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Interview with Julia and Carl Norstrum

Helen G. Norstrum

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JULIA & CARL NORSTRUM (Interviewed by Helen G. Norstrum)
(Julia)

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RT
398
F666m
1958
no. 10

Interview with Julia and Carl Norstrum of Limon, KS in July 1958.
Mrs. Norstrum came from Sweden in 1906 at age 18. Tells of Christmas customs the evening before Christmas. At 5 a.m., walked to church 5 miles. got home about 8:30 a.m. ate breakfast and rested and got ready for party in the evening. The party lasted all night. Smorgasborg was served all brought food from home and some remained for several days. breads, cheese treats, cookies, cakes, jams, and meats. Games were played and dancing was enjoyed. at 4 a.m. the big feast and then home. Grade schools were similar to U.S. schools. Had one big room with one teacher with 50 children attending. Had kitchen also. It was used when the weather was bad. Had high school- Midsummer Day was celebrated June 24-dancing and food. Smorgasborg were always a treat. Mrs. Norstrum sang several songs in Swedish. Mr. Norstrum tells of highly special day called Market Day, every Friday. Everybody came to town to buy food. He attended 8 years of school. Had readings with minister to ready for confirmation. Tells of trip to U.S. at age 18. It took 7 days to come to the U.S. Later settled to Coburn, Illinois a Swedish settlement. Tells about arriving with all sailors dead. Ship had various fruits and vegetables on it. and it came from India. People from Norway took food from ship and that was the way the disease started, Called the Black Death.

Tape #

Time

Break between side A and B

Original
F666m
1958
no. 10

35 min.

Interview with Julia + Carl Norström of Linn, Mo in July 1958 - Mrs. Norström came from Sweden - she came ^{here} 1906 at age 18. Tells of Christmas customs the evening before Christmas. At 5 A.M. walked to Church - 5 miles - got home about 8:30 A.M. - breakfast + rested + got ready for party in evening - party lasted all night. Smorgasborg was served + all brought food from home + some remained for several days - breads - cheese treats - cookies - cakes - jams, meats Games + dances - at 4 A.M. big feast + then home - Grade schools similar to U.S. schools - Had 1 big room with one teacher, with 50 children attending - had kitchen also, used when weather was bad. Had high school - Midsummer Day was celebrated June 24th - dancing + food. Smorgasborg were always treat. - Mrs. Norström sang several songs in Swedish. Mr. Norström tells of highly special day called "Market Day" in Sweden, every Friday - everybody came to town to buy food raised. Carl Norström attended 8 years of school - Had readings with minister to ready for confirmation. Carl came over on ship, same one as his wife - tells of trip to U.S. at age 18 - took 7 days to come to U.S. Later settled to Galesburg, Illinois, a Swedish settlement. Tells about ship docked on west side of Norway - arriving with all sailors dead - ship had various fruits + vegetables on it, + it came from India. People from Norway took food from ship + that was way the disease started, called the Black Death.

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY FORM

1. Name: Carl Albin Norstrom		2. Date: July 4, 1958	
3. Address: 322 W. Sixth St. Larned, Kansas		4. County: Pawnee	5. Age 74
6. Place of Birth: Annerstad, Province of Smolen, Sweden			
7. Ancestry Swedish		9. Education (Circle highest) Grade school 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4	
8. Languages spoken: Swedish, English			
10. Places of residence:		Dates:	
Annerstad, Sweden		1884-1902	
Galesburg, Illinois		1902-1954	
Larned, Kansas		1954-	
11. Present occupation: Retired		12. Former occupations: Farmer Car inspector for C.B.&Q. Railroad.	
13. Father's name: Nels Johan Johnson.		17. Mother's name: Emma Gustava Johanson.	
14. Father's place of birth: Annerstad, Sweden		18. Mother's place of birth: Lgungby, Sweden	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: Annerstad, Sweden		19. Grandfather's place of birth: Lgungby, Sweden	
16. Grandmother's place of birth: Annerstad, Sweden		20. Grandmother's place of birth: Lgungby, Sweden	
21. Place and condition of interview: At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norstrom in Larned, Kansas.			
22. Remarks: <p>Children born in Sweden to Swedish parents do not receive their father's last name as their family name, but instead they are given the father's first name with the suffix son added to form the family name.</p> <p>Hence, the above informant was given the name of Carl Albin Nelson. However, when he came to the United States he found so many Swedish families in Galesburg, Illinois by the name of Nelson that he had his surname changed to Norstrom. He thereby avoided confusion with mail, etc.</p> <p>Norstrom was a name which he had heard in Sweden.</p>			
		Collector's name: Helen G. Norstrom Address: 223 W. Eighth Larned, Kansas	

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY FORM

1. Name: Julia Elizabeth Norstrom.		2. Date: July 4, 1958.	
3. Address: 322 W. 6th St. Larned, Kansas.		4. County: Pawnee.	5. Age 74.
6. Place of Birth: Hinneryd, Province of Smölen, Sweden.			
7. Ancestry Swedish.		9. Education (Circle highest) Grade school 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4	
8. Languages spoken: Swedish, English.			
10. Places of residence:		Dates:	
<u>Hinneryd, Sweden</u>		<u>1884-1902.</u>	
<u>Galesburg, Illinois</u>		<u>1902-1903.</u>	
<u>Chicago, Illinois</u>		<u>1903-1905.</u>	
<u>Galesburg, Illinois</u>		<u>1905-1954</u>	
<u>Larned, Kansas</u>		<u>1954-</u>	
11. Present occupation: Housewife.	12. Former occupations: Cook (1903-05)		
13. Father's name: Carl Person.	17. Mother's name: Fredericka Larson.		
14. Father's place of birth: Hinneryd, Sweden.	18. Mother's place of birth: Hinneryd, Sweden.		
15. Grandfather's place of birth: Hinneryd, Sweden.	19. Grandfather's place of birth: Hinneryd, Sweden.		
16. Grandmother's place of birth: Hinneryd, Sweden.	20. Grandmother's place of birth: Hinneryd, Sweden.		
21. Place and condition of interview: At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norstrom in Larned, Kans.			
22. Remarks: <p>Mr. and Mrs. Norstrom are a lovely and gracious Swedish couple who have brought with them the customs and traditions of their native land. They welcome even their most casual guests with a cup of coffee, and still fix many of the old Swedish foods.</p>			
		Collector's name: Helen G. Norstrom. Address: 223 W. Eighth St. Larned, Kansas.	

Song or Story Information Form

1. Informant's name: Julia Elizabeth Norstrom.	2. Date July 4, 1958.
3. Informant's name of song or story: "Now is Christmas Again".	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: "Nu är det Jul i gen" (Swedish name for song).	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? She learned this song at parties in Sweden.	
7. Approximate date of learning: Did not remember. Probably around 1896.	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (Where and when) Did not remember.	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Describe: This song was accompanied by a Christmas party game. The young people would all hold hands and make a big circle. Then they danced around the room as they sang.	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate): There was no instrument used, as they danced to this song while the musicians rested.	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant:	
12. Remarks:	
<div>Collector's name: Helen G. Norstrom. Address: 223 W. Eighth St. Larned, Kansas.</div>	

Interpretation of Swedish song from tape recording
by Julia Elizabeth Norstrom.

Song No. 1, "Nu ar det Jul i gen".

"Now is Christmas Again".

Now is Christmas again,

Now is Christmas again,

Christmas may last till Easter.

No, that isn't true,

No, that isn't true,

Because Lent comes in between there.

Song or Story Information Form

1. Informant's name: Julia Elizabeth Norstrom.	2. Date July 4, 1958.
3. Informant's name of song or story: "We All Have Sins".	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: "Alla Hava Synder" (Swedish name of song).	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? She learned this song at parties in Sweden, where it was sung.	
7. Approximate date of learning: 1896.	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (Where and when) Did not remember.	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or <u>dance</u> ? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Describe: This song is a Schottish. The young people in Sweden sang and danced to this tune.	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate): Accordion and violin.	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant:	
12. Remarks:	

Collector's name:
Helen G. Norstrom.

Address:
**223 W. Eighth St.
Larned, Kansas.**

Interpretation of Swedish song from tape recording
by Julia Elizabeth Norstrom.

Song No. 2

"We All Have Sins".

We all have sins,

We all have sins,

But none have as big as I.

Sins we all have,

Sins we all have,

But none have as big as I.

Song or Story Information Form

1. Informant's name: Julia Elizabeth Norstrom.	2. Date July 4, 1958
3. Informant's name of song or story: "Noah's Ark"	4. Record or tape Number
5. Standard name of song or story: "Gubby Noack" (Swedish name of song.)	
6. Where and how did informant learn the song or story? She learned it from her mother when she was very young (3 to 4 yrs.)	
7. Approximate date of learning: 1888.	
8. Has the informant seen the story or song in print? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (Where and when) Did not remember.	
9. Was song accompanied by a game or dance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Describe:	
10. Instrument used (if played in a special manner indicate): Accordion.	
11. Special explanations of the song or story by informant: This song is a story of Noah after the flood. It was one of the earliest songs children learned in Sweden. It compares with the nursery rhymes in this country.	
12. Remarks: Mrs. Norstrom was not sure of the Swedish spelling of the name of the song, but thought it would be as above.	

Collector's name:
Helen G. Norstrom.
Address:
**223 W. Eighth St.
Larned, Kansas.**

Interpretation of Swedish song from tape
recording by Julia Elizabeth Norstrom.

Song No. 3, "Gubby Noack".

"Noah's Ark".

Old man Noah,

Old man Noah,

Was a holy man.

He went out of the Ark,

He went out to seed the land.

He raised grapes to make wine,

Yes, indeed he did.