

Broberg/Bengtson Family

GENEALOGY SHOWING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BROBERG BROTHERS AND THE BENGTON FAMILY

GENERATION I

Bengt Andersson (1711-1781) Jonstorp Hudene married Kaisa Phildal (1717-1781)

Five children

1. Petter Bengtsson ((1736-1818)
2. **Jonas Bengtsson (1739-1791)**
3. Israel Bengtsson (1743-1778)
4. **Stina Bengtsdotter (1747-1803)**
5. **Anders or Andreas Bengtsson (1750-1808)**

Follow down the columns for the next generation from each of the three siblings.

GENERATION II

Jonas Bengtsson (1736-1818)
Annica Bengtsdotter (1749-1818)

Stina Bengtsdotter (1747-1803)
Anders Torstensson (1742-1808)
(Not related to our Anders Torstensson)

Andreas Bengtsson (1750-1818)
Catrina Andersdotter (1757-1818)

GENERATION III

Israel Jonsson (1778-1859)
Elin Larsdotter (1784-1860)

Katrina Andersdotter (1782-1829)
Andreas Danielsson (1778-1828)

Petter Andreasson (1776-1818)
Margareta Bryngelsdotter (1783-1818)

GENERATION IV

Kaisa Israelsdotter (1805-1881)
Anders Torstensson (1796-1859)
10 children

Anders Petter Broberg (1819-1862)
Christina Nelsdotter (1826 - 1862)
Daniel Broberg (1824-1862)
Anna Stina Johansdotter (1822 - 1862)

Johannes Pettersson (1812-1818)
Annica Svendsdotter (1814-1818)
7 children

GENERATION V

Johanna Andersdotter (1846-1931)
Johan Bengtson (1845-1896)
9 children

Anna Stina Broberg Peterson (1846-1933)
John Peterson (1839- 1904)
10 children

Karl Johansson (1848-1918)
Sophie Andersdotter (1857-1897)
9 children

GENERATION VI

My Grandfather
Oscar Bengtson (1878-1953)
Hannah Karlsdotter (1880-1964)
10 children

Mary Josephine Petterson (1882 - 1958)
James Kenney (1874 -1960)
2 children

MY GRANDMOTHER
Hannah Karlsdotter (1880-1897)
Oscar Bengtson (1878-1953)
10 children

GENERATION VII

Aunt
Goldie Bengtson (1906-1987)
Clarence Nordstrom (1904-1997)
5 children

Mae Anne Kenney (1907-1997)
Bertil Everett Johnson (1907-1989)
3 children

Goldie Bengtson (1906-1987)
Clarence Nordstrom (1904-1997)
5 children

GENERATION VIII

Cousin
Karen Nordstrom (1938-)
David Kettleson (1938-)
3 children

James Johnson (1936-)
Shirley Stark (1938-)
3 children

Karen Nordstrom (1938-)
David Kettleson (1938-)
3 children

We are related through both Jonas and Andreas to the descendants of their sister, Stina Bengtsdotter. Coincidentally, my friend from North Park College, Shirley Stark, married James Johnson, great-grandson of Annastina Broberg, survivor of the Indian Massacre. This chart shows that I am a 7th cousin of James Johnson.

CHAPTER 2

THE BROBERG FAMILY AND THE WEST LAKE INDIAN MASSACRE 1862

THE DAKOTA WAR OF 1862 (From Wikipedia)

Dakota War of 1862, also known as the Sioux Uprising*¹, began on August 17, 1862, along the Minnesota River in southwest Minnesota. It ended with a mass execution of 38 Dakota men on December 26, 1862, in Mankato, Minnesota.

Throughout the late 1850s, treaty violations by the United States and late or unfair annuity payments by Indian agents caused increasing hunger and hardship among the Dakota. Traders with the Dakota previously had demanded that the government give the annuity payments directly to them, introducing the possibility of unfair dealing between the agents and the traders to the exclusion of the Dakota. In mid-1862 the Dakota demanded the annuities directly from their agent, Thomas J. Galbraith. The traders refused to provide any more supplies on credit under those conditions, and negotiations reached an impasse.

On August 17, 1862, one young Dakota with a hunting party of three others killed five settlers while on a hunting expedition*² That night a council of Dakota decided to attack settlements throughout the Minnesota River valley to try to drive whites out of the area. There has never been an official report on the number of settlers killed, although figures as high as 800 have been cited.

Over the next several months, continued battles pitting the Dakota against settlers and later, the United States Army, ended with the surrender of most of the Dakota bands. By late December 1862, soldiers had taken captive more than a thousand Dakota, who were interned in jails in Minnesota. After trials and sentencing, 38 Dakota were hanged on December 26, 1862 in the largest one-day execution in American history. In April 1863, the rest of the Dakota were expelled from Minnesota to Nebraska and South Dakota. The United States Congress abolished their reservations.

The Siege of New Ulm,
Minnesota on August 19, 1862



¹ The names "Dakota" and "Sioux" are used interchangeably throughout these stories. The name Sioux was a derogatory name given to the Dakota by the Ojibwe.

The Dakota Uprising, the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, the Dakota Conflict, the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 (or Little Crow's War) was an armed conflict between the United States and several bands of the Eastern Sioux also known as Eastern Dakota. Dean Urdahl has written a historical fiction book called UPRISING that fills in much of this history. It is very well written and gives life to this history. It is very much worth the time reading it.

² These killings occurred a few miles south of what is now Grove City in Meeker County. The settlement of whites was called Acton.

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and were shortly followed by their father, Andreas Lundborg. He was accompanied by Sven Oman whose cabin was also nearby.

A. P. Broberg had rushed ahead of the four Lundborg boys, hurrying from the meeting to look after the safety of the children, so he was the first to reach the cabin. While these men were on their way to the cabin, Daniel Broberg hitched the oxen to the wagon to carry the women and children. He had to go around a slough which lay between the Lundborg and Broberg cabins.

The first to reach the cabin was A. P. Broberg. He was greeted in the usual friendly manner by the Indians. Soon the four Lundborg boys arrived. To these people the Indians seemed like the usual hunting party. There was nothing to suggest that the Indians were hostile. But suddenly it seemed that a signal was given and the Indians opened fire on the victims. A. P. Broberg was shot as he sat in a chair. Samuel (*Lundborg*) received a shot in his side. The wound was severe but did not kill him. He pretended to be dead. After taking what he had in his pockets and hitting him with a gun butt the Indians left him for dead. Anders, Gustav, and Lars Lundborg were shot dead. Also killed was Johannes Nielson⁶, a half-brother of Mrs. Peter (Anna Stina) Broberg. [The three children in the cabin were also killed]. Mr. Oman had heard the shooting and ran to his own cabin. The Elder Mr. (*Andreas*) Lundborg came in sight to see his sons shot down.⁷ He was shot at also but escaped when the Indians then saw the wagon carrying the women and children arriving. So leaving Lundborg they immediately killed the wagon driver, Daniel Broberg, his wife, Anna Stina, and her 10 month old baby boy. Mrs. A. P. (Christina) Broberg and her daughter Christina were also killed. Little Peter jumped and ran; he made it to safety at the Oman cabin. The Oman family and Peter hid in the cellar at the Oman home. When the Indians came to the Oman home to steal and destroy what they did not want to take with them, they accidentally pushed an old big trunk over the cellar opening and they did not find the people hiding in the cellar, so they (*the Omans and Peter Broberg*) were saved.

Annastina Broberg had run and caught up to Mr. Lundborg. They ran toward Norway Lake and hid in the grass for safety. Andreas Lundborg finally reached his own cabin and found Ole Swenson hurriedly putting on his vest. In the lining of the vest several hundred dollars in gold had been sewn. They all started for Norway Lake and in this lake there was an Island to which they went for safety. This Island is now called the Island of Refuge. Several settlers stayed there for three days until it was safe to go back and bury the dead.

There was only one member of each of the Broberg families that survived, Annastina of the A. P. Broberg family and her cousin, Peter, of the Daniel Broberg family. Later Peter became a part owner of a store in New London. He erected a memorial stone near the cellar holes of his father's cabin, which is now in the Monson Lake State Park. Peter Broberg died in December of 1925. Annastina later married John Peterson and moved back to a farm near Nest Lake. They later moved to St. Hilaire, Minn. where she died in 1933.

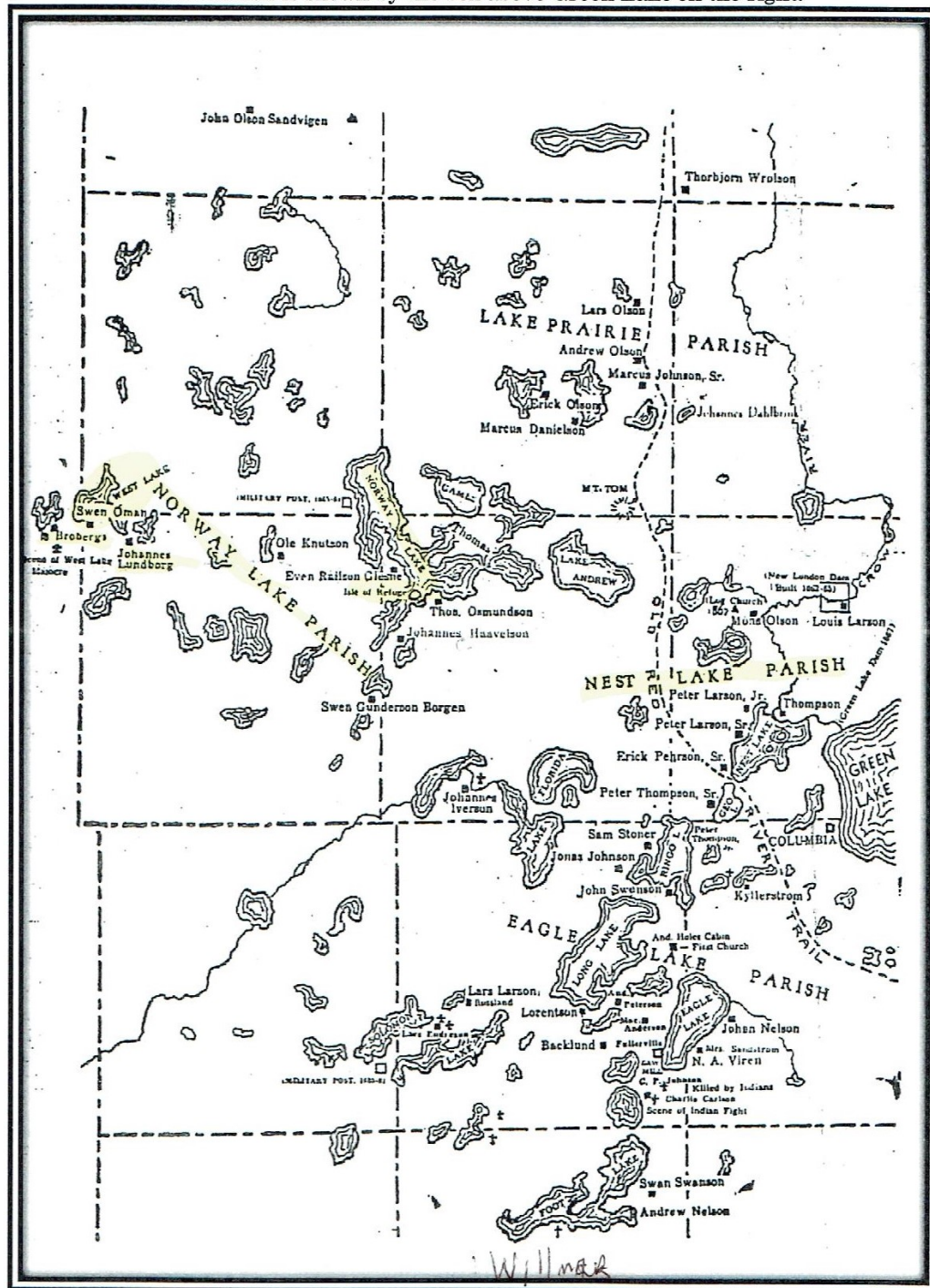
The massacre had occurred on Wednesday August 20th. The bodies were found around West Lake and buried on Friday August 29th in a common grave a little south of the cabin sites. The remains were moved to the Lebanon church yard at New London August 20, 1891. The congregation at West Lake later became a part of the Lebanon congregation and a church was built in New London in 1873. The first observance of this massacre was held in 1912 by a gathering at Norway Lake under the leadership of Rev. D.C. Jordahl. The Isle of refuge in Norway Lake was the place to which many settlers escaped and remained until danger was past, so it was fitting they gather at Norway Lake for this memorial service.

⁶ Johannes Nielson has his name spelled differently in these accounts: Johannes, John, Nielson, Nilsson, Nelson. You will also see Sven and Swen, Annastina and Anna Stina. We have kept the original text in most cases.

⁷ This was apparently outside the cabin as another account says that he saw his son Lars shot as he went over a fence to return to their own cabin.

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Map of the three parishes of the Rev. Jackson
 The settlements of Broberg-Lundborg-Oman at West Lake are far left center.
 Willmar will later be settled below Foote Lake, bottom center.
 New London is shown by the box above Green Lake on the right.



**Map of Territory of the Early Church
and Location of Members Enrolled**

Rev. Andrew Jackson's pastorate
Dispersed by Sioux Indians Outbreak Aug. 20, 1862.

Drawn by the late Eden E. Lawson for the
Lebanon 85th Anniversary church book.

*
our
relatives

In Memoriam

The twenty members of the congregation who were
victims of the Indian Massacre are the following:

Sven Helgeson Backlund, born in Finnekuma parish, Västergötland, in 178

* Anders Peter Broberg, born in Algutstorp, Västergötland, Sept. 16, 1819.

His wife Christina Nelsdotter, born in Sköfde parish, Västergötland, Aug. 31, 1826.

Their son Johannes, born Jan. 23, 1849.

Their son Andreas, born Jan. 27, 1852.

Their daughter, Christina, born May 31, 1855.

Daniel Peter Broberg, born in Härenes parish, Västergötland.

His wife, Anna Stina Johansdotter, born May 31, 1822, in Sköfde parish, Västergötland.

Their son Alfred, born March 31, 1858.

Their son John Albert, born at West Lake, Oct. 22, 1861.

Carl Johan Carlson, born in Högsrum parish, Kalmar Län, Aug. 14, 1825.

Lars Endreson, born in Rosseland, Vikörs parish, Hardanger Norway, in 1803.

Endre Endreson, born Aug. 21, 1842.

Johannes Iverson, born in Hurdal parish, Norway, Sept. 18, 1821.

Carl Peter Jonason, born in Virserum, Småland, Sweden, Mar. 20, 1793.

Andreas Lorentson, born in Hillareds parish, Ältsborgs Län, Sweden, Dec. 21, 1806.

Anders P. Lundborg, born in Algutstorp parish, Västergötland, March 23, 1837.

Gustaf Lundborg, born in Algutstorp parish, Västergötland, April 30, 1839.

Lars Lundborg, born in Algutstorp parish, Västergötland, Dec. 22, 1840.

Johannes Nelson, a young man, born in Sköfde parish, Västergötland.

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NORWAY LAKE SWEDISH LUTHERAN PARISH CHURCHES; The Indian Outbreak of 1862
Source: Anniversary Album 1859-1944, Lebanon Lutheran Church, New London, Minnesota Pages 47-65

The saddest chapter in the history of the church is the terrible tragedy that overtook the settlements at the time of the Great Sioux Indian Outbreak of 1862. No less than twenty of the members enrolled in the parish books of the pioneer pastor, Andrew Jackson, were brutally murdered. It is not the intention to give any résumé in this church history of the causes for the outbreak or the events which lead up to it, except to tell what befell the members in this congregation. Here is the story in brief:

Rev. Jackson's Last Services in Norway Lake Parish:

Rev. Andrew Jackson had two services arranged for in his Norway Lake parish for Wednesday, the 20th of August, 1862. In the forenoon a meeting was held at the Lundborg cabin at West Lake. Here a new contingent of people had just arrived from Sweden and were bid welcome. There was an air of joyous expectance, for a wedding was to be held within a few days, preparations for which were being made in true old-country style (it is unknown who was to be married).

At the close of the service, a little boy, Peter Broberg, came running all out of breath, and told that the Indians had arrived at the Broberg cabins about two miles away, and that they were abusing the children that had been left at home. The visit of the Indians was nothing new, and no particular alarm was felt. Anders P. Broberg and the four Lundborg brothers, however, started at once for the Broberg cabins by a short-cut through the woods and over the meadow among the lakes. Daniel Broberg placed the women and children in a wagon hitched to an ox team, and took the regular prairie trail for home. The good pastor warned the Lundborg boys to leave their guns behind so as not to unnecessarily provoke the Indians, which they did. Accounts of the tragedy do not agree upon this detail, as most assert that the boys nevertheless did take their rifles. Mr. A. P. (Peter) Broberg who as a boy was an eyewitness, told the writer that the boys did not have their guns. He also ventured the opinion that if they had, there would have been some dead Indians there, for the boys were all crack shots. Later the writer has learned from sons of Johannes Lundborg that the pastor and the elder Lundborg clashed in the matter of whether the sons should take their guns or not, and that Mr. Lundborg to his dying day did not cease to grieve that his boys went to their death without a chance to defend themselves.

Be as it may, A.P. Broberg and the Lundborg boys arrived at the cabins and found the band of Indians there, all of whom were known and familiar to them. They pretended to be on a friendly errand, greeting and chatting with them. All at once the Indians at some prearranged signal gave simultaneous fire, killing A.P. Broberg where he sat at ease at the table in the cabin. Johannes Nilson, a half-brother of Mrs. Christina Broberg and four small children were slaughtered in the cabin or in the yard as they tried to escape. Anders, Gustav, and Lars Lundborg were all shot and killed. Their younger brother, Samuel, was also shot and received a bad wound. He fell to the ground and so successfully pretended to be dead, that the attacking Indian, after rifling his pockets and striking him with the butt of his gun, left him. He escaped and lived for many years thereafter.*⁸

The elder Lundborg came into the clearing just in time to see his boys shot down. He had his gun, but seeing the futility of trying to cope with so many enemies, he turned and fled into the brush. The Indians fired several shots after him, but just then Daniel Broberg and the women and children in the wagon caught the eyes of the savages and they abandoned the chase of the elder

⁸ The oldest brother, Johannes Lundborg, had gone on to warn the people gathering at the next church service of the attack of the Indians, perhaps saving some of their lives. Johannes was married and had his own cabin. Perhaps his wife escaped with him. Both he and Pastor Jackson later helped people escape to the Forest Lake stockade in Meeker County. Andreas Lundborg's wife, Maja Lena, was separated from the rest but she survived.

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Lundborg and started for the wagon.*⁹ They shot Daniel, who was driving his oxen, and an Indian leaped up into the wagon. The two wives of the Broberg brothers jumped from the wagon and ran for their lives but were caught by the savages and tomahawked, Daniel's wife, Anna Stina as she clung to her ten-month-old baby boy, John Albert, but the redskins had no pity for women and children. A. P. Broberg's wife and two daughters, and little Peter also jumped from the wagon and made a break for the woods.

Only one member of each of the two Broberg families escaped alive from the terrible massacre; Annastina from the Anders P. Broberg family and Peter from the Daniel. P. Broberg family. Space will not permit us to tell of the thrilling escape of the survivors, how the Norway Lake settlers rendezvoused on an island in Norway Lake, known as "Isle of Refuge" to this day, and finally made their escape by way of Lake Prairie, Paynesville and St. Cloud.

ANNASTINA BROBERG'S STORY

From Annastina's biography received from Jim and Shirley Johnson

Author: Mae Anne Kenny Johnson (Jim's mother) as told to her by Annastina Broberg Peterson about 1922

Annastina Broberg was the oldest child born to Anders Petter Andreasson and his wife near Vårgårda, at Kullings Skövde, a farm in Älvsborg County Sweden July 27, 1846*¹⁰ It was Annastina's father's maternal grandmother (Stina Bengtsdotter 1747-1803) that had been born at Jonstorp to Bengt Andersson (1711-1803) and Kaisa Phildal (1717-1781).

Annastina's mother's name was Christina, her sister's name was also Christina (born 1855). Her brothers' names were Johannes (born 1849) and Andreas (1852).

In 1861 her father decided to come to America to make a new home. Their clothes and a few keepsakes were packed in a large wooden chest, while their gold was divided into small leather bags which were carried by different members of the family. This was done in case of shipwreck or any disaster, so that anyone who might survive would have some of the gold. This was a very wise precaution for the sailing vessels in those days were of a very crude build. They knew nothing of what might happen to them before they arrived at their destination.

After three months of fighting with the waves, they landed on the shores of Quebec. It was a fearful journey, many times the waves threatened to overturn their small ship. This would have meant certain death to all. Their greatest dread was of the sharks that followed the ship looking for food.

After landing in Quebec, the family traveled together with other settlers*¹¹. They then traveled by wagon through Waupaca, Wisconsin (west of Green Bay) to Carver, Minnesota.*¹² By July in 1861 they finally came to the West Lakes area north of Willmar and west of New London, just across the Kandiyohi County line into what is now Swift County, on the leading edge of the frontier. They and their friends that immigrated with them built their homes there.

⁹ Berit read in the church record in Sweden that Daniel was deaf. That may explain why he would drive toward the gunfire at his cabin with his load of women and children.

¹⁰ The same year as our great-grandma, at Johanna was born at Kärtared; they were third cousins.

¹¹ Their route of travel was probably through the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes to Green Bay.

¹² There were probably friends and/or relatives in the Carver area. After the massacre the remaining Lundborgs and Broberg survivors returned there.

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ANNASTINA'S ACCOUNT OF THE MASSACRE: *¹³

On Wednesday, August 20, 1862 the white settlers gathered at the A. (*Andreas*) Lundborg house where church services were being held. I was there with my parents and younger sister, Christina. About twelve o'clock my seven-year-old cousin, Peter Broberg, came and warned us that he had seen some very savage looking Indians coming from his parents' cabin (*Daniel Broberg*) and going toward the meeting house but they had done no harm to him. My father, Anders (*A. P.*) Broberg, quickly returned to our cabin where he and my five-year-old cousin, Alfred, were killed in the cook shanty by a gun. My brothers, 13-year-old Johannes, and ten-year-old Andreas, were killed in the woods by a tomahawk.

Twenty one-year-old Lars Lundborg, after noticing the Indians wearing their war clothes, ran for his home which was some distance to the east. As he jumped the fence on the A.P. Broberg's farm (the Broberg cabins were close together) he was shot dead. Two of the other Lundborg boys (Anders and Gustaf) were also killed near the Broberg place as was Uncle John Nilson.*¹⁴ Old man Lundborg saw his son Lars fall and turned homeward while two Indians took after him and fired at him but didn't hit him. He had a gun and they didn't dare to come too close.

He met Daniel Broberg driving the ox team pulling the wagon. In it were Daniel's wife and baby, his son Peter, also my mother, Christina, and seven-year-old sister, Christina, and myself. We women jumped out. The Indians overtook my mother and shook hands with her. She refused to go with them. Then they shot her down. They took after my sister and me, knocked my sister down with a gun and then turned back to my mother, but she was dead. My sister got up to run but was over taken again and killed. The Indians went back to the wagon where Uncle Daniel Broberg was. As they killed him, seven-year-old Peter and his mother (Aunt Anna Stina) jumped out of the wagon. She wanted Peter to run to Lundborg's place but he ran to Oman's place instead (it was to the north and a little closer than the Lundborg's house). Aunt Anna Stina and her little baby, 10-month-old John Albert, were killed. The baby was cut up, pieces were cut from face and nose and legs, in sight of the mother. After the horrific things I had seen, I caught up with old man Lundborg and went to his home.

The two Indians then went to Swen Oman's house. Swen had hid his family in the cellar. The Indians came through the window and knocked the dishes to pieces. They also took a large chest, which had been brought over from Sweden, and accidentally placed it over the cellar door, then left the house. Peter Broberg, fortunate to have arrived to hide with the family, cried while in the cellar because he was afraid the Indians would find him. They stayed in the cellar until nearly dark. When they came out, seeing no Indians around, they went into the brush and camped overnight.

Near morning a number of people set out for our place to look for other survivors of people or animals. Old man (*Andreas*) Lundborg, two women, three children and I went to hide in the grass near a small lake about two miles away. Seven Indians were heading our way. They happened to notice old man Lundberg and Ole Svenson and took after them. In all they shot sixteen shots at Mr. Lundborg and never touched him. They didn't dare to get too near him for he had a gun. This he couldn't use because the gun and ammunition were wet.

When the seven gave up the shooting at him they noticed other settlers staking grain or hay and made for their home. Two of the Indians pointed guns at the men settlers. Two others approached them and asked for white men's ponies, while the other three held their own ponies. They took the whites' horses and went away not killing any of the settlers. They must have been out of ammunition. They proceeded to our homes and loaded up all our goods that they could steal and carry away.

¹³ Source: New London, Minnesota Newspaper, Date about 1956 From the column entitled "Out of the Attic".
Original author is Annastina Broberg

¹⁴ Annastina's mother's half-brother

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We lay in the grass from twelve o'clock noon till sundown. We then made up our minds to go to Ole Knutson's (a few miles east). As we started to walk we noticed two men coming on horseback that we feared were Indians. We went out in the lake and hid in the grass. Finally they came so close that we could hear our names called. They were Mr. Lundborg's oldest son, Johannes, and a neighbor. They had been hunting for us.

We went to Ole Knutson's where we stayed overnight. During the evening Johannes Lundborg went home to see if he could find anyone. He happened to see his brother, Sam, on the prairie who called to him, but thinking him an Indian, he did not answer. [Johannes] went to his cellar and slept. He found in the morning that his brother had left for the woods and had met the Omans who were on their way to Norway Lake. We all made our camp on an island there.

On the morning of Monday, the twenty-fifth of August, a search was made and only the dead were found. No Indians were around. On Friday we buried the dead. Saturday we were to leave for Paynesville but only had gotten off the island when we heard Mr. Osmundson call that seven Indians came from his cellar and shot at him.*¹⁵ He called, "Hurry up, boys, here are seven savages. If you can't come, I can shoot them all." The Indians became frightened and ran. We returned to the island for refuge again.

While chasing the Indians the men found four white children whose father had been killed. As their mother was coming the day before to the island with two small children, the Indians took one as a prize and left the mother and the other child unharmed. Continuing to look around we saw more people coming from the north, we all were relieved when we discovered that they were whites and friends to us all.

We traveled to Paynesville and stayed there two or three weeks. A family wanted to adopt Peter but he would not leave me, nor would I want to leave him. We went to Cold Springs where Peter took sick. We fixed a bed for him in a barn where I stayed and took care of him.

One day Reverend Jackson came and said that Peter had typhoid fever. I had to stay with him. I went from Cold Springs to St. Cloud*¹⁶ and returned the same day with medicine which made Peter better. We started for Anoka. Peter became so weak during the trip that I had to hold him in my lap and drive the horses. One of the horses got colic and fell. Peter became worse in Anoka and had to be put to bed. He recovered slowly. He stayed with the Lundborg family until after Christmas. I then took him along to Carver where he stayed for about a year at the home of John Ahlin. Then his guardian, Lars Skoog, kept him until I was married. I married John Peterson at Carver who was also a survivor of this massacre. Three years after the massacre, we moved back to live on a farm near West Lake, not far from our old homes.

Peter stayed with me until he was fourteen years of age after which he made his home with Louis J. Larson and attended school in New London. During the summer months Peter worked for Peter Larson and later with Harold Swenson. He bought out Mr. Adam's share of the store at New London and they continued operating the Swenson and Broberg mercantile business until a few years before his death, December, 1925.

¹⁵ Mr. Osmundson lived on the south-east end of Norway Lake, with the Island of Refuge not far west of his cabin.

¹⁶ Minnesota was organized as a territory in 1849 and was admitted to statehood on May 11, 1958. The St. Cloud area opened up for settlement in 1851 and incorporated in 1856; the population in the 1870 census was 2,181. Willmar had begun to be settled in the mid-1850's with the railroad coming in 1869. Paynesville was not incorporated until 1865, but apparently was a small village in 1862. The same was probably true of Cold Spring.

PETER BROBERG'S STORY

On December 14, 1854, in Vårgårda, Västergötland, Sweden, a son, Andrew Peter*¹⁷ was born to Daniel and Anna Stina Broberg. He was to become a child of destiny.

At the age of six, Peter Broberg, together with his parents and other near relatives, left their homeland and migrated to America. After a long, stormy voyage over the Atlantic they landed in Quebec, Canada, on June 19, 1861 and from there continued their journey to New London, Minnesota. After obtaining homestead rights on land located in the West Lake area they soon had comfortable log cabins erected to provide shelter for their families before the approach of winter.

When winter arrived communication with the outside world, at times, became meager and these early pioneers had to experience and withstand many of the hardships connected with life on the frontier. Often, the stillness of the long winter nights was broken only by the sharp, prolonged barking of the lone wolf at the timbers edge, or the shrieking, howling wail of the north-wind as it piled high the new fallen snow against their cabin door. As these hardy, industrious pioneers began to prosper and conquer the frontier they were not unmindful of their social and spiritual upliftment as they gathered to render thanks to God for His Goodness and manifold blessings.

It was a pleasant summer day August 20th, 1862. Most of the season's harvest had been gathered in and a spirit of peace and contentment prevailed within this frontier settlement. All nature seemed to be in a tranquil mood. The meadow lark was singing her lays and the warbling of the wren was heard in the nearby thickets. A religious service was being carried out at one of the pioneer homes a distance of about two miles from the Daniel Broberg cabin.

Suddenly, the service was interrupted and brought to a quick end as little Peter Broberg came running into the cabin, crying, and saying that some Indians had arrived at the Daniel Broberg cabin and were molesting his four-year-old brother and his young cousins who had been left at home. The Indians had come to seek vengeance and to kill the white settlers whom they accused of having stolen their hunting and fishing grounds and was one of the causes for the Sioux Indian uprising that had begun a few days before in Minnesota. Of this, unfortunately, this Swedish frontier settlement had not been informed. Immediately, some of the men who were present at the services, including the Lundborg sons and Anders (A. P.) Broberg, made haste on foot by means of a short-cut through the woods towards the Broberg cabin. Daniel Broberg hitched his oxen to his wagon and started for home over a meadow trail leading around a small lake, with his wife, Anna Stina, their sons, seven-year-old Peter, Alfred, and ten-month-old John. His brother's wife, Christina, was also in the wagon along with her two daughters, sixteen-year-old Annastina and seven-year-old Christina.*¹⁸

As Daniel Broberg, with his precious load, approached their cabins they saw the Indians standing near their cabins where they had minutes before massacred in cold blood A. P. Broberg, Johannes Nilson, half-brother of Mrs. (*Christina*) Broberg and two small Broberg children who were in the cabins. Anders, Gustav and Lars Lundborg, who had left the service and just reached the Broberg homes, were also shot dead. Their younger brother, Samuel, was also shot and received a bad wound as he fell to the ground, but using his presence of mind, he pretended that he was dead, after receiving a blow delivered by the butt of the gun by one of the savages, he was taken for dead. Samuel Lundborg escaped death and lived for many years afterwards.

As the savages caught sight of the approaching wagon filled with women and children, they at once rushed towards the wagon and shot the driver, Daniel Broberg. As some of the Indians climbed on to the wagon, the two wives of the Brobergs leaped from the wagon and tried to run for

¹⁷ In every other account he is referred to as Peter Broberg. Here in this account he is called Andrew Peter.

¹⁸ The language of the writer is colorful and what follows is quite graphic. The references to "savages" may now be viewed as politically incorrect, although the actions do seem brutal.

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safety, but were quickly caught by the savages and put to death as their heads were split open with a blow from the tomahawk.

Mrs. A. P. Broberg clung on to her ten-month-old baby boy, John Albert, with a tender love implanted in a mother's heart as she strove to fight off her blood-thirsty assailants but her infant son was torn from her arms and killed by a blow of the tomahawk and then the mother suffered the same cruel fate.

The elder Lundborg, who was some distance from the cabins and whom the Indians had intended to run down and kill, succeeded in escaping death by fleeing into the nearby timber-land. Only two of the Broberg family escaped alive from the terrible scene; Annastina, a daughter of Anders (A. P.) and Christina Broberg, and Peter, a son of Daniel and Anna Stina Broberg. Both children had succeeded in jumping from the wagon and dashing into the nearby woods, escaping out of sight of the blood-thirsty savages and had run through the woods to a neighbor, Carl Oman, where they with fear and trembling hearts related the terrible tragedy that they had witnessed just a few minutes before.* ¹⁹

The neighbor, realizing that the savages would soon be at his door, and realizing that there was no time to escape, decided to take refuge with his wife, his two children and Peter in the cellar under his cabin. As soon as Oman had pulled down the close fitting trap door over their heads, they heard the report of guns and the smattering of bullets against the cabin wall. After a few minutes of silence the Indians bounced into the cabin. On finding what they believed a deserted cabin, the "savages" started to plunder and steal what they felt would be of value to them and in their rush for loot they pushed a large wooden chest over the trap-door leading to the cellar below, concealing it and preventing them from learning of the trembling human beings below, who were awaiting death at any moment.

After the Indians had completed their plunder, they departed to rejoin their comrades, and by a miracle, the lives of those who were hiding in the cellar were spared.

A period of intense silence followed, and then feeling somewhat assured that the Indians had departed, Carl Oman carefully ventured to push open the trap-door leading to the cabin above and then cautiously stepped up from the cellar. Not seeing any Indians, he summoned all who were in the cellar, and at once decided that they should leave the cabin, and seek a hideout in the long grass in a nearby marsh. The sun was now sinking below the Western horizon and casting its last golden rays of tender light upon the desolate homes and the terror stricken survivors as they peered out of their hide-outs, their hearts filled with agony and despair. After midnight an electrical storm with a heavy down-pour of rain drenched the survivors, adding to their misery as they lay huddled together in the wet marsh awaiting with fear and trembling that any sound reaching their ears might be the steps of some lurking savage seeking to find their hide-out and to kill them.

The following day, little Peter Broberg and his cousin, Annastina Broberg, and old man Lundborg together with other survivors who had managed to escape the Indians took refuge on an island in a nearby lake. To this day it is known as the "Isle of Refuge". As soon as the awful fate of these Swedish pioneers became known, rescue parties were sent out from neighboring communities and villages to search for survivors and bring them to safety.

Little Peter Broberg, as a result of fatigue and exposure, was taken sick with typhoid fever.*²⁰ Friends undertook to care for him and after a slow recovery he was placed in the home of a guardian near Carver, Minnesota, who took care of him for a number of years.*²¹

¹⁹ Annastina's story contradicts this fact. She ran to the tall weeds and soon joined up with "old man Lundborg".

²⁰ According to Annastina, Peter came down with typhoid within several days. She helped care for him in a barn in Cold Springs before they got to St. Cloud. She walked to St. Cloud to get medicine for him and cared for him there until he was ready to travel. Perhaps her story is more accurate because of her age and his fever and illness.

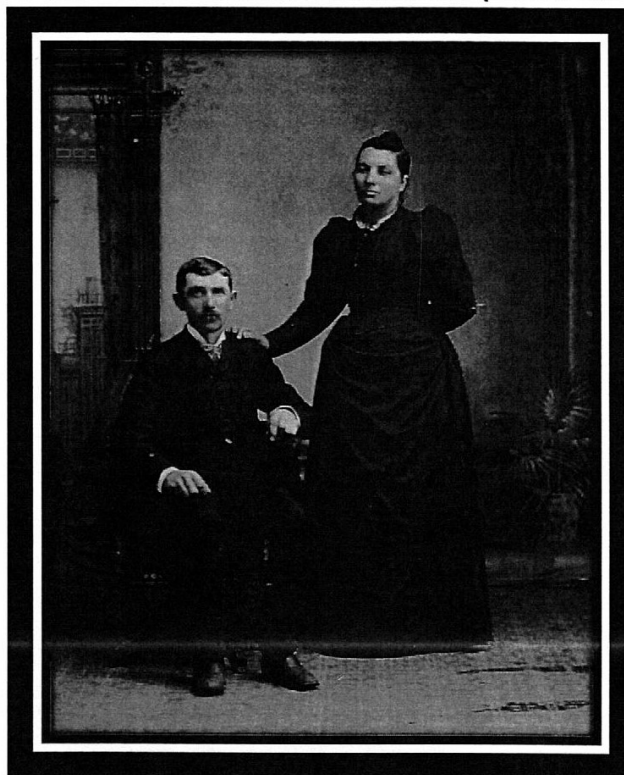
²¹ Carver was where the remaining Lundborgs settled: the father with his oldest and youngest sons, Johannes and Sam. The Lundborgs had previous connections with Carver as that was their first place they stayed in Minnesota.

Broberg/Bengtson Family

At the age of fourteen, Peter returned to New London to make his home with his cousin, Annastina (Broberg) Peterson, who had married and settled near New London. Two years later Peter moved into the village of New London where he found employment and during the winter months attended the public school. He enrolled as a member of a class of catechumens, and was confirmed in 1868 and became an active member of the Lebanon Lutheran Church (*located in New London*). He remained steadfast in his faith and loyal to his church throughout his whole life, serving for many years as a member of the board of trustees.

Peter Broberg was a man small in stature, with a remarkable agility of body and a keen presence of mind. He had a friendly, unassuming disposition and believed in a temperate way of life and living. In 1878 he was united in marriage to Christina Larson, the daughter of Peter Larson, one of the first settlers in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. *²²

Peter and Christina Larson Wedding Portrait 1878



To this union four children were born: Ella, Martha, Eunice and Elmer. In 1878 Peter Broberg entered into the mercantile business in partnership with Harold Swenson, a fine young man of Norwegian

extraction, establishing the firm of Swenson and Broberg, a business partnership which grew and prospered and continued to serve the New London community for a period of fifty years.



Monson Lake State Park was formed to memorialize the place where all but one out of each Broberg family died at the hands of the Dakota Native Americans. One can see the depression in the ground (below) that was the site of Daniel Broberg's cabin. The marker (left) was placed there by the surviving son, Peter Broberg

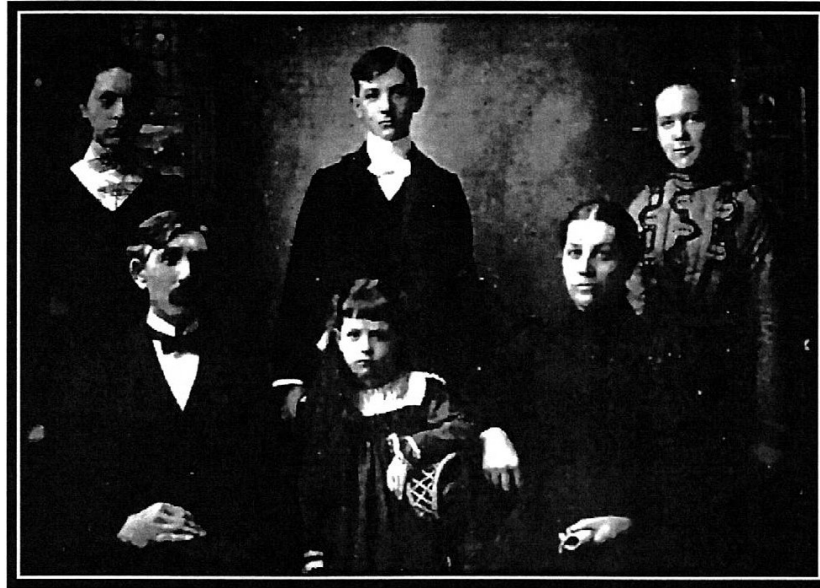


²²The Peter Larson home was on the west side of Nest Lake.

Broberg/Bengtson Family

Peter Broberg and family ~1900

Standing: Ella, Elmer, Martha; in front: Peter, Eunice and Christine



Below: a reunion of Annastina Broberg and her family with Peter Broberg

Peter is the grey haired man standing to the left of
Annastina (who is sitting on a chair, fourth from the left); ~ 1915



Broberg/Bengtson Family

PETER BROBERG OBITUARY

Thursday, Dec 31, 1925

Peter Broberg, one of the pioneer business men of this village, passed away at his home here at 12 o'clock, noon, Monday, Dec. 28, at the age of 71 years and 11 days. The end came very peacefully. Although his health had been failing him for some time, he has suffered no pain. A few days ago his decline became very apparent and he seemed to pass into a slumber from which he never awakened. We are indebted to the children for the following interesting facts relating to the life history of the deceased.

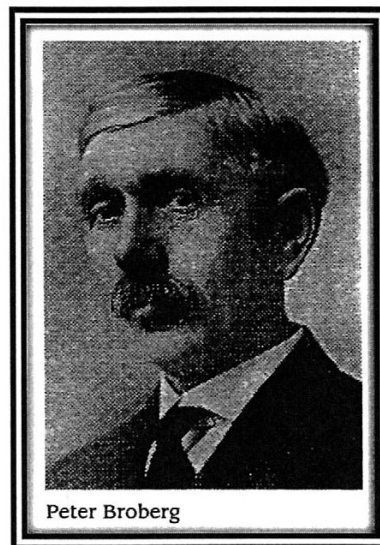
Mr. Broberg was born in Vårgårda, in Sweden, on the 17th day of December, 1854, and was a son of Daniel P. and Anna Stina Broberg, who were also natives of Sweden. The parents had a family of three children, Peter, Alfred, and Albert. On the 28th day of April, 1861, the whole family left their native land and sailed for the New World, landing at Quebec, Canada, on the 19th day of June. They at once came to Minnesota, landing at Carver, in Carver County, on the 1st day of July. A few days later they started for what was known as the New Sweden settlement, in Swift County, Minnesota arriving there July 15, 1861.

The father, D. P. (Daniel) Broberg, and his brother, Andrew (A. P.), bought soldiers' script and each located on a quarter section of land. Here they at once erected cabins, began improvements, and engaged in farming. Everything moved along in a prosperous and uneventful manner until August, 1862, when the Sioux Indians began their outbreak, killing defenseless men, women, and children, and burning and destroying as they went. The little settlement of New Sweden consisted of 30 souls, and little did they dream of the danger so near at hand. On the fatal 20th of August, 1862, the Broberg families, (D. P. Broberg and wife and Andrew Broberg and wife and four children) together with the Lundborg family and others, had gone to a neighbor's, two and a half miles distant, to attend a religious meeting.*²³

Our subject, Peter Broberg, and his two brothers and two cousins remained at home to care for the stock, etc. About noon 25 or 30 Indians, in war paint surrounded the cabin.*²⁴ They entered the house, and the children, as usual, treated them to bread and provisions. Peter Broberg escaped from the house and ran to the meeting, where he gave the alarm. The services were at once adjourned, and the settlers started for home. The Broberg party, together with Lars Lundborg, started for home with their ox team. They met the Indians and when near the house they [natives] gave the prearranged signal and the horrible butchery began. Those killed were D. P. Broberg and wife and two children and A. P. Broberg and wife and three children.

Our subject, Peter Broberg, jumped from the wagon at the first attack and escaped by running down a hill and disappearing in the tall grass of a slough. He continued his flight until he came to the house of a neighbor, where he took refuge. The Indians continued their murderous work and began plundering and burning, and finally made an attack on the neighbor's house; but the family was concealed by a neatly-fitting trap door. The Indians destroyed the furniture and then left. About midnight the fugitives escaped from the house and spent the remainder of the night in a thicket, and were finally assisted to a place of safety.

In 1877 Peter Broberg located at the village of New London, Minnesota, where he joined partnership with Harold Swenson forming the firm of Swenson and Broberg, which partnership



²³ In the 63 years since the event, other details have been changed, including the distance between the cabins.

²⁴ Earlier accounts say that the Indians were not in war paint.