

LS 0085 – LS 0086 – LS 0087
Ester Andréén-Albrecht

Lennart Setterdahl: This is June 25th 1985. I am sitting together with Ester Andréén-Albrecht, in Moline, Illinois.

This is a German name though?

Ester Andréén-Albrecht: My husband was German; and English. His father was German, his mother was English.

L: They were born, both of them, over here?

Ester: Yes. In fact - his mother's people came over in the 1600s.

L: Oh, I see. So they are really old-timers then.

Ester: That's right. But; the Albrechts came over in the early 1800s.

L: But - on Your side. Your grandfather Andreas Andréén came from Gränna, in Sweden.

Ester: That's right.

L: And it was all way back in 1853, if I remember right.

Ester: Yes.

L: He had several children. One of them was Gustav Andréén.

Ester: That's right.

L: Your father. But: on Your mother's side. She was Norwegian.

Ester: That's right.

L: And her name was Marie, or Mary - or -

Ester: Her name was really Marie Augusta Strand. But; when she went to school, the teachers said: No. You don't spell it M A R I E, You spell it M a r y. And my grandmother was furious. She said: Your name is Marie! But, anyway: Mary sticks. So my mama was called Mary the rest of her life.

L: She was born in -

Ester: In Kansas.

L: In Junction city?

Ester: Yes.

L: She grew up there, with her parents. They had a homestead there - in junction city.

Ester: Yes, outside of The Junction. He took a claim about 40 miles out.

L: It was early in the 1860; sometimes?

Ester: He took the claim in about 1870. Because of the hardships, and the problems, - my grandmother was frightened of the Indians, but they never really hurt her. It was a white man, worried her. They tried to scare him of the place, after he had (?) and had established - built a cabin and had farmed a while. Then - they tried to scare - so they could sell the land to somebody else, to a higher price. They called him to come out. They were in the cabin together; my grandmother and (?). They threw a rope over a tree and said: they were going to hang him. So my grandmother went out there and stood resolutely beside her husband, and her two children - two little babies, really. he said: "What will You do with the children"? My grandmother didn't exactly understand English, - but she knew what they were saying. That was the deciding point with her. (Mening). So then, he went into the Junction city and got what job he could - and left this claim.

L: He gave up?

Ester: Yes, he did! Because: she said: she wouldn't stay there.

L: Were those land sharks, You think?

Ester: Land sharks. They were land sharks! That's right. Exactly.

L: So he didn't get one cent out of what he put in the buildings, or anything?

Ester: Well. He was willing to stay. But she said: this is too much. I can't take it. They were gonna hang him - it was more than she could take. (? mening). He took the positions he could. I really don't know that story, that part of the story. But my mother told me this about the deciding point with my grandmother.

L: How many children were they?

Ester: They were two children, at that time. My mother was born just shortly after they arrived in Kansas. So she was born in Kansas. But her brother was born in Norway.

L: He got a job then in the Junction city?

Ester: Any job he could get. That's right.

L: They stayed on there, all their lives?

Ester: That's right.

L: How did Your mother get in contact with Your father; Gustav Andrén?

Ester: Mother saw an add to a work in a photograph gallery in Middlesbury. So; she decided to go, that was not too far from Junction city. And she got the job. The grand(?), he was the photographer in (?) and she worked there for one year and a half. Then they asked her to become the third grade teacher in the Elementary department. Bethany College had an Elementary department, as well as High school Augustana did have too. So she taught in the elementary department of Bethany college - and that's how my mother met him, when she went to (?).

L: Did she have any teaching experiences before?

Ester: No. She had no experience.

L: Your mother, she was not afraid to step in to something?

Ester: She (?) out for the job. Maybe she was more like her father there. I can understand how my grandmother felt when they were (?) to kill her husband; and there she was in a strange country, with children. When he went to the town, it was a two day trip with the ox team; 40 miles.

L: From Junction city, out to the claim?

Ester: Yes. It was a two day trip. She was put in a dog-out that they had for the ox team. And then an Indian came. He admired my mother. She was a baby with curly hair. He wanted to buy her. He offered to buy her with a yard of red cloth! And; course: my grandmother wouldn't make the trade! That she was scared. So there were numbers of things that frightened her. But the Indian never hurt her. He declared that. He was given something to eat, and all would be happy. She used to give him a loaf of bread. They never did harm my grandmother, or harm anyone there. It was a very habit to come and beg for things, that's right.

L: So; the more they gave them, the more they wanted.

Ester: Well. I don't know about that. They had a different idea of ownership - You see. The land belonged to God. And: we had the idea that a person owned the land. It was different cultural, entirely. And when they were stopped at the dog-out, they thought they had the right to walk into that; the cabin, or the dog-out, or whatever they had. It was just differences in the cultural! I know, the pioneer women of Kansas, a story I have heard by different people, and with different experiences. It showed; the Indians were dispossessed by their own culture. They didn't stop at any cabin that was on the land. They could go in and take a look. They entered the house and pulled out the bureau drawers, and looked at the beds, and laughed! Everything was funny! They scared the women. But; they didn't hurt them. Oh there

were times, of course. We have stories when there were bloody massakers, but my grandmother experienced nothing about that - except she was scared about.

L: How about Your grandfather? He didn't go to the land office? It was a land office in Junction city, if I can remember?

Ester: Oh yeh. He had everything in there.

L: Would he go down there and complaine about the situation in any way?

Ester: Well. The district cheer was a friend of his, and hes friend was Lane; L a n e. And when he mentioned to this man about that they were gona hang him, he said; You have a lot of experience to do, to Lane. And then they left. He might have complained, I don't know much about that part, but my mother told me.

L: And it was the end of it.

Ester: Well. I can understand how my grandmother felt.

L: They didn't move over to Lindsborg with their daughter?

Ester: Oh no, no! They had no idea of ever moving there. No, he had a job, and he worked there.

L: Were there other Norwegians in the area?

Ester: No. There were no Norwegians in that area. Course: in that time, ten miles was a great distance, and it's so happened and I think I bring that out of my pieces, that doctor Olson - who became a president of Agustana - helped him by - and he baptized my mother! and the other children that had to come being since after that. So he baptized them on hes way, threw the place.

L: Olov Olson, he was in Lindsborg, when your mother came down there to teach?

Ester: Well. I don't know about that. But when my mother was just a child, he came in to Junction city and there is were he baptized. She wanted them baptized. And she didn't have any respect for any of the churches that they had there. These (?). She had no respect for them. She didn't concider in a church.

L: It was no established Norwegian or Swedish Lutheran church in that area then?

Ester: Not there, at that time, at least. No. Not at all.

L: Then: she met Your father.

Ester: That's right.

L: When she saw someone with a wrinled coat outside the window comming by.

Ester: That's right!

L: Explain a little about them.

Ester: I suppose he wasn't to (?) of these clothes. But; she used to see him going by the place were she was living, - and she said: she never saw more of a wrinled coat in her life! I can understand that! They didn't have coat hangers in those days.

L: Gustav Andrén; he was teaching (?) too, then?

Ester: No. He was teaching at The Bethany college, in The College Departement.

L: And that was after hes graduation from Augustana?

Ester: That is right.

L: What did Your grand parents, from Your mothers side, say when she brought home a Swede?

Ester: They thought Gustav Andrén was all right, but they said: it was to bad he wasn't norwegian!

L: There was that kind of feelings?

Ester: Oh! Very much! In fact; I don't think they talked so much to the Swedes. And; even to this day! When I were over in Norway, with friends, they were not speak very nicely about the Swedish. There is an unculturally ruf.

L: It's the neighbour feeling!

Ester: And I thought the Swedish, they were the same, about the Norwegeans. I don't know.

L: Your father. He didn't pay attention for anything like that, or?

Ester: No - he was in love with my mother!

L: So - he went of with Your mother to visit her parents? And then they were engaged; in Lindsborg.

Ester: Yes, They were engaged. My father then asked her parents for permission to marry her and about a year and a half later they were married. Fathers uncle: A. W. Dahlsten, came down there, and officiated.

L: Were was he a pastor, at that time?

Ester: I don't know the ministerium notatum where he was a pastor. He was around in Kansas, in some places. But he came down there and officiated.

L: They were married in the Bethany church then?

Ester: No. They were married in the Junction city.

L: Oh, I see!

Ester: In my grand parents home. Oh - yes!

L: So then hes parents came from Rock Island, Or from Moline? Your fathers parents.

Ester: My grandfather; Andrén, was a Minister in Swedona.

L: At that time?

Ester: Yeh. But he was also a Minister in Indiana. As father grow up, they were around The Swedona.

L: When Your father was married to Your mother. -

Ester: Yes.

L: Did they detain from Swedona, down for -

Ester: Oh, no. He was teaching at Bethany, at the time.

L: Yes, but I mean: hes parents.

Ester: Hes parents were both dead.

L: When he married!

Ester: Oh, yes! They were both dead when he was 16 years old!

L: Oh, - I see.

Ester: Now there is a story too, that could be mabee of interest to You. my grandfather had - what today we call a mastoid. In fact - Doctor Eister - he was our family doctor, from Rock Island, as I grow up - hes father (?) was a Minister and as frequently a teacher, now and then, at Augustana, for different courses. I think he tough English - mainly. Dr. Eister Himself told me; what Your grandfather had was a mastoid. In those days (?) and; that was no good. He got worse and worse, and finally it infected hes brain. Ackording to my fathers (?) - the pain would get terrific. This goes into another story. Mrs Lars Paul Esbjörn was a widow. She moved in to Swedona after she left Sweden, when her husband had died. She would make dances to my grandfather. My aunts and uncles didn't like that. When ever they get down to get the meal, she would be there and by them in for coffee. They tried to have one of the children with him always, to brush Mrs Lars Paul Esbjörn out. Anyway, it so happened, (?) my father was helping with the house; all tasks. They were about seven children. She said: - Nobody there in Swedona believed that he was a saint(?), - he was going off to be. My father was studying in Augustana, at that time. Finally then she got him to marry her. The people in Swedona, as well as my fathers cousin, she herself told me; she said: nobody there in Swedona believed that he was a saint - that he was going off to be. He did marry her.

L: So Mrs Esbjörn stayed in Swedona too then?

Ester: She moved in to Swedona. And then, when she married him, she moved into the (?) and sent all her children out. She came with five of her own, and there were no room for the Ministers children. So all seven were kicked out! There was very hard feelings against. My father always tried to smooth things over. Different families, in the countryside, took the kids, different ones. I know - my uncle Philip, by Mrs Hugner, did. Different uncles, and aunts; - The congregation, built a house for my aunts. There was Lydia and Tora and Hilda. (?). Anyhow - I saw the house, when I was there! It was not so expensive. I know, when my cousin; Irène, she married (?) Christensen. He was here for three years, studying in the seminary. (Meningar). She was married for two months when he committed suicid.

L: She left Sweden after 1870. She stayed quite a few years in Swedona alone then.

Ester: I really don't know when she came, but anyway, she got married, and moved into (?) and kicked the kids out. And - as I said - My father always tried to smooth things over.

L: Was he still at home then?

Ester: He was at the Augustana, except when he was at home in the summers.

L: he started as young at Augustana?

Ester: He was eleven years old. But he was at home in the summers! He was 16 years old when his father died. His mother died two years before. In fact; when his mother died, Mrs Esbjörn was over there - and fussing around. Mrs Setterdahl told me this herself. She said: "Jag vet vem min efterträdare vill bli". And that was right.

L: Hon kände till det.

Ester: She figured that. Mrs Setterdahl called me one time for afternoon coffee. She told me that. And she told me other things too. Mrs L. P. Esbjörn, and Mrs Andrén, did not sit around with the people in the congregation. They didn't like her. She established herself as the Ministry's wife. I think she felt that she was establishing herself. When my cousin came with her husband, while he was studying at Augustana: Irène Christensen, my mama had heard: "Don't go to see her"! But my father always tried to smooth things over. I think, mabee, she felt, like a security, against Mrs L. P. But she was the aggressing one (?). This mastoid affected his brain (?). In fact: he got to be more than Mrs L. P. could take care of. She sent him down to Rock Island, to be under papas care! (Resten av stycket?).

L: What happened Mrs Esbjörn? Sara Albertina?

Ester: I don't know this, exactly. Course: when he died, she was no longer the pastors wife. How it happened - she moved to Rock Island, and lived on the 30th street, is it, or the 31st street? The house is still standing, at about the 10th, or 11th Ave. As I grow up, I was instructed to call her Grandmother Esbjörn. But I didn't.

L: You remember her then?

Ester: Oh yes! I was up there, in many times. Carl Esbjörn was a Professor then at the Augustana and frequently he'd got to friends. He usually get me, to go up there at night and sleep there. (Meningar?). I was instructed to call him uncle Carl.

L: He was about 15 20 years older than You were?

Ester: I think more. To me he was always an old man. At the time when I first started spending nights with grandfather Esbjörn; I was mabee 13 14 years old. I don't know how old He was, but for me; he was an old man. One time he gave me a five pound box of candy, I thought that was wonderful. At one time, when he came back, he brought me a little coin purse, that he bought in Paris, with a handkerchief. He and I was always friendly, and I think; he liked me! At the same time it was times I couldn't not understand him. One time - that was after I was in college - this showed this quality, - that him and I couldn't understand. Papa had thought German one year during Esbjörns absens. I guess he had sebatc courses then. Papa taught German in his German class, that particular year. And so, when I was involved, I think it was my third year with German, I had Wilhelm Thell, we were reading. I had papas book -

and it was full of Lathin and Greek references. I took the book to Esbjörn, to the college, and I send: ""You take this book, and I'll take Yours""! Mabee You will understand more about these Greek and Lathin references, more then I do. And he looked it over "No" he said. "That's all right". And then this year, it was during the Christmas hollidays. He came in and see me. He was quite sturned. I said: "I went to You with the book and it was Lathin and Greek and I said: "(It means nothing to me and I exchanged)"". "Yes. That's right. But we don't have any (?). or if You have to take a special private examination for cheeting". Well I said: "I haven't cheated"! and I said: "It was Your permission. This; the same". He made me take the examination. now! - can You understand that? I Don't.

L: What did Your father say about it?

Ester: Papa kept still.

L: Did You tell Your father about it?

Ester: My father wasn't there, but he knew what was going on. Then he said: "I will exanarate You". When I came back, he said: "She is taking examination before having (?), but I axanarate her". Do You figure out that he was following the rules? (Resten av stycket om skolan, sekr greppar ej det hela).

L: He went by the rules.

Ester: The rules; that was always important.

L: What trades did it come from? Was it from Your father, or from hes mother.

Ester: I am sure it was from hes fathers side. Hes father was really a president of Augustana when he left it. He never resigned. My father stands - as he was growing up - he was talked to revire; Esbjörn and Hasselqvist, they were almost Gods to him. He said: (?). Norelius didn't like Hasselqvist, because he was aggressiv. Esbjörn; L. P. Esbjörn, (?) with Hasselqvist, Course: L. P. was the president, but that didn't mean no differens to Hasselqvist. He (?) to Sweden, and Hasselqvist stuck over. For 12 years he served this president, and was not a president. My grandfather; Andrén, and Norelius, were very good friends. They used to confye to eachother, and talked about Hasselqvist - the way he were doing things. Not that they condemned the result of hes work - because he was a good hard worker! No question about that! But he also had peculioroties. One time: he refused to give the communion to some young people who were up there. They had gone to a dance the night before. He wouldn't give the communion!

L: It was a different era.

When Your father lost hes father. He still had respect off for Mrs Esbjörn. Do You think it was the Esbjörn name?

Ester: It could have been.

L: Taking over the hole house, through them out. Did You still respect her?

Ester: My father had always a kind of to smooth things over. I think there is a lot of that, even now; as we hear the different reports of these mad ministers, You know. They bring out their high qualities, and professionals - and their brilliantce. And they're don't making human beings out of them. One time, I think I chocked some of the people, when I was giving a report to the Swedish club about L. P. Esbjörn. I mentioned there, that he was very much against drink, and was critisizing the clergy of Sweden for to much drinking, and to little carrying for the people. Then; finally, when he wanted to go to Sweden, the ministeries in Sweden was (resten av meningén). They were to glad to give him only a ticket! I didn't think of it at the time, but that's a truth! If You go to write a story about a person, I think You have to bring All of hes qualities out, and not just that they were so high. In one time. I think it was Backman, that gave a report of many different things. Many mentioned L. P. Esbjörn was not giving very high grades and he took more sience then anything else. Just as much religion as he had to have. If You are going to give a story - there are more like human beings when You

tell everything! I wasn't digging up the dirt, I wasn't. As I said: my father was always trying to smooth things over. I spent a lot of time - many nights - going there. Staying all nights with him, and I think he was very grateful to me for that! She had a nice biljard. We could play in her yard. In one time; my folks were going away. I was in charge with my brothers, Gus and Carl, that night. I took them with me! when I went up to grandmother Esbjörn. I gave them the bedroom and I slept in the sofa downstairs. Carl Esbjörn was coming home during the night, when I was sleeping in the sofa. The screen-door was hoked. He couldn't wake me up! Finally his mother heard the noise and came down. She had her bedroom upstairs. She came down and let him in. When I was in my teens - when I went to sleep - You could move the house and I wouldn't know it! I don't think I was much good then, anyway, if something had happened to her.

L: So You lived away?

Ester: That's right.

L: Because You away.

Ester: (Meningar). You know the house were the Esbjörns lived?

L: Yes.

Ester: Oh, I was up there a lot. One of his nieces, she had had an hand accident and she had to be more or less in her bed-room. She spent the summer there and tried to be cooperated. He had me up there to be with her - practically that summer, every afternoon, I had to be up there. There is another thing too, that mabee I should mention here. I told Your wife about it. My grandmother, Mrs Andreas Andrén, had inherited a farm in Nebraska. I don't know how - but; in any way - she had a farm. Then, apparently; Carl Esbjörn felt that because that his mother had married my grandfather - that the farm belonged to him. I think it's crazy. My husband was a lawyer. Real an estate has to go down on the blood lines and if there is no (?), it would definitely go back to the original state. Brandells daughter! He would not allowed him to marry his daughter until he had signed over his house to the daughter. He said: If You should die, the house would go to Your brothers, according to The Illinois rules. Finally he did. He gave her the house. Years later - he called (?) that farm in Nebraska. Father said: Well. It was rented for years and years, and there was no particular good overseen to it. Finally (Resten av stycket).

L: Was he the only one of the Esbjörn Children that went on like that?

Ester: He made a fuss about it. I never heard Mia, or Hanna, or Luther, or Constant say one thing. But Carl was. He rightfully owned my grandmothers funds. (Resten av stycket kring egendomen i Nebraska.

L: It's a lot of problems coming up when two families Join like that.

Ester: Yes.

L: How could she face the congregation down in Swedona? She walked to the church every Sunday?

Ester: When she left Swedona, I don't know. I went down there - and I had conferences with quite a number of the older people. They said: Mrs L. P. had no respect - what so ever.

L: So: she went to far, in other words.

Ester: Yes. They thought Mrs L. P. Esbjörn was all right, but when she married my grandfather, the hole church was against her. So; they knew what she was doing.

L: We go back now again to Your parents. They were married in the Junction city. Did they go back to Lindsborg then, for teaching?

Ester: Papa continued teaching and mother became the principal of the girls dormitory.

L: And it was during Carl A. Swensons regim?

Ester: I suppose so! Must have been. Then; Seashore, Doctor Seashore, he was a good friend of my father. He became a head of the psychology department of (?) city. He was also down there teaching. And both Seashore, and father decided they would go to Yale. Papa had a son, by that time, and he landed in New Haven with a dollar and a half in his pocket.

L: So; Paul is Your oldest brother?

Ester: Yes. He was born in Lindsborg. And; father was very good in German, and in French, and Latin and in Greek, which were more important then, then they are now. Of course they are important now, but then they were everything. When I think of it - it couldn't have happened today - but it did happen then. The children of wealthy socialites, they didn't pay so much attention to go into classes, or anything else, but they had to (?) for the examinations. Then they got a tutor. The professors would tell my father. Can I recommend You to tutoring? He got 5 dollars an Hour. That's when bread was less than 5 cents a loaf. Papa said; he never had so much money in his life! They'll be waiting for him, practically every night he did busy.

L: He was tutoring the sons of the wealthy.

Ester: That's right.

L: That brought him right to the Yale University.

Ester: Yes.

L: Augustana, And Bethany, they did lose competens?

Ester: They accepted their credits - all the credits they had. He enrolled then. He had no problems, at all.

L: And his wife was with him in Youngstown?

Ester: Yes. That was when I was born, then. It was long before he was teaching classes. Then they wanted him to become a head of the Scandinavian department. So they sent him over to Sweden and Norway, so we lived there for two years.

L: For how long did he stay at Yale, until 1895?

Ester: Well. Mary-Ann was born in 94.

L: Out there?

Ester: Out there.

L: I see!

Ester: So; it was before that. (?). Then he was graduated, and was studying for his P H D. And then he was sent abroad.

L: So he was sent by the university then to Sweden.

Ester: That's right. To Sweden, and to Norway. Papa wanted to go to Greece. He was so interested in the Greek literature. But; there was no position at the time open. So he went - according to their direction - they were figuring that he was going to be the head of the Scandinavian department - anyway.

L: It was 1902, or 19 ..?

Ester: No no! He left in 1901.

L: Oh, I see. So it was before 1900, then.

Ester: He spent only one year, after he had been in Europe, he spent only one year at Yale, as a Pro-professor.

L: He stayed two fully years then in Sweden?

Ester: Yes.

L: In Uppsala?

Ester: Well, he was also in Oslo. Yes.

L: So, from that time, You don't remember anything from that?

Ester: Yes, I do! As the folks insisted that I wouldn't remember - and I said: I do! I remember what they described, different things. Then I drew the plan of the house we lived in. I

remember the trip back. I don't remember the trip over there. But the trip back, I Do remember.

L: How did Your mother take that moving: from Lindsborg, to New Haven; to Sweden and; to Oslo?

Ester: For her it was a grand opening of the world. She did brought up in a very much decloded town. Her parents were not accepting the neighbourhood, exept in very formal terms, course; they looked down on many of them. They were ruf, and socially they were not in anything, so mama was isolated really, and to her it was a grand eye opening; really. She went to Sweden - and she visited her relatives; in Norway, - and to her it was a wonderful education!

L: Your father was buzy with learning more.

Ester: That's right!

L: But during that time, he also had a vision of the Augustana plan. Is that true?

Ester: Even in Sweden. He was brought up, listening to hes father, making appeals for Augustana. And; 'skolan, they called it. They had to do this for 'Skolan.

L: Did they, at any time, call it 'Läroverket?

Ester: No.

L: They never said that?

Ester: Skolan.

L: 'Skolan.

Ester: 'Skolan. Then it was - Augustana - ment a lot To my father. He was impressed those years. He was very much impressed with the (?) of gathering funds, - and when he was out in Yale, he saw how they managed. They would gather funds, and then use the interrest.

L: Endowments?

Ester: Endowment. And; so, - he thought - he got the idea: Augustana should have an endowment! This business had had trying to trum up enough money (?) and in those days, many of the students didn't pay any (?), if they said; they were gona be a minister. They were free: free board, free room. It wasn't a money making establishment. It was entirely gifts. So he got the idea, when he saw what Yale did! and saw the workings at Yale. Augustana should have this. So when he was over in Sweden - he was always making friends. He was very friendly. People loved him. He just had carisma, or something, i don't know. He was aquainted with many of those that were in the clergy, as well as up in the guverment, and some of the wealthy people. He felt that they should contribute to their children in the country and help them. Well - it's a long story - and I'll bring that up in my pieces. He gathered money - in Sweden - with the understanding, that Augustana (?). When he came back, he appealed to the zynod of law, he was at Yale, to rase a lot amount of money. The ministers, at that time, were against that. They said: No. And (?) school, they were step away from their face and they were not listen to us, if they get independence. So he was turned down and that money was sitting in Sweden. Then, finally, when he became a President, he had a work for four years, in that zynodical conventions, to finally get a permission! to work like a dog and gather money. He finally did, after four years. And then he worked and not only made the propper amount, but they even got more, then.

L: The money was waiting in Sweden.

Ester: Yes.

L: How much was it, at that time? Do You have a figure about it?

Ester: I think it was about 100 000. All together; my father gathered really, that is in money as well as the library, about a little more then 3 millions for Augustana, which at that time was a lot more then it would be today.

L: 30 millions today.

Ester: Oh yes. Oh yes. He planned of course to make an university of Augustana. He figured that it should be. People had got an idea to start another little college. When I spent one summer down with my Lydia, in Lindsborg, I thought that my aunt would be proud of her brother Gus then. But; the general feeling, down in Lindsborg; Augustana was a bad word! Everything was Bethany! At first: I couldn't understand it! But when I came home after the trip I told papa. I said: "They don't want You down there"!

L: Wasn't it the same kind of feelings in Minnesota?

Ester: Yes. That was Norelius, really. Anyway; Norelius' fight with Hasselqvist, that made him go up north. It was hes reaction against Hasselqvist, when he was starting hes school - You know, with One student. When father finally got permission to rase money - in those days everybody went by train - he was appealing to different night trips, all the ministers were there. And finally, he got the President of The Minnesota Conference about that time. Course: he and Norelius were good friends, way back from the days, that hes father had been a good friend. The President of The Minnesota Conference said: "All right. Make Your appeal. And I'll instruct my man to say nothing; either For or Against, Your ideas. So there will be no opposition".

L: It was to solicit money in - ?

Ester: In order to solicit money - for - what they called - the Jubilee fund.

L: 1910? 1909?

Ester: In 1909. It was around there any way - either 1910, or 1909.

L: That money were supposed to go to The Augustana zynod?

Ester: The Augustana zynod. That's right.

L: It was not to the college?

Ester: No! It was supposed to go for the Jubilee fund.

L: So; Why was Norelius, up in Minnesota, against fund rasing like that?

Ester: No, it wasn't for their conferences, it was for Augustana.

L: So The Minnesota Conference didn't belong to The Augustana?

Ester: No. The zynod had different conferences, each conference for the child of theirs.

L: But - this was a Jubilee for All the conferences in The Augustana zynod?

Ester: No. It was going to be for Augustana. The Jubilee fund were for Augustana.

L: I see.

Ester: Then my father got buzy, and he worked. I know he worked for four years just to be able, so that must have been around 1905, or 6, that they okey-ed the idea. Then he spent those years, from there, until 1910, gathering the money. And they needed the money, so they got this money from Sweden. That went to Augustana. We were in a way mixed up. There was the zynod, would I say: the minnesota conference, the Illinois conference, the Michigan conference, the Iowa conference. They were divided up, like states, but not exactly. Some of the conferences, outside of Illinois, said: We are in favour of doing something for the seminary, but not for the college. But the college was owned by the zynod! In a way, it became a (?). None of the conferences wanted to help Augustana! eventhough it was a (?) of the zynod. The Jubilee fund went to Augustana. Then we got the money from Sweden: The King Oscar Fund went to Augustana. So they'd got more then they had figured in a long run. So it was quite an ocation, in 1910. (Mening?). The (?) library was being built. That was finished. The 7th avenue was paved, - and they built a great big building, which was almost exactly north of were Carlton Hall is, and had quite an affair. The Bishop von Scheeler came as a representative of the King, - and it was really quite a glorious ocation.

L: Let us talk about Your parents. They came back from Sweden in 1902, or?

Ester: Papa started hes work in Augustana in 1901. That's all.

L: So; he went back to Yale?

Ester: He went back to Yale.

L: He wouldn't have the deep interest to stay in the east?

Ester: I can't say he didn't. I guess he had interest in that! He felt he learned a lot and they were, in a way, happy that one of theirs was becoming a president of a leading school (?). He was in constant correspondence with his professors there. I know one of the professors said: "You are doing right and starting with the library". Because the library at that time was just a little room. It was the same floor as - I don't know. It wasn't the top floor - the third floor. They had Professor Grenér, who was a teacher of Latin, I believe, mainly, to become the librarian. He knew absolutely nothing about a library. My mother's cousin, a daughter of her uncle: Strand, - from Chicago, she was one of the librarians at The Chicago Library. My father got her to spend one summer with us. She was trying to arrange the books, according to a decimal system. They had the Grenér system, which nobody knew - anyway. She had quite a fight with him.

L: He was still the supervisor?

Ester: Yes. And every day he fussed with her about what she was doing. And finally he took a day out. He must go to some libraries and find out: that's the way to do it, there, too. So then he kept still, after that. So: Christine Strand, mother's cousin, she was with us; and she worked the whole summer.

L: Your father's decision to go back to Augustana. He must still have this vision of doing something; for the Swedes, or With the Swedes. Course: The other universities, they were already established.

Ester: From childhood, you see, the money for Augustana; for 'Skolan, and his father would go out and have meetings in their homes, he was making appeals for Augustana. I mean: from the time he was a little child, until the time for his father's death, it was really Augustana Augustana.

L: He became a teacher first: 1901?

Ester: No, as a President

L: Oh I thought it was 1904 he started! It was 1901!

Ester: 1901 he came as a President.

L: 1901 - That was after Hasselqvist died, then.

Ester: Hasselqvist had died, - and Olson had died. C. W. Foss(?) was active President. So when papa came here, he came as a President. He had been a teacher way back.

L: Did the colleges ask for him - or - what happened?

Ester: In those days, the synod called. And it was quite a frequency about it. Papa could never do - because -

L: He was a young man then!

Ester: A young man, and he was not a Minister! They had the idea that the only man who could be president must be a minister and my father was not a minister. He was a Professor. A Doctor.

L: What did happen then?

Ester: It was a big fuss in the synod. But so many in the synod felt that the president of the college should be a minister. So - after he became the President of Augustana, he would sit in, when he could, in classes, and take the examinations, when ever they gave him, at the end of the year. And after three years he was ordained.

L: As a Minister?

Ester: They offered to ordain in many ways, course, they were ordaining some of them before then as ministers. After three years - course - he wasn't in classes all of the time - but he could be there for the examinations. So; he was ordained: 1905. He's got to be a Minister.

L: After that - in the schools - it was no religion - or Swedish internism - Corse; the schools had to be religious undertoned.

Ester: That is right. That's right.

L: It was important, at that time.

Ester: Yes.

L: He continued on. What did he do first then? The library was one of the most important things?

Ester: I know hes professors said: he were starting right. He were doing right with to start the library. He wanted to inincrease the library. When The Datesmen came - they distovered my father. He was so pleased.

L: You were to young then to remember him.

Ester: Oh yes! Full of blood and pep.

L: I have seen all the letters, You see, from Your fathers correspondence. Even if it looked like sand - he wanted to take a look at it. He took interrests, in Everything.

Ester: Oh yes, he did. He was interested in everything, and he was active in everything and seems to have endless energy! Endless energy! He was never tired.

L: At that time - there was a connection to the Theological seminary?

Ester: Oh yes. He wanted to make a University of Augustana - and the seminary would be One of the gradual schools. And he wanted to have good gradual schools as well.

L: It could help all the Swedes, in their competision.

Ester: That was the idea.

L: Didn't he talk to the zynod?

Ester: Oh yes. He talked about that and that would be the end of the distance, to establish a Large university. And then your sons had to go moving to Chicago to the seminary. My father was against that.

L: What do you say about this university idea going down?

Ester: This was the last he said: "My dreams were flowing away, but I have dremt of a large Swedish University, and gradual schools". But apparently; all the little conferences, that had little schools her and there, felt their schools were more important.

L: He didn't get support then from The Kansas conference?

Ester: No no! I talked to my father once about that. "It was only: Michigan, Iowa, and Illinois that really supported me when it comes down to it", that's what he said to me. The rest of them, they were working for Their schools.

L: So they were afraid much money were poled away from Uppsala.

Ester: Shure! Corse: my father was very sorry to se all these little schools; course - after a while, they had disappeared! They had a lot of them.

L: Yes, there was several.

Ester: Yeh! In a way they defeeted themselves. That's what they did. He felt that all the Swedes comming over, - right fully belonged to The Augustana Zynod! But; I think, we would get; about one out of ten Swedes, they wouldn't feel that they were a part of The Augustana Zynod.

L: So how about Sweden: Bishop Heely(?) in Uppsala, and the people there. Then he got good support?

Ester: Yes, he did!

L: He supported Augustana.

Ester: Yes. That's right.

L: Then the other colleges was passed?

Ester: Yes.

L: Because: they didn't have the connection with Sweden.

Ester: No. It didn't exist many of them, at that time.

L: Yes, but: St Peter, and Bethany, and -

Ester: Bethany was existing. I know - on the way back from Sweden - after he'd studying there for two years. - C. A. Swenson had been over there in Sweden, and, then, when he came back, he heard what papa had been doing in Sweden, and he said: "Hear! I was there for a few months and I could have done that from Bethany"! And he was really quiet (?) that he hadn't! But he hadn't. And then he was going to; - Florén was the name of the man, who was sent there. He was going over there, and did the same then for Bethany, if he could - and papa was (?) to hes doing, after he had already worked for Augustana. (? Resten av stycket).

L: You were to young then.

Ester: To realise it in any way. I heard they were talking about it but it didn't mean anything to me.

L: But then You got older. In 1910 and 1911 and 1912, then you remember what happened.

Ester: I certainly do!

L: So You knew Erik Norelius.

Ester: Yes!

L: You saw him in many times in Your fathers home.

Ester: He was on the board in Augustana. In those days the professors at Augustana would take in the board members. They didn't send them to the hotels. In fact; the hotels I think were unkindly. And; - Norelius was in our home many many many many times.

L: And they stayed for several days, sometimes?

Ester: Yes. Yes. So - I got to know Norelius very well. I liked him very much.

L: How did he look like? Was he short?

Ester: Yes.

L: Shorter then Your father?

Ester: Yes. He had such a kindly way of talking.

L: How did He speak, compaired to Your father? Did they speak Swedish to eachother in Your home?

Ester: We spoke Swedish in our home, all the time, as I was growing up. That was the rule.

L: It was the main language then.

Ester: Yes. We spoke Swedish. As soon as we crossed the threshold we spoke Swedish. We did that until - I would say, until 1905, or 6. But at that time the English began to creep in to.

L: Because of the children.

Ester: I think so. The Younger ones didn't learn Swedish as well as the older ones had.

L: Could it happened that Your father and mother spoke Swedish to You and You ansered back in English?

Ester: No. I would speak Swedish to them!

L: That was the rule.

Ester: Yes. I had to be very politent, in polite forms. I didn't call him 'Du and I couldn't call him even 'Ni. I had to say Papa. Vill pappa kom.

L: To Your father?

Ester: Yes.

L: You never used papa?

Ester: Papa.

L: If You called him then.

Ester: No, I mean: in speaking: vill pappa ha? I couldn't say: vill Ni ha - kaffe, or - Vill pappa ha? I had to use That form.

L: How about Norelius?

Ester: He spoke Swedish, most of the time.

L: How did you talk to him? Did You say 'Ni, then, or 'farbror'?

Ester: I would say 'Ni to him. Yes.

L: How about Your father, to Erik Norelius? They didn't say You to eachother?

Ester: I think they did.

L: But he was much older then Your father, wasn't he?

Ester: Yes. He was a friend of my grandfather. They did say 'Du to eachother.

L: They did!

Ester: Yes.

L: But I see in references in letters; They called somebody 'farbror. Was that Hasselqvist they called 'farbror? Or was it Esbjörn? Even all the pastors called them that.

Ester: I don't know.

L: But You remember they said You to eachother.

Ester: Yes.

L: They did.

Ester: But I wasn't allowed to say 'Du to papa. No. And - they don't follow that really in Sweden any more.

L: It was respect, then.

Ester: Yes.

L: How about the other pastors, when they came in to Your home. Did they talk in 'Du-form - to eachother?

Ester: Yes, they did.

L: But; Your father - he was younger - I suppose - than many of them.

Ester: Yes.

L: But he was the head of the establishment.

Ester: That's right.

L: How about the ladies. Did they ever call Your father 'Du?

Ester: No. More and more, the younger ones were speaking English, - and father had to give up, finally, in insisting that Swedish should be used.

L: It was English.

Ester: It went over to English. It was a slow process - but it happened.

L: How about (?), and Albertina Esbjörn. When she came over to Your home. Did she call Your father 'Du?

Ester: That; I don't remember. I Do not remember. But, she spoke Swedish, most of the time. She preferred Swedish, I know that. I spoke Swedish to her.

L: And You called her? -

Ester: I called her grand-ma Esbjörn, - just what I was told to.

L: She preferred to speak Swedish.

Ester: Yes, she did.

L: I suppose a lot of the Swedish people, they stayed in their homes, most of the time. Their English was limited.

Ester: I don't think that grand-ma ever preferred English at all. She could'nt speak English! She spoke Swedish most of the time, but I know that she understood English.

L: What happened. Your father came home, telling them: that Erik Norelius is coming in the next week from now, and Hasselqvist is coming; or people in the same position. What did he tell Your mother? Who was the boss in the kitchen?

Ester: Oh - she was! In many times my mother had tables set up and we had no more room for the tables. If we had big dinners, or something, she had a regular cook.

L: She asked for help.

Ester: Oh yes. She had to. I got to know them pretty well. She had a cook and two waitresses, and mabee a kitchen girl, and mabee another one.

L: Were they Swedish ladies?

Ester: No. Well - they were of Swedish descent.

L: Some students mabee?

Ester: No no. They were a regular professional team. My father would say: - An extra One are coming in for the dinner. But! we didn't have room! Some times we had a little table in the living room for the spill over. Papa would come in, and say: - It's So and So many extra.

Mama worried about it. That's the way it was!

L: Did the college take care of those expenses?

Ester: No!

L: It went on the presidents salary?

Ester: At the zynod of 1910, they all seem to realise that father was having tremendous expense - and - they took up a collection! and they gave papa 2 000 dollars in the collection there. And he certainly needed it. Every day, - I know; I kept count. We'd have 65 people every day there for two weeks - different dinners. The presidents of the conferences there - and different groups.

L: It was like a restaurant then! And some slept in Your home, I suppose, Norelius, and?

Ester: Yes. When we had the bishop there, Bishop von Scheeler. He had my room, and he had to cross the hall - each one had a separate room. Then it was a girl, who had been working for her boarding-room that years. Mama asked me to look after them. And then we had Norelius. We had this man from Rockford, who had been a tailor in one time. He was one of the old zynodical people. There was (?). They were three of them, that had been present at that first zynodical meeting, so they were honnoral guests. So; they kept us buzy, to taking care of them. And the bishop - he was staying on his dignity too. He was a very good looking man. Very, very nice looking man! I've never seen a more beautiful blue eyes in my life then his.

L: Did he speak in Swedish, or in English, most of the time?

Ester: I never heard him speak anything but Swedish. Mabee he could speak English, but I never heard him speak anything but Swedish.

L: So he was one of the guests at that time?

Ester: Oh yes.

L: How was the feeling at the college, at that time? Did they feel good about their connection with Sweden? A person like von Scheeler came.

Ester: Yes! Very much! The older folks, aspecially, felt. They were Americans - but they felt respect for Sweden and some of the old folks had been born over there. It was their home country. No, I think they all felt very much happy over the connections with Sweden.

L: And; the same generation, born here, like Your father. They still honored The old country?

Ester: Yes. He had great respect for the mother country; always, but he was born here.

L: The stone wall facing the 7th aveny - was it? -

Ester: That was built by the young people to sign.

L: Yes. They had their names in there.

Ester: Y P S. and. -

L: It was under Your fathers time?

Ester: That was put up after papa had graduated, and before he came to Augustana. When he came to Augustana that wall was there. That was there. But the street was not paved, but they had that wall.

L: The wall was there.

Ester: Mhm.

L: Do You remember how Augustana looked like at that time? At one time it was a big slough or something.

Ester: Yes, I certainly do. It was a deep slough right back of our house. Our house was built where the sience hall is now. That (?) tree was right outside my bed-room window and it was a deep gully.

L: You lived so closed then to the buildings.

Ester: Yes! There was a deep gully - and there was a stream running through there. In the winter, with the snow, the water would gather more. I just used to skate back there. It wasn't very good skating, but I did skate back. They decided to take of the top of the Sion Hill. That's were the Founders Hall is now. They took the top of, and dumped it then in the gully - and they had - what they called - a green.

L: So Fowlers hill was must higher then, actually.

Ester: The hill were Much higher.

L: And they were scraped it of.

Ester: Yes. Scraped of the top, and dumped it down the gully.

L: You went to the Public school then in Rock Island?

Ester: Yes.

L: How was the language, at that time, when You came home from school?

Ester: Most of them spoke Swedish and in the class room frequently we started in English. The first thing, they were speaking Swedish, and the teacher would saying: - English is what we are supposed to use - and get back and try to speak. Most of them spoke Swedish; preparably. They hadn't been here more then any years!

L: They used it, also outside on the campus, too, then?

Ester: Oh yes! They would be speaking Swedish between eachother quite a bit. But in the class room, when ever they did that, the teacher would enmanage them in speak English!

L: Most of these teachers were Swedish then? Williamson, the English teacher, was born here.

Ester: I remember him. He was seconding at the time. My father took me with him, when he went over, to see him. And he lived in, what we called; The boys dormitory. He had a room there. So I just have a memory of him. But I remember I was with my father to see him that time.

L: Mabee it was a good way of solving the language problems, just to have an English teacher.

Ester: Oh yes.

L: To learn it, in the right way.

Ester: That's right. The only place we had to speak Swedish was for Moritson, in hes class. I took every course in Swedish that was given at the time, and he recommended me to teach Swedish at the University of Minnesota. I was scared of that. But, in Moritsons class, we spoke Swedish. When we took Swedish history, the book was written in Swedish. We recited in Swedish. The examinations were written in Swedish. The Swedish Litterature - the same thing - we spoke Swedish.

L: After Your graduation from High school in Rock Island -

Ester: I didn't go to High school.

L: You didn't go to High school!

Ester: No! I went to the Elementary school when I was through the 6th grade. Then; my folks sent me for the preparatory.

L: At Augustana?

Ester: At Augustana, which was supposed to be the same as 7-8 grade in one year. There were a bunch of Swedes, that had just come over. So; I was the most out of place kid they ever saw. To me they were All old men.

L: They were ready for the ministry, some of them?

Ester: Most of them were going to see if they could take the short course to become ministers.

L: Your father. He was eleven when he started. And; You were about the same age then?

Ester: That's right!

L: Did Your father help You with the subjects: like reading, and arithmetic?

Ester: He was to buzy with other things. No. Mabee he drilled me in Lathin some times.

L: But You didn't go to him for advise how to learn?

Ester: No.

L: Could Your mother help You?

Ester: No, she never did. And she was to buzy, having babies. Now, when I think of it, it was a big misstake to send a kid there, in my age. I was the only girl, with a bunch of Old men!

L: How about Your brother, Carl, then. Did he go the same?

Ester: - Nickar förmodligen. -

L: And the rest of the children to?

Ester: He had trouble with my brother Carl. He sent him to high school.

L: I see. They probably said something - and he picked it up.

Ester: It could be! But he rebuilt; these people were mostly Swedish, and wanted to speak Swedish. (? meningar).

L: And: B. G. Swenson, he was one of them, comming in there.

Ester: Yes!

L: But it was about the same time!

Ester: Birger was there, after I was. Well I knew him - but that was really after I had gone threw those classes. But the time I got to college was the first time I was in my (?) but the time I'd been in my 6th grade. Then; I was with my (?). Because there were girls in my own age, boys in my own age. People from the (?) cities. So for the first time - for many years - I was with my own age group.

L: Did You have any questions about to go to the Unior college then, or did You make some surgestions to Your parents to go to another one?

Ester: I wanted my father to send me to another school. Yes. Many times I used to begging them. Well; papa said: Vi ska tänka på saken. That ment. No!

L: You learned that after a while! It was very politely to let You know; in that way.

Ester: Papa was always very gentle, - and very sweet.

L: Did You try to tell Your parents; Do it in This way instead, or?

Ester: One thing I objected to, was the rule, that each class had a average 80; and I couldn't see that. Because: I heard some of the professors talk about that sometimes among themselves. They always felt that the girls don't needed it. The boys needed it, to get mabee a new job, they gave the girls the lower grades.

L: They were really chauvinistic at that time. The girls were just there for -

Ester: Yes. I saw Too much injustice there with that grading business. That doesn't mean that they All did it, but it ment that the women in general

L: They should be married.

Ester: They get married, so the boys needed it, so they gave them the higher grades. They Did, and I heard them talked about it and even admitted it. And as I say; it doesn't mean it was the case with every teacher - it certainly wasn't! But I Know, that it happened - and it happened a lot.

L: But, at that time, it was no way to have any justice made!

Ester: No.

L: How long time did Carl Esbjörn live?

Ester: He lived until he was killed in an automobil accident.

L: He was the one on the 7th avenue?

Ester: Yes: He was going down to mail letters at the depot, crossing the street. He was married - and had been married a while. That happened just like that. Why he had got out to the depot and mail hes letters I dont know, but, anyway, that was hes custom. He used to mail hes letters down there, so they go off.

L: He died instantly?

Ester: I think so. I don't know. I think he was killed instantly.

L: Was it a business street; the 7th street, at that time - or the avenue?

Ester: It was going to be more and more so, yes.

L: What year was it paved?

Ester: It was paved about the year 1907.

L: 1907!

Ester: Yes! And That I remember well, because; I was given my younger brother to take care of. He beated with a buggy, and I had my roller skates. It was just (?) to roller skate on that smooth - and it was closed off. I started down, were Moline(?) was, and I was pushing that buggy in my roller skates, And my roller skates was (?). Everything was blocked of. There was no traffic, exept the workers - and that hole summer - i had a grand time!

L: It was a nice time.

Ester: Yes, going down was fine, comming up; then - I had to work a little!

L: 19? -..

Ester: It must have been 19- ... Just a minute. It must have been 1907; either 1907 or 1908, corse 1909, I was in Kansas, and, that was already done. And it was done for 1910, then it was

L: A big celebration. You remember that one?

Ester: Oh! Yes!

L: A lot of cars outside the 7th avenue. Did they have a lot of cars at that time? pastors and dignitaries, comming in to the celebration, or did they go by train. But they took all train, I suppose, from Minnesota - and - from Kansas.

Ester: Oh yes, quite a number. Yes! In many times, when father was going to have a dinner party for the ministers - in those days - they mabee brought their families with them. When neighbours invited to dinners, they did bring the families with them and it was up to me to take care of the kids. Today we wouldn't do that. Many times then I had to get what food I could from the kitchen and just go out. I remember; we cooked potatoes, and what ever we had. But I took care of the ministers kids and brought them together with my kids brothers. I was regular wanted to take care of these kids!

L: About big jubileums, and conferences, You couldn't sit with the growing up-s. If for instance dr (?) came from Chicago, and hes whife, did Your kids eat with them, when they were growing up-s?

Ester: If it wasn't a state parti.

L: If it was room enough, and table then.

Ester: Oh yes. I sat at the table if it was just a couple. Yes. But as soon as it got to be really 'storartat, then

L: Then it was forbidden territory. It wasn't room for You, actually.

Ester: Yes. And mama had place cards for the guests.

L: Oh place cards!

Ester: Yes.

L: I see!

Ester: In many times i helped them to make the place cards, with some extra painting, or art work.

L: Did they serve Wine?

Ester: Never!

L: Never Wine?

Ester: No!

L: Was coffee the drink to the food?

Ester: Coffee at the end of the meal, with the dessert. Always.

L: Nothing to the meal?

Ester: No. We only served it last.

L: The custom is to drink the coffee before.

Ester: No. We served the coffee last. With the dessert.

L: Who said the prayer before the meal? Your father?

Ester: Yes. Always.

L: Always. Never Your mother?

Ester: No. No, she never did.

L: How about when the kids were with? Did they say it sometimes then?

Ester: Well. We could say it together. Papa wasn't always home. When papa was home, he always did, - and when he was not home, then it would be for us kids. Sometimes the kids would say it together, and sometimes -

L: Bordsbönen: - Välsigna Gud den mat vi få. - Välsigna detta kroppens bröd - och var oss När i liv och död. - Den lästes alltså på svenska: antingen utav pappa, eller utav någon av barnen.

Ester: We didn't necesseraly: Välsigna Gud den mat vi få. We said that once, and several of them once.

L: You had no trouble with the Swedish?

Ester: No!

L: How about the rest of them? Did they particularly like to recycle the Swedish, the younger ones?

Ester: No the younger ones didn't do so well. As the time went on, they were going to school and didn't learn the language as we did. But I did. And naturally - we were over in Sweden, and the Swedish influence of the language was stronger when I was younger, then it was when I was older. But I really learned it. I took all the Swedish courses that Augustana offered, and Professor Moritson recommended that I could teach Swedish at the University of Minnesota! I was scared to death: Oh! I could never do that. I don't know why I felt that, but I Did that, at that time. I just couldn't teach Swedish at the University of Minnesota. I felt everybody there would know more Swedish then I did. But Professor Moritson recommended me! I got an offer, but I felt; No, I couldn't do it!

L: You didn't do it?

Ester: No, I didn't teach Swedish at the University of Minnesota. No I didn't accept the call.

L: You were not brave enough.

Ester: I didn't think I could. I don't know why! I just was afraid!

L: What kind of changes did You notice? You were growing up with the Swedish. You had No problems. You could change over: from English to Swedish, or vice versa.

Ester: I read the Bibel lingual. When I was being reading, I would, one time, later on, I was working with my teses - about Gustav Andrén, and The Augustana college and The Theological seminary. My husband said: Which language are You reading? I said: I don't know! I have to look, and see! It just were natural to me, to read each one. It didn't make any differens! But I was unconsiuous; if I was reading Swedish, or if I was reading English!

L: When Your sisters and brothers grow up. Did they notice the differenties?

Ester: My brothers.

L: Your brothers.

Ester: Yes. My brothers did. My sisters (?).

L: Oh that's right.

Ester: My brother Gus did, and Carl less then that!

L: Did they have the same interest?

Ester: No. I can't say I haven't interest in persuing. I enjoyed it! But I was scared. I thought; up there, they know more Swedish then I do.

L: What did you accept then?

Ester: I accepted teaching in French and in English, in High schools, in different places. I could converse in Swedish, and everything. I certainly knew less French then I knew Swedish, but it was the way it was! I had a chance to teach in (?), they offered me a position in French. But it would have taken a lot of money and my father couldn't aford it, and neither could I. So I would have been learned a lot of more French. But; then the time went out, and I was teaching French. I was teaching in (?). I took my Master's in (?). I was about to take my Doctor's grade, but it would take a hole year of residence at the time - when I had three girls in college. I couldn't aford that! So I didn't take my Doctor, but I was accepted.

L: It was in 19?

Ester: Let me see. When I thought I would go for my Doctory, that was in about 1940, in English. And I was accepted at The University of Illinois. I decided to go to a second masters. So I've got my Masters in education and then I continued with English. I think Doctor Hildebrand was the head of The Departement, at the time - of English, at The University of Illinois. He accepted me. That would be all right. But - then I found that study more carefully the years, one solid year down there, I couldn't do it. In other ways: summer work, or, mabee; ocatonal winter work. I had to have a solid year of residence. And I simply could not do that, with three girls in college.

L: It was to much. You were still in Augustana, or in Your home, in 1914, when the First world war broke out?

Ester: Yes.

L: What was the feeling then on the campus? Was it any kind of pro-, in one way or another, among the teachers, for example?

Ester: I will say, that the news papers: The Chicago Tribune - I remember - came out with critisizing these people, who were living in rather very fine circumstanses for supporting a war. It seems to me that the Tribune, and the news papers in general, were leaning towards the German interrests. Yes. However: I don't know if that was true by the Augustana people, but I think the general atmosfere over was leaning towards the German interrests. They went all out

against Germany. But it took a little time. It just took time for them to begin to feel that Germany was in the war. There was an element there.

L: Did You recall that the newspapers made a turn around?

Ester: Yes, they did.

L: They did?

Ester: Oh yes. But I know the (?), aspecially, in The Chicago Tribune, which we took at that time, was not outstandingly for German, but there was a general leaning toward the German interrests. Yes. (? Några dialoger).

L: Didn't Iowa have a law against foreign intern spoken in churches and gatherings?

Ester: I don't know of the law, but they were very very sensitive, I know, about it. My brother had a charge in Desmoines, Iowa. I happened to say one evening, when some visitors came in, that we were of Swedish and Norwegian heritage. My brother was just furious at me after. - We don't Say those things. We are Americans! - I had no intention to try to break up my American citizenship by saying such things. Aspecially the guests, when we were spoken about our Swedish heritage.

L: So; even any ethnic press would be Americanised?

Ester: Yes. They were so sensitive in things that was said. One time - this was when I was in college - we had to make some kind of talks. At the time, The Lucitania had been sunk. (? meningar). My speach teacher, that was Miss Eva Pears, she was just furious, almost without abilities to speak! (? Meningar).

L: You tried to be objective?

Ester: That's right! Miss Pears were supersensitive!

L: Do You think - after the war - the pastors used to be very reluctant to speak out politically.

Ester: In the early days, if You were a Swede, You had to be a Republican. If You were a democate, it was something rong with You!

L: I have heard that if You were a Democate; You were really a Catolic, - or an Irish. Was it true?

Ester: Yes, that's right! The Swedes were Republicans. And - in general - I would say the Swedes were!

L: Jaha.

Ester: It was one of the people in The Augustana Zynod who came out for the democratic man who was running for the president. All the rest of them at Augustana thought he was crazy, to think he would do that!

L: He was going against the wind. That Republican thinking, it went all the way back to Hasselqvists time?

Ester: Oh yes. They were Republicans. Yes.

L: Your father didn't have any special interrests in the politics?

Ester: Well. He was interrested always in the president show: conventions, and he was sent as a member, one time, in the Republican party. I think he attended the convention in Chicago. He was very much interrested in the apparence of the Republican party.

L: He was often a guest speaking at John Ericsons Republican party in Chicago?

Ester: Yes.

L: How about the Democrates? Did he speak during their doings?

Ester: Never!

L: No request.

Ester: No!

L: During the First world war. The students could join the army?

Ester: Oh yes.

L: They went off, to serve the country.

Ester: My class was almost practically disappeared. The boys, who went into the army in March or April, They would automatically given credit for the subjekt they were taking. They came back and graduated with other classes years later. We all felt that they belonged to us. The boys went, almost en mass. Svedberg already had some military credit, but he immediately became a leutenant, or something like that, and had some of the boys in charge. And my father would go and visit them, at various camps.

L: Did he had recruiters at the college from the army?

Ester: Did he have what?

L: Did he have recruiters at the college - coming from the US Army; to the campus?

Ester: There were some, yes! I know: my brother; Gus, he went in and was getting involved, - and inlisted. And then when the man found out that he was 16 years old, he just kicked him out! Yes, recruiters were there. My brother tried to be on the list!

L: How was the feeling then among the parents? Were they afraid to send their young boys away for military service? Were they restrictive against it?

Ester: No. They were highly concerned, I will say. I remember, one time. This was one of the ministers. He had a son. He was in the board, so he was staying in our house doing board meeting. He were practicaly weeping every time we had breakfast together - about hes son, going in the army. He felt so bad about it. We always, in the morning, would read a little bit from The Bible and then pray The Lords Prayer after breakfast. In fact he was a father of Mrs Fryksell. What was hes name now?

L: No. I can't recall.

Ester: He couldn't be (?) in hes tears. I know - another minister - Pastor (?), from Rockford, he was very much concerned, because; he didn't like what we do to hes sons religious views, - and was concerned about that. Of course he was concerned about hes life too. He expressed himself more as being concerned about religious views, and the effect the army might have on hes son. Many of the ministers expressed deep concern, but I can't say; they were ever against it. They all were in favour of going against Germany. But the fact that they were going in the war was a problem. There was about five of The Augustana Boys, I think, that was killed. But, I guess, when it comes right down to it, that record wasn't so bad.

L: There was no deferment because of the studies?

Ester: There was deferments for those who deleared themselves to become ministers. If they wanted to use it. Somebody of them didn't use it. If they came to my father and said: I have a plan to be a minister, my father would sign their papers. They could stay at Augustana and continue their studies, if they so chose. But the most of them didn't. Even if they were going to be ministers, they went with them.

L: What happened after the war. Was the effort to defete Germany behind them?

Ester: Yes.

L: Was there some kind of harsh feeling against Germany, or the German people, at that time? The years that followed at Augustana?

Ester: I can't say I notised anything. But; the German language was taken out of every high school, as far as I know, in The Unated States.

L: It was!

Ester: Yes. I was qualified to teach German. I had four years of German. They didn't burn the books. I think, for several years, the German was taken out of the schools - the Public schools. And I think Augustana must have supported that - because - many didn't sign up for German.

L: what happened at the German apartment at Augustana then? It had to be beginners that came in to the college.

Ester: Either the beginners - they were not so many!

L: Was it a German teacher at Augustana, at that time?

Ester: Well; Professor Esbjörn: Carl Esbjörn, -

L: He wasn't a German.

Ester: He talked German.

L: He talked the German language.

Ester: Yes.

L: So - he had an easy load then.

Ester: Easy load! That's sure! That's right! There were some classes - I know - that had only two members. And - Two members for a hole class - that's not very many. In my class, I think there were about sex. That's not very many.

L: So You helped the teachers in German?

Ester: I studied German.

L: Did You teach anything at Augustana?

Ester: I didn't teach at Augustana at that time. I went to the high schools and the high schools German was competing out. I stayed for several years, before they brought German back.

L: What effect did it have for The Augustana - or for Illinois in general - this National Alliance; Nationernas Förbund - after The first world war? They were supposed to stop all wars.

Ester: Yes.

L: What kind of feeling did they have among the people at the college?

Ester: I think they all felt that -

L: That it was the end of it?

Ester: I think it was. I think they thought that.

L: Did they actually believe that they could end it right there!

Ester: I think they did. I think they almost did!

L: The military service was not to high in the 20s, and the 30s.

Ester: No.

L: A very low key.

Ester: That's right.

L: And, - then You married a German!

Ester: Well - hes mother was English. Her family came over in the 1600s - and hes father was a German descent. So; he was both. He had a German name - he was English. Her people had settled at Marthas Wineyard, and; when she was a year or two old, they travelled to Wisconsin. Then she was graduated of The Rockford College and became the head of the Elementary school in (?) - and then married this German, so my husband was both English, and German.

L: How did You meet Him?

Ester: I was teaching in (? samma ort som nyss nämnda college).

L: Oh, I see.

Ester: I was teaching English and French at the time.

L: You mentioned Rockford College. Was that the same level as Augustana at that time?

Ester: Pretty much! At the first, it was just a girls school.

L: Only for girls?

Ester: Yes, at first. It was a females seminary - but it was a college. Always it is ranked pretty high, - in fact - Jane Adams - from The Chicago (?), and my aunt went there. My grandfather was a Minister in Rockford. And my aunt Lydia attended college with Miss Adams. They became friends, and were friends all their lives. They were corresponding. So I would say they did have pretty high ranking (?).

L: It was more like a private college - then?

Ester: More, like a - what?

L: A private college?

Ester: Oh yes!

L: It was private?

Ester: To my knowlege, it was private. Yes. I'm shure it was.

L: And it was located right downtown, from the beginning?

Ester: Yes.

L: I have seen that many people had been going thre there.

Ester: But they were definitely not Swedish.

L: I understand that. Yes.

Ester: In fact - I think, some of the people, who were there, felt that they was the (?) of the west. The Swedish element, they were felt that they were educating for a higher situation. (? meningar). They attended The Augustana then.

L: If we talk about the home economics, from the womens side. What kind of influense did the women, at the time, have at Augustana?

Ester: Well. People felt that it was orientated towards the men, however the women students were accepted early in Augustanas history, and was given the right to (?). the members of the college's student body. I have read about the fact that the women was always accepted. They were accepted, early, in The Augustana history.

L: How about the decisions making of the college.

Ester: At first; No, they were only men, most of them ministers. The teachers, who had charge of the various departements, were definitely men, and then they could have women comming in, mabee, to take some over full classes, but they were not recognised as regular teachers. I know. Henriette Mazies(?) told me, that she felt the first woman had done a lot to helping Here, because she was a woman. In fact - the argument that Augustana had, the University women at That time were so checked from their various colleges. They said that You have to have: not only a woman teacher to teach over full classes, but You have to have women who could be accepted as full professors, or head of departements. They had to be accepted exactly as a man! My father did all he could to get the University women to be accepted at Augustana. At that time, they had the agencies that came in and checked all these things.

L: Didn't Augustana have awful troubles to belong to The Nordic Central?

Ester: Yes, that's right. They wanted to be a member of The Nordic Central, and they wanted to be also recognised by The University Women's Agency. So my father did all he could to get Henriette Mazies(?) to come, and to be the head of The Departement of English. She was a graduated (?) Doctor from The University of Chicago, and there was no reason why she couldn't be recognised as far as preparation. My father did That. Henriette Mazies(?) told me, she was the first woman that Got that position. The members of the board were men. There was one woman that came in later on: Mrs K. V. Anderson. But I think she was the only one for years and years and years. Now adays, there are many more women in the board, but in those early years - that wasn't the case.

L: A lady like Mrs Emmy Ewald. She was very peppy.

Ester: Oh yes!

L: Did she have any influence on the college?

Ester: There was that element, still, recognising the men, only. She was really the one who promoted the gathering of the funds to The Missionary societies I think, to build the womens building. Then, later on, when they were going to change things at the womens building up for the hills. A new womens building was put up, up in the hill. Many declared that the girls would be so afraid. They couldn't climb no more steps! Anyway; then they gona put boys in the dorm; (?) resten av stycket.

L: You met the person Emmy Ewald?

Ester: Oh - I knew Emmy!

L: She was in Your home for many times?

Ester: Oh, many many times. She was a good friend of my aunt Lydia.

L: How did she react to the opposition? Were she aggressiv?

Ester: She were aggressiv. Oh yes. She was not afraid to speak off! I know one women journalist said: "I thought the Scandinavian women were quiet - and retiring. But This woman, that I observed, was far from retiring"! She tried to arrange all the delegates according to the place they represented: the Kansas Conference and The Iowa Conference. She would go around there!

L: She was a good leader - then.

Ester: She was; a profound, aggressiv leader. Yes! My brother. He happened to be accidentally in their home, one time. She, and pastor Ewald, were having some kinds of arguments about something. My brother heard Ewald say: Tyst, kvinna!! Emmy was very, very good. I know: that morning, when she finally was going to resign as a President of the Missionary Society, the hole thing. I took her in my car. She went in. I penned the resign. I said: "How do You do"? and she gave me a big kiss. And; she resigned after.

L: Did You speak Swedish any time?

Ester: I don't remember. I might have been spoken Swedish, but if I did, I would have say: Ni.

L: Ni, in Swedish. Because of the differencies of age.

Ester: That's right! My father always told me this. To speak to older persons is: Ni. Or, In the third person, singular.

L: And she called You Ester - then?

Ester: Oh yes. Oh yes! Yes. I always liked Emmy. As I said: she was a good friend of my aunt, and she was in uour home. I agreed much of was she was doing. She rolled the roost. It was no question about that.

L: She was far from her husband - Do You think?

Ester: As far as I know, and what I have observed, I would say: yes. He was rolling hes place over there.

L: She went to China, and to many places.

Ester: Oh, yes! It still (?) me, that Erland Carlson Hall should be called Ewald Hall, in memory of Emmy Ewald. It isn't right.

L: Any more powerful women at that time?

Ester: No. Nobody as powerful as she was. She was tuf. She was more powerful then many of the men! In fact. When she first organized this Women's Missionary Society - my mother was a charge member. It was organized in Bethany, Kansas, - and my father was teaching there, and my mother was expecting my oldest brother. She (?) Mrs Pihlblad, but she did do the land work. Much work, - but not the kind of publicity and aggressiv work in the public. She did a lot of work.

L: Long work. She was not afraid to talk to Anyone.

Ester: No. No.

L: Mr Pihlblad, he was a President of The Bethany.

Ester: That's right. And Mrs Pihlblad was the editor of The Mission (?) (? Resten av stycket).

L: So that was corrected history!

Ester: He didn't even know the history. I know another thing, too, that amused me. In the early days, The First Lutheran Church, in this hole area, was considered - the Director of religion - quite a large area. Then hes church wanted to rise, from it's position of a mission church, to a regular church. They had to get The Okey from the First Lutheran before they could Do so. He knew absolutely Nothing about our early history. He didn't know about it.

L: You had been a life long member? You are born into The First Lutheran?

Ester: No. I was born out east.

L: Oh! that's right. In New Haven.

Ester: In New Haven. And then we went to the Scandinavian countries. Then we came back to New Haven - and then we came here. My father, at that time, was very much Swedish. and we joined - what was called - The Sion Lutheran Church. Now called S:t John's. So I was brought up in The Lutheran church.

L: Most of the Augustana people belonged to 'den gamla Sion-kyrkan?

Ester: Well. See - they still used Swedish, at the Sion. A block away from us, a block to the west, there was a great Lutheran church which was English. But my father joined the Swedish element, so we had Swedish sermons and I was confirmed in Swedish. There was nothing but Swedish; 100 procent. When I was married, I tought at different places. When I came back, I had my papers at S:t John, because my mother was still living. As long as She lived, I stayed in the church at S:t John with her. And here I was staying in Moline, and teaching in Moline. After her death: Georg Engdahl, who was the pastor. He and hes wife were All college friends of mine. I transfered my papers to Moline. Because Georg and Gertrud were down there. I felt that was the only place to go. So I had been a member, only, since I came back.

L: How has it changed now? Is there any Ladies Ade?

Ester: No, they had changed. The power in Philadelphia desided to change things and make it possible for every woman to be involved in the church. They changed to different kinds of organizations. In fact: they had a Missionsförening. The Missionsförening would gathering money, and the ministry never saw a penny of that in cars. In many times they had a Lot of money and the ministers in general didn't exactly like that! Because; they had a hard time rasing up money.

L: The rolling body were involved.

Ester: They decided that every woman should be envolved. So they organized and they planned the set up of different units in the church. One, that would take care of the older, another union would take care of this and that and the other. They hoped that the plan was that every woman would be get envolved, so she would be a member of one of these units. It was the same old ones that were active before, who were active again, and the rest of them were not. When I was confirmed, it was in Swedish. We had a Public examination one Sunday. The next Sunday we did have our first communion. Now adays, I think, mabee they try to teach qualities of good living. I don't know. As far as I can understand, they don't teach the fundamentals. I haven't been to wittness the confirmation classes, but I think it's a general discussion of right and rong, and trying to be responsible church members. I don't know how much they really stick to teaching the cred! I question that.

L: But some pastors have cassetts with learning.

Ester: Yes, that's right.

L: That's an easy way!

Ester: (? ett textshok).

L: Do You think: Esbjörn, Hasselqvist, Erland Carlson, Norelius and even Your father. What would they say today about the services, or sitting in the meetings?

Ester: I don't think they'd like it.

L: You don't think so.

Ester: No, I don't. Course; they were brought up That way. I don't think they would feel that it was fill enough! I think they would feel that the Basic need had been left out. That's my guess. We used to have a Husförhör too!

L: Yes.

Ester: I know: my grandfather had that. He reminded them.

L: Don't You think that scared people a bit?

Ester: Yes. He told me. The women used to cry. Sometimes they had forgotten the lines. The Minister would come along. The mother in the house would have to come along and say that she had forgot it. She weeped!

L: We don't have that today, but we have the Driving licens to take! People are different. Some say: They didn't mind the husförhör. People came together, had coffe and cookies after, etc. But; some were really mentaly disturbed.

Ester: Many at home, many of the older women aspecially, they would cry.

L: Yes. There was To much respect.

Ester: If they couldn't right of, then it was bad. I think: anybody, when it comes to a finally examination, at anything, (?). They would experience their attention, when they would be called to come back and explain. Well! They didn't have The husförhör all the time. No.

L: But the pastor was a respected person in the community, wasn't he?

Ester: Very highly. Yes, he was.

L: How about the pastor's whife?

Ester: I know. - My grandmother was conidered quite to help. If anybody needed any kind of help, (? Resten av stycket).

L: Where did she learn this?

Ester: I don't know. But - perhaps - she read about it. (? Meningar).

L: In Your home, You had access to a lot of publications, because of the college. Your father brought them home.

Ester: Oh yes.

L: What did they read? Did You read The Swedish American Tribune, for instance?

Ester: Yes!

L: And Kvinnorna och hemmet?

Ester: Yes. In fact - practically anything put up at Augustana was in Swedish, exept the course; the English (?) companion. And; Abrahamsons (?), of course. Swedish.

L: I didn't know hes name.

Ester: Abrahamson.

L: Yes.

Ester: And later on came in a course with English. But - Augustana was a central in Swedish. The ministers, in general, between the meetings in our house, they prefered to use Swedish.

L: Did the publications from the hand of Abrahamson and Wedin go in the same all the time, or did they change some time?

Ester: No. I think what ever change was made, was made by the man that entered the office, that succeded. Now for instance Lindahl. S. P. Lindahl had that Augustana. And then, mabee,

if there would be a change when Abrahamson came in, maybe fundamentally he had some ideas, so the change had been made by a person (?). I think he watched that feeling in The zynod all right. Because he could have been out of his job, if he were Too liberal!

L: So the leymans input at the publications were minimal?

Ester: I think so.

L: As the pastors?

Ester: That's right. I'm sure it was. In fact; Hasselqvist always said: when the zynod was going to meet, he (?) the Minister to see to that the ley delegates were of a proper mind.

L: They stayed on for a long time then? Hasselqvist and Carlson?

Ester: That's right. Abrahamson were there for a long time.

L: Those people were happy then, when they passed away. Not so much Esbjörn, but Hasselqvist, and Carlson. They had done "a good days work". They could see the fruit of it.

Ester: Yes.

L: Your father didn't go threw the joining with the German and the Danish and the Finnish zynod 1962.

Ester: They talked about it.

L: Even in that time?

Ester: Yes. They were having conversations/ dialogs with the Presbyterians. I remember my father talking about it. They felt that there was a lot of agreements between the Presbyterians, and the Lutherans. That was as far as they came. We had dialogs with the Episcopalians! and found in general much agreement. I think about it every time in church on Sunday, when they would say: The Holey Catolic church - and the Augustana people didn't like that word: Catolics. Because it would be mabee problems with other people. The Episcopalians declared that they had found no such problems. I remember papa talking about that. The discussions, I remember, was between the Presbyterians and the Episcopalians.

L: Not towards the Kovernants? or Missionsvännerna?

Ester: Not to my knowlege. I talked about it to my brother. He says: - I think it's a good idea for the Lutherans to murge first, before we murge with any other. We Lutherans are going to get together! That has been happening now. Exept there was a Missouri Lutheran church (?) against that.

L: It was ortodox in their thinking?

Ester: I don't know! I had some good friends, who were in The Missouri Lutherans. They all seem to think that: - We are a way beneath them.

L: What do You say about the Kovernants? They are Swedish, the most of them! They never think about going together?

Ester: Because we really were together in the first place. Mabee they will come some day.

L: But - ackording to You now - You have never heard it.

Ester: I've never heard it! I can't say it didn't happen, but; I say: I didn't hear it. Yes.

L: And I never heard it either! When dr Bergendorfs was the professor of the college. It was still a theological seminary then. Was it he, who was against the new?

Ester: He went in both directions. I think he was in favour of the separating at one time, when he was still in the seminary. My father felt that definitely the seminary should be a part, course this was the idea of a gradual school. He wanted to separate. My father would say: Hur kunde Conrad tala så? And; he was very much disappointed. Then after a while he seems to think it would be all right.

L: But some people say the pastors was the driving force - because they could get better pensions; and so far. And that the people were left.

Ester: As far as the arguments were concerned - I don't know. My father definitely felt, when he've got the seminary building, he (?) - but it was not Founders hall. He had at least stopped this movement. But there was still - i know - a reverend Pete Person, he was always talking about a separating, - and my father could not see it. It was definitely against my fathers idea. To him it was the gradual school. He hoped to have many more in time.

L: And it was embracing the hole nation.

Ester: Yes.

L: Because they had 1248 pastors, at one time.

Ester: That's right.

L: Every state was representated - more or less.

Ester: That's right. One question, that I wasn't shure if he was clear of the last time: we spoke about the Augustana college and the Theological seminary, which was the child of the Augustana zynod. now All the other schools that apeared were definitely the children of conferences. And the zynod had nothing to say about these conferences and their schools!, while the zynod Did have something to say about Augustana college, because it owned it. The situation was bad for Augustana, - because; when All these conferences - aspecially those that had schools on their own - would come to the zynodical meetings, - they voted down Anything that came up from Augustana. They had their own schools to take care of. So; Augustana became a stepchild, in a way. These conference schools were free to do, ackording to the directions of their conference. At the last time, the Reverend L: A. Johnston became a president of the zynod. He told my father: "There'll be No dramatics at Augustana"! He was against the theatre in every sence of the world - and I've been looking forward to take in those dramatic clubs. That was wrote out. So I didn't get any of that experience, so I've been looking for it All the time. In the conference school, they could: if they chose, have place, and things like that.

L: Doctor Johnson had No restrictions?

Ester: No.

L: It's interesting!

Ester: They were Children of the conference! So he couldn't directly boss them, but he felt that he could boss Augustana. My father tried to be diplomatic, he was very much in favour of dramatics. And in fact in Missouri he couldn't. We had Tegnér, we had Shakespeare, and quite a lot. And - now adays - they even have some (?) on Sundays! So - I held that against L. A. Johnson.

L: He had power enough to tell the rest of the board to go with him?

Ester: Nothing doing in any place! When he was a pastor in Rockford, they did bring out in their books, about how the women of the church, they were having some kind of programmes - and they were having a kind of a little playlett. When he found out that they had a kind of a playlett - he came down there. It would not be anything like that! But two of hes sons were interrested in dramatics - they went out to California, and became quite active in dramatics and in the movie field. I remember Johnson and, as I said, I still hold him against it. I was so Deeply disapointed.

L: It continued, as long as he was the President?

Ester: Yes. I was gone from the college at that time. In the story of The Rockford First Lutheran Church, they bring it up, hes peculiaroties and the story to be so against theatre.

L: Now I want to ask You about Aina - Aina Olson. Have You seen that book?

Ester: No I haven't.

L: That's Olov Olsons daughter.

Ester: Oh! Mia!

L: Ja. But he called her Aina, some times - and sometimes he called her Mia, I think. You know - that's like a .. Comic. How could they take that to Augustana? These dume pastors and the presidents of the zynod; and everything? In the book she says that: - The rector from Uppsala came and she says that ""Han var så 'lader' att han kan inte lära sig 'nä' mer""! It was the end of it. Then she talked about that the bishop gave out stars. Why did the Swedish pastors get something! You never read this book?

Ester: No. I have never read it.

L: You have never heard Your father discuss anything about her writing?

Ester: No. We usually laughed about it.

L: Did You know her personally?

Ester: Yes! She had a tender humor. They would enjoy, and mabee would tolerate a lot of that, and they would agree.

L: The book was printed at Augustana!

Ester: She worked at the book concern.

L: She did!

Ester: Yes. She had a regular office there - and were going there every day.

L: I see!

Ester: Yes!

L: She was never married?

L: No. None of them were married.

L: There were two girls?

Ester: Three. Anna, Maria and Lidia.

L: Jaha!

Ester: I would read her, aspecially when we apeared in Augustana.

L: She wrote at Augustana?

Ester: Yes.

L: Regular English?

Ester: Well. No no. It was in Swedish! It was Swedish. Mabee afterwords it would be printed in a book. She had an office there:

L: She is very humoristical. She calls one of the things here: - The concealion skvalleresticon. She describes when the delegates came in. Was it true?

Ester: Oh yes! Sure!

L: And her father died in 1900? Wasn't it?

Ester: It must have been in 1900.

L: Yes.

Ester: Or; 1899, it was at the turn of the century.

L: Did her mother live long then after?

Ester: No. Her mother, I think, died before and the father was left with three girls, when they were more or less in the teens.

L: So they grow up then at Augustana?

Ester: Yes.

L: She talked about the delegates.

Ester: She, and her father, had one time been in Lindsburg Kansas. And then, later on, she and my mother was teaching school down there, in The Elementary Departement. Then she quitt go home, make plans marrying my father and then Mia followed her. They kept Mia only one year. Apparently they weren't satisfied with her work.

L: Mabee she was restless!

Ester: I don't know.

L: So she worked at the book concern?

Ester: That's right.

L: Did she go threw Augustana?

Ester: Lidia had a job with a company, down in Moline, for years and years, and then she quitted that and came into work at the Linkmann Memorial Library. At first she was at the desk. I don't know if she was prepared a librarian. My father said; there was an awful out of kicks, because: apparently she didn't know how to handle things.

L: Was it under Grenér?

Ester: No. It was under Skarstedt.

L: He was in charge then. Was he a regular person, Skarstedt?

Ester: He was a very good fellow, and a brilliant man. He took care of the moving of the library from the rooms. He had a tremendous job there, and he was the chief, one in charge. Grenér, he still held on, in The Linkmann Memorial, but I don't know what he was doing much, but sitting at the desk. I know he used to be at the desk. He and Lidia. She didn't know anything about a library.

L: She did never do a system.

Ester: No. Neither did he. Neither did Grenér.

L: How could the students find the books?

Ester: Course: it was a series of rooms there. The library wasn't very big. They could remember where a book was.

L: Not several floors, like it is now. How about Marcus Skarstedt's father? Did You meet him.

Ester: I don't remember. I might have met him, because many times, visitors came to our house. I don't remember meeting him. According to the story, he never contributed a cent to Marcus' education.

L: Is that right?

Ester: Yes. Maybe he didn't have much cash - but- he was a peculiar man. My father did All he could while Marcus was in college to help him, or to get people who had money

L: So he went to Augustana then?

Ester: Yes! He was graduated, I think it was 1910. Anyway; my father got what financial help he could through friends, who were (?) to help Marcus. Marcus was a brilliant, and a hard working student. My father said: "You take up a library work, and You have a job here. I remember when Mr C. Esbjörn - that's the son of L. P. He would have a ministry out in California. He liked to go out on camping trips and Ann-Sophie; that was his wife, would do what she could to pack things, and to cook the meals when they were out. Marcus Skarstedt's father, when he got out in a while, he used to enjoy, being split making, and Mrs Esbjörn didn't like that!

L: Which other people were in the company?

Ester: As far as I know, there was only C. Esbjörn, his wife, whom I call Ann-Sophie, and their baby daughter at the time.

L: He didn't have any kind of affiliation to a religious domination?

Ester: I think he didn't, very much.

L: He was a free thinker.

Ester: I don't know if he was, or not. He apparently thought of my uncle - uncle Philip André - that was my father's brother - and he attended the church, frequently, when my uncle would have services. I think he even played in some kind of a little orchestra they had in special occasions in church. So, I mean: there was an association there. I don't know whether he was a member, or not, or; whether if he was a free thinker, or not. He seems to like my uncle.

L: Skarstedt, he continued on at Augustana for many years, as a librarian?

Ester: For many years.

L: Yes.

Ester: My father was quite disappointed when he decided to leave. But; I suppose that's natural.

L: He left Your father?

Ester: Yes. I know: - when my father was about to be retired - Skarstedt came up to our house. He came up. Joking and laghing.

L: Your father - he retired in 1934?

Ester: Yes.

L: And then he went up to (?).

Ester: In (?). Not right away, a year or so later.

L: Did he feel restless after leaving?

Ester: I think he was restless. Course they'd got financial conditions, that was very bad. And so they asked my father to take care of things until they'd got a pastor. So my father got the church back. He and Lidia did some hard work there, to get the people to come across.

L: Your parents moved up to Minnesota?

Ester: Yes. They lived there for about two years!

L: So they took up everything?

Ester: Not exactly. They took some things. They had their house here. They rented temporarily to M. Johnson and his family; You know Ellinor Johnson?

L: Yes.

Ester: Well. She was the daughter. So she lived there. The folks were glad to have somebody in their house. So the furnitures, and everything, was there, except what mama had taken, but mama had not been taking very much. Then the people came in with things. They managed, temporarily. He got the church back, in a financial position.

L: It was during the highest depression.

Ester: Yes. And he had a hard time, so he was back in his old job; collecting money.

L: Did he feel fulfilled of doing this job?

Ester: He enjoyed the work there very much. However; I remember: my brother Paul, telling me (? Resten av dessa meningar). He didn't make that quarter that year. The zynod wrote and they wanted certain a lot of money and papa didn't usually have that money.

L: He had a very small salary then, mabee nothing at all?

Ester: I really don't know. I'm sure they had enough to live on. I don't think that worried them any.

L: He died in 19?

Ester: 40.

L: 40. And Your mother - she still lived in another ten years, or?

Ester: She lived until 48.

L: 48. They lived down here in Rock Island the rest?

Ester: No. My father - he bought a house - that the college had, in Moline.

L: In Moline!

Ester: 28-24th, 16 Str. The college let my father buy it at the cost. So my father wasn't given that (?). As long as my father lived, he was putting in payments for the house. Then, when he died, the board decided to cancel the payments that my mother had of the house, what was left. My father had always been paying for years, and years.

L: Your mother - she reminisced a little bit during the last days of Her life - You mentioned that in Your inisitation about Your family, and Your mother.

Ester: Yes.

L: In (?) she married a Swede. How did she sum up her life, so to speak?

Ester: My mother would roll in her grave if she could here some times the way I've talked. She said sometimes: We Swedes have to stick together. I think my mother completely converted over up into the Swedish element. She always had great admiration from my father. She said: I always felt he was a brilliant man and she always felt that his work was never

truly recognised. That his work was not realised. She died in a cancer, she had ruf going there, in the last year especially.

L: Your father - he died of a -

Ester: Of a heart attack.

L: It was sudden then?

Ester: Yes. In a street of Chicago. And a week before, he had been examined and the doctor said that he was in a wonderful shape. His heart was in good shape. But; my brother, who was a doctor, he said: at the time, there was only one instrument - and that was in New York, that would have detected his problem. But what the doctor's had here, in this area, didn't record what his problem was. So he died and it's a good way to go, but it was a kind of ruf for everybody.

L: How did he look back? He was a little bit disappointed about this university idea.

Ester: Yes.

L: Which probably would have worked very well if they had listen to him.

Ester: That's right.

L: But it was one of the set backs in during this time.

Ester: He said: "Here I have visions of a university, with many schools of interrests. (? Meningar). Besides that - he was (?) of the Swedes, coming in. We got very very few Swedes, that really supported the Augustana zynod, and the Lutheran body. They came over here, and they joined the Methodist church, and This church, or That church. They didn't necessarily feel that they were a part of Augustana. He thought that every Swede should have been a part of Augustana. That's wishing a little bit much.

L: Today a high procentage are non Lutherans.

Ester: I know.

(? Ett överhoppat textshok).

L: Aina mentioned something - very interresting. Or

Ester: Yeh - Mia.

L: Mia, ja. they had a very special napkin in their house. They called it the Tramp napkin. Every time there came a tramp at the door, they had a special napkin over the regular table cloth, so he didn't soil it on. Did You have any tramps in Your house, who came and begged for food?

Ester: We had a lot of tramps that stopped. We would usually give them sandwiches, and let them go their way. But; we had lots of tramps.

L: Were they Swedish?

Ester: I don't know.

L: She said that they all spoke Swedish.

Ester: I don't think they were necessarily Swedish. My mother thought it many times, because we were situated there, next to the college, that they felt that it was an institution. So; they would stop.

L: And asked for food?

Ester: Oh, yes! Once in a while they were offered to do some work. She never let any of the men in to the house. We gave them sandwiches. Or a piece of cake, if we had.

L: That was in Your childhood?

(? Några meningar).

L: They had a special trail.

Ester: Yes. Mabee they were walked fether and fether south during the winter.

L: But she mentioned there was a special tramp napkin. - Your mother really had an interesting life though - coming from The Junction city.

Ester: Yes. That's right.

L: She raised seven children. Did she have any midwife coming?

Ester: My own mother?

L: Yes.

Ester: She had a doctor.

L: A doctor.

Ester: But then she'd have a woman who could help her.

L: In Your home?

Ester: All in the home.

L: You had three children. Your mother couldn't do more than raise her children. She couldn't go out for a work?

Ester: No!

L: It was out of the question.

Ester: It was not a considered proper.

L: Your generation; did You have any special thinking, or feeling, that You wouldn't have it that way? You liked to Do something?

Ester: That's right.

L: So this is why You only have three children?

Ester: I felt independent and I felt that I had the right to my interests. After my children were old enough, I got a job. I fought back in school, and I enjoyed it. I didn't try doing it while the children were too little. But people nowadays, they manage, with extra help. But I always believed that a woman should have that right. When I was brought up, the general feeling was; a woman absolutely had no abilities. They looked at them as inferior to the men. That was all over.

L: Even among the educated people?

Ester: Yes. Even my mother, she would speak about: she is only a girl. She said: "the men will have the families. The girls get married". I remember her saying it, in many times.

L: But, for instance, if the girl married, - and became a widow? But if she have some education?

Ester: I don't know whether that was her philosophy, or not.

L: There were no divorces?

Ester: Oh, no.

L: That was never used, that word?

Ester: That was terrible! That was absolutely terrible. But; I was brought up in that atmosphere - my brother, more than once, talked about - the greatest cooks are men, and so on. As I grew up, I saw a big acceptance of the inferiority of women, but I resented it. After a while I began to feel that they were all wrong in their ideas.

L: Was Your father more diplomatic?

Ester: He was more diplomatic about that. That's right.

L: Where did he pick up that feeling, do You think?

Ester: He was just a sweet person, I think.

L: He was growing up in the same environment.

Ester: Yes, that's right. He might have been influenced by it.

L: Do You think You were in favour of the seven children?

Ester: Was - what?

L: Did he favour You - Your father?

Ester: I think he was quite all around. He was delighted, my oldest brother, when he decided to become a Minister, and then he did all he could to support my brothers who became doctors. Doctor in medicine, and a dentist, and a lawyer. When I decided to go back to school I didn't expect him to help me - but he said "I wish I could help You". His attitude was. But; at that time he couldn't manage it. So he was proud of me, I know that. I went back. As I was married, my husband helped me. But I insisted to go back to school. I got my Master in degree in education, and - I was on my way to get my P H D in English, when I felt, it wasn't a smart thing to do, moneywise.

L: So You didn't look for a Swedish pastor?

Ester: No!

L: There was plenty of them, I suppose!

Ester: No. My experience with L. A. Johnston, and his business - Several of them were so against anything, in the study of science. I couldn't understand why they should be at that way. We could talk about it and read stories about how they worked, they were scholars in Latin. I didn't see at them!

L: You saw it from a different point of view.

Ester: I saw it from a different point of view. I would have been desperately in love, before I would had to take a minister. But I had admiration for many of the older ministers! (? Ett textshok). In the days past; i think the Scandinavians stuck to themselves: the Augustana Group, and then had picnicks. The church, especially the Swedish church here, that was the Sion church - I think we stuck into clans - mabee more in the old days. If You were of Swedish descens, or if You were a foreigner. But today there certainly isn't That element. In those days the faculty whives stayed home, and today, practically, every faculty wife has a job, in some place. I think; Augustana in general has respect in the community. We have our faculty meetings (? Resten). But I don't think, socially, we are held in our circles so much. (? Ett utelämnat stycke).

L: You should write the history of Augustana!

Ester: That's right. Yes.

L: You are probably the last one that could right the Augustana history like that?

Ester: I think so.

(? Överhoppat långt textshok).

Därmed är intervjun med Ester Andrén-Albrecht avslutad.

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