

My name is Wilhelmina Augusta Hjertberg. I am 17 years old. I was born October 3, 1873 in Nassjo, and Sweden. My father's name is Johan August Hertzberg. He was married before my mother. He and his first wife had four children together. A daughter named Johanna Sofia, born 1866. When Johanna Sofia, was 5, she had a new dress. She was showing all of her family how pretty she looked and was too close to the fire. Her dress caught on fire and she later died. My father never got over her death. My father's first wife died of typhoid fever in 1868.

My father married my mother in 1869. Her name is Mary Charlotte Ryde. Later that same year Hilda Sophia was born. Four years later I was born. My parents also had three sons after me. Their names are, Oscar, and twins, Herman Eric.

At this time many people were coming to America. My dad's sister, Frederica Josephina, my three year old half brother, Carl, Claes and Adolf sailed to America. Soon after my fiancé and I set sail. We left Sweden on May of 1891. Where my half brothers and aunt, Frederica lived. I found work at a tailor's shop mending clothes. After having been in the states for 3 months my mother died. I was so heartbroken. I did not have the money to sail back to Sweden. I remember president Cleveland was sworn into office while I was living there. I lived with my half brothers for 3 years. On July 20, 1894 I bought a ticket to go see my dad's sister, Frederica. I lived with her for 2 years in Omaha Nebraska. I joined the church while living there. I was baptized on November 3, 1895 in Council Bluff, Iowa. I found a job in another tailor shop. While working in the tailor shop, I met Aaron Johansson, one of the managers. His wife had died. They had two children, a daughter named Jenny and a son named Beruth. I married Aaron on January 9, 1886. Tom Judd Sr. from St. George sent word that he needed a tailor in the area. Aaron decided to take the job. We came to Washington, Utah first. We arrived March 21, 1896. We lived in the little room on the west side of the Old Cotton Mill for a while. We then lived at Hiram Prisbrey's house. Aaron and I went through the St. George temple on September 15, 1896. A baby boy was born to us on November 14, 1896. We named him John August Johansson. We lived in Washington for about 9 months. We moved to St. George and lived in a little building where the fire station is now. It was behind JC Penney where Kinko's is now. Aaron died suddenly of a heart attack on March 13, 1897. It was really hard for me with a tiny baby. Aaron's sister came and got his two children. I did sewing to earn a little money.

One year and seven months after Aaron died, I married Brigham Joseph Prisbrey. He had two wagons, two horses and a cow. We got a few chickens so we were well off. We bought a house on 300 South and 350 West in St. George. We lived out our lives there. We had 8 children together, 5 girls and 2 boys. These babies kept me busy. My life was good, but I longed for my family in Omaha and Sweden. Wilhelmina died on June 12, 1957 at the age of 84.

One of the daughters is Noah's great-great grandma. She was born on May 7, 1899. Her name is Minnie. She married Herman Schmutz. They had a daughter named Afton Schmutz, who is Noah's Great Grandma. She was born on October 30, 1919. She is married to the late Hugh Red Gibson. Afton currently lives in Washington close to the Old Cotton Mill, where our history started.

By Noah Smith

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