

# ***The Emigration and Immigration of Ernst Augustus Rosqvist***

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Sweden to the United States

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Immigrants from Sweden have played an important part in the settlement and growth of the United States from the 1638 founding of the colony of New Sweden on the Delaware River<sup>1</sup> to mass emigrations from Sweden in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the most significant of which took place in the 15-year period between 1879 and 1893, when nearly a half-million Swedes made the trans-Atlantic voyage to America.<sup>2</sup> In the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Sweden was in a period of peacetime, and that peace, along with the vaccine for smallpox and the introduction of the potato as a food crop, led to an increase in the population of the country. The increase in population decreased the availability of fertile farmland and resulted in a high rate of unemployment for farmers and farmhands, forcing them to abandon agriculture and migrate to the cities or to leave their country altogether and attempt to make a living elsewhere. Massive crop failures in the period of the 1860s to the 1890s were contributors to the mass emigrations to America.<sup>3</sup>

Many Swedish immigrants were following family members who had come earlier and had extolled the virtues of America to their relatives in the homeland.<sup>4</sup> The last two decades of the 1800s saw a dramatic rise in the Swedish population in New England as immigrants came searching for jobs in the industrial sector. The Swedish saw in America their chance to raise their families and achieve their dreams.

It was during this period of increased emigration from Sweden that Ernst Augustus Rosqvist, aged 16, began the adventure that would lead him to join his brother Oskar in the United States. Oskar had arrived in America in 1886 and was plying his trade as a tailor in the area around Boston, Massachusetts.<sup>5</sup> In 1893, Ernst traveled from his hometown of Aseda in the county of Kronoberg in southeastern Sweden to the port of Gothenberg, where, on



Ernst Augustus Rosqvist

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<sup>1</sup> Rickie Lazzerini, "Where Did The Swedes Go: The Causes of Swedish Immigration and Settlement Patterns in America," Kindred Trails, Inc., *KindredTrails.com* (<http://www.kindredtrails.com/Where-Did-The-Swedes-Go.html>) : accessed 3 March 2013), p. 1.

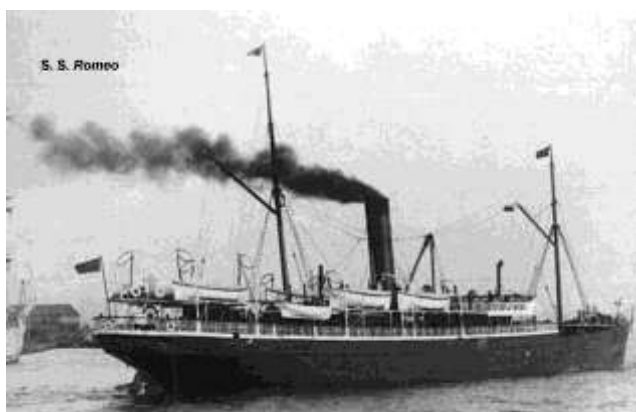
<sup>2</sup> *FamilySearch Research Wiki* (<http://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki>), "Swedish Emigration Databases and Indexes," rev. 12:02, 20 October 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Lazzerini, "Where Did The Swedes Go," p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> *FamilySearch Research Wiki* (<http://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki>), "Sweden Emigration and Immigration: The History of Emigration from Sweden," rev. 00:04, 1 December 2012.

<sup>5</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Malden City Ward 6, page 82A (stamped), sheet 16 (penned), enumeration district 846, dwelling 321, families 362 and 363, Oscar and Ernest Roskvist [sic]; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 6 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 662.

31 March, he boarded the S. S. *Romeo* bound for the city of Hull on the eastern coast of England, with an ultimate destination of Boston.<sup>6</sup> “The *Romeo* was mainly trafficking the route between Gothenburg and Hull, a voyage that normally would take 42 hours.”<sup>7</sup> Although no family members accompanied him, he traveled with others from his hometown as they crossed England, perhaps by train, to the city of Liverpool, where on 5 April 1893 they boarded the S. S. *Majestic*, bound for New York after a stop in Queenstown, Ireland for the taking on of more passengers.<sup>8</sup> It is unclear why Ernst traveled through New York on his way to Boston. He may have



been unable to find a ship sailing directly from England to Boston, or he may have been unable to purchase an affordable fare for such a voyage. Whatever his reason, he and his companions sailed aboard the *Majestic*.

The Atlantic crossing took a week, and the *Majestic* made port in New York City on 12 April 1893. On the ship's arrival manifest, Ernst's age was given as 18 and

his final destination as Chicago.<sup>9</sup> Several of his traveling companions, including those listed before and after him on the passenger manifest, were also listed as heading for Chicago. There is no indication of the identity of the informant, and it could be that it was an assumption that Chicago was Ernst's final destination as well. The difference in Ernst's age on the embarkation list and the arrival list could also be due to informant error, or could be carelessness on the part of the recording clerk.

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<sup>6</sup>Manifest, S. S. *Romeo*, 31 March 1893, outbound from Gothenburg, Sweden for Hull, England, stamped p. 345, line 12, ticket 3442, Ernst Rosqvist, age 16; “Gothenburg, Sweden, Passenger Lists, 1869-1951,” digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 January 2013), original data in Göteborgs Poliskammare, “EIX 1-143, 1869–1950,” *Landsarkivet i Göteborg* (Gothenburg Police Chambers, “EIX 1-143, 1869-1950,” *Regional Archives in Gothenburg*), Gothenburg, Sweden.

<sup>7</sup>Børge Solem and Trond Austheim, *Norway Heritage: Hands Across the Sea* (<http://www.norwayheritage.com> : accessed 2 March 2013), “S/S *Romeo*, Wilson Line.”

<sup>8</sup>Manifest, S. S. *Majestic*, 5 April 1893, outbound from Liverpool, England for New York, New York, United States, penned p. 6, line 23, ticket 11515, Ernest Rosgerst [*sic*], age 16; “UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960,” digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2013), original data in “Outwards Passenger Lists, BT27,” The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England.

<sup>9</sup>Manifest, S. S. *Majestic*, 12 April 1893, arriving New York, New York from Liverpool, England and Queenstown, Ireland, penned p. 12, line 51, number 616, Ernst Rosqvist [*sic*], age 18; “New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957,” digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 January 2013), original data in “Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897,” National Archives Microfilm Publication M237, roll 606, “Records of the U.S. Customs Service,” Record Group 36; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

After his processing through Ellis Island,<sup>10</sup> Ernst eventually made his way, probably by train, to the Boston area to live and work with his brother. He is listed as Ernest Rosquist with his brother Oscar V. Rosquist, boarding in a house at 22 Dodge Street in the Maplewood neighborhood of Malden, Middlesex County, Massachusetts in 1897. Both were employed tailors.<sup>11</sup> Thus began Ernst's life as an American. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1903,<sup>12</sup> raised a family, and lived in and around Boston until his death in 1968.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> "Passenger Record," digital images, *Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation* (<http://www.ellisland.org> : accessed 21 January 2013), manifest, S. S. *Majestic*, 12 April 1893, arriving New York, New York from Liverpool, England and Queenstown, Ireland, penned p. 12, line 51, number 616, Ernst Rosqvist, age 18

<sup>11</sup> *1897 Malden and Everett Directory of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Manufacturing Establishments, Societies, Business, Business Firms, Maps, State Census, Etc.* (Boston: W. A. Greenough & Co., 1897), 398, Ernest and Oscar V. Rosquist; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 4 January 2013); image #208 of 459.

<sup>12</sup> 1920 U. S. Census, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Brockton City, enumeration district (ED) 61, p. 3-A (penned); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 24 November 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 725.

<sup>13</sup> "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 January 2013), entry for Ernest Rosequist SSN 023-40-7920.



**Ernest Augustus Rosequist photograph, digital image ca. 2009, privately held by Bridget MacNevin-Pfeiffer, Kansas City, Missouri. MacNevin-Pfeiffer attached this image to her family tree (MacNevin Family Tree, owner bat1974) on Ancestry.com. Location and condition of original is not known.**

## Förteckning

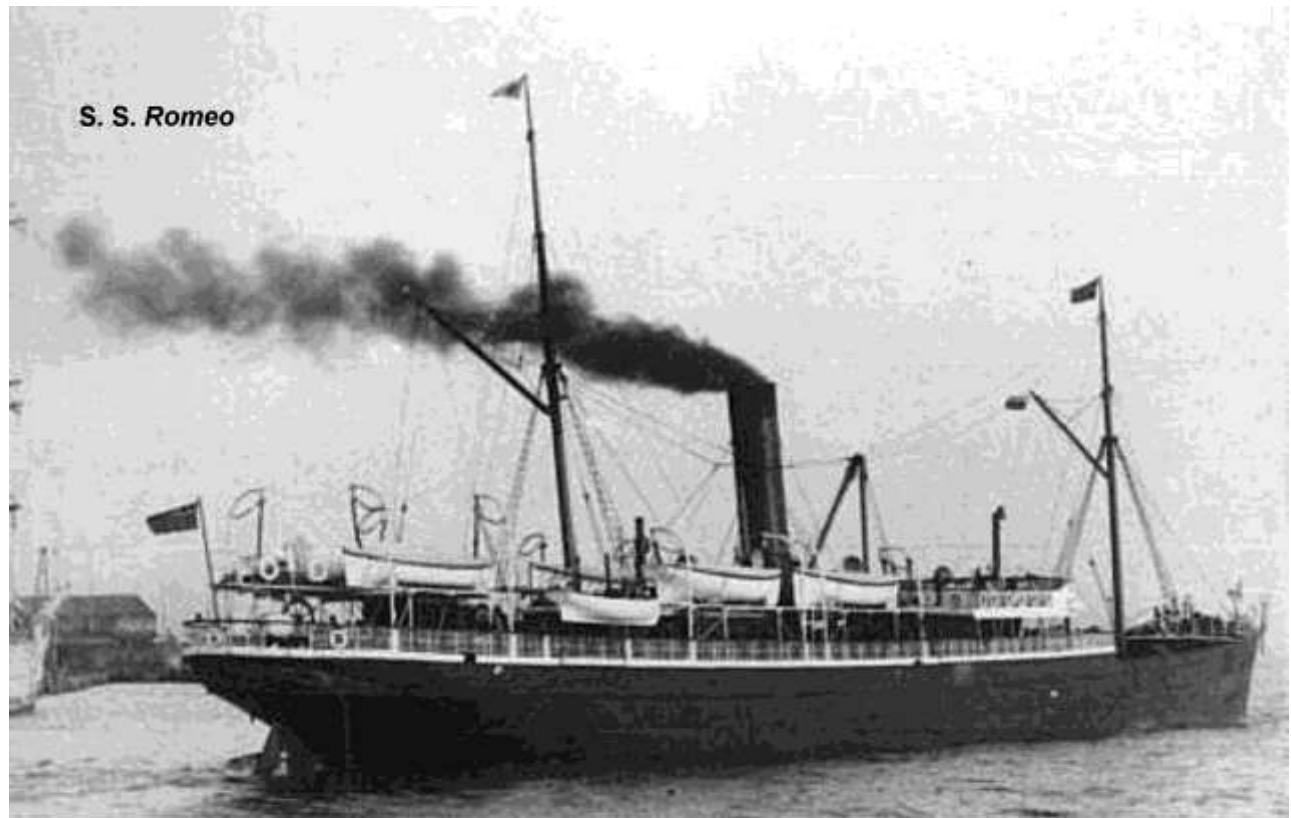
efter utredning, om af underlydande bekräftas med Angifvelset

den 31 Mars 1893 härifrån afgår till

"Romeo"  
Hull

Nummer 1893	Resandernas yrke och namn	Hemort till lin och socken.	Ålder	Sex	Öfver- levande	Bestämningsort.
3231	Otto Ohlson	Amerika	30	1	1	Chicago Ill
32	Alfred Larsson	Kustans distad	33	1	1	New York
33	August Karlsson	-	33	1	1	-
34	Karl Joh. Larsson	-	31	1	1	-
35	Nils Anderson	-	29	1	1	-
36	And. Johanson	Amerika	35	1	1	-
37	Oscar Anderson	Stronoh skoda	31	1	1	Madrid Iowa
38	And. P. Johanson	-	30	1	1	Dunlap
39	Nils Emil Åberg	-	24	1	1	Omaha Neb
40	Aug. Wihl Johanson	-	24	1	1	Chicago Ill
41	Joh. A. Jansson	-	22	1	1	New York
42	Ernst Rosqvist	-	16	1	1	Boston Mass
43	J. A. Haglund	Amerika	30	1	1	-
44	Joh. A. Wikstrand	Stronoh skoda	31	1	1	Chicago Ill
45	Carl Gust. Jansson	-	20	1	1	New York
46	Karl Olof Olson	Stopparty Sko	20	1	1	Radway Pa
47	Elias Emil Carlsson	Motala	20	1	1	New York
48	Carl S. Sällström	Linköping distad	20	1	1	Youngstown Ohio
49	Kristina Olson	Köfle härad	27	1	1	Des Moines Iowa
50	Gustaf Johnson	Amerika	27	1	1	New York
51	Hedwig Larsson	Örebro distad	15	1	1	-
52	Carl N. Eriksson	-	24	1	1	-
53	Anna Gustafson	-	20	1	1	-
54	Peter Jansson	Amerika	25	1	1	Chicago Ill
55	Emilie Eriksson	Nora	22	1	1	Christine N York
56	Karl A. Jansson	-	22	1	1	Yamstown Pa
57	Carl Erik Jansson	Örebro distad	21	1	1	Christine N York
58	Anna Peterson	Nora	25	1	1	-
59	Tea Eriksson	-	22	1	1	-
60	Olof Julius Eriksson	Örebro distad	22	1	1	Chicago Ill
61	Carl Lind	-	21	1	1	New York Pa
62	Anton Elmire	Amerika	24	1	1	Rock Island Ill
63	Helida Eliason	Stronoh skoda	23	1	1	Manneapolis Minn
64	Anna R. Nilson	-	21	1	1	Chicago Ill
65	Anton G. Peterson	-	17	1	1	Manneapolis Minn
66	Carl S. Peterson	-	20	1	1	-
67	A. B. Eliason	-	17	1	1	-
			dröft		29	537

Manifest, S. S. Romeo, 31 March 1893, outbound from Gothenburg, Sweden for Hull, England, stamped p. 345, line 12, ticket 3442, Ernst Rosqvist, age 16; "Gothenburg, Sweden, Passenger Lists, 1869-1951," digital images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 January 2013), original data in Göteborgs Poliskammare, "EIX 1-143, 1869-1950," Landsarkivet i Göteborg (Gothenburg Police Chambers, "EIX 1-143, 1869-1950," Regional Archives in Gothenburg), Gothenburg, Sweden.



**S. S. Romeo**

**S. S. Romeo, digital image, *Wrecksite* (<http://www.wrecksite.eu> : accessed 3 March 2013), photograph, posted 26 June 2008, privately held and copyrighted by Adrian Corkill and used with permission.**

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### SCHEDULE B.

### FORM OF PASSENGER LIST.

SHIP'S NAME.	MASTER'S NAME.	Tons per Register.	Aggregate number of impenetrable feet in the several compartments set apart for Passengers, other than Cabin Passengers.	Total number of Statute Adults, exclusive of Master, Crew, and Cabin Passengers, which the ship can legally carry.	WHERE BOUND.
<i>S. S. Majestic</i>	<i>H. Parsell</i>	<i>4240</i>	<i>18863</i>	<i>1095</i>	<i>New York</i>

I hereby Certify that the Provisions actually laden on board this Ship are sufficient, according to the requirements of the Passengers' Act, for *110-0* Statute Adults, for a voyage of *32* days.

Date *5<sup>th</sup> April* 189*3*

(Signature) *H. Parsell* Master.

#### Names and Descriptions of Passengers.

*N.B.*—Cabin Passengers must also be included in this Schedule, after the other Passengers. Sec. 6 of 20 and 27 Vic., Cap. 51.

Port of Embarkation.	Name of Passenger.	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger.	ENGLISH.								SCOTCH.								IRISH.								FOREIGNERS.								Port at which Passengers have embarked to Land.							
			Age of each Adult of 12 years and upwards.				Age of Children between 1 and 12 years.				Age of each Adult of 12 years and upwards.				Age of Children between 1 and 12 years.				Age of each Adult of 12 years and upwards.				Age of Children between 1 and 12 years.																			
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.																				
Liverpool.																																										New York

**Manifest, S. S. *Majestic*, 5 April 1893, outbound from Liverpool, England for New York, New York, United States, penned p. 3; "UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960," digital images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2013), original data in "Outwards Passenger Lists, BT27," The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England.**



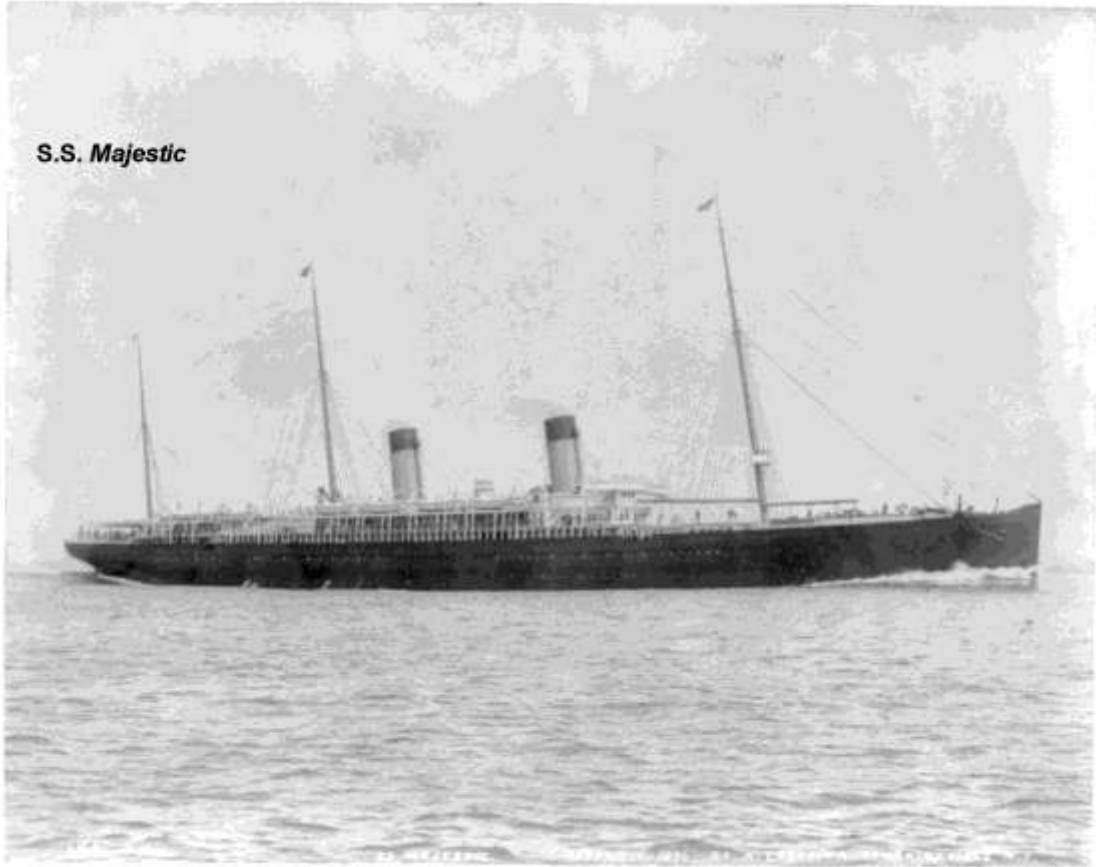


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No.	Name in Full	Age	Sex	Place of Birth	Profession	Country of Origin	Head of Family	Number of Family	Number of Children	Number of Children under 16	Number of Children over 16
566	Nils Anderson	26	M	Swede	Sand	N. Y.	Yes	2	1	1	1
	4 A. Anderson	33									
	5 B. A. Augustson	19									
	6 Carl S. Larsson	21									
570	Peter Larsson	25			London	None					
	1 A. G. Peterson	19									
	2 Ed. Swenson	20									
	3 A. L. Larsson	21			Staten	Chicago					
	4 Asb. Olson	18									
	5 E. O. Vikberg	18			Sweden						
	6 Kn. A. Larsson	26									
	7 Per Knut	21									
	8 Kn. Vikberg	22									
	9 E. G. Anderson	20			Sweden						
580	G. M. Billing	21			London						
	1 Otto John	40									
	2 Oscar Larsson	20									
	3 J. A. Olson	33									
	4 E. Larsson	24									
	5 E. G. Swenson	30			London						
	6 Carl Swenson	26									
	7 J. A. Swenson	22									
	8 E. A. Olson	24									
	9 Aug. Olson	19									
590	O. Hatt	19									
	1 A. R. Larsson	19			Sweden	Chicago					
	2 P. Anderson	20									
	3 E. J. Holmlund	20									
	4 J. T. Johanson	14									
	5 A. S. Larsson	21									
	6 Gustaf Johnson	24			Sweden						
	7 R. A. Larsson	25									
	8 J. Anderson	20									
	9 E. J. Swenson	21									
600	O. J. Swenson	22									
	1 Carl M. Swenson	22									
	2 E. A. Kasper	20									
	3 E. J. Swenson	20									
	4 J. J. Olfander	19									
	5 E. A. Gustafson	20									
	6 J. T. Gustafson	20									
	7 E. J. Swenson	25									
	8 W. J. Swenson	25									
	9 Carl O. Olson	20									
610	L. E. Larsson	20									
	1 Carl A. Mattstrom	26									
	2 Carl Johanson	25									
	3 E. M. Hagland	40									
	4 Otto Olson	20									
	5 J. T. Strand	21									
	6 Carl Strand	18									
	7 E. J. Larsson	20									

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**S.S. Majestic**



**Library of Congress, "Miscellaneous Items in High Demand," digital image, *Prints and Photographs Online Catalog* (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006687010/> : accessed 10 Mar 2013), digital ID cph 3a49668.**