

The Cemetery
at
Palm Valley Lutheran Church
Round Rock, Texas



A Guide to Locating Graves of the
Congregation's First Immigrants
1847-1859

Layout of Palm Valley Lutheran Church Cemetery

226	155A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	167	
225	156A	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	170	169
224	157A	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	171	172
223	158A	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	C	B	A	174	173
222	159A	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	175	176	177	178	179
221	160A	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	184	183	182	181	180
220	161A	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	185	186	187	188	189
219	162A	113	112	111	110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	194	193	192	191	190
218	163A	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	195	196	197	198	199
217	164A	139	138	137	136	135	134	133	132	131	130	129	128	127	204	203	202	201	200

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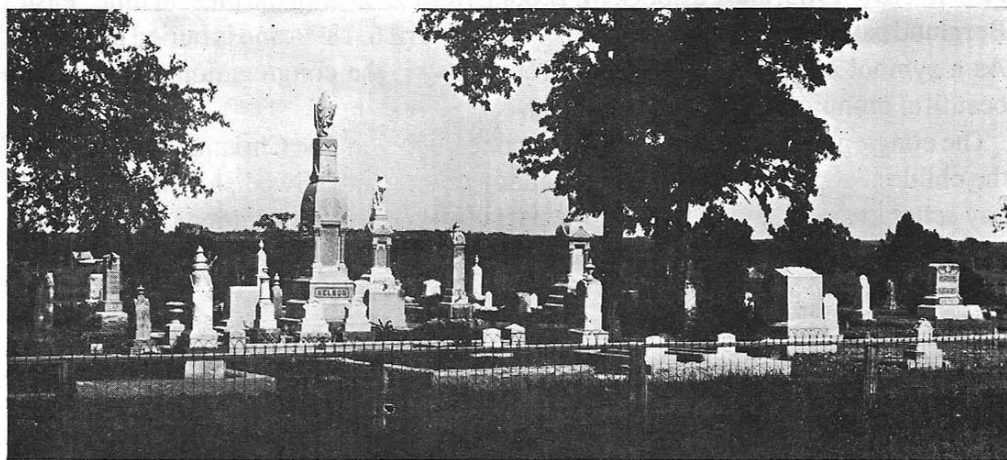
History of the Cemetery

Palm Valley Lutheran Church (“Brushy Lutheran Church” originally) was officially established in 1870, but the cemetery began in 1863. The congregation’s roots go back even further, as Swedish immigrants would gather on the Sabbath in their homes and worship there using their *Psalmbook*.

In 1863, Anna Palm’s youngest son, Henning, died. At that time there was no pastor, no church, and certainly no cemetery where she could lay her boy to rest. She made a request to S.M. Swenson, the first Swedish immigrant to Texas and who owned large portions of land in Austin and Williamson County. In foresight for future needs, Anna asked Swenson if he would donate a piece of land where Henning—and future settlers—could be buried. He responded enthusiastically and simply asked where. She responded, “Under the tallest oak.” With this gift, the church cemetery began: October 22, 1863.

Two months later, Christina Swenson (23-year-old daughter of Johannes Palm) was buried nearby. She left behind her husband, Carl Otto, and three small children. In less than three months after Henning Palm’s burial, Swenson’s own nephew, John Dyer, age eleven, died in January 1864. John was the son of Swenson’s sister, Anna Cristina Dyer, who was living with her husband, J.W. Dyer, at Kenny’s Fort. In quick succession, three young people were buried in the new cemetery. Sadly, other deaths occurred, and more burials were made in the cemetery with no church and no pastor.

The faithful Swedish pioneers gathered for worship at a log structure built by A.J. Nelson in 1861. It was not until November 27, 1870, that “Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Brushy Church in Williamson County, Texas” was officially established. In the following year Anna Palm again approached S.M. Swenson with a request of land. Again, Swenson responded generously with the donation of an additional $21 \frac{4}{5}$ acres in June 1871. The first trustees of the congregation were Arvid Nelson, Daniel Hurd, Andrew J. Palm, and C.A. Engstrand. Soon afterwards a wooden church was built (1872), followed by a parsonage (1876). One acre, “God’s Acre,” was set aside for use as a sacred place of burial.



The Swedish Lutheran Church Cemetery, Palm Valley, Texas

As the number of burials increased, the cemetery was organized into lots, with eight graves in each lot. A fence was erected around the cemetery and in 1883 walnut trees were planted along the sides. At one point 139 lots

were staked for use. By 1882 members paid \$4 for a lot; non-members paid \$2 per grave. Public places for burial were set aside at the northeast corner.

Church records indicate the following improvements over the years:

1883: Hedda Sandahl donated 5 acres to the cemetery.

1897: The cemetery was extended by two rows on the eastern side (lots 155-226).
1906: A water line was installed from the well at the parsonage to the cemetery and church.
1907: Gustaf Nelson donated 20 acres to the cemetery and church property.
1908: Four lots were added between the church and cemetery. The fence was extended to the north. Cost per lot was increased to \$12.
1909: Six lots were added. Cost for non-member was \$5/grave.
1913: The road between the cemetery and church was laid with gravel.
1950's: Concrete curbs were added around each lot.
1984: Total of 890 persons had been buried at the cemetery.

Other improvements and additions were made over the years by faithful and generous members, but this is the history of the beginnings of these sacred grounds.

This handbook is a guide for locating the first immigrants to Texas who are buried at Palm Valley. Although there was no congregation until 1870, the cemetery was already in use. The seven families listed here, plus the two pioneer pastors buried in the cemetery, were followed by an influx of immigrants after the Civil War ended in 1865.

Families included here, along with their year of immigration:

Anna Christina Dyer (1847)
Anna Palm (1848)
Carl and Daniel Hurd (1848)
Johan Johnson (1852)
Arvid and Anna Lena Nelson (1854)
Johannes Palm (1859)
Johan and Marie Israelson (1859)
Rev. Martin Noyd
Rev. Gustaf Berglund

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21)

Anna Palm Family

Immigrated from Småland, 1848

Anders (Andersson) Palm (1796-1849)

Anna (Johansdotter) Palm (1808-1878): *Lot 26-3*

1. Johanna (May 14-17, 1831) buried in Sweden
2. Johannes (1832-1892): *Lot 36-1*
3. August (1834-1921): Oakwood Cemetery, Austin
4. Carl Gustaf (1837-1913)
5. Anders Johan (A.J.) (1839-1928): *Lot 39.4*
6. Swen Wilhelm (1843-1931): *Lot 86.1*
7. Henning (1845-1863): *Lot 26.4* (first person buried in the cemetery)

Swedish emigration to Texas began with Swen Magnus Swenson, a nephew of Anders Palm. Swenson left his home in 1836, and after living in New York for two years, he moved to the newly formed Republic of Texas and became a successful businessman. He encouraged his uncle, Swante Palm, to join him, and in 1844 Swante did just that. Swante changed his surname from Andersson to Palm, and all the rest of the family followed suit. Swenson later moved to New York, and he is buried there. Swante is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

Swenson also convinced his sister, Anna Cristina (*lot 26.7*) to join him in Texas, and in 1847 she became the third immigrant in this family. Swenson also persuaded more of his family to come, and in 1848 a boatload of about 30 men, women, and children sailed to Texas, including Swenson's uncle, Anders Palm, his wife (Anna) and their six boys. They settled in at Swenson's plantation near Richmond, Texas. However, within only a few months Anna's husband died of a fever.

Anna was not deterred, and the next year she and the boys moved to New Ulm, where they rented land on a small farm. In 1854 they managed to buy 400 acres in the area east of Palm Valley, which over a century later became Old Settler's Park, a few miles east of Round Rock (known then as Brushy). For two years they lived in a tent and a wagon until they built a log cabin for the seven of them. They fished in Brushy Creek and trapped small animals, saving their gun powder and bullets for larger game, such as deer, buffalo, and bear. They cleared the land of brush and trees so they could plant a garden and crops, and raise some livestock.

With hard work and perseverance Anna's family survived those early pioneer years, welcoming a growing number of other Swedish immigrants. Then the Civil War broke out. Immigrants stopped coming. Five of Anna's boys were conscripted to serve in the Army of the South, hauling goods for the Confederacy. Henning was too young to serve, so he and Anna stayed home. However, in 1863, he caught a disease and died at the age of 17. There was no cemetery, no church, and no pastor as Anna grieved the loss of her youngest child.

Anna asked S.M. Swenson, who was living in Austin at the time, if he would donate some land for a burial plot. He gladly complied and asked her where. She said, "Under the tallest oak." He gave an acre, and Henning became the first to be buried in what later became Palm Valley Cemetery.



Lot 26

There would be no church and no pastor for another seven years, but the Swedish immigrants met together in homes and used their *Psalmbok* and Bibles to worship, pray, and sing as they had done in Sweden. The congregation was officially established in 1870, and the following year Anna made another request to Swenson for some land. He answered her appeal with the gift of 21 4/5 acres. The original one acre, “God’s acre,” was set aside for use as a sacred place of burial.



Anna’s surviving five sons returned safely after the Civil War and continued to live in the area. The return of peace signaled a return of immigrants, and Anna became like a mother to them, welcoming and encouraging her new neighbors.

In 1873 Andrew built a new wooden house to replace the old log cabin. His brothers were married by then, so Anna lived with Andrew in the new house even after he married in 1875. Anna continued to live there until her death on May 23, 1878, at the age of 70.

Anna was buried next to Henning. The inscription on her headstone reads, “She rests from her labors.” The name of the church was changed in 1936 from “Brushy Lutheran Church” to “Palm Valley Lutheran Church” in her honor, that all might remember the courage and faith by which this early pioneer woman lived.

Johannes Palm (Lot 36.1) was 16 when he immigrated with his parents and five brothers. He was the eldest, and when his father, Anders, died soon after their arrival in Texas in 1848, Johannes was the head of the family—along with his mother, Anna. He married a girl named Josephine (1852-after 1910)

Swen William Palm (Lot 86.1) the fifth son of Anna Palm, immigrated with his parents at the age of five in 1848. He married Mary Caldwell **(Lot 86.2)** (born in Huntsville) in 1870 and raised four children. Mary grew up in the home of her parents T.J. and Letiltia Caldwell, who owned a large farm near Georgetown.



Lot 86

The Caldwell family built a two-story rock house in 1860 in Caldwell Heights, a small community about 1 ½ miles north of downtown Round Rock. At that time Caldwell Heights had three residences, a school, and a cotton gin. Cedar and limestone from the property were used in the construction. During the Civil War the “Caldwell House” was used as a hospital where soldiers came to recuperate. Today the house stands on a prominent hill in Teravista near the Golf Club where wedding receptions and other special events are held. In 1892 William and Mary Palm bought the house. Four generations lived in the house until it was sold in 1961 to John Nash.

Swen William Palm (1843-1931)

Mary Caldwell Palm (1849-1928)

Anna Letitia Palm **(Lot 86.3)** (1872-1960)

Henry Allen Palm **(Lot 86.8)** (1876-1959) married Helen Hall **(Lot 86.9)**

Thomas J. Palm (1880-1952)

James Palm (1882-)

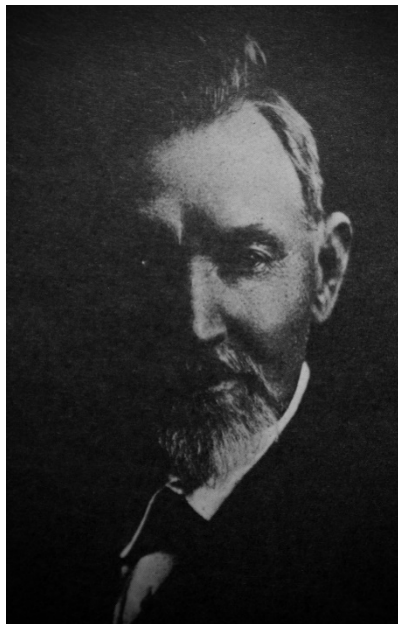
Anders Johan (A.J.) Palm (Lot 39.4)



Lot 39

At the tender age of 8 eight years, Anders (Andrew) Palm, fifth son of Anna Palm, boarded a ship with his parents and five brothers, and set sail for the New World. On another immigrant boat six years later would be a little three year old girl who would one day become A.J.'s wife. Her name was Carolina Nelson, the daughter of Arvid and Anna Lena Nelson.

After immigrating from Sweden in 1848 and moving to Round Rock five years later, Andrew lived with his family north of Brushy Creek, first in tents and wagons, and months later in a modest log cabin. He continued to clear land and farm until the Civil War broke out in 1861.



With war looming on the horizon and unknown dangers for their land and cattle, Andrew (A.J.) took his unbranded cattle about 100 miles to the west bank of the Pedernales River, which at that time was uninhabited and safe until after the war. He and four of his brothers enlisted to serve in the Confederate Army. He brought medical supplies from Mexico to Austin because so many Southern ports were blockaded by Union ships. It was a long tedious trip by wagon, and they had to be on guard constantly against bandits and outlaws. All the brothers survived the war, although his youngest brother, Henning (Henry) died at home of disease.

After Palm Valley Lutheran Church (Brushy Lutheran) was established in 1870, A.J. was a charter member and served the congregation in various ways, including positions of deacon, secretary, church council, and building committee for the 1895 brick sanctuary.

After their return from military service, it fell to Andrew to get some men together to go after the Palm and Atwood cattle and return them to the home range. He turned to raising cattle back on the farm and became a very successful rancher. A.J. and his brothers drove several herds from Texas to Missouri and Kansas. In 1873 he purchased the Palm homestead and built a house of cypress and pine wood.

On Jan. 7, 1875, A.J. and Carolina (Nelson) married and lived in the house he had built. In this house his mother, Anna Palm, died in 1878. It was there that his ten children were born and raised. The "Palm House" was donated by the two daughters, Mary and Marguerite, and moved to 212 Main St. in Round Rock in 1976 as a museum and serves as an entrance to the Chamber of Commerce.

Andrew was elected trustee of the school district, 1910. In 1912, A.J. built a stately new home, known as the "Palm Mansion" still standing just north of Highway 79, near the entrance of Old Settler's Park. Mary Palm and Marguerite Stockman continued to live in the 1912 home. The old "Palm House" was used then to store furniture, old trunks and other items from Sweden. In 1975 the two sisters moved to Trinity Lutheran Home in Round Rock. The house was left vacant until 1983, the year the last sister, Marguerite, died. That year the Williamson County Old Settlers Association acquired the building and restored it for visitation in 2003.

Carolina (Lena) Nelson Palm (1851-1929) *Lot 39.*



Andrew's wife, Carolina, immigrated to Texas in 1854 with her parents, Arvid and Anna Lena Nelson. She was a mere three years old. Her future husband, A.J. Palm, had just moved with his family to Brushy Creek where they lived in a tent and wagon. Twenty years later they married and moved to a new home that A.J. had recently built. Their first two children died at birth, but the couple would then raise eight healthy children in that house. The "Palm House" now sits as a museum on Main Street in Round Rock. Of all her children, only three married, and of those, only Esther gave birth. Esther moved to California, where she married and had two sons, Edward and William Kelly.

Carolina's husband died in 1928, and she, the next year. They are buried side by side in lot 39 with seven of their children. The other two are buried in lot 26. Her parents, Arvid and Anna Lena Nelson, are buried in lot 6. Her two brothers are in lot 27. Her sister, Tilda Newlin, is in lot 54.

Below are A.J. (Andrew) and Carolina's children:

1. Edward N. - died at childbirth, 1888. (*lot 39.1*)
2. Edna Adelia - died at childbirth, 1890 (*lot 39.2*)
3. Alice Esther ("Esther") Kelley - (Jan. 1876 - ?)
4. Anna Josephine ("Jo") – (1877-1962) (*lot 39.7*)

5. Tilda Manda Palm (Sept. 30, 1879 - April 5, 1971) Tilda became a school teacher in San Antonio. (lot 39.6)
6. Mary H. Palm (Oct 1881 - Jan 30, 1978) Mary became a school teacher in San Antonio. She moved to Trinity Lutheran Home in 1977 with Marguerite in separate rooms. (lot 39.5B)
7. Nora S. Palm (June 1888-1960) Nora lived on the Palm Farm with Louie and Marguerite. (lot 39.8)
8. Louis ("Louie") Martin Palm (Aug. 10, 1890-Aug. 30, 1962) (lot 39.5A) Louie lived on the Palm Farm with Nora and Marguerite. He moved S.M. Swenson's original log cabin in Govalle to his farm. Its final location is in Zilker Park, Austin.
9. Ruth E. Palm Price (Sept. 20, 1892-April 14, 1971) Ruth lived in California and returned to Palm Valley shortly before she died. (Lot 39.3)
10. Marguerite (Margarete) Stockman (Feb. 18, 1895-Sept. 29, 1983) (lot 26.2A) She married Henry Stockman (lot 26.2B) and lived in Colorado. In 1953 they moved back to Round Rock. While transferring his car license at the Williamson County Courthouse, Henry had a fatal heart attack. He was cremated, and his ashes were eventually placed in his wife's casket. Marguerite moved to the Palm farm with Louie and Nora. She and Mary moved to Trinity Lutheran Home in 1977.

As the last surviving heir of the Palm estate, Marguerite willed that property to Palm Valley Lutheran Church. Her nephew, William Kelley, received a large portion. The church's property was sold to the Old Settler's Association and the City of Round Rock. That land, just east of the church, became Old Settler's Park, which has provided thousands of families countless hours of entertainment and relaxation. The Palm Mansion still sits on that land.

*By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and to an inheritance which is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.
(I Peter 1:3-4)*

The Dyer Family
Anna Christina immigrated in 1847

William Dyer (1825-1903) *Lot 26.6*

Anna (Catarina) Cristina Swensdotter Dyer (1825-1906) *Lot 26.7*

Jeanetter Dyer Davis (1849-1943)

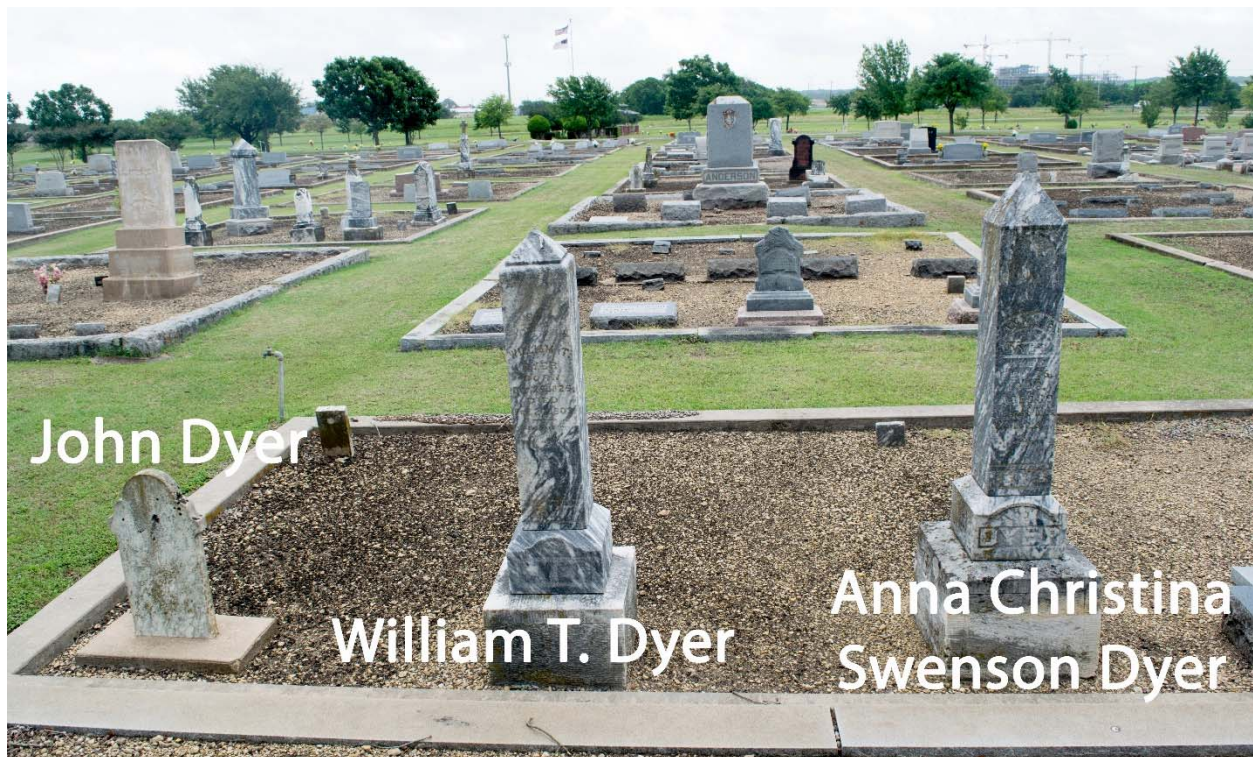
John Clement Dyer (1852-1864) (third person buried in the cemetery)

Swen Dyer (1855-?)

Alfred Dyer (1857-1886)

Sarah Margareta Dyer (1860-1905)

William Clement (Clinton) Dyer (1863-?)



Lot 26

Anna Dyer was the sister (11 years younger) of S.M. Swenson. At the age of 22, she immigrated alone in 1847, a year before the Palm families. She lived with her brother on the Finckley Plantation in Richmond. The overseer was a man from Tennessee by the name of William Dyer. William came to Texas from Tennessee in 1822 as one of Stephen F. Austin's original 300 families. William and



Anna Christina fell in love, and in 1850 they married. S.M. gave them 400 acres of land, on which sat Kenny's Fort on the south banks of Brushy Creek, about a mile south of the cemetery. They moved to the fort in 1852. There they would raise five children and later build a two-story rock home, which became known as the Dyer Place. On January 11, 1864, their third child, John Dyer, died and was buried at the feet of Henning Palm, less than three months after Henning died.

During the school year Anna Christina would keep her children at the St. Charles Hotel at 8 Chisholm Trail, (where Round Rock began). Their oldest daughter, Jenny, married at the hotel in 1872. Jenny's daughter, Jordena Davis was a well known teacher in the Austin area. Jenny's great-great grandson, Starkey Duncan, Jr., became a professor of psychology at the University of Chicago. Starkey's son became CEO of Chicago public schools and then Secretary of Education in the Obama administration. So Anna's dedication to the education of her children bore fruit for many generations later.

The second child, Swen, never married, but remained on the land near Kenney's Fort, where he farmed and raised cattle and horses. He also sang in the church choir.

Anna and William (and son John) are buried within sight of where Kenny's Fort had once stood about a mile to the south of the cemetery.

*I am the good shepherd.
My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me;
And I give them eternal life.
(John 10:11, 27)*

The Hurd Family
immigrated in 1848

Anna Johansdotter Palm (1808-1878)

Anders Palm

Carl O. Hurd Johansson (1820-?)

Mary Elizabeth (Maja Lisa) (1818-?) *Lot 43.1*

Johannes Hurd (1839-) *Lot ?*

Swen August (1846-) *Lot 38.2*

Swen Leander (1851-1920)

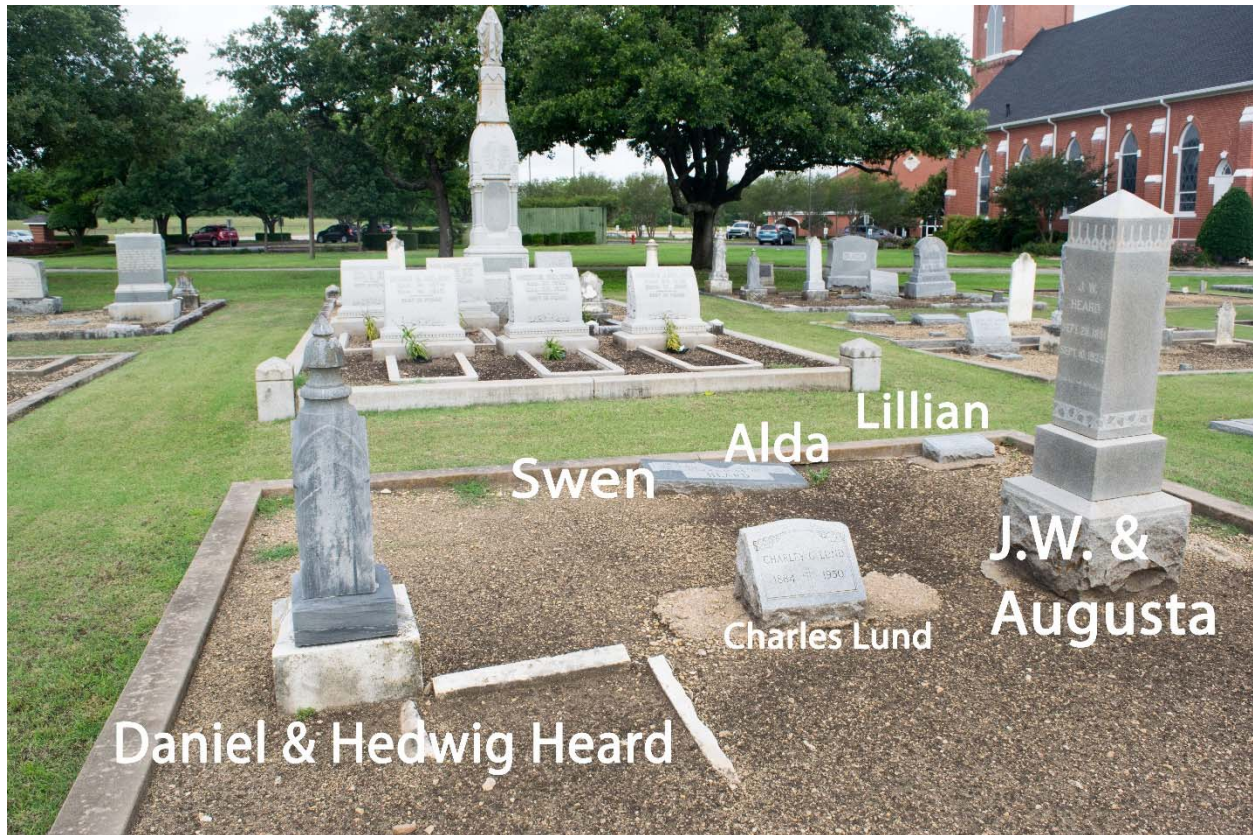
Daniel August (1855-1930)

Edla Christina (1859-1947)

Daniel Hurd Johansson (1825-1901) *Lot 38.9*

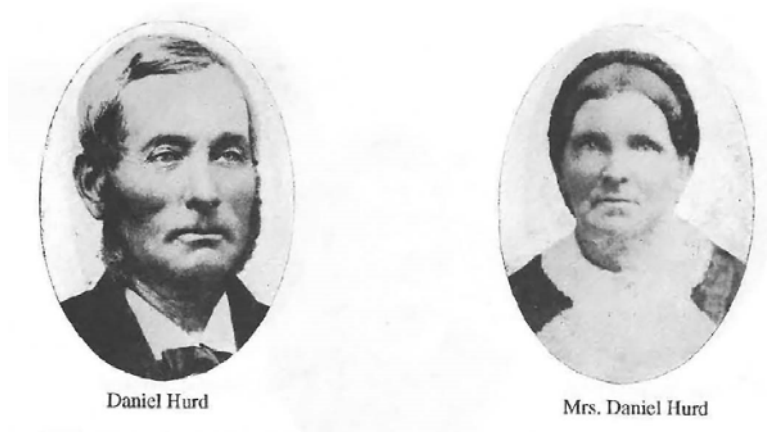
Hedwig Lundquist Hurd (1827-1894) *Lot 38.8*

J.W. (William) Hurd (1851-1924) *Lot 38.7*



Lot 38

Anna, Carl, and Daniel were children of Johan Hurd. They dropped their last name of Johansson and changed it to Hard, then Hord, then Hurd and Heard. The Hurds were aboard the immigrant ship of 1848 to Texas.



Daniel Hurd was 23 years old when he immigrated with his siblings. During the 3-4 month voyage he fell in love with **Hedwig Lonnquist**. Her sister, Anna Stina Lonnquist was also aboard the ship. Daniel and Hedwig became engaged while still sailing. Once they landed in Texas they became the first Swedish couple to marry in Texas. They lived in Austin where Daniel became manager at a store owned by S.M. Swenson. In 1858 they returned to Sweden to encourage others to emigrate, but because of the outbreak of the Civil War they were not able to return to Texas until 1867 and brought 100 Swedes with them. After the congregation was established in 1870, Daniel served as one of the original trustees.

Their one and only son was born in 1851: **J.W. Hurd**. In 1878 he married **Augusta Lindell**, daughter of Jonas Lindell, in Williamson County. She was born in Sweden and was ten years old when she came to this country with her parents. J. W. and Augusta had a son, S. A. Heard, who became a tradesman in Georgetown. They also had a daughter, who later married Carl Blad. In addition to their own children, J.W. and Augusta raised a foster-daughter, Ellen Swenson, from Barkeryd, Småland, who came to Round Rock in 1901. She lost her mother at the age of two.

Carl Hurd and his wife, **Mary Elizabeth (“Maja Lisa”)** were also passengers on the 1848 ship from Sweden. Their two children were with them: **Johannes** (age nine) and **Swen August** (age two). Three more children were born in Texas: Swen Leander, Daniel August, and Edla (Ada) Christina.

*Therefore, since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Romans 5:1)*

The Nelson Family

immigrated in 1854

Arvid Nilsson (Nelson) (1802-1883) *Lot 6.1*

Anna Lena Hanson Nelson (1810-1888) *Lot 6.2*

1. Anders Johan (A.J.) (1835-1895) *Lot 27.6*
2. August John (A.J.) (1838-1866) *Lot 6.6*
3. Tilda Maria (1833-1905) *Lot 54.5*
4. Carolina (Lena) (1851-1929) *Lot 39*



Lot 6

Arvid and Lena emigrated from Oggestorp, about six miles west of Barkeryd, Småland. The family of six left from Goteborg aboard the sailing vessel, *Horizon*. Their excitement was tempered by the sudden death in Goteborg of their eldest child, Lena Stina, while they were awaiting the arrival of the ship. But they were committed to make the voyage, and so the remaining family of six continued with their plans, emigrating from Sweden in the fall of 1854.

When they reached the Boston harbor, they transferred to a steamer which took them down the Atlantic coast, across the Gulf of Mexico, and their final destination in the port of Galveston. For a brief time they rented some land near Port Lavaca, but within a few months they homesteaded on the prairie land between Georgetown and Brushy Creek.

Nelson used the last of his funds to buy a yoke of oxen and began hauling goods between Central Texas and the coast. With the money they were paid, they purchased additional wagons and oxen. A year after his arrival, Arvid rented land from S.M. Swenson and began to clear it of the brush and trees. In 1855 he purchased 320 acres from Swenson at \$1.50/acre.

Arvid and Lena prospered in their new country, lived long enough to see all their children marry, and in their old age they enjoyed several grandchildren. They lived through the tragedies of the Civil War and were instrumental in the establishment of Palm Valley Lutheran Church. They and many of their family members are buried near the lot where Anna Palm and her son are buried.



Lot 27

Anders Johan (A.J.) Nelson (1835-1895) (Lot 27.6)

Hedwig Nelson (1850-1923) (Lot 27.7)

Anna M. Nelson (1870-1882) died at age 12

Mary Belle (1873-1936) Married Montgomery White. Buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Austin.

Carl August (1875-1932) (Lot 27.2)

Oscar Nelson (1878-1910) (Lot 27.8) (Died at age 31 in car accident.)

Adla Christine Nelson (1880-1937) married C.N. Avery. Buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

Thomas Edward Nelson (1888-1951) married Mary Rebecca Young.

Rosa Florence Nelson (1885-1892) died at age seven. (Lot 27.3)

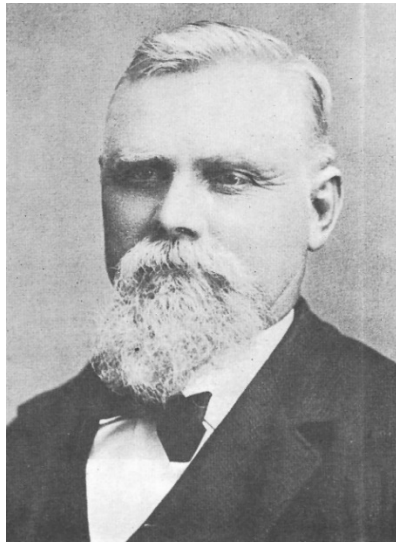
A. Victoria (1883-1884) died at age 11 months. (Lot 27.4)

George Walter (1891-1916) (Lot 27.1) (attended Trinity College, Round Rock. Died at age 25.)

A.J. Nelson (Lot 27.6) immigrated with his parents, Arvid and Anna Lena, at the age of 19 in 1894. He helped his father haul goods to Galveston, and during the Civil War he received special permission to transport goods across military zones. He insisted on being paid in gold, and hid the gold in nail kegs on his way home. In 1871 he bought his father's homestead of 320 acres and later bought 8000 acres in southern Williamson County, and put most of it into production of cotton crops. He enabled many of his fellow Swedes to emigrate by paying for their passage to Texas. They, in turn, would pay him back by working on his land. When they saved up enough money, he would then rent or sell portions of his land to these settlers.

Nelson built a cotton gin, powered by twelve horses and a mule. Before the arrival of railroads, he also hauled his cotton to Houston, using wagons, each pulled by eight to ten oxen. He also got into

the cattle industry, including cattle drives to Kansas. When the railroad came to Round Rock, the “Nelson Station” was located in the middle of their property for the loading of crops and materials.

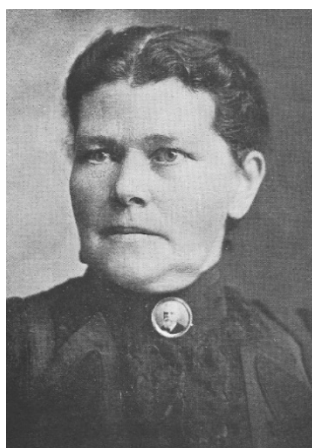


By 1860 he and his father had saved enough money to build a two-story limestone structure, using stones from their own land and sawed by hand on location. During the Civil War, it was used as a hospital for the wounded soldiers. It is located about five miles northeast of Round Rock on FM 1460 on a hill overlooking the beautiful countryside. Today Seton Medical Center stands across the highway.

Men and women who worked for the Nelson family would gather in the kitchen each evening for Bible reading and fun. A.J.’s abiding faith was evident in other ways as well. In 1861, he erected a small building of logs to be used as a church and school—although there was still neither pastor nor official congregation.

After Brushy Lutheran Church was established in 1870, A.J. served in various leadership positions, including trustee, deacon, and treasurer. A decade later the congregation outgrew the log building, so A.J. drew up plans for a second wooden structure and hauled lumber by oxen from Austin for its construction. When the congregation decided to build a new sanctuary in 1894, again it was A.J. who oversaw the building’s construction and donated the pressed red Round Rock brick. He and his wife gave a stained glass window behind the altar in memory of A.J.’s parents, Arvid and Lena Nelson.

Around that same time Nelson began construction of a new house on Main Street in Round Rock. Soon after that he had a stroke which left him an invalid, and he died on September 17, 1895, the year before the church’s dedication in 1896, and the house’s completion in 1900. In 1960 the house on Main Street was bought by Eugene and Jean Crier Goodrich, who named it “Woodbine,” because of the abundance of that plant growing on the property.



Mrs. A.J. (Hedwig) Nelson (Lot 27.7) was born in 1850 in the Barkryd parish of Sweden. She immigrated to Texas in 1867 at the age of 17. She and A.J. were married on January 4, 1870. Hedwig was 20; A.J. was 35.

During their 26 years of marriage, she would give birth to nine children. While A.J. was occupied with the cattle, the cotton crops, business pursuits, church work, and helping immigrants, Hedwig ran the household. This was before the days of cars, washing machines, electric ovens, and indoor plumbing. She would not only cook meals for their large family, but for workers on the farm as well. Note the cameo with her husband’s picture. Hedwig saw that the house that A.J. started was completed in 1900, four years after A.J. died, and lived there for almost a quarter century. She died in 1923 at the age of 73.

Carl Nelson, (Lot 27.2) the oldest son of A. J. Nelson, was born in Williamson County on February 23, 1875. Brought up in a family which was well-to-do, he had the advantage of going to

public school, studying at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. He was therefore well equipped for life, and when his father died, he took care of the large Nelson estate.

While he had handled the property, its value has more than doubled. Carl A. Nelson was partners with his cousin, John A. Nelson, in the J. A. Nelson and Co. Bank of Round Rock. This bank was reorganized in 1900, with a capital of \$75,000.00. In 1928, he and Thomas started the Cheese Factory and owned 300 dairy cows. He was also part-owner of the Nalley Grocery Co. of Austin and Taylor and owner of 400 acres of valuable farmland in Williamson County and a thousand acres in different parts of Texas. He was Vice President of First National Bank in Thorndale, board member of the First National Bank of Georgetown, the First National Bank in Weir, and the Texas Trust Co. in Austin, Texas.



Oscar Andrew Nelson (Lot 27.8) was born on March 14, 1878. He attended Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. Oscar became a successful businessman, and when he died, he was treasurer of the First National Bank of Georgetown. In 1910, Oscar died in a car accident at the age of 31, cutting short a bright future.

Adla Christine Nelson was born in 1880, the fifth child. She married Charles Avery in 1906. He was from Alabama, but the couple settled in the Round Rock area. The couple had four children. Their grandsons, Charles, John, and A. Nelson, and granddaughter, Christina Avery Fell, conceived of a plan in 2000 for the development of their ancestral farms in Round Rock and Hutto as a hub for a medical and educational community. These family farms are now home to Texas State University, Texas A&M Health Science Centre, Austin Community College, Seton Hospital Williamson, Cornerstone Long Term Care Hospital, Medistar Post Acute Rehab Hospital, Texas State Technical College, Temple College and Texas A&M Central College. Adla and her husband are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, Austin.

Thomas (“Tom”) Edward Nelson (Lot 6.3) was born on February 7, 1888, the sixth child of Arvid and Anna Lena. After two years at the University of Texas, he continued his studies at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, and he completed his student exams and graduated there.

He served as private secretary to Congressman Buchanan, superintendent of “The Folding Room of the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C.” In World War I he joined the United States Army and advanced to the rank of lieutenant. He was part owner in the Nalley Grocery Co. in Austin and Taylor with his brother, Carl.



Tom Nelson became a banker in Round Rock, and in 1922 he and Carl founded and served as president of Farmers State Bank. In 1928, he and Carl started the Cheese Factory and owned 300 dairy cows. The Nelson brothers researched the cheese industry in Wisconsin and opened the factory on the west side of Georgetown Ave., on the north side of Brushy Creek in January 1928. During the Great Depression the cheese factory paid to area farmers approximately \$1500 each month. That represented two-thirds of the total payroll for the entire town.

He married Mary Rebecca Young Scofield (Lot 6.4) in 1929 and continued to live in the Nelson house on Main Street with his mother and brother, Carl. Their only child, Thomas Nelson, Jr., was born in that house in 1935. Thomas, Jr. married Carol Corley, who had three children: Rebecca Barton Nelson (Davis), Thomas Nelson III, and John Corley Nelson.

John “August” Nelson (Lot 6.6) immigrated with his parents and three siblings in 1854. He was 16 years old. He assisted his brother, A.J., in hauling supplies between central Texas and coastal locations. In 1861 August enlisted in the Confederate Army. He served for two and a half years, seeing action in Arkansas. Due to bad health he was released in late 1863, spending more than a year in recuperation.

Three months after the war’s end, August married Johanna Palm in his father’s home on July 13, 1865. They had a son, John Nelson, the following year. Three months later he was called to testify at the courthouse in Georgetown against a former Union soldier accused of horse theft. The accused man got revenge on the front steps of the courthouse, shooting August in the back and killing him. Nelson died on June 14, 1866, at the age of 28, leaving a young widow and infant John Nelson.

Johanna Augusta Palm Nelson Engstrand (Lot 6.7) was the daughter of Jonas Palm, who immigrated in 1859. She and John August Nelson married on July 13, 1865. She gave birth to their son, John Nelson, on April 16, 1866. After her husband, John August, was killed three months later, she and her baby continued to live with her in-laws, Arvid and Anna Lena Nelson.



Lot 9

In 1869, Johanna married a recent Swedish immigrant named C.A. Engstrand. They lived on a ranch just east of Palm Valley Lutheran Church, and were charter members of the congregation. Johanna and Engstrand had four children: Isabella (Voigt) (Lot 171.2), Hilda, Serra E., and Carl Johan (Lot 9.3).

Johanna and Engstrand moved to Round Rock and operated a boardinghouse. They died the same year, 1931. Carl Engstrand is buried in lot 9.1. She is buried next to him, just a few lots away from her first husband, August.

John A. Nelson (Lot 10.3), only son of August and Johanna, was born in 1866. Within three months, his father was shot and killed. In 1889, John married Jennie Carlson (1869-1946) (Lot 10.4).



Lot 10



Roy Nelson
Vivian Nelson

Edith Nelson
Ansel Nelson

Lambert Nelson
Lillian Nelson

John and Jennie
Nelson raised six
children:

Edith (1891-1942)
Lot 201.7

Arthur (Roy) (1893-
1951) **Lot 10.8**

John Lambert
(1897- ?)

Lillian (1899 - ?)

Vivian (1902- ?)

Ansel (1904-1971)
Lot 10.1)

When John was 22, he started working in Round Rock for the S.V. Dooly Hardware Store. After four years he became a partner in the J.P. Key & Co. In 1892, he built a large hardware store, a lumber company in 1895, and five years later, John A. Nelson and Co., Bankers. He owned the largest dry goods store in Round Rock and was part-owner of a local broom factory.

The two-story building located at 203 E. Main St. in Round Rock displays the name "J.A. Nelson & Co." along its top. Built in 1900 by John Nelson this structure housed a private bank as well as a wholesale and retail business. Across the street, he operated the Round Rock Mercantile Store.



Around 1900, John (also called "J.A.") and his wife, Jennie, built a 3-story red brick house on the corner of Main and Stone Streets. Their youngest children, Vivian and Ansel, were born in this home. Soon afterwards he also constructed a wooden frame house on the east corner of the property for his wife's parents and his widowed sister-in-law and her infant son.



When the Augustana Synod Conference approved the creation of a college in Texas, John Nelson proposed to give nine acres of land (four city blocks) at the east end of Main Street, donate \$7000 in cash, and drill a deep water well for its use. His daughter, Edith, would later be in charge of the music department of Trinity College. The college was in operation from 1906-1929, when the property became Trinity Lutheran Orphans' and Old Folks' Home, and eventually Trinity Lutheran Home.

In 1904, J.A. purchased 58 acres of land which he would develop into Nelson Park. Its location was an area bordered by Brushy Creek on the north, Georgetown Ave. on the west, Austin Ave. on the south, and farmland on the east. In 1923, the Lutheran Brotherhood League established Circle R Camp on this site, using 22 acres for encampments or retreats for any religious denomination. It included screened cabins, a huge open-air tabernacle, swimming pool at the top of the hill, baseball, tennis, basketball, and croquet courts. It was also the location since 1943 of the Swenson-Palm log cabin, which was moved in 1965 to Zilker Park.

On May 23, 1922, John A. Nelson died in Galveston, where he was undergoing treatment for Bright's disease. His wife continued to manage his investments and developed the Nelson Addition, formerly Nelson Park, northwest of Trinity College.

*So it is with the resurrection of the dead.
What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.
It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory.
It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.
(1 Corinthians 15:42-43)*

Johannes Palm Family
immigrated in 1859



Johannes Palm (1802-1873) (Lot 7.8) immigrated to Texas from Sweden in 1859.

He was the brother of Anna Palm's husband, Anders, who had immigrated in 1848.

Johannes' wife was Maria Israelsdotter. (Lot 7.7)

Lot 7



Their daughter, Christina Palm Swenson, was the second person buried in the cemetery in 1863, at the age of 23, leaving three small children and a husband.

Lot 7

Below are Johannes and Maria Palm's children:

Johannes Palm (1802-1873) (Lot 7.8)

Maria Palm (1810-1895) (Lot 7.7)

1. Anna Elizabeth (“Lisa”) (1835-1914) She married her sister, Christina’s, husband (Carl Otto Swenson) when Christina died in 1863. Lisa is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin. (no children)
2. Christina Catharina (1840-1863) (7.1) She was Carl Otto Swenson’s first wife. They had three children before Christina died in 1863 at the age of only 23. Carl then married her older sister, Anna Lisa. These are Christina’s children:
 - Edla (Adele) Swenson (1860-1896) married Louis Henna (1853-1898)
 - Karl Johan Swenson (1861- ?)
 - Anna Augusta (1863- ?) married Carl Victor Anderson. She was born in S.M. Swenson’s log cabin in Govalle. [That cabin is now located in Zilker Park, Austin.] Their great-granddaughter is Barbara Gustafson Pate.
3. Johanna Augusta (1846-1931) (Lot 9.2)
 - married John August Nelson (1838-1866) (Lot 6.6)
 - John A. Nelson (1866-1922) (Lot 10.3)
 - married Karl August (C.A.) Engstrand (1846-1931) (Lot 9.1)
 - Isabelle (1869-1962). “Bella” married Otto Voight, Round Rock (Lot 171.2)
 - Sara (1880-1965). Sara married E.M. Black, Round Rock. (Lot 47.2)
 - Hilda (1878- ?). Hilda married H. Brothman, Temple.
 - Carl Johan



C.A. Engstrand (Lot 9.1) married Johanna Augusta (Lot 9.2) after Johanna’s first husband was shot and killed in 1866 (John A. Nelson (Lot 6.6)). They were charter members of Palm Valley Lutheran Church (Brushy), where Mr. Engstrand served as a deacon. She immigrated with her parents in 1859. He immigrated in 1867.

Let not your hearts be

troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father’s house are many rooms;
...and when I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again, and will take you to myself.
John 14:1-3

The Israelson Family

Immigrated in 1859



Lot 40

Johan Israelson (1833-1922) (Lot 40.8)

Marie Helena Skoglund (1848-1929) (Lot 40.7)

1. Anna Christina (1872-1965)
2. Edla (1873-1902) (Lot 40.6)
3. Hanna Israelson Berg (1875-1902) (Lot 20.3)
4. Gustaf (1876-1952) (Lot 40.4)
5. Josephine (infant) (Lot 40.2)
6. Carl (infant) (Lot 40.1)
7. Marie Elenora (Nora) Israelson Anderson (1885-1965) (Lot 1.2)
8. Esther Cecella (1891-1977) (17.2) married Alfred Telander (1876-1959) (Lot 17.1)
 - 8.1 Lillie Evelyn Telander Anderson (1912-2007) (23.4)
 - 8.2 Edith M. Telander Bowman (1913-2003) (17.2)
 - 8.3 Mabel Beda Kristina Telander Burton (1915-2006) (Lot 170.7)
 - 8.4 Bertil Frank John (Buck) Telander (1918-2003) (199.1)
 - 8.5 Clarence Telander (1921-1996) (17.4)
 - 8.6 Blanch Josephine Telander Krienke (1924-2017) (170.4)
 - 8.7 Arnold Alfred Telander (1927-2002) (17.7)
 - 8.8 Grace E. Telander (1931-) (17.3)
 - 8.9 Leatrice Joy Meredith (1933- ?)



Lot 17

Johan's father was Israel Abrahamson, a farmer whose land bordered on that of S.M. Swenson. When Swenson left for America in 1836, he gave the three-year-old Johan 24 "pennies." He saved them until 1859, when Johan also left Sweden and came to Round Rock. At the age of 26 he began working for Johannes Palm, then leased land from S.M. Swenson in Govalle (now east Austin) for one year. W.T. Dyer (whose wife, Christina, was Swenson's sister) hired Johan to haul goods to San Antonio by oxen. During the Civil War, Johan hauled cotton all the way to Mexico. Other drivers included Swedish immigrants Newlin, Otto Swenson, and Swen Larson.

Further into the war, Johan and Jonas Johnson began hauling sheep across the Rio Grande. Two thousand sheep were hauled in wagons, 50 in each wagon. When the war ended, the two men returned the sheep to Corpus Christi, and then worked as shepherds for S.M. Swenson in Govalle. After leasing land for four years, Johan bought his own farm in Palm Valley, and a second farm in 1881. His adventures included driving cattle to Kansas with the Palm family. In 1872, when the wooden church was constructed, Johan drove the first wagonload of building material.

Johan married Maria Helena Skoglund, who had only recently immigrated to Palm Valley with her family in 1871. The church had just been officially organized in 1870. The Israelson family were charter members of Palm Valley Lutheran Church ("Brushy Lutheran"). Of their eight children, seven are buried in the Palm Valley Cemetery.

*I am the resurrection and the life;
He who believes in me, though he die,
yet shall he live.
(John 11:25)*

Johan Johnson Family
Immigrated to Texas in 1852



Lot 28

Johan Johnson (1822-1905) (Lot 28.7)
 Hedda Johnson (1832-1920) (Lot 28.6)

When Johan Johnson came to Austin in 1852, he bought 140 acres of land from S.M. Swenson near Georgetown, near Union Hill. Hedda lived as a child in Lattarp, where she knew the family of S.M. Swenson. She immigrated to Texas the same year as Johan. Three years later, in 1855, the couple married. Fifteen years later, when Palm Valley Lutheran Church was founded, they were charter members. In 1881, Johan served as the congregation's sexton, caring for the church and cemetery property.

Esther Swenson Sellstrom
 1878-1906

Although her family did not immigrate to America until 1867, a word needs to be written about her, since her monument is the tallest one in the cemetery. She is the granddaughter of Swedish immigrants, August and Johanna Swenson. Below is an outline of the family:

August Swenson (1835-1931) (Lot 84.1)

Johanna Swenson (1839-1913) (Lot 84.2)

Carl Swenson

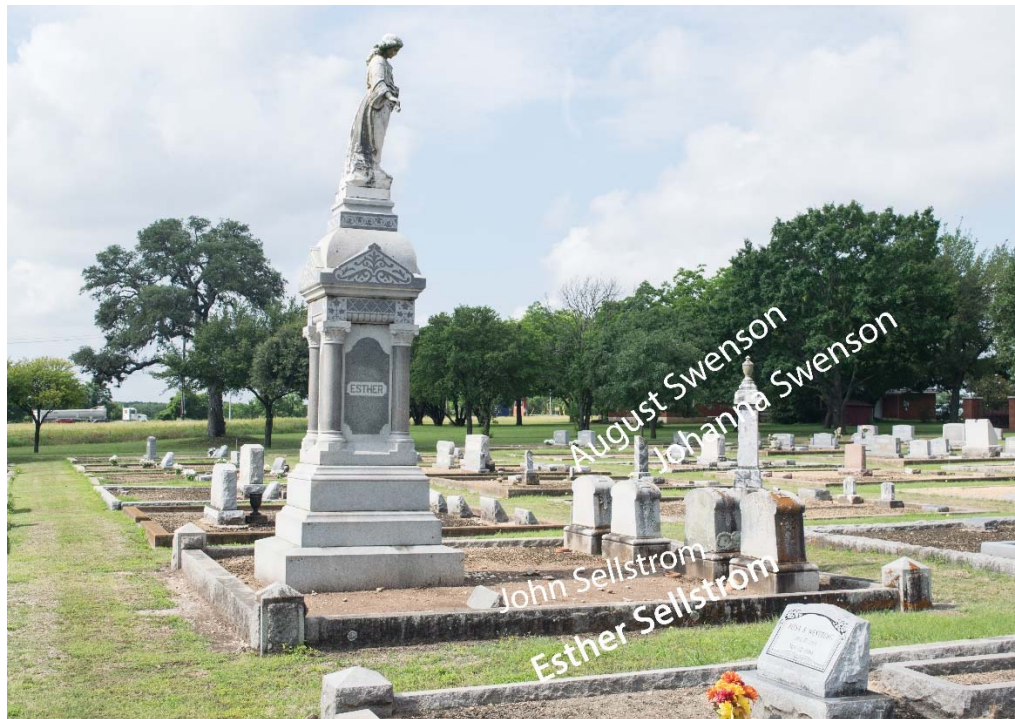
Mathilda Swenson

Anna Cecilla Swenson (married Alexander Robert Stromberg)

Esther Stromberg Sellstrom (1878-1906) (Lot 84.4) (married John E. Sellstrom (1876-1910)
(Lot 84.3)

August Swenson immigrated with his wife, Johanna, and their two children, Carl and Mathilda. He was a carpenter and farmer in Hutto. He became a successful businessman and eventually president of Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Hutto. He donated the pipe organ in Hutto Lutheran Church. In this country they had two more children, Anna Cecilia and Esther.

Esther married John Sellstrom. In 1906, at the age of only 28, Esther died. The large monument stands in her honor. Four years later, her husband died tragically, the first person to die in a car wreck in Austin. Occasionally, beautiful cameos still appear at the foot of Esther's grave. Her monument, 17 feet high, is the tallest one in the cemetery.



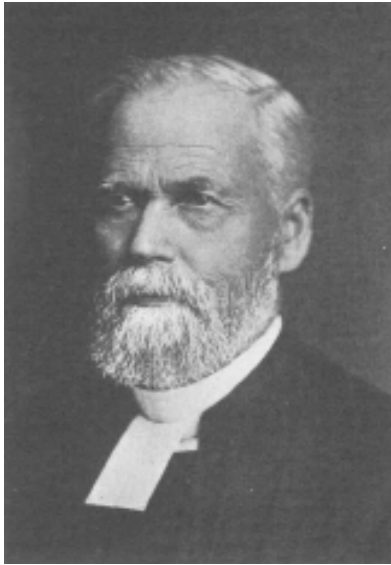
Lot 84

Rev. Martin Noyd

(1850-1921)

Immigrated to Illinois, 1857

Dr. Martin Noyd is known as the founding father of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Texas. For several years he served as pastor simultaneously at Palm Valley, Gethsemane (Austin), and New Sweden. He also was called to help establish Luther College in Nebraska, and then returned to Texas to assist other fledgling congregations.



At the age of seven, Noyd accompanied his parents when they immigrated to Andover, Illinois, and when he turned 19 he enrolled at Augustana College and Seminary, located then at Paxton, Illinois. His first call was to Palm Valley in 1876, and moved with his new wife, Anna Cervin, into the newly built parsonage. They would eventually have ten children.

Pastor Noyd served Palm Valley in two terms: 1876-1883 and 1887-1892. Other congregations he served (besides Gethsemane and New Sweden) include Bethlehem (Chicago), Gustavus Adolphus Fort Worth), Emanuel (Dallas), and Philippi (El Campo). In that final congregation he served until his death in 1921 at the age of 71. He was buried at Palm Valley, but his wife continued to live in El Campo until her death in 1950, and was buried next to husband.

The “Father of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Texas” was a well-respected educator by his peers, a well-loved pastor by his congregations, and a faithful family man with his wife and ten children.



Lot 5

Rev. Gustaf Berglund

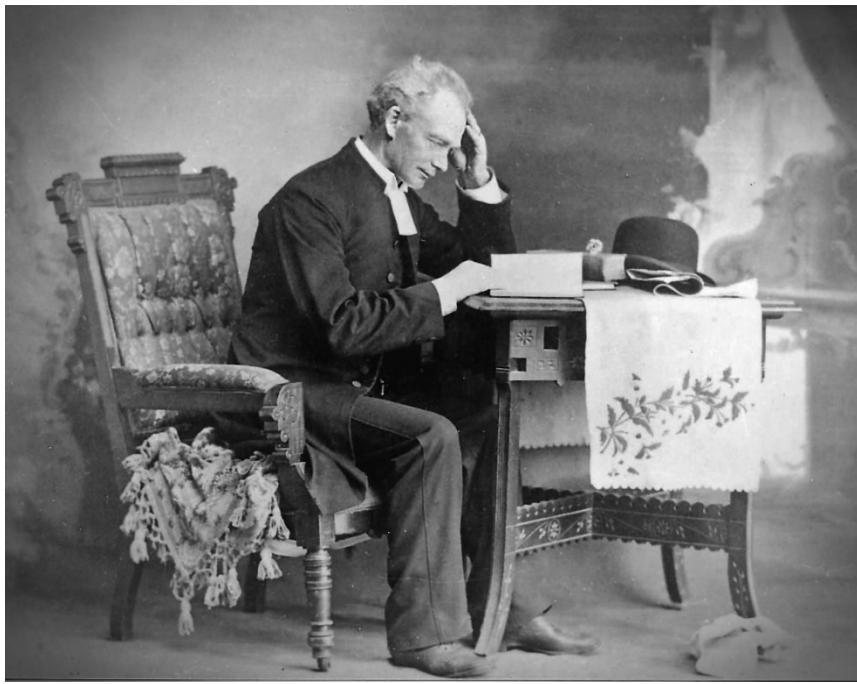
(1856-1899)

Immigrated in 1884 to Illinois



Lot 5

Gustaf Berglund immigrated from Smöland, Sweden, at the age of 28 and enrolled at the Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois. While there, he married Johanna Eriksdotter, also from Smöland. He was ordained as a minister in the Augustana Lutheran Synod in 1886. That same year they had their first child, Emma, and moved to his first parish in New Sweden, Texas. Their second daughter, Hannah, was born in 1887, but she died ten months later and was buried in the New Sweden Cemetery. Two more children were born, Martin and Eric, while Pastor Berglund served Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Austin, 1889-1892. In 1892, his wife, Johanna died. She was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, in a plot next to Swante Palm. Five months later Pastor Berglund moved to Palm Valley with three motherless children in the simple small parsonage.



In his second year at Palm Valley, Pastor Berglund married Susie Larson, a member of the congregation. Her sister, Rebecka Larson, was the organist. In 1894, Susie gave birth to a girl, Ethel. That same year Pastor Berglund laid the cornerstone for a new brick church sanctuary. Within five years, Berglund died of tuberculosis and was buried at the age of only 42. His death came just four days after he celebrated Easter with his congregation. Susie and the four children continued to live in the

parsonage for a short while, and then moved in with her parents. She never remarried, though she lived for another 55 years as a member of Palm Valley.

Gustaf Berglund's son, Martin Berglund, had several children, one of whom was named Oliver. Oliver Berglund also served as pastor, also at Palm Valley (1969-1992). He and his wife, Gen, are buried in the New Sweden Lutheran Cemetery.

The words (written in Swedish) engraved on Pastor Gustaf Berglund's tombstone, donated by the congregation, read as follows:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (Philippians 1:21-23)

APPENDIX

This concludes the survey of the earliest immigrants buried at Palm Valley Lutheran Church Cemetery. Many more followed, but there is not room to include them all here. Each has a story worthy of our interest and respect. When we walk past a grave marker, let us realize that this person was once a child loved by parents, a beautiful young girl or handsome young man in the prime of life, a person who struggled to provide for the family, or perhaps an elderly person riddled with pain. These are all your brothers and sisters in Christ who worshipped in the same pew and knelt at the same altar as you do today. These are all God's beloved children. So are you.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely,
And let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
Looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
(Hebrews 12:1)*

Written by Reverend Elroy Haverlah
September 2019

For further reading:

Swedes in Texas in Words and Pictures, English Translation. Ernest Severin, J.M. Ojerholm, Alfred Scott, and T.J. Westerberg. Translated by Christine Andreason, 1994. Over 1200 pages of biographical information the Swedish immigrants to Texas over the last half of the 18th century.

The Swedish Texans. Larry E. Scott. The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 1990. Written by Professor of Scandinavian at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, this book covers the history of Swedish immigration to the plains and cities of Texas from 1838 through 1918. A historically reliable resource.

www.sweame.org A website dedicated to the preservation of genealogical data and images of Swedish American emigrants, including their ancestors and descendants.

History of Swedish Lutheran Church in Texas. Elroy Haverlah. After reviewing the history of the Lutheran Church in Sweden and the typical churchlife of pioneers in Texas, this book summarizes this histories of the original thirteen Swedish Lutheran congregations in Texas, including the first: Palm Valley Lutheran Church, Round Rock.

Anna's Journey. Elroy Haverlah. This historical novel is the story of Anna Palm and her six boys who immigrated to Texas in 1848. It describes how they and other Swedes managed to overcome one obstacle after another in their struggle to survive. Those difficulties were common to all our pioneer ancestors.

Answering the Call. Elroy Haverlah. This historical novel is based on the life of Pastor Gustaf Berglund, who served Palm Valley from 1892-1899. His story is typical of those pioneer pastors who felt called by God to leave their homeland to serve as a pastor on the Texas frontier.

