

FIRST TO BEAR THE NAME OF AHLSTROM

The first in our family to bear the name of AHLSTROM were Hans and Ole Nilsson, brothers and sons of Nils Bengtsson and Boel Persson. We have no written record of their boyhood, doubtless they knew the woods and the streams of their Swedish homeland, and it is likely they were taken to church on the Sabbath and grew up much as any other boy of Saby, Sweden.

School training, whatever they had, would have been a scant schooling as we know it today; however, they grew up to be professionals of their trade. Hans was a miller and Ole a carpenter.

Hans died in Sweden at the age of 41. His wife was Karma Monsson. They had four children-Inger, Wilhilmina and Christina who are twins, and Nils Peter. Ole lived to bring his family to America; however, he was killed by a falling tree while working in the woods at Burlington, Iowa, to obtain provisions to continue their journey to Utah.

At the time they were boys in Sweden, when a male child was one year old, they were enrolled in the King's Army. When they were old enough to serve, they were put on active duty. In those days the children always took their father's given name, not his surname. At this time there were so many Nil's sons in their company, that Ole and Hans were given the name of Ahlstrom by their commanding officer as a means of identification. When they were released from the service, they had the privilege of keeping this name or taking their inherited name, they both chose to keep the AHLSTROM name.

AHL is the name of a berry that grows by the streams in Sweden and STROM is referred to as a stream; hence, the name AHLSTROM or berry by a stream.