

MELLQVIST

“Qvist” means the branch, or twig, of a tree.

NILS MELLQVIST & CAJSA GRETA HÖGLUND

Nils Mellqvist and Cajsa Greta Höglund were our great-great grandparents from Sweden. Nils was born 27 July 1839 in Östra Emtevik, Värmland, Sweden. Cajsa Greta was born 17 February 1842, also in Östra Emtevik. We do not know their date of marriage. They had seven children, but four of them died as young children. Nils Elon was born 24 September 1868 in Söderhamn, Gävleborgs län. Olof Alfred, our great-grandfather, was born 7 December 1870 in Hamrånge, Gävleborgs län, on the east coast of Sweden north of Stockholm. Christina Elisabeth was born in Hamrånge 22 January 1873, and died 27 December 1877 at almost 5 years of age. In 1874, Nils moved with his wife and children a long distance to Oppeby, Östergötland, where the other children were born. Carl Wilhelm was born 3 March 1875, and died 24 February 1878 at almost 4 years of age. Josef was born 23 January 1877. Carl Arvid was born 27 June 1880, and died in 1885 at 5 years old. David Ninus was born 3 February 1885 and died 31 October 1889 at almost 5 years of age.¹

Nils' profession was a “*Kantsågare*,”¹ which means he worked with a saw for edges.

Olof Alfred emigrated to the U.S. in 1888 at the age of 18. Swedish records show that his older brother, Nils Elon, got papers to emigrate at the same time, but two months later he was again at his parents' address.¹ A verbal account from a family member in the U.S. stated that Olof emigrated with a brother, and came by way of Canada. Family members in Sweden do not know if Nils Elon never left Sweden, if he left but then returned, or if he disappeared in America. Nils youngest surviving son, Josef, remained in Sweden and has his own section in this genealogy.

On Olof's U.S. marriage record for his first marriage in 1895, it lists his father's name as Nels Malquist and his mother's name as Margurite Ogland. On his second marriage record in 1899, his father's name is Nels Mahlquist and his mother's name is Chatharine Mahlquist.² These differences in spelling are no doubt due to the lack of standardized spelling of names at that time, so whoever recorded the names spelled them the way he heard them. Chatharine and Margurite would probably be the American versions of Cajsa Greta.

¹ Swedish records

² Marriage records, Price County, Wisconsin