

LS 0029

Detta är intervju nr 1, med Lydia Dellner, från Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Hon var född 1886 i Munkfors, Värmland.

Lydia Dellner: - inte gå till dansbanan, det var tabu.

Lennart Setterdahl: Jaha.

Lydia: I went once, because, just to see, if I could get by with it. I was afraid to look at anything. It was a bridge over, and my father had to come across. He came to look for me, so I went around the building; and was home and in bed by the time!

L: Och det var sista besöket Ni gjorde på dansbanan?

Lydia: Nej, det enda besöket jag gjorde på dansbanan!

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L: Det är mycket möjligt att denna episod bidrar till att Lydia Dellner, född Håkansson, blev en Amerikaemigrant år 1902. Det var lite strängt hemma i det Munkforsska hemmet, säger Fru Dellner.

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Lennart Setterdahl: Och Ni är född, vilket år, Fru Dellner?

Lydia Dellner: 1886.

L: Och det var i Munkfors?

Lydia: I Munkfors, yes. Jag var 16 år när jag kom hit.

L: Låt oss berätta lite grand ifrån Er barndom. Kommer Ni ihåg? Ni var flera syskon i hemmet.

Lydia: Ja. Vi var åtta, and I was first.

L: Jaha. Åtta stycken - och har flera åkt till Amerika samtidigt av dessa?

Lydia: Four of them. But two of them is dead. Mrs; You probably know The builder; Theodore Swanson; and hes whife was my sister. And then I have a sister in California. And I have a brother here, that died.

L: Vad var namnen på dem som åkte hit till Amerika? Kommer Ni ihåg..? I tur och ordning, så att säga? Vad var namnen på Era syskon som åkte

Lydia: Efter Som kom hit?

L: Ja.

Lydia: Ja, hon hette Hanna Håkansson, or Mrs Theodore Swanson. And Margreth; Greta .. Greta Håkansson. But hon var i California i - no, I don't know - a long time. She was married

in California. And; the rest are in Sweden and my brother died there, my older brother. I was the ... Hes name was Bror Håkansson - and he owned the Håkansson Industrier, in Åmål. And: then he had another business in Karlstad - hus & Company. He started Håkanssons industrier i Åmål and they built electrical flyants. And, course, he died, so it's hes son now that runs that. I don't know very much about them, but I know that they sell a lot of these small refrigeraries and stoves for trailers and for campers. They sell a lot of them out in California, more sold then here.

L: Kan Ni berätta lite grand från Ert föräldrahem. Ni var så många syskon.

Lydia: Å, jag var bara 16 år när jag lämna, och alla de andra var då småbarn, så det var inte mycket.

L: Ni fick hjälpa till då naturligtvis.

Lydia: Jag fick hjälpa till! Jag fick tvätta och stryka!! Men

L: Och småskolan gick Ni uppe i Munkfors, naturligtvis.

Lydia: Ja. Småskolan - what ever little there was. Småskolan och folkskolan. Och så gick vi till Fortsättningsskolan! Men; Jag - I didn't get any education!!

L: Vad hette lärarinnans, eller lärarens, namn?

Lydia: Sjökvist. Johanna Andersson was småskollärrarinnan och Sjökvist - I don't remember hes first name - Sjökvist was folkskolläraren. And

L: Ni kommer inte ihåg om läraren berättade någonting om Amerika - något speciellt?

Lydia: No. No.

L: Om han sade någonting om utvandringen eller något sådant där?

Lydia: No. Because -

L: Men Ni skolbarn, ni berättade aldrig någonting för varandra om vad ni hade hört hemifrån om Amerika

Lydia: No!?! - no. I don't think so. I can't remember him except every days school work, You know. I didn't have any other memory of him.

L: Hade Ni en lång skolväg?

Lydia: No. Bara - vi sprang hem på rasterna och fick smörgåsar!

L: Sådär ja!

Lydia: Men Johanna Andersson, småskollärarinnan, hon var en god vän. Hon var en god vän to min mor. Because my mothers sister was a scool-teacher, too, only out in Ransäter.

L: Vad hette hon?

Lydia: Hon hette Hanna Hedkvist. She, by the way, they were friends with - what's hes name, the prime minister?

L: Å, Erlander!

Lydia: Well. Hes father was a school-teacher too and .. he played the orgen inRansäter. So they were all quit friendly, when they grow up. So that was after my time, but I know they were very good friends - because; they were booth school-teachers: my ant and hes father. So; Well, I know that they were about the same age, and I think my brother in law and Åke .. No .. I think they went to school in Stockholm, in Karlstad, at the same time. So they have to be good friends.

L: Vad tyckte Ni om skolgången annars? Ni hade ju en faster som var lärarinna. Var hon noggrann med att Ni skulle lära Er bra i skolan?

Lydia: Å ja. En moster. En moster, ja. Men hon hade en annan skola i i Ransäter. Jag gick i skolan i Munkfors och hon var lärarinna i Ransäter, so it was different, You know.

L: Så det var en bra bit emellan?

Lydia: Oh yeh. Just about en svensk mil.

L: Och sedan konfirmerades Ni i Munkfors kyrka, eller Var någonstans?

Lydia: No. My folks were - all they didn't do much for the Lutheran church, because de var missionsvänner. And Jag fick inte läsa för prästen och det var jag väldigt retad på i många år. För det tyckte jag, att det kunde jag väl ha fått läsa för prästen anyway ! Men det Di var missionsvänner och di trodde inte på den Lutherska kyrkan, kan jag förstå, att det måste ha 'vart.

L: Vad hette kyrkoherden? Kommer Ni ihåg det? Vad hette han på den tiden?

Lydia: Andréén, I think. Du menar: den Lutherska?

L: Ja. Kyrkan ja.

Lydia: Ja. Jag tror han hette Andréén.

L: Så ni gick mest till missionshuset då, ja.

Lydia: Jag gick i söndagsskolan i missionshuset and vi fick väl lov och gå om söndagarna!!

L: Ja. Vad hette pastorn där då, i missionsförsamlingen?

Lydia: Det var olika. Wennberg hette han där, when I went. That was why I grow up and had my sunday schools, and that was everything, in missionshuset.

L: Jaha.

I Ert hem nu, Fru Dellner, anlände det någon gång några Amerikabrev till jul t ex. Eller hade Er far eller Er mor något syskon i Amerika? Alltså: Amerikahälsningar t ex eller någonting sådant? Ni hade ingen kontakt med Amerika?

Lydia: No. Yes! Jag hade en moster i Youngstown, moster och morbror + deras barnbarn.

L: Vad hette de?

Lydia: De hette Hagström; Jan Hagström, i Youngstown - and de tillhörde Missionskyrkan i Youngstown. They were a big family, too. But I've got to be involved if I try to say anything - if I remember something - or I don't remember others! But They were a big family, too. And

there is only one left in Youngstown of them, so they are all everywhere. There's one in Akron and ... Ja a couple of them somewhere in Michigan. And one was a doctor in Brooklyn, his name was Henry Hagström and I think he was - - either an assistant chief in a Lutheran hospital in Brooklyn, or chief anywhere - but he was a big doctor, You know. That was .. well known.

L: Så Er moster, hon kom för många, många år sedan till Youngstown? Eller vart kom hon först?

Lydia: Hon kom ifrån Munkfors. När jag var två år reste de hit. So I didn't remember her until I came here. But I spent one year in Youngstown, with them. And well - then I came to Cleveland, I have been in Cleveland ever since.

L: Jaha. Vad var anledningen till att Ni åkte ut Fru Dellner till Amerika? Var det brev ifrån emigranter, eller?

Lydia: I always wanted to come to America, from the time I was I think it was because my mother and my aunt were very closed against. I always had an idea I want to come. And so I have to find my way because they didn't let me to go, when I was 16. But they let me go finally!

L: Ni tror att det var brev som gjorde att Ni ville åka?

Lydia: Det var brev.

L: Läste Ni breven som kom?

Lydia: Va?

L: Läste Ni breven som kom från Amerika?
Läste Ni alla breven som kom från Amerika?
Lydia: Oh yes! I'm shure I did!

L: Kommer Ni ihåg vad som stod i dem?

Lydia: Everything under the sun about eachothers, and the family, You know. But I couldn't remember. It was everything ..

L: Det såg Bra ut med andra ord?

Lydia: Va?

L: Det såg bra ut i brevena i alla fall.

Lydia: Yes, oh yes!

L: Var det något särskilt, som Ni lade märke till, som var bra, som Ni skulle vilja komma i samband med?

Lydia: Well. I don't know. They all had a good education and they were here - and my uncle made good. He did a lot for hes family. One of my cusins, her name was Hanna, right, she was a music teacher, and a walker teacher. The others were - well - two of them - were - oh what You call it - They gave massage, You know.

L: Massör ja.

Lydia: Massör, ja. And one was a doctor and One; Ray Häggström, ran the christ mission! in Youngstown, from the time he graduated from from that college up there. And he took diminished to it. But he never had a church, because the Christ nation. He runned there till he's retired. He never had anything else. And he did a big job there, because someone had donated a farm. He had gott help and they made a big place there for slum children, You know. They will pick them up there and give them two weeks in the country! So he .. he did a lot of work! An awful lot of work!

L: Sparade Ni ihop till biljetten till Amerika eller skickades den?

Lydia: No. Jag fick den. I guess, my father gave me.

L: Han ville inte gärna släppa iväg Er!

Lydia: No. Nej. And I was home in -37 and he said "I never have been so sory as I was that I gave my concense to let You go. You were to young, he said!

L: Var Er mor lika ohågad för det hela?

Lydia: Well. She first had her sister, so she didn't mind to letting me come here, because I came to her sister, And she figured that I got a good home there. But I were only there a year and I came to Cleveland.

L: Och Ni åkte tåg då; till Karlstad, eller till Oslo, eller åkte Ni

Lydia: When I came?

L: Ja.

Lydia: we lived, we might say: at the end of the world. Because Munkfors, at that time, was the last station at the realroad. But then they builded from there. Today: that's why everybody would go. How did I get to - Oh. I took the train up to Filipstad, and down, instead of goeing today, it was a little rail. I have to go up to Filipstad and down. I went to Göteborg. So that was a round about way.

L: Och Vilken dag, eller Vilket år, vilken dag och vilket år var det?

Lydia: It was I think the 6th of may in 1892.

L: Kommer Ni ihåg namnet på båten, som Ni åkte med?

Lydia: Ivenia.

L: Ivenia. Och Den gick till .. Boston?

Lydia: No. Yes!

L: Den gick inte till England först då?

Lydia: Yes. I have to go to England, And Ivenia went to Boston, course I came to Boston, I didn't come to New York.

L: Men båten ifrån Göteborg, den kommer Ni inte ihåg namnet på? Den var mindre kanske?

Lydia: Den var liten. I don't remember. I know there was a rollo but I don't think that it was the only one. But; it couldn't be.

L: Hur var nu resan över?

Lydia: No. I don't know how I came. I just had a company with a friend of my ant and she lived in Skåne, in Helsing-

L: borg.

Lydia: ..-borg. And so when I got to Göteborg, I took the train to Helsingborg! and came across Denmark. And we had a boat from Denmark, to across; from Esbjerg?

L: Esbjerg, ja.

Lydia: Ja. And then from there on, to Liverpool. So; I don't remember any more.

L: Hur var resan ifrån England, nu på stora Atlanten?

Lydia: Well. It was good.

L: Ni hade bra mat.

Lydia: Yes. Vi hade - We had everything all right. It was expected, I suppose, and

L: Ni kommer inte ihåg om där var flera svenskar på båten, som åkte över?

Lydia: Well. It was Albin Pettersson

L: Ifrån Värmland?

Lydia: Yes, ifrån Munkfors. He was a brother of Hjalmar Pettersson, som var - oh You know, he was a komiker. He used to travel around here and give programmes! Hjalmar Pettersson (Lydia funderar). Hes name was Olle i Skratthult! ja!

L: Var det hans bror det, som åkte med Er?

Lydia: Ja! Albin, han was a couple of years older, he was .. he came with me then, when I came.

L: Så ni hade sällskap från Munkfors.

Lydia: Yes.

L: Vad berodde det på? Hade ni talat om det tidigare kanske, eller?

Lydia: Va?

L: Hade ni diskuterat Amerikaresan tidigare?

Lydia: No! No! I was all set - and he came. I had decided all at once. And he came and asked my mother to write this woman, if she would take him on to. So we went together. He decided that all in a hurry and I was all set.

L: Ni kommer inte ihåg vad anledning han hade för att åka över? Ville han se sig omkring, kanske?

Lydia: He got to be a - what do You call it - a massour. And he came here although. And he went to Los Angeles. He went to Minneapolis, first. And then he went to Los Angeles. He died - not so long ago. And hes things used to be in here because he used to write. He used to write at - I don't know the articles, in Swedish papers, and in this paper.

L: Hans namn var; Albin

Lydia: AlbinPettersson.

L: Jaha. Och hans bror; Han hette Hjalmar

Lydia: Hjalmar Pettersson och han var Olle i Skratthult.

L: Skratthult, jaha.

Och jaa, eftersom Ni är värmlänning, så kommer Ni väl ihåg någon bra historia ifrån Munkfors eller ifrån!

Lydia: No, I can't, because; I heard it in Cleveland, a long long time afterwards, "didn't You learn anything new since that"!! So I wasn't impressed of him at all!

L: Jaså, han var över till Er i Amerika.

Lydia: Oh, yes. He lived in Minneapolis, most of the time.

L: Och Han kom över också?

Lydia: Oh yes, yes! But he came a little later. But: he ... he lived in Mineapolis. And ... and he had a group with him and they played Värmlänningarna or different things, You know.

L: Och; han levde så att säga på det här då? Det var hans arbete?

Lydia: Det var hans arbete!

L: Så han spelade teater också då?

Lydia: Han spelade teater, ja. Det gjorde han! I don't think he did anything else.

L: Hade han flera värmlänningar i den här gruppen?

Lydia: ?.

L: Var där flera värmlänningar som Ni kände till, som var med i gruppen; jämte Honom, eller? var med och spelade?

Lydia: Åh, Rudolf Werkelin was along, when he was - But I don't know what he was. He was one of the gang, You know.

L: Jaha.

Vad kommer Ni ihåg från Er hembygd? Var där danser på logarna, på lördagskvällarna?

Lydia: No. Kanske ... Kanske vi hade dansövningar or something på skolsalen. Vi gick aldrig ute.

L: Alltså: Ni som då tillhörde Missionsföreningen. Ni kanske inte fick gå ut och dansa för föräldrarna?

Lydia: No. Jag fick inte heller. Det var förbjudet. Men vi fick göra folkdanser och sånt där på skolsalen, det fick jag vara med på. Men jag fick inte gå till dansbanan! Det var tabu! I went once, because; just to see, if i could get by with it. But I was afraid to look at anything. There was a bridge over and my father would have to come across. He came and looked for me, so I went around the building, and was at home, and in bed, by the time he came!

L: Och Det var det sista besöket Ni gjorde?

Lydia: Det var Det enda besöket jag gjorde på dansbanan!

L: Jaa. Annars så var det ju rätt så livligt uppe i Munkfors. Det var ju ett brukssamhälle.

Lydia: Yes! Oh yes!

L: Er far; arbetade han på bruket, kanske?

Lydia: Yes. He was Well. He had quit a good job. He had ... he was a härdare. He was experimenting a lot. So he was - He had a lot - in fact - I think - he did things that got the paton down, that helped them to make money. Because: he was experimenting.

L: Så Er far klagade aldrig över att ha ett hårt arbete på bruket?

Lydia: No. No. Because he .. he did what they wanted him to do, and that was helping them get something perfectiv, so they can get money on it. That was! And Han var: härdarmästare.

L: Ni var ju så pass ung nu när Ni åkte ifrån Sverige, Fru Dellner, ni var ju 16 år, bara. Så Er yngre bror, han som började på Håkanssons i Åmål, han hade inte börjat att arbeta på Bruket?

Lydia: Han arbeta på kontoret. Han var 14 år and han var kontors.....

L: Ja, springpojke, kanske.

Lydia: Springpojke, mest, ja. But then he went to Stockholm. He had a very good education, he went to Tekniska skolan, i Stockholm. so he was an engineer. He was an engineer anyhow. And one of my other brothers went to the same school; Gustav Håkansson, and He was an engineer. So By the time they'd got growing up. I think: my father got help for the first one, and then they helped eachother; so they had a good education, after that.

L: Och de började på bruket i Munkfors att arbeta också, kanske?

Lydia: Yes. But not very long. Because my brother didn't like it there; because he was Lars Håkanssons pojke, and the others didn't think he was anything to Tell them what to do, see. So: he went to Skoghall, and that's near Karlstad. He was there for a while, and then he went to work for hes housing. And he worked for him until he died. Then he bought (?) from hes wife. And that's quit a few years ago. He made real good. During the war, he was doing a lot of work. I know one thing he did. When the Germans were in Norway, he builded a little hurts, You might say, along the Swedish border, so they could cross over, and get away, get away to Sweden, those who wanted to. Then; after that, after the war, they used them for skiing, in the winter time!

L: Har Ni haft kontakt med Er bror, under alla åren?

Lydia: Oh yes. Han var här - Han och hans hustru och dotter var här två gånger; första gången var 1950 and andra gången var 1954. And then; well. My nephew was here every year, I don't know for how many years, because he was here. They had a wearhouse in Chicago. So they sold different things. They sold forks ... no - knives, good knives and they sold them. So They did quit well.

L: Det var aldrig tal om att - Han var intresserad av Amerika - Er bror; när han växte upp?

lydia: No. No.

L: Inte alls?

Lydia: No. He went to school and got hes stark for hes goeing to college. So as soon as he could he went to Stockholm - and stayed there. Until he was graduated from the school; the Royal Technical School, in Stockholm.

L: Tekniska Högskolan ja.

Lydia: He did graduated from. And; So did my other brother! And So, they never thought of comming here, no.

L: Ni skrev tillbaka hem, nu när Ni kom hit över till Amerika. Det lockade över också de yngre systrarna, framför allt Era systrar. De kom över senare, efter Er.

Lydia: Jag var hemma 1906, the first time. I was 20 years old and I was at home, and I shouldn't do it, but I did. And then I took her with me, my oldest. The other one was married to Theodore Swanson. The otherone came later, she was the youngest. I was the oldest in the family and she was the youngest. She lives in California now. Her son is working in PHD. He's very good. He is goeing in the space program. So he's working and he is at the PHD there. So he has got a long way and the other tho, they were particularly interrested in school, like most people, and they've got jobs.

L: Vad fick Ni nu för intryck av Amerika, när Ni kom till Boston för första gången? 1892.

Lydia: Jag minns inte precis. Jag bara gick igenom och var på väg till Youngstown och jag bara kommer ihåg Youngstown!

L: Ni kommer inte ihåg hur det såg ut i Boston eller så?

Lydia: No. Because, this woman that I came with, she looked after me. I was like a child, You know. So that I got to Youngstown and she delivered me to my ant. That's about all I can say!

L: Albin Pettersson - han var med också!

Lydia: No. Han gick till Minneapolis. And he stayd in Minneapolis until he went to California, I guess. I don't heard so much from him after.

L: Youngstown var inte stort på den tiden, förstås. Det var inte många hus.

Lydia: No.

Well! It was pretty good! But there was not so many Swedes there. My uncle worked for the Carnegie Steel and he made good. So that he could educate at least some of them there wanted to be.

L: Hade Ni funderingar på att åka tillbaka till Sverige igen efter några år?

Lydia: Well. To visit, but never to stay. No. No. I never wanted to stay.

L: Vad var det som gjorde det?

Lydia: I liked it here. See, It didn't take me long. I learned English real fast, because I was 16 years old, You know. And then You learn things pretty quick!

L: Jaa. Var det friare här över i Amerika kanske?

Lydia: Yes. Det var friare för mig här i Amerika, because jag var tvungen att vara missionsvän, ja!

L: Var det Er mors sida som var så stränga missionsvänner?

Lydia: Well. Min morfar starta Missionsförbundet där i Ransäter. That was socknen Ransäter. And he, along with some others, started Missionsförbundet. And - oh I don't know if I was 6 years old, they celebrated that. So they ask us to send home a donation, because it was 100 year, and I and my father was one of the once that have to start it. So we did, and, so. Then, of course, the hole family, they were interested in it. And even the once who went to Youngstown var missionsvänner i Youngstown. Jag fick inte läsa för prästen! Jag vet inte Varför!

L: Åkte Ni tåget från Boston till Youngstown?

Lydia: Ja, jag åkte tåg.

L: Vad arbetade Ni med först när Ni kom till Era släktingar?

Lydia: I was helping take care of children and then helping with housework, here and there.

L: Vem mötte Er i Boston?

Lydia: Ingen mötte mig i Boston för jag var med my ants friend.

L: Vad hette hon? Hon var från Skåne ja.

Lydia: Hon hette Hon hette Nilsson; Kristina Nilsson, I think it was.

L: Var hon från Helsingborg?

Lydia: Helsingborg - and - hon har varit här förut, så that's why my mother felt shure, that I was in good hands, when I came with her.

L: Och senare. Ni arbetade i hushåll också.

Lydia: Ja, jag arbetade i hushåll ja.

L: Och Det gjorde Ni tills Ni gifte Er.

Lydia: Till jag gifte mig, ja.

L: Jaa. Och Sedan har Ni inte varit annat än hemmafru, så att säga.

Lydia: Hemmafru! I have three children. And then we had a chicken farm here for a while. You know; during The Depression, my husband couldn't get a work, like everybody else. Then we started chickens and have them a few years. So; we

L: Och Er make?

Lydia: ?.

L: Var Er make värmlänning också kanske?

Lydia: No. Han var från Helsingland.

L: Från Helsingland jaha.

Lydia: And it was funny; we rounded the Ocean at the same time and with different boats. He went to New York, he was an - I don't remember. But I went to Boston - but we were on the Ocean at the same time! We didn't know eachother, of course, but You know, think it over. We landed: He landed in New York, and I landed in Boston al about at the same time.

L: Och Han var lika ung Han kanske?

Lydia: Han var tre år äldre än mig. Han dog ifjol. Han dog i april, ett år sedan. And he was 83 years old. So we lived to be quite old. We had two - We lost our daughter when she was 12. And that was the hardest blow we had. And then our two sons: one is a lawyer, and the other is an engeneer.

L: Och de bor här i Cleveland, kanske?

Lydia: No. Norman, the lawyer, lives in Columbus, and Andrej, the oldest, live in Armsted Falls, but he works for, well, You know, the once that builds - the big company that builds cars and trucks. He's an engeneer there. So; they have real good, and we help them somehow and they were good at working for themselves. So we helped them to get quit a good education!

L: Så Er make - Vad hade han för sysselsättning?

Lydia: Han var en tool-maker.

L: Han klagade inte på Amerika precis. Allting har gått bra.

Lydia: No, no. He always liked it and he was at home, I think, for a couple of times to visit, but he .. he allways came back.

L: Jaa.

Nu när Ni först kom över och var så ung, Fru Dellner, vad fick Ni för intryck av Amerika? Var det svårt att komma tillrätta med samhället?

Lydia: No, det var lätt! I remember - I thought - I never felt that it was hard. I got used to everything that I was supposed to do. And I talked English before I knew it.

L: Men Ni kunde ingen engelska när Ni kom hit?

Lydia: No, I couldn't. But I learned - at 16 - You know - You're still in a sort of a school age. And it was no time. I can hardly remember, of course it was no time, You know, then I started to work. But it didn't bather.

L: Gick Ni i kvällsskola?

Lydia: No. I didn't. But. Well.

L: Men senare kom Ni med, naturligtvis, i kyrkolivet och så? Blev Ni missionsvän här över också?

Lydia: No. I don't want to be missionsvän. Course I had enough of that! No, I didn't! I really, I had enough of the church, You know, in Sweden. And I suppose, I shouldn't admit that. I thought I joined the Vasa-orden.

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