

LS 0037

Detta är intervju nr 37. Den är med Carl Youngberg, från Ohio.
Hans mor Hildur Maria, född Wennerström, var född i Munkfors 1877.

Lennart Setterdahl: Namnet Wennerström, Herr Youngberg, är ett ganska känt namn kanske här i Amerika, eller i Ohio. Är det inte?

Carl Youngberg: Yes, shure it is. My uncle: John, came over, and I think -93 or -95. My aunt Hanna Wennerström came over, but a year later. My mother, Hilda, came over at -99, I think it was. And my uncle John had 4 children, my aunt had none. My mother had 4. And there was another brother to John Wennerström, Karl Wennerström, he came over at 1923. And he has 5 children, that are here; they are all here.

L: Jaha. Ni är född här i Cleveland?

Carl: Yes, I am born here in Cleveland Ohio.

L: Och Er mor var Maria Hildur!

Carl: Hildur Marie - Marie Hildur Wennerström.

L: Jaha. Och Hon var född i Munkfors?

Carl: Munkfors. 1877.

L: Kan Ni berätta lite grand ifrån hennes barndomsår. Har hon berättat någonting om Munkfors och om skolgången t ex; konfirmationen?

Carl: Well. I know she was confirmed in a Methodist church and they were all members of the Methodist church. The hole family. And my uncle John was - John Wennerström, was a local preaatcher, here in the Methodist church, in the Swedish Methodist church. And hes daughters; Allette and Lilian and Mildred, they are living in Cleveland. And my brother and my sister live in Cleveland.

L: Hon berättade aldrig någonting om skoltiden eller om konfirmationen?

Carl: No, she never did.

L: Er morfar; hans namn var?

Carl: Niklas Wennerström.

L: Jaha. Han stannade kvar i Sverige. Han var aldrig över?

Carl: Nej. No, he was never over here.

L: Vad var det som gjorde att så många av Wennerströms lämnade Munkfors?

Carl: I don't know.

L: Var det svårt att få arbete kanske?

Carl: No. Because Uddeholm was over there. I think there was plenty of work.

L: Så släkten kanske arbetade för Uddeholmsbolaget?

Carl: I think they did - in Munkfors. And when he came over here, he worked in the steel-mill, my uncle.

L: Vem var den förste som kom över av Wennerströms?

Carl: John Wennerström.

L: Det var den förste.

Carl: Yes.

L: Han hade ingen faster, eller farbror, som var över före honom?

Carl: He had an aunt in McKees Port, a mother of my grandmother. But what her name was, I don't know. But my other cousin could tell you that, Allette.

L: Jaha. Ni kommer inte ihåg vilket år hon kom över?

Carl: No, that, I don't know. It must have been in 1850; or 1860, something like that. Course her children are all born here, and most of them are over 80 years old.

L: Så John är den som Ni känner till, som kom över först.

Carl: That's right.

L: Hur gammal var han när han åkte över?

Carl: Well. He couldn't have been over 21, or 22, I think.

L: Var han den ende ifrån Wennerströmsläkten som

Carl: Mhm. He came alone.

L: Jaha. Ni kommer inte ihåg vilken båt

Carl: No; that I don't.

L: Ingenting om resfärden eller så, nej.

Carl: No. I know it took my mother 39 days, I think, to come over. 29 days.

L: Hur många år senare var det hon kom över? Hon var yngre än John.

Carl: She was younger then John and she came over in -99.

L: Var det i brev som John hade skrivit tillbaka, eller?

Carl: He probably paid her ferry to come over here.

L: Jaha. Och han skrev brev. Det hördes bra då, naturligtvis.

Carl: Yes. Well; my aunt came before my mother did. Anna Wennerström. And I think she was very active in the loges and in the Methodist church.

L: Er mor nu. Hon åkte 1899. Och ni sa att; resan tog 39 dar.

Carl: It was either 29, or 39, I can't say for shure. It took a long time!

L: Vilken väg tog hon? Över Göteborg till England, or

Carl: No. I think. Yes, I don't know. Do You remember? Well How long? I think she landed in Boston.

L: Jaha. Men det var antagligen med en engelsk båt som hon

Carl: I imagine it was. But she came over with a Norwegian boat, she could come with a Norwegian boat.

L: Har hon berättat någonting om överfärden, om den var svår eller med mycket sjösjukor, kanske?

Carl: No. She wasn't seasick at all.

L: Nej. Men har hon berättat någonting om hur båten såg ut?

Carl: Well. She thought it was pretty big. Course; I was over there in 1912, and I thought it was big too! And I went on a Norwegian boat.

L: Jaha.

Var det någon mer ifrån Munkfors, som var med henne över, som sällskap?

Carl: Not with my mother that I know up.

L: Hon kom ensam.

Carl: She came over and lived with my uncle, until she got work.

L: I McKee's Port?

Carl: No. She came here! John went to McKee's Port first!

L: Men hon kom till Cleveland direkt?

Carl: Ja, because my uncle was already here then. And my aunt; Anna Wennerström.

L: Jaha.

Hur många år var det emellan syskonen, när de kom över? Var det ett par tre år emellan eller?

Carl: Well; Hanna was older then uncle John, by two years. And: uncle John was four years older then my mother.

L: Jaha.

Berättade de någonting om att det var svårigheter det första med språk, och arbete, och sådär.

Carl: No. That was hard times, there was The Depression. It was in the late 90:s, it was a Depression in this country, and that was kind ruf for them.

L: Det var svårt att få arbeten.

Carl: Yes. And then - but, now when they first came over.

L: Jaha.

Carl: But they did very well. My uncle John worked in the steel-mill, all hes life. He had a grocery store.

L: Det var på senare år ja.

Carl: Ja. It was about 1914 - or something like that. Allette could give You that date.

L: Ja; Allette, det är en syster till John.

Carl: No no. That's a daughter.

L: Åh, en dotter till honom!

Carl: Yes. She is the oldest one that's born here.

L: Jaha. När de kom hit nu. De måste ha varit i Cleveland hela tiden. De har inte flyttat ut till någon annan plats.

Carl: No. They never left Cleveland. Well, my uncle John worked in - there was a steel-strike at the American Steel and Wire, - and that was in the 90-s, I think, or in the early 1900-s. That a lot of Swedes from Cleveland went down to Birmingham, Alabama.

L: Var det ett stort stålverk där nere?

Carl: Yes. And they worked there for a year, or so, and then they came back to Cleveland. But after that they never left Cleveland.

L: Nähä. Var det en strejk här i Cleveland?

Carl: I think it was a strike, if it was hard times. I think it was a strike, i don't know. I'm not shure.

L: Har Ni något minne av besvärligheter - t ex med fackföreningar - eller liknande. Det var inte organiserat på Den tiden, när de kom över, utan det var

Carl: No. No. I don't think they were organized at all.

L: Det var fritt.

Carl: I think so!

L: Jaha. Var det svårt för arbetarna - i arbetet? Det var långa arbetstimmar, naturligtvis.

Carl: Yes. They worked very hard. I think they worked 12 hours a day.

L: Sex dagar i veckan, eller?

Carl: But that I don't know either. I think they worked probably a half a day on Saturday.

L: Jaha.

Er morbror; John Wennerström, - hade Han kunskaper i järnhanteringen ifrån Munkfors, kanske? Eller sökte han sig till det arbetet när han kom över?

Carl: I think he probably worked in the steel-mills in Sweden. And when he came here, he worked in the steel-mills.

L: Jaha. Och han höll på med detta ända upp till -19?

Carl: Till he retired. Well! He had the store for a year or so and then he went back to the steel-mills. Then he worked there till he retired.

L: Jaha.

Carl: And he worked with Forsberg - Forsberg worked down here to!

L: Emil Forsberg!

Carl: Ja.

L: Ja! Det var han som var från Filipstadstrakten det, ja. Han var lokalredaktör för Svenska Veckobladet eller -Posten, eller vad den hette.

Carl: Ja.

L: Jaha. Då var de - så att säga - både yrkesbröder och bröder i religiöst hänseende också. Han var också metodist?

Carl: That's right.

L: Så de var båda predikanter så att säga, mer eller mindre. Er far, han härstammar ifrån Stockholmstrakten.

Carl: From Stockholm. And hes name was Alfred Ljungberg.

L: Jaha. Och; Han kom också över direkt, från Sverige?

Carl: To Cleveland.

L: Ni berättade här att Ni hade besökt Sverige 1912.

Carl: (Nickar) That's right.

L: Var Er mor och far med?

Carl: No, I went with my aunt Hanna Wennerström, and her name was Bergman, at that time. I went with my aunt over, to see my grand-parents.

L: I Munkfors?

Carl: I Munkfors.

L: Jaha. Kan Ni berätta lite grand vad Ni såg - första gången.

Carl: Well. The first thing I saw was Oslo, when we landed - and of course we went right to Värmland. Then we were in - we were all over Sweden. We were up in Stockholm - and Gothenburg and - all over there. Course; I was there in nine months!

L: Ja då han Ni ju se en hel del då!

Carl: Yes. When I came back, I couldn't even talk English!

L: Det var värmländska då!

Carl: So; I had to wait about a week after I come back, before I went back to the school!! But we were there for a long time. And we went over on a Norwegian boat, and we came back on an English boat, so we came back through England, when we came back.

L: Era fastrar nu. Vad sade de om Sverige. Tyckte de att det var bra i Sverige på den tiden, eller var det bättre i Amerika?

Carl: Well, I thought it was better here, then.

L: Det var bättre då ja.

Carl: Ja.

L: Jaha.

Med transportmöjligheterna; Ni åkte tåg. Ni sa att Ni var i Stockholm. Var det bra tåg?

Carl: Yeh! It was very nice! It was very nice in 1912. Course they had different classes, they still had, I suppose.

L: Jaha. Och - Ni kom ifrån Oslo, sa Ni. Vem var och hämtade er? Åkte ni bil till Munkfors, eller åkte ni tåget?

Carl: No. We took the train.

L: Jaha. Så ni åkte tåg hela tiden då.

Carl: Yes.

L: Munkfors, på **den** tiden. Vad kommer Ni ihåg från den vistelsen? Nio månader. Då hann Ni ju en hel del. Bodde Wennerströms ute på landet, eller var de i -

Carl: No. They lived right in the town. They lived in a home, that the company owned; at Uddeholmsfabriker, or what ever they called it.

L: Ja.

Carl: And they lived in one own home, and they lived there, the older Wennerströms.

L: Så; Ni kommer ihåg;

Carl: Oh, I remember it all! course my uncles lived in their own homes, in Munkfors. I had on uncle, and two aunts over there, in Munkfors.

L: - - Som fortfarande lever - eller! - Som fortfarande är i livet! Ni har släktingar som fortfarande är? - -

Carl: Ja. I have cousins, and they're living over there yet!

L: Vad heter de?

Carl: One is Karl Wennerström, and the other one is Axel Wennerström

L: Så Ni mötte dem

Carl: and one is Anna Wennerström.

L: Så Ni mötte dem.

Carl: So: I know all of them.

L: Ni mötte dem 1912, när Ni var över.

Carl: That's right. They are all older then I am. Outside of Axel, he is younger.

L: Jaha. Jaha.

Carl: And he's a very good piano player, and he has - sells pianos and organs - and goes conserts. Hes name is Axel. Hes sister lives here in Cleveland! and her name is Lisa Witt, Mr George Witt. So there is an awful lot - You can go and see here.

L: Det är en stor släkt ja, Wennerströms. Så, det är som Ni säger, det är många som kommer tillsammans på en gång!

Carl: That's right; with their children, and their children's children.

L: Det här besöket Ni gjorde till Sverige. Vad fick Ni för intryck utav Värmland, om vi nu ska hålla oss där. Var ni på John Ericsons Långdalshyttan i Filipstad?

Carl: No. I was never there.

L: Nej. Ni var inte i Ransäter, Geijer.

Carl: Yes, there I was. Because I think our grand parents - or my mothers grand parents - were berried there. I think so.

L: Jaha. Vad tyckte Ni om den värmländska naturen och om landskapet där?

Carl: It was always beautiful.

L: Var det så som mor hade talat om för Er?

Carl: That's right.

L: Jaa det stämde in bra då.

Carl: Yes, I thought it was beautiful. I have a sister who has been back there twice in the last three years. But, she wouldn't mind living there.

L: Nej. Och det var lätt att lära sig svenska också?

Carl: That wasn't hard for me, because my mother talked a lot Swedish.

L: Ni kanske var konfirmerad på svenska, i Cleveland.

Carl: Yes, I was. It was in a Swedish Methodist church, with a Swedish preacher.

L: Sådär ja. Det var högmässan på svenska också.

Carl: Yes, that's right.

L: Jaha. Hur länge höll de på med predikan hållen på svenska? Ända upp till 1920? Någonting.

Carl: Oh, it was longer then that. It must have been 19..... Oh, It must have been 1925, or 1926 - or allmost later then that, before they quitt Swedish, all together. They always had one Swedish service, mabee they had it at the night, but they did have a Swedish service.

L: Jaha. Er mor. Hon gifte sig efter att hon varit några år här i Cleveland.

Carl: That's right.

L: När blev Hon medborgare? Vilket år?

Carl: It must have been 19 06, or 19 07.

L: Jaha. Gick hon i sådana där förberedande klasser då för att ta medborgarskapet?

Carl: No. I think she'd got it from my father, when she married him. Because they got

L: Å, automatiskt, via äktenskapet, ja.

Carl: That's right. I think that is the way she got hers.

L: Jaha. Var de här många år, svenskarna, som regel, innan de blev medborgare?

Carl: No. I think most of them got it as soon as they could.

L: Jaha, så fort det gick. Var det kanske rent av lättare att få ett arbete om de var medborgare?

Carl: No. I don't think, I don't know, if That had anything to do with it. But I think the Swedish people wanted to.. I think they wanted to be Americans as fast as other people do.

L: Det var lättare för dem, syntes det.

Carl: It was easier to be a citizen. I know; at the election time, my uncle, he was after an citizenship paper - it was just to look for a certain man. So; all he had to do was to go to a friend of a judge, and they made him a citizen.

L: Det gick fort då, ja!

Carl: Ja. It isn't like today!

L: Nej! Det är lite svårare kanske! Men de vill gärna ha röster idag också!

Carl: That's right!

L: På Den tiden när emigranterna kom över. Vad hade de för politiska åsikter som regel? Var de Demokratiskt, eller liberalt anlagda?

Carl: Well. No. I think - I think the most Swedes were Republicans.

L: Jaså de var lite konservativa.

Carl: I think they were conservative, the majority of them.

L: Jaha. Gick de med, i regel, i politiska föreningar?

Carl: No. I don't believe they were active in that, at all.

L: De höll sig kanske lite vid sidan om.

Men Däremot - i fackföreningar, i sådana frågor - arbetsfrågor - då höll de sig ganska väl framme, eller: Var det inte så?

Carl: No, I don't think they ever had in the office, and in the Union. That I don't think.

L: Nej.

Carl: Other than that; I don't know anything about it.

L: Nej.

Carl: They May have, but I don't think so. But if anybody had, it was uncle John, but I don't think he was, either.

L: Han var mer intresserad i det religiösa och det kyrkliga.

Carl: That's right. He was very active in the church.

L: Och han var med i en hel del andra föreningar också.

Carl: Yeh. He was a chior leader at our church still, he was a very good

L: Sångare.

Carl: Yeh, a Very good singer. Well, All of Wennerströms have nice voices!

L: Är det någon här i Clevelandstrakten, av Wennerströms, som - Det är ingen som är politiskt engagerad? som Ni vet.

Carl: No.

Lindkvist. There are one in Chicago, and in Munkfors, too. Victor Lindkvist. There were three: I had aunt Ester, that had two; my mother has four and Fredrik had; what? Carl, Gösta, Anna, Axel, well Lisa, five. Uncle Carl had five. How many is that?

Anhörig: You had to write it down.

Carl: I'd better write it down.

L: Det är ingen av Wennerström-slakten här i Cleveland som har åkt tillbaka till Sverige och som har stannat där?

Carl: No.

L: Alla har blivit trogna Amerika.

Carl: Yes. They've all stay here.

L: Och de har lyckats bra.

Carl: They've all been very fortunate.

L: Men många av dem har gjort besök i Sverige, i alla fall, ur andra och tredje generationen.

Carl: I think most of them have been back to Sweden for a visit.

L: Det är ingen särskild klubb eller förening av värmlänningar här i Cleveland eller så?

Carl: Not what I know, at all.

L: Utan de kommer tillsammans släktvis.

Carl: Yes. And we always come together at Christmas time, we always have a Christmas party, just before Christmas. For everybody! And then; all the kids, and everybody are there. Then we rent the (?) Because: when we all are together, it's to big for a house!

L: Hur många är det ungefär på ett sådant här party?

Carl: Well! Most of them come! So; wether it's 80, or 90: I can't say. But there is an awful lot of them. Some of the kids - I suppose - they don't even know me!

L: Ja det är klart, de växer upp så fort också.

Carl: Ja! That's Carl Wennerström, Anna Wennerström, Axel Wennerström and - I don't know what her name is!

Anhörig: Ester.

Carl: Ester, something. I don't know what her last name is.

L: Och: de bor i Munkfors?

Carl: They live in Munkfors.

L: När åkte den siste Wennerström över till Amerika ifrån Sverige? Vilket år var det?

Carl: I would think in 1923.

L: Vem var det utav dem?

Carl: It was Gus Wennerström, and Carl Wennerström. Well; Guss Wennerström is the second genration, but Carl Wennerström was - Well; Carl Wennerström was a brother of John Wennerström. And he came over in 1893, too.

L: Han kom hit till Cleveland?

Carl: Yes.

L: Han började att arbeta med; vad för någonting?

Carl: He worked in the steel-mills, still.

L: Jaså; alla blev järnverks -

Carl: Yeh. He either worked there - all the time. He went to - he was a tool-maker - so he went for Cleveland and Wire Spring after that. But; there is many I know - well - there is a few, that are working in a shop - very few. I mean; in the second, and the third generation.

L: Vad för slags arbete har de slagit sig på då i regel?

Carl: My Allette was a mergeant manager for Halley's(? för stavningen), and Lilian was a personal director for the Cleveland Public school sisthem. And Elton has a steel window place of hes own. And; my brother is a banker, he's a manager of The Cleveland Cross Bank. I worked as a tool-maker and Gus and Henry - Henry Wennerström were painters. And then I have a sister, her husband was a painter. An earlier Wennerström was a chief enjener at Weldon Tool, and he is a manager now.

L: Så det är egentligen bara två av senare generationen som har - Ni själv - och Erling Wennerström - som har slagit sig på järnhanteringen, så att säga.

Carl: Ja. Well. I have a nephew that's in it now, but that's all, that I can think of. Course my cusin Elton, they have The Fenestry Steel Windows, You can know what They are.

L: Ja just det.

Carl: He has hes own business. But he has had that for - he had that for 45 years, I guess.

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