

August Wilhelm Hammerstedt

Grandfather August Hammerstedt was born in Sigtuna Sweden on Feb. 27 1872. He emigrated to Canada on Sept. 24 1903 with his wife & 3 children, one being Bill Hammerstedt who lived & worked in Lac du Bonnet.

Grandfather's wife died in 1908. He married my grandmother Jenny Swanson in 1909 in Winnipeg.

Jenny was born in Haparanda , Norrbotten Sweden in 1879. She emigrated to Canada in 1903 on the same ship as Grandfather.

They had 3 children, one being my Dad, Fred. When Jenny became sick in 1915 the children were put in foster care. Grandfather Hammerstedt gave permission for my Dad to be adopted by the Bleakney's in 1924.

At the wedding of my parents in 1940 Grandfather Hammerstedt was heard to say "He maybe their only son, but I had the fun of making him."

Grandfather Hammerstedt worked for the CNR as a millwright. He was a member of the Vasa Order & was instrumental in organizing the Youth Group of the Order of Vasa in Winnipeg.

Grandfather Hammerstedt passed away in 1948. I was only 3 years old so have no recollection of him.

By Barbara Mitchell



Newspaper obituary by Vasa Lodge Strindberg

The Vasa Lodge Strindberg in Winnipeg have cause to mourn. This venerable and dedicated member and leader in the large lodge of the Vasa Order of America died Wednesday March 10, 1948, at St. Boniface Hospital. The death was not unexpected, since earlier he had suffered from a stroke, from which he never recovered. Mr. Hammerstedt, who resided in Winnipeg since his arrival in Canada in 1903, had moved one year earlier to Lac du Bonnet, where 3 of his sons are engaged in business.

The deceased was born in the city of Sigtuna – Kingdom of Svea's oldest city – the 27th of February, 1872 and at the time of his death was 76 years and 13 days old. He was a blacksmith and mechanic by trade, and worked for a time at a saw mill in Lac du Bonnet together with his old friend Hans Johnson. Furthermore, he received employment with the Canadian National Railway and where he reached pensioner age and retired, he had for the last 15 years held a post as a millwright.

Mr. Hammerstedt belonged to the local lodge, Strindberg, since 1917. During his long and active life, he had zealously and conscientiously fulfilled the various positions of trust that he filled, which included all the offices, large as well as small, in the local lodge and the District Lodge Number 16. He was the organizer of the Children's clubs, when that branch of the Vasa Order was cultivated. His work in the Order in western Canada was also appreciated, and at the 50-year Jubilee which was celebrated, with a huge meeting in Hartford Connecticut in June of 1964, he was honoured for service by being named an Honoured Leader of the Vasa Order of America. He was highly respected among his fellow members, friends and countrymen for his trustworthy craftsman. The Strindberg Lodge has lost its "Grand Old Man."

Mr. Hammerstedt was married twice. Survived by his four sons, John, William and Fred of Lac du Bonnet and Eric in Port Arthur, Ontario, as well as many grandchildren, relatives and friends. A solemn funeral service was held Wednesday, March 13, in the afternoon at Bardals chapel, Dr. C.E. Hoffsten, officiating. The chapel was crowded with sorrowing friends and a rich display of flowers was given the deceased as a final tribute. At the grave site in the Elmwood cemetery was held the Vasa Order's beautiful ritual of the Order's brethren, Hartvig Carlson and J. Hultein, Lars Mattson, Emil Seaburg, Herman Berg, T Lindwall, Wally Larson, and G. Dahlquist served as pallbearers.