pehrsson, Södra Hultarp, 1825 - 1827. Hallaröd (M) AI:3 (1822-1827), page 41. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

30 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Esperöd Hussar Hus, 1827 - 1830. Hallaröd (M) AI:4 (1828-1831). RiksA image 101; ArkivD page 183. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

1830 - 1831, Månstorp No.1,³¹ w/ children Ohla, Elna, & Johanna
1831 - 1834, Södra Hultarp No.6,³² w/ children Ohla, Elna, & Johanna
1834 - 1836, Tockarp No.1,³³ w/ children Ohla, Elna, & Christoffer
1836 - 1841, Tockarp No.1³⁴, w/ children Ohla, Christoffer, Jöns, Elna, & Johanna
1841 - 1842, Tockarp No.1³⁵, w/ children Christoffer & Johanna
1842 - 1846, Södra Hultarp No.3 Gatehus³⁶, w/ Christoffer, Ohla Frid, Elna, & Johanna
1847 - 1855, Södra Hultarp No.3 Gatehus³⁷, w/ Christoffer & Johanna
1856 - 1863, Södra Hultarp No.3 Gatehus³⁸, w/ Johanna
1864 - 1870, Södra Hultarp No.3³⁹, no children
1871 - 1876, Södra Hultarp No.3⁴⁰, Petter dies 1871
1877 - 1878, Södra Hultarp No.3⁴¹, Sissela only
1878 - 1885, Fattighuset⁴², Sissela only (the poorhouse, or infirmary)
1886 - 1887, Fattighuset⁴³, Sissela dies 1887

31 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Månstorp No.1, 1830 - 1831.
Hallaröd (M) AI:4 (1828-1831), RiksA image 102, ArkivD page 185. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

32 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, with Petter's father, Södra Hultarp No.6, 1831 - 1834.
Hallaröd (M) AI:5 (1831-1836), RiksA image 73, ArkivD page 133. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

33 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Tockarp No.1, 1834 - 1836.
Hallaröd (M) AI:5 (1831-1836), RiksA image 51, ArkivD page 89. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

34 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Tockarp No.1, 1836 - 1841.
Hallaröd (M) AI:6 (1836-1841), RiksA image 57, ArkivD page 95. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

35 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Tockarp No.1, 1841 - 1842.
Hallaröd (M) AI:7 (1841-1846), RiksA image 51, ArkivD page 87. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

36 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Södra Hultarp No.3 Gatehus, 1842 - 1846.
Hallaröd (M) AI:7 (1841-1846), RiksA image 88; ArkivD page 151. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

37 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Södra Hultarp No.3 Gatehus, 1847 - 1855.
Hallaröd (M) AI:8 (1847-1855), page 75. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

38 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Södra Hultarp No.3 Gatehus, 1856 - 1863.
Hallaröd (M) AI:9 (1856-1863), page 86. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

39 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Södra Hultarp No.3, 1864 - 1870.
Hallaröd (M) AI:10 (1864-1870), page 83. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

40 Residence of Petter Nilsson & Sissela Pehrsson, Södra Hultarp No.3, 1871 - 1876. Petter dies 1871.
Hallaröd (M) AI:11 (1871-1876), page 91. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

41 Residence of Sissela Pehrsson, Södra Hultarp No.3, 1877 - 1878.
Hallaröd (M) AI:12 (1877-1885), page 120. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

42 Residence of Sissela Pehrsson, Fattighuset, 1878 - 1885.
Hallaröd (M) AI:12 (1877-1885), page 44. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

43 Residence of Sissela Pehrsson, Fattighuset, 1885 - 1887. Sissela dies 1887.
Hallaröd (M) AI:13 (1886-1894), page 39. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Death of Petter Nilsson, Elna's Father – 8 October 1871

The translation of the Hallröd Parish death entry ledger, in the year 1871, is translated as:

Death date: 8 October 1871, buried date: 15 October 1871. Who: Peter Olsson.⁴⁴
Status: married. Residence: No.3 Södra Hultarp. Cause of Death: tuberculosis. Age:
73 years, 9 months, and 18 days old.⁴⁵

According to a study by Helen Wallstedt and Markus Maeurer, "Tuberculosis was the major endemic disease in Sweden and in major parts of Europe during the 1800s, 25% of all deaths in Sweden was due to tuberculosis."⁴⁶ Petter's death left Sissela a widow at age 73.

Elna, was living in Malmö at this time (60 km away), Johanna was in Bosarp parish (50 km away), and Christoffer was living in Lund (40 km away). Ola and his family lived in the same village, Södra Hultarp No.3, as his mother but at a different farm.

Death of Sissela Persdotter, Elna's Mother – 15 March 1887

Sissela died sixteen years after her husband died. The translation of the Hallröd Parish death entry ledger, is:

Death date: 15 March 1887, buried date: 20 March 1887. Who: Sissela Persdotter.
Status: widow and pauper. Residence: Hallaröd's poorhouse. Cause of Death: old
age. Age: 88 years, 6 months, and 20 days old.⁴⁷

By this time, Elna was living in the United States. Ola and his family were living in the same village, Södra Hultarp No.3. Sissela had moved to the *fattighus* in 1878. *Fattighus* is primarily translated as *poorhouse*, but it was also the equivalent of an old person's home. The *fattighus* was a place for paupers, those who could not work, and the old and frail. It seems that either Ola was too poor to take in his mother, or that she was in need of more care than he or his family could give.

44 The priest or scribe wrote "Peter Olsson" but the date 8 Oct 1871 matches the death notation of Peter Nilsson in the household survey entry of No.3 Södra Hultarp.

45 Death of Petter Nilsson, 8 Oct 1871.
Hallaröd (M) FI:1 (1863-1894), page 16, entry #8. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

46 Wallstedt, Helen, and Markus Maeurer. "The History of Tuberculosis Management in Sweden." *ScienceDirect*, International Journal of Infectious Diseases, Vol 32, March 2015, pp 179-182.
(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1201971215000247>) [LINK](#)

47 Death of Sissela Persdotter, 15 March 1887.
Hallaröd (M) FI:1 (1863-1894), page 48, entry #1. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

A note on the absence, mysterious appearance, and correction of Elna's birth month and date, in household register records, across her lifetime

For some reason, the day and month of Elna's birth in the Färingtofta household survey of 1821 to 1823 was not recorded; it only states her birth year of 1821. Her parents, Petter and Sissela moved to Hallaröd Parish in 1823. Here also the household survey entry only states her birth year.

In 1837 at about 16 years old, she moved out of her parents' house and became a maid servant in different households in Hallaröd Parish.⁴⁸ Again, each time she moved, only her birth year was recorded in these household surveys. Most likely, the Hallaröd priest was copying this from prior entries.

In 1843, when she was about 22 years old, she moved to Billinge Parish. Here, suddenly, a birth day and month appear: 2 May—which was not her actual birth date. This mistaken or invented date was stated in the records for years to come.

Did she make it up? Did the priest make it up? If so, why? Wherever this new day and month came from, we know this is still *our* Elna by the trail of "moved from" and "moved to" notations in the records.

It isn't until November of 1881, when she is almost 60 years old, residing in Malmö city, that her correct birth date and month of 3 December appears in her membership record of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. (However, the birth date correction did not show up in the concurrent household survey records of the parish, those entries continue to say she was born on 2 May 1821.)

Elna's first husband Ola Persson Forsberg died in the military in November of 1864; they were living in Malmö city. Perhaps she applied for a widow's pension then, and needed the equivalent of a birth certificate from the parish priest of Färingtofta, and through this process found out her real birth date? *If* this was the case, Elna may not have told the Malmö Caroli Parish priest; he could have continued recording the same birth information, copying out of prior household survey books. This could account for why all those household records give her birthday as 2 May 1821. —But all this is speculation.

It seems odd that Elna's parents did not know the month and day Elna was born, and also that the Färingtofta priest didn't look up the birth record to enter full and correct information in the household record. It is unlikely that Elna's parents were trying to hide her illegitimate birth, since the year is clearly stated. These questions remain unknowable, but it is interesting that her birth date was unknown, then a made-up birth date entered the records, and was later corrected.

48 The next section details Elna's residences.

Elna's Teen and Young Adult Residences

The following listed ages are what Elna's age would be in the December of the given year. It is likely that she moved in September or October of the year.⁴⁹

Here is a summary of her residences:

With Parents

1834 – 1836, Tockarp No.1, Hallaröd Parish, age 13 – 15. (see parents' residences)

1836 – 1837, Tockarp No.1, Hallaröd Parish, age 15 – 16. (see parents' residences)

Elna moved out of her parents' home and became a maid servant in other households to earn a living; this was very common.

Moved out of Parent's home

1837 – 1838, Jönstorp No.1 Gatehus, Hallaröd Parish, age 16 – 17⁵⁰

1838 – 1839, Södra Hultarp No.3, Hallaröd Parish, age 17 – 18⁵¹

1839 – 1840, Länghult No.1, Hallaröd Parish, age 18 – 19⁵²

1840 – 1841, Södra Hultarp No.3, Hallaröd Parish, age 19 – 20⁵³

1841 – 1842, Hallaröd No.1, Hallaröd Parish, age 20 – 21^{54 55}

49 Högman, heading: Legostadgor, "The Old Agricultural Society and Its People" [LINK](#)

50 Residence of Elna Petersdotter, Jönstorp No.1, 1837 - 1838.
Hallaröd (M) AI:6 (1836-1841); ArkivD page 217; RiksA image 118. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

51 Residence of Elna Petersdotter, Södra Hultarp No.3, 1838 - 1839.
Hallaröd (M) AI:6 (1836-1841); ArkivD page 149; RiksA image 84. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

52 Residence of Elna Petersdotter, Länghult No.1, 1839 - 1840.
Hallaröd (M) AI:6 (1836-1841); ArkD page 227; RiksA image 123. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

53 Residence of Elna Petersdotter, Södra Hultarp No.3, 1840 - 1841.
Hallaröd (M) AI:6 (1836-1841); ArkD page 149; RiksA image 84. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

54 Residence of Elna Petersdotter, Hallaröd No.1, 1841.
Hallaröd (M) AI:6 (1836-1841); ArkD page 3; RiksA image 9. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

55 Residence of Elna Petersdotter, Hallaröd No.1, 1841 -1842.
Hallaröd (M) AI:7 (1841-1846); ArkD page 1; RiksA image 7. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Back at Parents home

1842 – 1843, Södra Hultarp, Hallaröd Parish, No.3 Gatehus, age 21- 23⁵⁶

Was there a reason she is home for these years? Might she have had a miscarriage? I could find no record of this.⁵⁷ Elna's brother Jöns died of tuberculosis in March 1840; was she at home fighting illness? Could she have been at home helping out?

Back out of Parents home

1843 – 1845, Norra Hultseröd No.2, Billinge Parish, age 22- 24⁵⁸

(this is where the "May 2" birth date first shows up)

1845 – 1847, Hjelmäröd, Bosarp Parish,⁵⁹ age 24 – 26⁶⁰

1847 – 1848, Rya No.1, Bosarp Parish, age 26 – 27⁶¹

1848 – 1849, Skjärhus, Bosarp Parish, age 27 – 28⁶²

1849 – 1850, Sonnarp, Bosarp Parish, age 28 – 29⁶³

1850 – 1851, Berghus, Bosarp Parish, age 29 – 30⁶⁴

This last household survey entry written in 1850 was anoted with an update: her title *piga*, which means an unmarried woman, was crossed out and *hustru*, meaning wife, was written in. She had married! She married Ola Forsberg who was also living in Berghus.

56 Residence of Elna Pettersdotter, Södra Hultarp No.3 with parents, 1842 -1843.

Hallaröd (M) AI:7 (1841-1846); ArkD page 151; RiksA image 88. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

57 There are no birth entries in Hallaröd, 1836 to 1845, with an Elna Pettersdotter as mother, nor in Bosarp Parish, 1845 to 1860. There are no stillborn nor child death entries in Hallarod, 1840 to 1844, with an Elna Pettersdotter as mother.

58 Residence of Elna Pettersdotter, Norra Hultseröd No.2, 1843 - 1845.

Billinge (M) AI:12 (1842-1845); ArkD page 113; RiksA image 66. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#),

59 Bosarp Parish is in the north of Malmöhus County, and Bösarp Parish is in the south. They are different Parishes. On the FamilySearch [wiki page of Malmohus County](#), Bosarp is Parish #200 and Bösarp is Parish #96.

60 Residence of Elna Pettersdotter, Hjelmäröd No.1, 1845 - 1847.

Bosarp (M) AI:8 (1842-1847), page 92. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

61 Residence of Elna Pettersdotter, Rya No.1, 1847 - 1848.

Bosarp (M) AI:9 (1848-1852); page 101. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

62 Residence of Elna Pettersdotter, Skärhus No.3, 1848 - 1849.

Bosarp (M) AI:9 (1848-1852); page 119. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

63 Residence of Elna Pettersdotter, Sonnarp No.1, 1849 - 1850.

Bosarp (M) AI:9 (1848-1852); page 121. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

64 Residence of Elna Pettersdotter, Berghus, 1850 - 1851. She marries Ola Forsberg.

Bosarp (M) AI:9 (1848-1852); page 94. [RiksArikivet LINK](#). [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

First Marriage

Birth of Elna's Future Husband – 19 June 1821

Ola Persson, Elna's future husband, was born to Pehr Olsson and Sissa Hansdotter in Berghus, Bosarp Parish, Malmöhus, Sweden.

Translation of the Bosarp Parish birth entry:

1821. Child's Name: Ola. Birth Date: 19 June. Christening Date: 22 June. Parents: Pehr Olsson and Sissa Hansdotter of Berghus. Christening witnesses: Anders Jönsson of Västra Skoghus and hired farm hand Sven Olsson of Stöd haf, taylor Norberg's wife Kersti Pehrsson, and hired maid Else Lassesdotter of Emmaröd. Mother's age: 21.⁶⁵

Ola Persson Forsberg Before Marriage

From his birth in June 1821 until 1840, Ola Persson lived with his parents Pehr Olsson and Sissa Hansdotter in Berghus, Bosarp Parish, Malmöhus. An unmarried woman, Elna Pehrsson (b.1817, who is *not* the same person as Elna Pettersdotter), moved to his parents' household in 1840⁶⁶ as a maid servant. Ola's father, Per Olsson, died in December 1840.⁶⁷

In 1840, Ola moved to Oslöf No.4, Bosarp Parish⁶⁸, and in 1841 he moved to Bäringe, Billinge Parish. In the household survey entry in Bäringe, a remark says, "denounced for illicit relations and was forbidden communion."⁶⁹ Maria, the illegitimate child of Ola and Elna Pehrsson, the maid servant in his parents' household, was born on 27 February 1842, in Långhult, Bosarp Parish.⁷⁰ Elna Pehrsson, Maria's mother, was born on 31 December 1817 in Gormentorp, Gullarp Parish, to Per Andersson and Ellna Nilsson.⁷¹

65 Birth of Ola Persson, 19 Jun 1821.

Bosarp (M) CI:4 (1806-1852), page 102. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

66 Residence of Elna Pehrsson, in household of Per Olsson and Sissa Hansdotter, Berghus, 1840 - 1841.

Bosarp (M) AI:7 (1837-1841); ArkD page 46; RiksA image 52. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

67 Death of Per Olsson, 8 Dec 1840.

Bosarp (M) CI:4 (1806-1852); page 202. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

68 Residence of Ola Persson, Oslöf No.4, 1840 - 1841.

Bosarp (M) AI:7 (1837-1841); ArkD page 18; RiksA image 24. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

69 Residence of Ola Persson, Bäringe, 1841 - 1842. Includes note about illicit relations.

Billinge (M) AI:11 (1840-1842); ArkD page 64; RiksA image 73. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

70 Birth of Maria Olassdotter, 27 Feb 1842, daughter of unmarried parents Ola Persson and Elna Pehrsson.

Bosarp (M) CI:4 (1806-1852); page 340. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

71 Birth of Elna Pehrsson (mother of Maria Olassdotter), 31 Dec 1817.

A short note on identity: The names Pehr and Petter are interchangeable, and the name Elna is extremely common. So it is possible that Elna Pehrsdotter could be the same person as Elna Pettersdotter. That they are two different people is shown by the different birth dates and places, different parents, and different residences throughout their lives. Elna Pehrsdotter, mother of Maria, resides in Gullarp Parish in her early years and the city of Lund in her later years.⁷² Elna Pettersdotter lived in Hallaröd, Billinge, and Bosarp Parishes, then Malmö city, and then in the United States. Evidence conclusively establishes that they are not the same person.

In February 1843, a little over two years after the death of Ola's father, his mother Sissa Hansdotter married Måns Jönsson⁷³ and continued to live in Berghus with the younger children.⁷⁴ She lived in the same house until her death in 1864.⁷⁵

Ola continued at Bäringe, Bilinge Parish,⁷⁶ then entered the military and moved to the city of Malmö in November 1842.⁷⁷ Ola acquired the additional military surname of Forsberg. *Fors* means a stream or waterfall; *berg* means a mountain or hill.⁷⁸ He was in the Crown Prince's Calvary Regiment, Second Squadron; soldier #85.⁷⁹ Ola returned to Berghus in 1849, where Elna was also living.⁸⁰ They married while in Berghus.

Gullarp (M) C:4 (1815-1861); page 13 [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

72 For a list of residences of Elna Pehrsdotter, b.31 Dec 1817 in Gullarp use: [MyHeritage LINK](#), [ArikD LINK](#)
(If the links are broken, perform a search in MyHeritage.com of Elna Persdotter b. 31 Dec 1817 in Gullarp.)

73 Marriage of Sissa Hansdotter & Måns Jönsson, 15 Feb 1843.
Bosarp (M) CI:4 (1806-1852) page 190 [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

74 Residence of Sissela Hansdotter and Måns Jönsson, Berghus, 1842 - 1847.
Bosarp (M) AI:8 (1842-1847), page 77. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

75 Residences of Sissela Hansdotter and Måns Jönsson, Berghus, 1848 - 1865.
Bosarp (M) AI:9 (1848-1852), page 94. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)
Bosarp (M) AI:10 (1853-1855), page 100. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)
Bosarp (M) AI:11 (1856-1860); page 144. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)
Bosarp (M) AI:12 (1861-1865), page 204. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

76 Residence of Ola Persson, Bäringe, 1842 - 1843.
Billinge (M) AI:12 (1842-1845); ArikD page 167; RiksA image 93. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

77 Residence of Ola Persson Forsberg in Malmö Garrison, 1842 - 1849.
Malmö garnisonsförsamling (M) AI:9 (1842-1847) Image 78 / Page 75 [ArkivDigital LINK](#)
Malmö garnisonsförsamling (M) AI:11 (1848-1852) Image 64 / Page 59 [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

78 For an excellent discussion of naming practices in general, and for craftsman and in the military, see Hans Högman's site: www.hhogman.se > English > History > "Swedish naming practices in earlier times."

79 Travel Pass of Ola Persson, moving from Malmö Garsison to Bosarp Parish, Dec 1850.
ArkivDigital: Bosarp (M) HII:3 (1833-1850), ArikD images 7750 - 7760 & 8430;
RiksArikivet images 416 - 419. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

80 Residence of Ola Forsberg & Elna Pettersdotter, Berghus, 1849 - 1852.
Bosarp (M) AI:9 (1848-1852), page 94. [RiksArikivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Marriage of Elna Pettersdotter & Ola Pehrsson Forsberg – 4 January 1851

The translation of the Bosarp Parish marriage entry is:

1850. The banns [public announcements]⁸¹ were read December 8th, 15th, and 22nd for the unmarried calvaryman Ohla Pehrson Forsberg and unmarried woman Elna Pettersdotter, both of Berghus, both age 29. The parents of the groom are tenant farmer Peter Ohlson and wife Cissa Hansdotter of Berghus. The parents of the bride are Petter Nilsson and wife Sissela Pehrdsotter of Hultarp. The couple were married 4 January 1851.⁸²

Residences of Ola Persson Forsberg & Elna Pettersdotter

Elna and Ola married in January 1851, while living in Berghus, Bosarp Parish. Next they lived in Långaröd No.2 with Maria, born in 1842 from Ola's prior relationship. (Maria had been living with her mother in Bosarp before this.⁸³) Maria lived with them until she is 15 years old; she moved to Lund in 1857 (see the next two footnotes). This was a common practice at the time, that an illegitimate child would live with the mother for seven years and then with the father for seven years.⁸⁴

Elna and Ola lived together in Långaröd No.2, Bosarp Parish^{85 86} until 1853 when Ola moved back to the garrison in Malmö city.⁸⁷ Elna remained in Långaröd, then joined him in 1860.⁸⁸

81 The banns were a public notification, read from the pulpit at church, that a couple intended to marry. It was read every Sunday for three weeks. If anyone objected to the marriage, they could visit the priest and give their reasons. If no valid objection arose, the couple were allowed to marry.

82 Marriage of Elna Pettersdotter and Ola Persson Forsberg, 4 Jan 1851. Bosarp (M) CI:4 (1806-1852), page 430, entry #9. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

83 Residence of Elna Persdotter and daughter Maria, Långhult, 1841 - 1843. Bosarp (M) AI:8 (1842-1847), page 102. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

84 Morris, Geoffrey Fröberg. 2019. Find the Unknown Father in Sweden. Handout to accompany online class at FamilySearch.org [LINK](#)

85 Residence of Ola P. Forsberg & Elna Pettersdotter with Maria Olasdotter, Långaröd No.2, 1851 - 1855. Bosarp (M) AI:10 (1853-1855), page 115. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

86 Residence of Elna Pettersdotter with Maria Olasdotter, Långaröd No.2, 1851 - 1855; Maria moves to Lund. Bosarp (M) AI:11 (1856-1860); page 161. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

87 Residence of Ola Persson Forsberg, Malmö garrison, 1855 - 1857. Malmö garnisonsförsamling (M) AI:13 (1853-1857), page 48. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

88 Residence of Ola P. Forsberg & Elna Pettersdotter, Malmö garrison, 1858 - 1861. Malmö garnisonsförsamling (M) AI:15 (1858-1864), page 55. [RiksArkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

He was discharged from the military in 1862 because he was wounded in the shoulder. They moved to Malmö Caroli Parish in Malmö city and continued there until Ola died in 1864.^{89 90 91}

Death of Ola Persson Forsberg – 28 November 1864

The translation of the Malmö Caroli Parish death entry:

1864. Death date: November 28; Burial date: December 1. Who: married cavalryman Ola Persson Forsberg. Age: 43 years, 5 months, and 9 days. Cause of death: pneumonia, drunkenness, and foolishness.^{92 93}

Translating the words for *pneumonia* and *drunkenness* is straightforward. The third cause of death given is the Swedish word *galenskap*. This can be translated as *madness*, *insanity*, *folly*, or *distraction*. From this entry, we get a glimpse of Ola's personality and character.

In her marriage with Ola, Elna may have had a rough life.

Elna's Residences After Ola's Death

Elna continued to live in Malmö, moving several times, until she immigrated to the United States in 1882.⁹⁴ Her occupation was not stated in any of these residence entries; this may mean that she received a military widow's pension after Ola died.

89 Residence of Ola P. Forsberg & Elna Pettersdotter, Malmö, 1861 - 1863.

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:20 (1860-1864), page 535. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

90 Residence of Ola P. Forsberg & Elna Pettersdotter, Malmö, 1863 - 1864. Ola's death is noted.

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:35 (1863-1866), page 188. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

91 Residence of Ola P. Forsberg & Elna Pettersdotter, Malmö, 1864 - 1866. Ola's death is noted.

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:35 (1863-1866), page 186. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

92 Death of Ola Persson Forsberg, 28 Nov 1864.

Malmö Caroli (M) F:2 (1861-1873), page 96, entry # 260. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

93 I could not find a probate record for Ola in the Malmö city court records.

94 Residences of Elna Petterdotter Forsberg, Malmö, 1866 - 1882.

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:47 (1866-1873), page 322. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:47 (1866-1873), page 344. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:47 (1866-1873), page 114. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:55 (1873-1874), page 67. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:106 (1874-1880), page 120. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:106 (1874-1880), page 355. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:112 (1874-1882), page 6. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:106 (1874-1880), page 324. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

Malmö Caroli (M) AI:113 (1880-1883), page 255. [Riksarkivet LINK](#), [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

A New Faith & Emigration

Baptism, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints – 13 June 1877

Malmö Branch Membership records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints show that Elna was baptized 13 June 1877 by R. Anderson and confirmed the same day by Paul Pehrson. The record also states "Emigrated 1882."⁹⁵ This is impressive, as persecution of non-Lutheran denominations may have been intense in Sweden at this time.⁹⁶

Immigration to the United States – October to November 1882

Elna Pettersdotter Forsberg immigrated to the United States in October 1882 with a group of Scandinavian Latter-Day Saints, as the LDS Skåne Conference emigration record states:

Forsberg, Elna, 57 years old, from Malmö, going to Ogden, Utah, [no occupation listed], price of passage, 297 kroner ⁹⁷

It is unclear from this entry whether Elna paid the fare of 297 kroner, or whether her fare was paid by the church's perpetual emigration fund.

95 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Record of Members, Malmö Branch" (Malmö, Malmöhus, Sweden), 1852-1946, [no pagination], entry # 151 in section dated Nov 1881, and entry #38 in an undated section, Elna Forsberg as member of Malmö Branch including birth, baptism, & emigration dates; microfilm 82,942, item 3, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

96 Missionaries to Sweden in the 1850's faced severe persecution. Lars Nilsson Larsson documents this in his missionary journal. See "Lars and Pernella Larson History" (Author unclear) page 6, at FamilySearch.org in the "Memories" tab of Lars Nilsson Larson, person number K247-JLQ. [LINK](#)
Whether this intensity of persecution continued into the 1880's, I do not know.

97 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, "Emigration Records, Scandinavian Mission, Record G" 1881-1886, [no pagination, sections progress chronologically and by ship name] 13 Oct 1882 *Abyssinia*, line 8, Elna Forsberg in emigration company; microfilm 25,696, item 9, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Passage on the *Cato* – 13 October 1882

Elna and her group sailed on the ship *Cato*^{98 99}, from Copenhagen, Norway to Hull, England.

A team of researchers at Brigham Young University have collected records and first-person accounts of LDS converts who immigrated across the Atlantic to Utah, and have shared the information digitally.¹⁰⁰ Here is an account of the this voyage on the *Cato*:

. . . A company of Scandinavian Saints (the 60th company from Scandinavia), 108 or 109 souls, left Copenhagen Oct. 13, 1882, on the steamer 'Cato' under the leadership of Elder Peter O. Hansen, assisted by Elders Lars N. Larson, Jens Jenson and Andrew O. Anderson, returning missionaries. After a successful voyage across the North Sea, the 'Cato' arrived safely at Hull, England, on the 16th, and the Saints were conveyed to Liverpool by train the same day. Together with 279 British Saints and 24 returning missionaries from Great Britain, they embarked on the steamer 'Abyssinia,' which sailed Oct. 21st. Elder George Stringham [Stringfellow] was appointed leader of this company. The voyage across the Atlantic Ocean lasted 13 days, on account of unfavorable weather, but the company reached New York safely Nov. 3rd. From there the journey was continued westward by train to Ogden and Salt Lake City, where the emigrants arrived Nov. 10, 1882. One death occurred, that of a two year old child, near Laramie. Not for many years had there been so large an emigration from Europe as during 1882. . . .¹⁰¹

98 Woods, F. E. (Ed.). (2010-2012). "Copenhagen to Hull 13 Oct 1882, Cato Passengers." *Saints by Sea*. (<https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu/scandinavia/voyage/27> : accessed 31 July 2019). [Passenger list LINK](#)

99 This website has interesting information about the ship *Cato*:
http://www.norwayheritage.com/p_line.asp?ag=wilso&ye=1882&sh=cato1 [LINK](#)

100 The "About" web page of the "Saints By Sea" website discusses the BYU team's compilation of names, dates, photos, and first-hand accounts. <https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu/about/> [LINK](#)

101 Woods, F. E. (Ed.). (2010-2012). "Liverpool to New York 21 Oct 1882 – 3 Nov 1882, A Compilation of General Voyage Notes." *Saints by Sea*. (<https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu/mii/account/2> : accessed 31 July 2019) [LINK](#)

Passage on the *Abyssinia* – 21 October to 3 November, 1882

From Hull, England, the group traveled overland to Liverpool by train. There the group of Scandinavians joined with British converts and took passage from Liverpool, England to New York, United States on the ship *Abyssinia*. Elna, or a scribe, anglicized her name on the passenger list; she is listed as "Ellen Forsberg, 57 years old, a widow, from Skåne."¹⁰²

A letter from George Stringfellow, the president of the LDS emigrating company, to President Carrington, president of the European mission, written from aboard the *Abyssinia* shortly after departure outlines the organization of the Saints while on board.¹⁰³ Another letter from Stringfellow to Carrington, dated 3 November 1882, written upon arrival in New York, details "exceedingly rough weather and its consequent inconveniences," and other details about their arrival in New York.

Elders were appointed to attend to the purchasing of provisions, changing of money, transfer of baggage, etc. All have shown an interest in the welfare of the Saints, and have done all they could for their comfort. . . . Brother [James H.] Hart came on board, and has worked indefatigably in order that we may leave here to-night, successfully too, for our train will leave for the West at 7:35 p.m.¹⁰⁴

The diaries of Charles F. Wilcox, a missionary returning from England, give greater detail on the company's journey. According to his diary, the group boarded a train November 3rd, the same evening they disembarked. They had a pleasant ride through New York, stopping in Susquehanna for food. They switched trains in Buffalo and their journey took them over the Niagara River. They rode a boat over the St. Clair River and got back on a train. They continued on their journey and reached Ogden, Utah on Friday November 10th.¹⁰⁵

102 "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820 – 1957," imaged arriving passenger list of *Abyssinia*, 4 November 1882, Ellen Forsberg passenger #275; database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYM237_459-0427 : accessed 31 July 2019); citing "Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service," National Archives microfilm publication T715. [Ancestry.com LINK](#)

103 Woods, F. E. (Ed.). (2010-2012). "Liverpool to New York 21 Oct 1882 – 3 Nov 1882, Letter from George Stringfellow & Charles B. Felt – Oct 22, 1882." *Saints by Sea*. (<https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu/mii/account/3> : accessed 31 July 2019). [LINK](#)

104 Woods, F. E. (Ed.). (2010-2012). "Liverpool to New York 21 Oct 1882 – 3 Nov 1882, Letter from George Stringfellow & Charles B. Felt – November 3, 1882." *Saints by Sea*. (<https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu/mii/account/4> : accessed 31 July 2019). [LINK](#)

105 Woods, F. E. (Ed.). (2010-2012). "Liverpool to New York 21 Oct 1882 – 3 Nov 1882, Diaries of Charles F. Wilcox." *Saints by Sea*. (<https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu/mii/account/5> : accessed 31 July 2019). [LINK](#)

Arrival in Ogden, Utah – 10 November 1882

Ellen Forsberg arrived in Utah on November 10, 1882, as stated in Utah newspapers the *Ogden Herald*¹⁰⁶ and the *Deseret News*¹⁰⁷. First the article lists the British arrivals, then lists, “Emigrants sailing from Copenhagen with S.S. 'Cato' October 13th, 1882, and from Liverpool with S.S. 'Abyssinia' October 21st, 1882.” It listed people grouped by their final destination city. Elna was going to Ogden.

Utah & Second Marriage

Ellen in Harrisville – 1882 to 1883

The Skåne Conference emigration record shows that Ellen picked her destination of Ogden before she left Sweden. (One can't help but wonder how she decided this.) After she got off the train in Ogden in November 1882, she seems to have gone to Harrisville, just north of Ogden.¹⁰⁸ A church membership record for the Harrisville Ward¹⁰⁹ does not record the date she was received into the congregation, but does show that she moved out of the ward 12 August 1883.¹¹⁰ The destination: “near St. George.”

A Names	When Born date	Received by date	E removed to date	died date
Forsberg, Elna.	Dec 14 1826		near St. George Aug 12 1883	

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Harrisville Ward, Record of Members, early to 1890, in "F" section (no pagination); microfilm #26,012, item 1, Family History Library.

106 "List of Passengers." *Ogden Herald* 1882-11-06, p. 1, Elna Forsberg listed as immigrant; Utah Digital newspapers. Digitized by J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah, (<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6jw9fgh> : accessed 31 July 2019). [LINK](#)

107 "List of Passengers." *Deseret News* 1882-11-08, p. 9, Elna Forsberg listed as immigrant; Utah Digital newspapers. Digitized by J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah, (<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6pz64c7> : accessed 31 July 2019). [LINK](#)

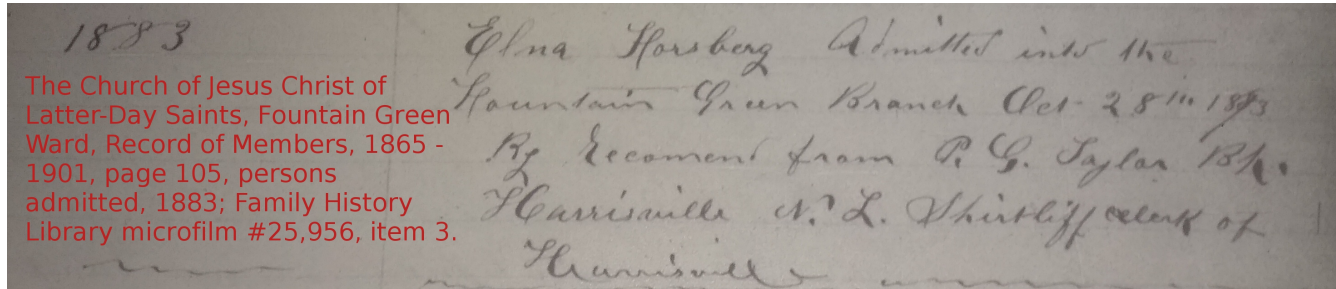
108 See map of Utah in the Appendix.

109 A congregation is called a “ward” in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

110 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, "Record of Members, Harrisville Ward", early to 1890, page with last names starting with "F," Elna Forsberg moved from the ward; microfilm 26,012 item 1, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ellen in Fountain Green – 1883 and on

A Fountain Green Branch (Sanpete County, Utah) record states that *Elna Forsberg* was admitted to the congregation 21 October 1883, with a recommend as a member in good standing from the Harrisville Ward.¹¹¹



Did Ellen mean to set out for Sanpete County thinking that it was “near St. George”? Or did she intend to go to St. George and for some reason end up in Fountain Green instead? The former seems more likely.

Perhaps Ellen knew of the Scandinavian communities in Sanpete County from Lars Nilsson Larsson and others in the group of Latter-Day Saints that she immigrated with. Lars, a resident of Sanpete County, had been a missionary in Skåne and returned to Utah with Elna's group on the *Cato* and *Abyssinia*.

The membership records say she left Harrisville August 12th and was received into the Fountain Green congregation on October 28th--eleven weeks! Perhaps some of those weeks could be discounted: she could have arrived in the Fountain Green Ward some time before the ward officially admitted her into the congregation.

Unfortunately, I do not have any sources that can shed light on the details of this journey. I wonder how she traveled, whether she was with companions, where she may have stopped along the way.

But more importantly – why did she move and how did she know where she would live? Had she met her future second husband, Soren Yorgason, and move to marry him, or did they meet after she moved to Fountain Green? It is plausible that the marriage was the reason for this move. Lars Nilsson Larsson was a good friend of Soren Yorgason; he was the missionary who taught and baptized Soren and his family, and later became Soren's son-in-law. Perhaps Lars had arranged for Ellen and Soren to meet.

It is clear from the records however, that they each were unmarried when they were received into the Fountain Green Ward.

¹¹¹ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, "Record of Members, Fountain Green Ward", 1865-1901, p. 105, Elna Forsberg admitted to the ward; microfilm 25,956, item 3, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Soren Yorgason, Elna's Second Husband

Ellen's second husband, Soren Jöransson (called Yorgason or Jorgason after immigrating), was born on 20 January 1809 in Blentarp, Malmöhus, Sweden. He married Karna Nilsson (born on 2 December 1808 in Ville Parish, Malmöhus) on 3 April 1833 in Ville Parish. They joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in January 1855 and emigrated with their family in October 1855. They eventually settled in Moroni, Sanpete County, Utah. Karna, known as Caroline after emigrating, died on 4 February 1877. Soren and Karna's lives are well documented.^{112 113}

Soren's Residences – 1880 to 1888

Soren's Residence in Moroni – 1 June 1880

The 1880 United States census listed Soren Yorgason as a resident of Moroni, Sanpete County, Utah. He was 72 years old, his occupation was “laborer”. The census was taken on 1 June 1880. He was the only person listed in the household; there are no marks in the married, single, or widowed columns.¹¹⁴ However, we know that Soren's first wife Karna (Caroline) Nilsson died in 1877; he was a widower.

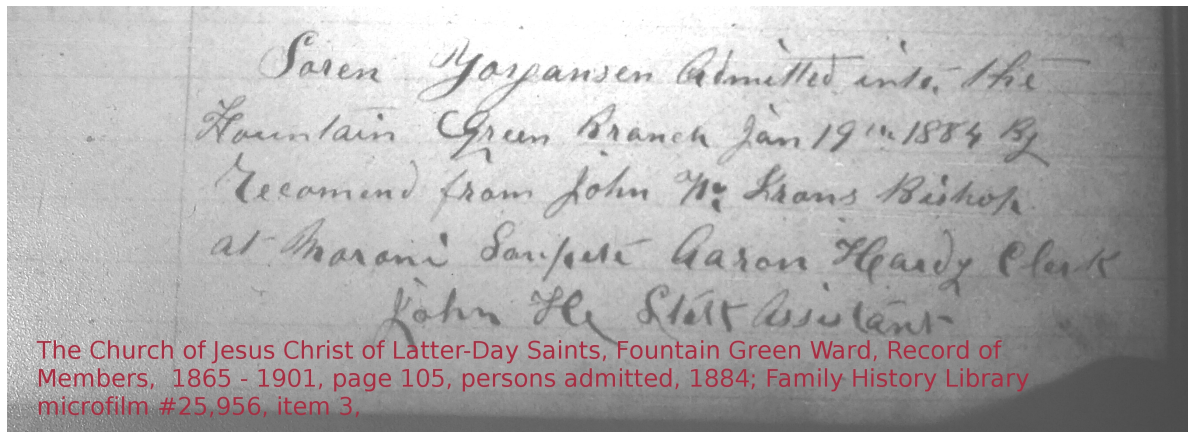
112 Soren Jöransson has FamilySearch ID # KWJF-R31. Reports, dates, families, sources, photos, and histories may be found at FamilySearch.org > Family Tree > Find > By ID > KWJF-R31. [FamilySearch LINK](#)

113 Karna Nilsson has FamilySearch ID # L5G2-L43; Reports, dates, families, sources, photos, and histories may be found at FamilySearch.org > Family Tree > Find > By ID > L5G2-L43. [FamilySearch LINK](#)

114 1880 U.S. census, Moroni, Sanpete, Utah, Enumeration District 063, p. 1 (penned), line 49, Soren Yorgansen; database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> > Search > Census & Voter Lists > U.S. Federal Census > 1800 > Utah > Sanpete > Moroni > 063 : accessed 31 July 2019); citing National Archives microfilm publication series T9, record group 29. [Ancestry Census LINK](#)

Soren Moves to Fountain Green – 28 December 1883

Soren's son James moved from Moroni to Fountain Green (eight miles to the North)¹¹⁵ with his wives and families in August 1883, after being called, or appointed, as the bishop of the Fountain Green Ward.¹¹⁶ Soren made the same move four months later. The record states that Soren "removed" from the Moroni Ward on 28 December 1883;¹¹⁷ he was admitted into the Fountain Green Ward on 19 January 1884.¹¹⁸ No one was listed with him; it seems that he was single and living alone.



115 See the map of Utah in Appendix A

116 Soren's son James Yorgason was the subject of an interesting master's thesis, detailing his life as well as the practice of polygamy. See page 38 for James' call to be bishop of Fountain Green Ward.

Yorgason, Blaine M., "The Impact of Polygamy Upon the Life of James Yorgason: A Nineteenth-Century Mormon Bishop" (1976). Brigham Young University, All Theses and Dissertations. 5231. (<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/etd/5231>). [LINK](#)

117 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, "Record of Members, Moroni Ward", 1877-1902, p. 5, line 8, Soren Yorgason removed to Fountain Green; microfilm 26,198, item 2, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

118 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, "Record of Members, Fountain Green Ward", 1865-1901, p. 105, Soren Yorgason admitted to the ward; microfilm 25,956, item 3, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Marriage & Sealing to Soren Yorgason – Between Dec 1883 & Mar 1888

Ellen Forsberg married Soren Yorgason sometime between their arrival in Fountain Green in December 1883 and when he died on 30 March 1888.

The staff of Sanpete County and I have searched the marriage records there; I have also read through church records looking for a marriage entry. Both searches yielded nothing. Soren's son James was a bishop at that time, and may have performed their marriage without leaving a marriage record. Or, perhaps they married somewhere else. Although the marriage record itself remains elusive, the fact that they were married is proven, by these several items:

First, Caroline, Ellen, and Soren Yorgason share a headstone. To state the obvious, they share a burial headstone because of their husband and wife relationships: Caroline was Soren's first wife, and Ellen was his second wife.

Second, Soren's probate record refers to Ellen as "Soren Yorgason's widow" and also as "Mrs. Soren Yorgason."

Third, Ellen was sealed to Soren (a marriage for eternity¹¹⁹) in the Manti Temple, on 12 December 1888, after Soren had died in March 1888. She, living, was sealed to Soren, deceased, with Soren's son James acting as proxy for him. This event implies a prior civil marriage.

Transcription of Manti Temple Book entry:

12 Dec 1888, sealed: Soren Yorgason, deceased, proxy Peter Yorgason, [Soren] born 1809 Rusker, Skane, Sweden, died 1888; and Ellen Nielson Forsberg,¹²⁰ born 1826 Farntofta, Smoland, Sweden.¹²¹

These records solidly prove that Ellen married Soren Yorgason, sometime between December 1883 and March 1888.

119 A *sealing* in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is a marriage for time and for eternity, performed in a temple. A sealing can be performed for living persons, or for deceased persons with living persons acting as proxy. For a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, civil marriage is "for time"--meaning during mortal life; whereas a sealing is a marriage lasting through mortal life and continuing after the resurrection. A couple can be married civilly and later be sealed, as is the case for Ellen and Soren.

120 Her name in this entry is written as "Ellen Nielson Forsberg." This bit of information was valuable, along with other entries that named her as "Ellen Pettersdotter Yorgason." Together these identify the correct father, Petter Nilsson, in Sweden.

121 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Manti Temple records, Book A," May 1888-Dec 1889, page 146, entry #2712, sealing of Ellen Nielsen Forsberg and Soren Yorgason; microfilm 170,508, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Death of Soren Yorgason – 30 March 1888

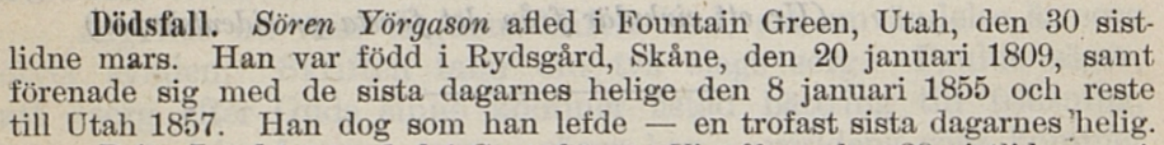
Soren's headstone in the private James Yorgason Pioneer Cemetery in Fountain Green, Utah states that he died in March 1892,¹²² but this is incorrect. While no death certificate has been found, Soren Yorgason's probate record establishes his death date as "on or about 30 March 1888."



Soren's headstone was created and placed at least after 1906 when Ellen died, and perhaps even many years later. With memories faded and records lacking, an incorrect date was put on his headstone.

122 James Yorgason Pioneer Cemetery (Sanpete County, Utah, .8 miles north of Fountain Green on SR 132), Caroline, Soren, & Ellen F. Yorgason headstone, personally read and photographed July 2019. Also at: BillionGraves [LINK](#), and FindAGrave [LINK](#). Location of cemetery in Google Maps [LINK](#)

A notice of Soren's death is found in the 15 July 1888 edition of *Nordstjernen* ("The North Star"), a publication of the LDS Scandinavian mission:



Dödsfall. Sören Yörgason afled i Fountain Green, Utah, den 30 sist-
lidne mars. Han var född i Rydsgård, Skåne, den 20 januari 1809, samt
förenade sig med de sista dagarnes helige den 8 januari 1855 och reste
till Utah 1857. Han dog som han lefde — en trofast sista dagarnes helig.

Translation:

Death. Sören Yörgason died in Fountain Green, Utah, on the 30th of March. He was born in Rydsgård, Skåne, on January 20, 1809, and joined the Latter-day Saints on January 8, 1855 and traveled to Utah in 1857. He died as he lived -- a faithful Latter-day Saint.¹²³

A notice of delinquent taxes was printed in the Manti *Sentinel* newspaper in December 1890.¹²⁴ Taxes on the house and land were not being paid. Since the article names "Soren Yorgason's estate" in this posting, we know he had died prior to then. Additionally, the Manti Temple sealing record states that he died in 1888.¹²⁵

The probate record, Manti Temple record, *Nordstjernen* death notice, and delinquent taxes notice solidly prove that the headstone date is incorrect. Soren's death date was as stated in the probate and *Nordstjernen*: 30 March 1888.

123 "Dödsfall [Deaths]." International magazine Swedish *Liahona* (Swedish) Kobenhavn; Swedish and Scandinavian Mission, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 15 July 1888; (<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c7b594f7-e9f2-473a-ae34-cfea299ff8f1/0/15> : accessed 21 Nov 2021). [LINK](#)

124 "Delinquent Tax List." *Sentinel* (Manti, Utah) 1890 Dec 9, p. 4, column 6, Ft. Green Precinct, estate of Soren Jorgasen; Newspapers.com, subscription required (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/682233113>: accessed 5 Aug 2019) [LINK](#)

125 See "Marriage to Soren Yorgason" section above.

Ellen's Residence – 1888 to 1906

It is assumed that Ellen lived in Fountain Green from October 1883 and onward. Unfortunately, the 1890 U.S. census, that could have provided evidence of this, was destroyed by fire, and cannot be a source of information.

Fountain Green, Census – 7 June 1900

The 1900 United States census listed Ellen Yorgason as living in Fountain Green, Sanpete County, Utah.¹²⁶ This record stated that she was the head of household, white, widowed, that she was born in Denmark in June 1830, and that her current age is 69. It stated that she was married in the year 1900, that she had been married zero years, that she had lived in the United States ten years, and that her number of children was zero. It further reported that she could not read nor write, and could not speak English.

Clearly, many items are false. It seems that she could not communicate well with the census taker, or else someone else answered questions for her who did not know the correct information.

Fountain Green Ward – 1901 to 1906

From 1901 to 1906, Ellen was recorded in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' membership records of the Fountain Green Ward.¹²⁷ This entry says:

Ellen Peterson Yorgason, daughter of Peter Omelsen and Secilia Swensen, born 1 Dec 1825 in Hallarod, Sweden. Baptised 13 June 1876, confirmed same day, both by Andrew Nielson.

An annotation is added in the far right column, stating: "Died March 6, 1906"

¹²⁶ 1900 U.S. census, Fountain Green, Sanpete, Utah, Enumeration District 0123, p. 7 (penned), line 39, Ellen Yorgasen; database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>> Serach> Census & Voter Lists> U.S. Federal Census> 1900> Utah> Sanpete> Fountain Green > District 0123 : accessed 31 July 2019); citing National Archives microfilm publication T623.

[Ancestry LINK](#) to indexed information, [Ancestry LINK](#) to image of the handwritten census

¹²⁷ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, "Record of Members, Fountain Green Ward", 1901-1917, entry 625, Ellen Peterson Yorgason; microfilm 25,956, item 4, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ellen's Death – 6 March 1906

Ellen's death certificate establishes that she died on 6 March 1906 "of old age and general debility." She was 84 years, three months, and three days old, as calculated from her birth entry date. From Soren's probate record we know that Christine Johnson, wife of Soren's son James, and Christine's daughter Elinor Y. Morgan had been taking care of Ellen to some degree in her last years.

Her death date is proven by her death certificate,¹²⁸ and corroborated by the notation in the Fountain Green ward membership entry. However, on the death certificate, Ellen's parents' surnames and her year of birth are incorrect, as well as her native nationality. These items are also incorrect in the Fountain Green Ward membership records, and in the 1900 census, all likely due to language barriers.

Furthermore, the death certificate states that Ellen had been living in her current residence for 20 years, which would be 1886. This is reasonable, and could be accurate. But "20 years" sounds like a ballpark number more than a specific or precise number, and given the other errors in the record, one cannot be sure it is true.

128 "Utah State Archives Indexes," database with images, Utah State Archives, Death Certificate of Ellen Peterson Yorgason, (<https://axaemarchives.utah.gov/cgi-bin/indexesresults.cgi?RUNWHAT=IDXFILES&KEYPATH=IDX208420007573> : accessed June 28, 2019); Department of Health. Office of Vital Records and Statistics Death certificates, Series 81448.

Death certificate [LINK](#)

N. 15.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, that it may be properly classified. The "Special Information" for persons dying away from home should be given in every instance.

State Board of Health File No. 50

STATE OF UTAH—DEATH CERTIFICATE.

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE FORWARDED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, SALT LAKE CITY, ON OR BEFORE THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH, AFTER FIRST HAVING BEEN PROMPTLY REGISTERED.

<p>PLACE OF DEATH County of <u>Sanpete</u> Precinct of _____ City, Town or Village of <u>Fountain Green</u> Street and No. <u>0602364</u> If in Hospital or Institution, give its name and how long deceased was an inmate _____</p>	<p>Full Name of Deceased (Initials only will not be accepted) <u>Ellen Peterson Yorgason</u> <u>Ellen Peterson Yorgason</u> Special Information for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents: _____ Former or Usual Residence _____ How long resident at place of death <u>20 years</u></p>
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS	
SEX <u>Female</u> COLOR <u>White</u>	DATE OF DEATH <u>March 6 1906</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)
DATE OF BIRTH <u>December 1 1825</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)	I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ 190__ to _____ 190__ that I last saw her alive on <u>March 6 1906</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ <u>6 P.M.</u> The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: Chief Cause <u>old age and general debility</u>
AGE <u>80</u> years, <u>3</u> months, <u>6</u> days	
SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>Widow</u>	Where Contracted _____ Duration _____ Days
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Sweden</u>	Contributory (if any) _____
NAME OF FATHER <u>Peter Omelsen</u>	Where Contracted _____ Duration _____ Days
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Sweden</u>	(Signed) <u>James E. Morgan</u> <u>Lars Nielson</u>
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Cecilia Severson</u>	Date <u>March 7 1906</u> (Address) <u>Fountain Green</u>
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Sweden</u>	Filed <u>March 7 1906</u> <u>Lars Nielson</u> Registrar
OCCUPATION <u>none</u>	REGISTERED NUMBER <u>3</u> NO. OF BURIAL PERMIT <u>3</u>
Return remunerative employment for all persons 10 years of age and over.	
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.	
(Informant) <u>James E. Morgan</u> (Address) <u>Fountain Green</u>	
Place of Burial <u>Fountain Green</u>	
Date of Burial <u>March 8th 1906</u>	
Undertaker <u>J. P. Anderson</u>	
Address <u>Fountain Green</u>	

The death certificate is signed by James E. Morgan, the husband of Elinor Cecelia Yorgason, the daughter of Soren's son James, and by Lars Nielson (both citizens, not doctors).¹²⁹

129 This may or may not be Lars Nilsson Larsson, the missionary who taught Soren's family in 1855, and returned from a second mission with Elna's emigrant group in 1882; there were likely many men named Lars Nielson in the area.

Soren's Probate – 13 September 1906

After Ellen died, Elinor C. Yorgason Morgan, a daughter of Soren's son James, initiated the probate proceedings in September of 1906. It was probably customary at the time that Ellen inherited all of his property at his death, but upon her death the inheritance passed to his children. This would explain why Soren's probate proceedings didn't begin until after Ellen's death.

Since Soren Yorgason died without a will, a probate proceeding was needed to resolve debts and distribute inheritance to the heirs. This probate record is a public record of Sanpete County, Utah, and is available to view online through Ancestry.com.¹³⁰

Herbert E. Smyth was appointed administrator of the estate. The creditors to Soren's estate made claims for costs related to "Ellen P. Yorgason" after the time of Soren's death, as follows:

Who	What	Total
Fountain Green Co-op, p.216	For fabric and sewing supplies	\$9.97
Andrew P. Anderson, p.218	For digging of grave for Mrs. Soren Yorgason	\$5.00
C.J.Christiansen, p.238	For a casket for Ellen P. Jorgasen	\$40.00
Christena Yorgason, p.220 (Soren's son James' wife)	For sewing, washing and ironing, and other services continuously, from 30 Mar 1888 to 6 Mar 1906	\$267.00
Elinor Y. Morgan, p.222 (daughter of Christena and James Yorgason)	For care, attention, keeping and maintaining Ellen P. Jorgason, and for funeral services and attention and other service rendered to the widow, from 2 July 1905 to 6 march 1906	\$494.00

All of Soren's heirs, and their residences, were listed on page 248 and on pages 279-280. The probate gave Soren's death date as "on or about the 30th day of March 1888" on page 279.

An account of sales and expenses were listed on page 264 and 311. For Sale of property, received: \$767.50. Amount spent on mailings, fees, and other expenses: \$155.50. Balance remaining: \$612.00. Total claims against the estate: \$815.97. The estate was only able to pay 75% of each claim.

The probate process was finalized on 15 July 1907.

130 "Utah, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1800 – 1985," imaged probate files, Soren Jorgenson (1906), Sanpete, Utah, Box 24, Folder 389, Case No. 393; database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9082/images/005673364_00215 : accessed 29 May 2020); citing "Utah, County, District and Probate Courts."

Probate [LINK](#)

Final Thoughts

The life story of Elna Pettersdotter Forsberg Yorgason as pieced together from the records show that she lived a full and adventurous life. I *greatly* lament that we have no first-person accounts and only a few second person accounts of her life.

Several questions cannot be answered. Why did she move in with her parents at about age twenty and stay for two years? What story underlies the different birth dates in the household survey records of her teen years? How did she feel about her parents, siblings, husbands, and religious life? How did she come to meet Soren Yorgason? Additionally, an unfinished research challenge remains: finding a record of Elna and Soren's marriage. (Ola Forsberg's probate is also elusive.¹³¹)

I have felt an urgency to share this research summary of Elna's life. Though she did not have any children, the many descendants of Soren Yorgason and the descendants of Elna's siblings may be interested in her story.

As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I see Elna as extremely courageous in her conversion to the faith, subsequent emigration, and marriage to Soren. Her choices have opened opportunities for her family members, close and distant, to receive ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ.¹³²

The research process has been full of frustrations and thrills; its completion is so rewarding. I am very glad to know more about Elna. This document is the culmination of my research journey. I would very much welcome news of any further findings.

131 It may be that Ola Persson Forsberg did not have a probate record. I have searched from November 1864 to December 1865 in the following record, without success: Rådhusrätten i Malmö 1 (M) F2A:95 (1864-1865) [ArkivDigital LINK](#)

132 Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints believe that baptism and other ordinances may be offered to deceased persons by proxy. (The deceased person in the world of spirits may choose to accept or decline.)

See: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/what-is-proxy-baptism>

Appendix A: Maps & Places

Map of Scandinavia and Skåne



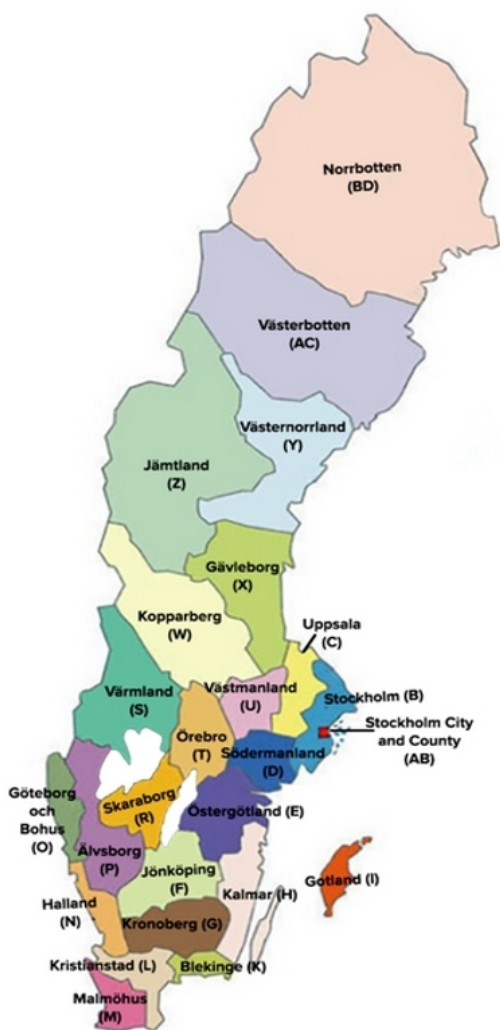
Scandinavian Countries, with Skåne Province, Sweden, shaded¹³³

Malmöhus and Kristianstad counties in southern Sweden together make the province of Skåne (also called Scania). This region is different from the rest of Sweden because it was part of Denmark for centuries before it became owned by Sweden. Because of this, the language, culture, and identity of the region are unique.¹³⁴

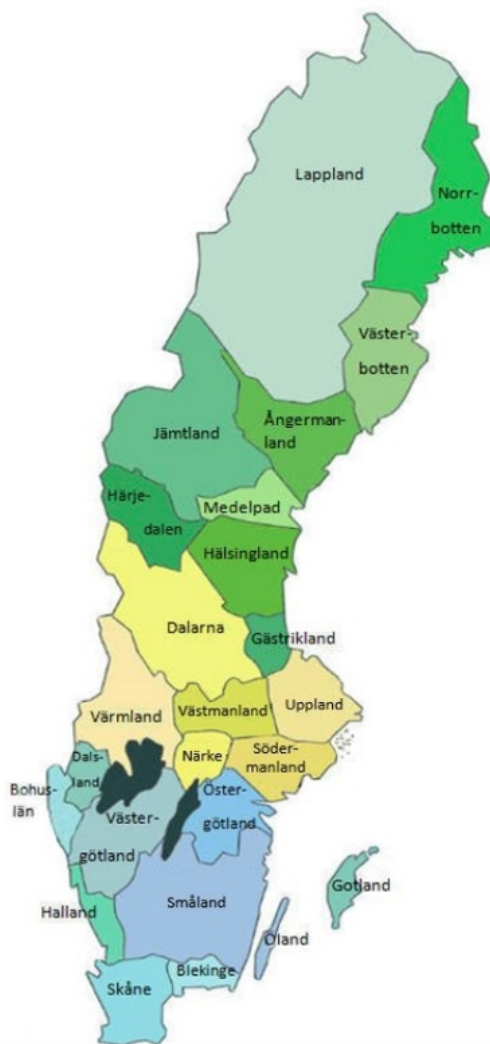
¹³³ Google maps, Skåne County. [LINK](#)

¹³⁴ See these websites for discussions of Skåne: [Wikipedia Scania LINK](#) [Wikipedia History of Scania LINK](#) [FamiySearch Skåne Province Wiki LINK](#) [Culture Trip LINK](#)

Map of Sweden's Counties & Provinces¹³⁵



Counties or Län



Provinces or Landskap

Counties and Provinces of Sweden

135 Map & discussion of Sweden's Provinces [LINK](#); Map of Sweden's Counties [LINK](#)

List of Counties, Parishes, and Towns in Sweden

Relevant to Elna Pettersdotter

Malmöhus Län

Hallaröd Parish

Hallaröd
Esperöd
Månstorp
Norra Hultarp
Södra Hultarp
Tockarp
Vatseröd
Jönstorp
Länghult

Malmö City

Malmö Garrison
Congregation
Malmö Caroli Parish

Malmöhus Län

Bosarp Parish*

Berghus
Hjelmaröd
Rya
Skär (or Skjår)
Sonnarp
Långaröd

Billinge Parish

Bäringe
Norra Hultseröd

Bosjökloster Parish

Klinta

Kristianstad Län

Färingtofta Parish

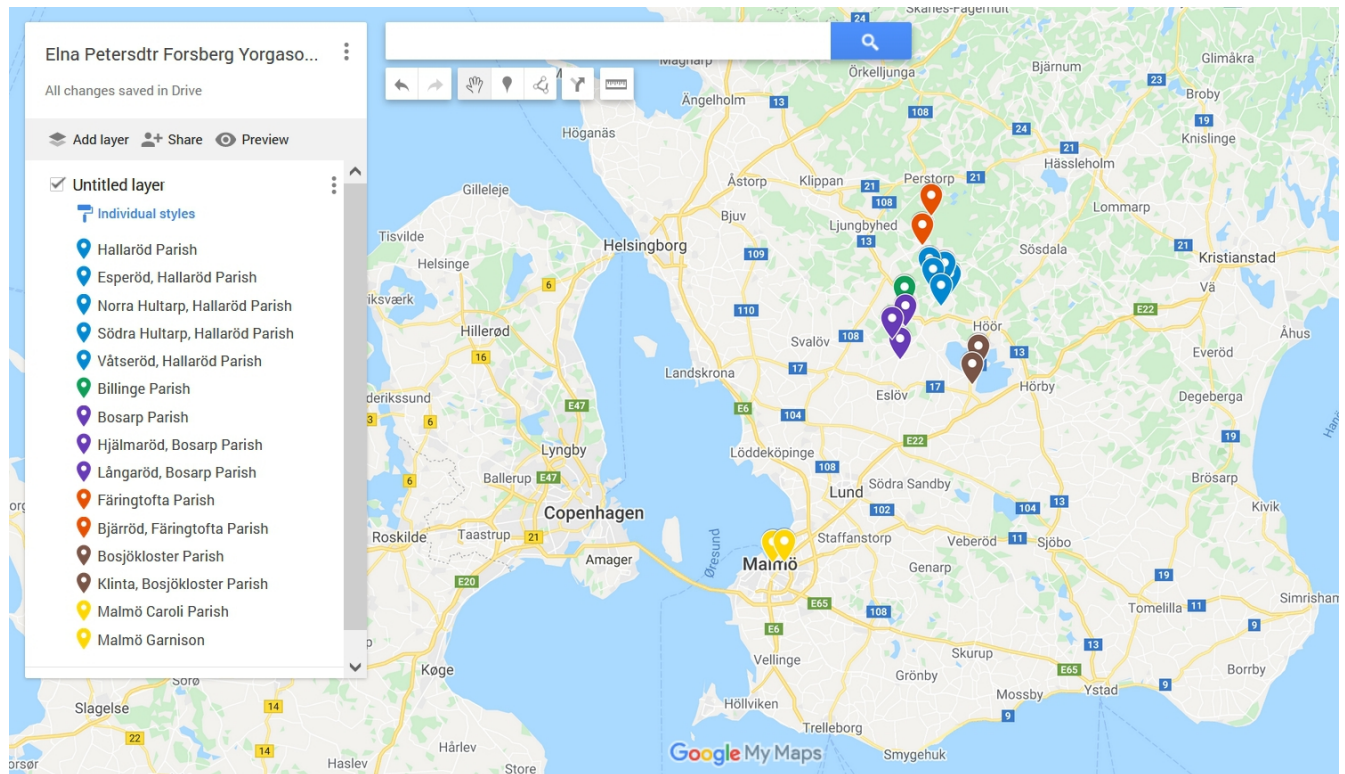
Bjärröd (or Bjerröd)

*Note: Bosarp Parish is in the north of Malmöhus County, and Bösarp Parish is in the south. They are different Parishes. On the FamilySearch wiki page for Malmöhus County, Bosarp is Parish #200 and Bösarp is Parish #96.¹³⁶

136 "Malmöhus County, Sweden Genealogy," FamilySearch Wiki, 6 Jan 2022; (https://www.familysearch.org > Search > Wiki> search> "Malmöhus County, Sweden Genealogy"). [LINK](#)

Map of Counties, Parishes, and Towns in Sweden

Relevant to Elna Pettersdotter

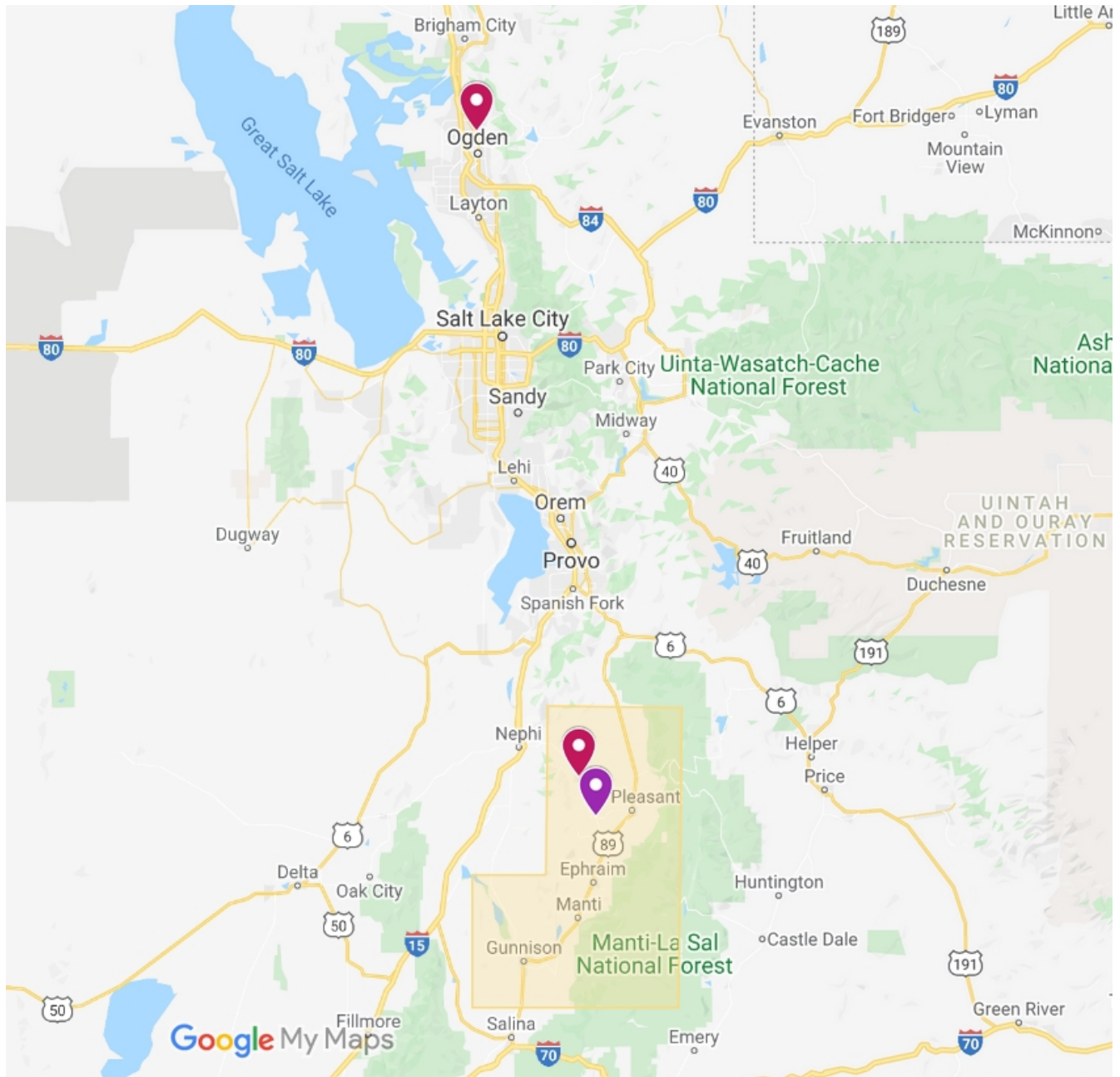


Many of the small villages and towns that existed in the early 1800's are no longer to be found in current maps. (Rya and Skärhus of Bosarp Parish, for example) This GoogleMap is named "Elna P. Forsberg Yorgason;" it is public, interactive, and may be viewed freely.¹³⁷

137 Google Map entitled "Elna P. Forsberg Yorgason in Sweden." [Google Map LINK](#)

Map of Utah, United States

With Places Relevant to Ellen Forsberg Yorgason



This Google Map titled "Ellen Forsberg Yorgason in Utah" it is public, interactive, and may be viewed freely.¹³⁸

138 Google Map entitled "Ellen Forsberg Yorgason in Utah" [Google Map LINK](#)

Appendix B – Timeline & Name Variations

Timeline Of Elna Pettersdotter's Life

Age	Date	Event
0	3 Dec 1821	Born: Färingtofta, Kristianstad, Sweden
0	9 Dec 1821	Christened: Färingtofta, Kristianstad, Sweden
1	15 Nov 1823	Petter Nilsson and Sissela Pehrson married; Färingtofta, Kristianstad, Sweden
11	23 Apr 1833	Soren Yorgason (Joransson) and Caroline (Karna) Nilsson married; Villie, Malmöhus, Sweden
20	27 Feb 1842	Maria Ohlasdotter was born; Bosarp, Malmöhus, Sweden
29	4 Jan 1851	Married Ohla Pehrson Forsberg; Berghus, Bosarp, Malmöhus, Sweden
42	28 Nov 1864	Ohla Pehrson Forsberg died; Malmö, Malmöhus, Sweden
49	8 Oct 1871	Petter Nilsson died; Sodra Hultarp, Hallaröd, Malmöhus, Sweden
55	4 Feb 1877	Caroline (Karna) Nilsson died; Moroni, Sanpete, Utah Territory, United States
55	13 Jun 1877	Baptized (LDS): Malmö, Malmöhus, Sweden
60	Oct 1882	Emigrated: Malmö, Sweden to Ogden, Utah, United States
60	1882 – 1883	lived in Harrisville Ward, Weber, Utah
61	Oct 1883	arrived in Fountain Green Branch, Sanpete, Utah
61	Bet 1883 & 1888	Married Soren Yorgason (Joransson)
65	15 Mar 1887	Sissela Pehrson died; Hallaröd, Malmöhus, Sweden
66	30 Mar 1888	Soren (Joransson) Yorgason died; Fountain Green, Sanpete, Utah Territory, United States
70	4 Nov 1892	Elna Pehrson (mother of Maria) died; Lund, Malmöhus, Sweden
84	6 Mar 1906	Died: Fountain Green, Sanpete, Utah, United States

Variations of Elna's Name in records

across her lifetime

Date	Record	Name
in Sweden		
3 Dec 1821	birth entry, Färingtofta Parish	Ellna Petter's dotter
1821 to 1851	household surveys in Hallaröd, Billinge, & Bosarp Parishes	Elna Pettersdotter
4 Jan 1851	marriage entry, Bosarp Parish	Elna Pettersdotter ¹³⁹
1851 to 1882	household surveys, Malmö	Elna Pettersdotter
13 Jun 1877	Malmo Branch & Skåne Conference church membership	Elna Forsberg
in the United States		
Oct 1882	<i>Cato & Abyssinia</i> passenger lists, and Utah newspapers	Ellen Forsberg
Nov 1882 to Aug 1883	Harrisville Ward membership	Elna Forsberg
Oct 1883	Fountain Green Branch membership, when admitted	Elna Forsberg
Dec 1888	Manti Temple sealing record	Ellen Nielson Forsberg ¹⁴⁰
1900	Census, Fountain Green	Ellen Yorgason
1906	Fountain Green Branch	Ellen Peterson Yorgason
6 March 1906	Death Certificate,	Ellen Peterson Yorgason
Sept 1906	Probate of Soren Yorgason	Ellen P. Yorgason
after 1906	headstone	Ellen F. Yorgason

139 It was common in Sweden in the early 1800's that married women kept their maiden name. In the mid to late 1800's, it became common to use the husband's surname.

140 Nilsson is Elna's father's patronymic surname. Here either she has stated it as her maiden surname in keeping with the American custom of taking the father's surname (also common in Sweden by the 1880's), or the scribe has requested it specifically, for the same reason.

The Danish spelling "Nielson" instead of the Swedish "Nilsson" is almost certainly accounted for by the large population of Danes in Sanpete County. A Dane was likely the scribe of the record.