

Partille, Dec. 8, 1986

Dear Cousin Ruth,

We don't write to each other very often, but now I want to write to you as I heard from Kjell, that you were wondering when your Father emigrated from Sweden.

As you know my greatest hobby is "relative research" and I have lately tried to get to know as much as possible about grandfather Gullbrand's life. I think I earlier wrote to you about his coming from Norway and that he come to Adalen in the county of Angerman Land in Sweden year 1870. And now he worked there in a sawmill (Sandvikens Angsags AB). In 1886 he moved to Asele, where he became kind of a Local Chief, responsible for the Forest business at Asele-Dorotea-Wilhelmina districts. He had great responsibility and very good contact with the main industry in Sandvikea.

He (Gullbrand) had help by assistants at Dorotea and Wilhelmina, where later your Father Gustaf took over (1892).

Grandfather Gullbrand is said to be a good man and made many trips in the district, by horse and carriage on very bad roads.

Finally he got problem with his health (Stomach and eyes). He went to Stockholm for treatment. Summer of 1898 he came back to Asele not feeling much better. He got his pension October 1899. He received 3000 Sw. Kr./year in pension.

Gullbrand's wife Thore Andrea joined him 1898 to Stockholm. From there she travelled to Nord-Odal in Norway to pick up a small legacy after her mother.

After Gullbrand's death the Forest-Assistant at Dorotea was moved to Asele to take over Gullbrand's work.

To Dorotea come Erik Johansson, my (Sune's) Father as inspector. He had during some years worked for Gullbrand at Asele as a bookkeeper. There he got to know Mina (Gullbrand's fifth child)(Sister of your Father Gustaf). They got married midsummer-eve 1901, not long after Gullbrand's death.

At Wilhelmina at that time Gustaf Reinhold (your Father, Mina's sister, Gullbrand's son) became inspector of the district.

And now we come to what might have happened at Wilhelmina.

I have been at Bollstabruk at Adalen, where there is a small library from among others Sandvikens Angsags AB. There I found a bunch of letters including Gullbrand's writing to Mr. Verstyh and the company during his time as inspector (around 1880).

The letters tell a lot about his work and also the Family. There you can read that Gustaf (your father) already 1892 moved to Wilhelmina to work as an assistant to his father Gullbrand.

So far everything is OK. He made long trips far up in the mountains to buy forest for the company.

The competition from other companies became bigger and it became more and more difficult to get timber from the forest. The farmers didn't want to sell to the companies as they became aware of the worth of their forests.

What really happened with Gustaf at this time I don't know so well. But one thing is sure is that he one day year 1902 was called down to the headquarter in Sandviken to be held responsible for the lack of 7000 Sw.Kr. in his Statement of Account.

Gustaf tried to clear up the situation by taking a loan in the bank at Asele. Some friends went bail for him. The board of the company didn't agree to this solution and Gustaf was suspended from his appointment at Wilhelmina.

Thus he went to America December 22, 1902, went back to Sweden Jan. 26, 1903, married Lina Margareta Sehlstrom Jan. 31. and again left for America March 4, 1903. Alone his wife followed him one year later March 18, 1904. (How was it possible to go back and forth Asele - America within in. month at that time??)

These information I found in the church books at Wilhelmina. What then happened in America-Canada I don't know very much about.

(I cannot read more. It must be Sune Harding, Ekedalsyagen 5, 43362 Partille, who wrote this letter. Partille belongs to Gothenburg on the west coast of Sweden/Christina Noren's comment, August 1988)