

The Falks of Sweden

BENGT FALK & ELINA NILSDOTTER

Bengt Falk and Elina Nilsson were our great-great-grandparents. Bengt's parents were Hans Petter Falk and Amalia Reuter. Bengt was a younger brother of Anders Falk, the miller. Bengt was born 24 April 1839 in Pilshult, Allerum, on the west coast of southern Sweden. Elina Nilsson was born 30 September 1830, so she was almost 9 years older than Bengt. They were married 31 October 1863, when Bengt was 24 and Elina was 33. They had two children: Oskar (Oscar) was born in 1865, and Johanna Maria, our great-grandmother, was born in 1868 in Helsingborg, Sweden.¹

Swedish records state that Bengt was a "*Hemmansägare*", which is a yeoman or freeholder. This probably means that he was a farmer who cultivated his own land, and that he owned a house.

Nannie Melquist stated that Bengt's wife, Elina, left him while he still lived in Sweden, but that Elina died before Bengt and their children emigrated to the U.S. Information in the Swedish records states that Bengt left Helsingborg and moved back to Allerum Kungshuset (King's House) in 1874. Elina died 26 March 1885 at the age of 54. According to Swedish records, Bengt and both children emigrated to the United States on 25 October 1889, when Bengt was 50.¹ However, according to the 1900 U.S. Census, Bengt emigrated in 1881, when he was 42. The Falks settled in the Pennington (Prentice), Wisconsin area.

A land mortgage indenture shows that Bengt Falk sold land in Price County, Wisconsin to his daughter, Hannah Falk, in 1895 for \$600. (Lots 13, 14, 17 & 18 of Section 18, Township 35, Range 1 East.) Hannah would have been 27 and unmarried at that time.²

¹ Swedish records

² Family artifact

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This is the only confirmed photograph of Bengt, at age 82. Nannie Melquist identified the people left to right as Bengt, Oscar, Mathilda, and Gustaf Falk. Bengt's grand-niece, Lillian Falk, took the photo in July 1921. (The man on the right might be John Falk rather than Gustaf.)



Bengt died 15 March 1923 in Prentice at the age of 83. Cause of death listed on his death record was chronic concarditis (?). He was buried at the Ogema cemetery 21 March 1923.³

³ Death record, Price County, Wisconsin