Donated by Anne Ahlbom

January 21, 1914

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It was a clear, real cold morning. Johan Ahlbom and Anny Fetter? said goodby to their families and friends at the train station in Grycksbo, with a rose pinned on our coats, that got frosted in no time.

A last farewell to all the friends and relatives, the whistle blew, the train started, there we stood on the platform with large handkerchiefs, tears running down our cheeks! Went and find a seat at dawn, sat down, didn't know if we should sit or stand. To me it looked so gray, felt so sad, after a while we open a bag that was given to us, it was (can't read) for us to eat, how nice and so thoughtful, as it was no café on the train and no stop between Grycksbo and Gotenburg.

It took us all day to go from Grycksbo to the city of Gotenburg. There we stepped off the train, took a taxy (sic) to the sea port, (North Sea) a rough sea, a rough not 1 class boat. Oh boy did it smell fish, no cabin as it is on the boats now days, a big large room, bunk beds on four walls, and all said Hello to each other, didn't I know what to do or say but after a while we start to talk and laugh and be acquainted to each other. Somebody called us to come and eat in the D room, rough big table with holes in for the plates to hold them in place so they would not slide off the table, fish we had, it was good as we all was hungry. I think it was the last meal I and John eat as the sea was so rough, had to stay in bed and vomit, so sick, everybody sick, 4 days it took us to go over that sea,. Got in to Hull seaport in England, took a train from there across the country to Liverpool, then we had to wait almost 2 days, sitting on our suit cases waiting at the station, then we boarded up on "the white star line", biggest and nice boat, got in to New York the 9 of Feb., 1914. They hauled us all over to the (no words here) Got the ticket to Grantsburg on the train and had to pay 6 dollars before we could step on down on the Amerikan soil, we sure broke, and tired, and dirty, never had our clothes off since we left Sweden, felt lice crawling on us, but we were OK and real nice and funny memory that never left us.

Coming in the Grantsburg the 12th of Feb. (can't read) in the evening, it was dark, there John's unkle come and met us. Horse, and slay (sic), horse blankets, hot bricks to hold our feet on, and lanterns. 10 miles to ride it took us 2 hours before we got home to his place. Farmer he was, but not much land or cattle, only a few cows, pigs, chickens, it was the same at every farmers home. John and I was glad to come there after the long trip over the north sea Atlantic and old trains.

It sure was nice to lay in a clean nice bed and good food, that I helped prepare as we find out John's aunt not well. She passed away Aug 15—1914. John stayed and helped his unkle and got a job here and there so he could make a few dollars.

The 25 of May, John and I went to Pine City and got married. Stayed at his unkle's place a year and a half. There our son Claude was born, summer of 1915 we left for Minnesota as it was a job that John could do, not too far from Rutledge. As John find out a man from Mpls

had land here, he liked to have brushed and cleared 80 acres 2 miles west of Rutledge so John borrow money for the train fare into Sandstone, got a job at the stone quarry for 3 weeks so he got some money to buy a tent for us to live in when he cleared the land for this man in Mpls. The 5th of May John got the tent set up, a bunk bed to sleep in baby and us, It was fun.

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John had the tent put up before I come the next day. John's brother Erick helped me carry the baby from Rutledge station. Started off walking west, got lost as we took a trail through the woods. We saw a lady standing in a potato patch. We couldn't talk Eng. But we tried to say as we pointed toward west. Then she said something in German. She couldn't talk Eng. either, but where we stood we could see the tent, so we started off again. It was a long way we had to walk but we finally got up on that steep hill and is hungry, We have bought a camping stove 1 x 2 feet long, had a frying pan on it made a fire under it, had to lay on my knees, put some lard in the frying pan find a tin can, mixed up a batch of pancakes, from water and flour, salt, goodka, the wind started to kick up so strong so the pancakes got all black but we eat them anyhow, poured syrup on them as John have bought a gallon of syrup before, simple cooking those days.

Then we went to bed on hay, felt good as we all was so tired. After a while it started to rain and the wind so strong that the tent blew down on us, and there we had to lay holding on to the stakes the rest of the night. (Claude laying there crying but he was a a good baby and all through his years until his last breath as he got killed in a sawdust pile where he was digging out saw dust for the ice house at the age of 17 year) To come back to the night in the tent, the next morning we folded up the tent, moved it down in a dale between 2 knolls, we thought it would be a nice place at least it wouldn't blow down but then it started to rain and it kept on as it will do in May so it was like a lake in the tent so John had to go and borrow some old planks from the neighbors to walk on and that was only half of the floorwe had covered, but finally it dryed (sic) up, happy we were we dugged up a little patch, planted some carrots, potatoes, cabbage. Oh how happy we were to eat our own veg., cooked outside all summer, no old broken stove, we finding the wood, pushed and pulled it up to the tent, set it up on rocks and when I baked bread as I did, 2 times a week. I had to have fire under meat as well as in the fire box. The neighbor lady told me I baked better bread than her. In the summer of 1915 went along without any fuss, mosquitoes, flies, begs mites, chipmunks, squirrels was our guests all summer. A moose standing outside at night bellowing and we sure not scared. It was fun, .Listening to the sound of a wild(can't read) We carry water from the neighbors washed clothes outside on the board hung the clothes on the rope that the tent fastenings to the stakes. No bathroom,, took our bath when it rained, felt so good and memories to look back to so now we have it so nice in every way.

The 12 of October John had the house built (where did he get the building material) the man Mr. Pope, John cleared land and bought a old house in Rutledge, so John and my brother (can't read) as he too came over from Grycksbo and Erick John's brother tore down the house and hauled it up to the hill where we had the tent the first night, as you know by now. I had 2 boarders to feed and take care of, John got 10 dollars a month from this man he worked for, it wasn't much but we manage.

Mr. Pope bought some furniture and rugs in the city and helped us a lot. After the first year John build the barn, then bought some cows, pigs, chickens John got half of the income. Johnfarmed there 5 years. there Roy and Alice were born.

In the fall of 1921 we bought 80 acres here had a auction sale on everything we had (kept the sewing machine) paid for the house 1000 dollars, broke again. We moved in with John's co (She stopped here)

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PCAHA 2016.336 Suycksto. Dolatina Snuedin. Jan 21 - 1914 et was & clear kiel ald marming Johan Ahlbom & Gmay Litter Delig x freends at the train station in Oryspolo, with a Rasi primed design an aux Coate, that gat frastich in about Farewell to all the decimal and Relatives, the subiotle selecce, the than started, there we stood on the chief, ten kuming danum ou frenks! auent-infinds but sat down, bedon't prace if rue spauld dit on etand. to me it looked so george felt so sad, after ompile me aprima boy that viers given to us trues is medica. gas no to est, brane mue and so the train and my stop situein Lucksboand Cater Day it took ees all gaz To ga grams Luggesto to the City of total dury there rue stypped off the trem, took a tory to the see post (Mosth Sia, a lough - siz, o kaugh mot lo Clion Goat no Coden soit is and saturace days, a big

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