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**Guide to  
Anna Gustafson Erickson Papers, 1911-1919**

**CH.MS.Coll.2**

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November 2012  
Last updated: December 2013

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## **ANNA MATILDA GUSTAFSON ERICKSON (1888-1935)**

Anna Matilda Gustafson Erickson worked for the Richard T. Crane, Jr. family at their summer home, Castle Hill, in Ipswich, Massachusetts, and at their home in Chicago at 1550 Lake Shore Drive, from March 1912 through August 1913.

Anna Matilda Gustafson was born on May 28, 1888 in Norberg, Sweden to Gustav Ersson and Helena Norling. Her father was married three times, and Anna had eight siblings, some of them half siblings. Anna made her first trip to the United States in 1906 as a visitor, and then formally immigrated to the U.S. in 1910. Her uncle, Peter Norling, had immigrated in 1893 and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. Her half-brother, Carl Axel Norling (1883-1951), had immigrated in 1903, and her sister, Clara Gustafson (1894-1983), arrived later, in 1913.

Anna worked from March 1907 to March 1909 for Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Osborn of Cleveland. She worked briefly for the Kneiler family in Akron from March 1909 until May. Then she returned to working for the Osborns until she went home to Sweden in June 1910, presumably to pack her belongings.

Anna arrived on Ellis Island on 20 October 1910 on the ship Hellig Olav, which sailed from Kristiana, Akershus, Norway. By February 1911, Anna was back in Cleveland, working as a cook, probably at a boarding house managed by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Y. Gower. By October, Anna had moved to Chicago and was working for Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Madlener.

Then from March 1912 through August 1913, Anna worked for Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Crane, Jr., living with them at 1550 Lakeshore Drive in Chicago and at their summer estate, Castle Hill, in Ipswich, Massachusetts. By October 1913, she was back in Cleveland, working for Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin P. Bole.

On 2 May 1914, in Cleveland, Anna married John Oscar Erickson, who was born in Dalarna, Sweden on February 29, 1888. They probably met through John's sister, Signe Sophia Erickson (1885-1976), who had also worked for the Osborn family in Cleveland. Anna and John's son, John Walter Erickson, was born in 1915, and their daughter, Florence Evelyn Erickson (probably named after Florence Higinbotham Crane), was born in 1918. Anna and John became naturalized citizens of the United States in 1919. Anna died on October 1, 1935 in Los Angeles. John died on November 9, 1971, also in Los Angeles.

Source: Joan Nations. For further details, see Folder 21.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS**

The Anna Gustafson Erickson Papers contain picture postcards written to her by friends and family, both in English and in Swedish. The postcards show scenes in New England (mainly Massachusetts) and the Midwest, along with a few postcards from other places, including Washington, DC; Sweden; Italy; and Canada. There is a large group of blank postcards of Ipswich, Massachusetts, that Anna probably collected while working for the Cranes from 1912 to 1913.

There are two letters of recommendation for Anna, one from Mrs. Albert Y. Gower in 1911, and the other from Mrs. Albert F. Madlener in 1912.

The collection also contains some photographs, including images of Anna's sister, Clara; Anna's daughter, Florence Evelyn Erickson; and Anna with her sister-in-law, Signe Erickson. The photographs include seven images of Castle Hill during the time that Anna worked there, from 1912 to 1913. These photographs show the Italian Renaissance Revival villa designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge before the current Stuart-style mansion designed by David Adler was built. The scenes show the house, steps, and wall, and the garage with chauffeurs' quarters. Five of the images show employees of the Crane family.

Also included are research materials about Anna Gustafson Erickson that were collected by her granddaughter, Joan Nations.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>Correspondence</b>			
Day, Laura			
I	I	“East Northfield, Mass., Hotel Northfield,” postcard	1912 Aug 15
Addressed to “Miss Anna Gustafson, Castle Hill, Ipswich, Mass., Care R.T. Crane.” Writes “hope you are well, Anna, and like the new position.”			
Erickson, Signe Sophia (1885-1976)			
I	2	“Bryggaregatan. Krylbo,” postcard	1913 Jul 26
Addressed to “Miss Anna Gustafson, Castle Hill, Ipswich, Mass. U.S.A.”			
Gower, Albert Y. (Mrs.), Cleveland			
I	3	Letter of recommendation for Anna Gustafson	1911 Oct 15
Gustafson, Clara (1894-1983)			
I	4	“Haymarket Square, Boston, Mass.,” postcard	[1912?] Mar 28
Madlener, Albert F. (Mrs.)			
I	5	Letter of recommendation for Anna Gustafson	1912 Feb 10
[---], Jane / Jennie			
I	6	“Ross Tavern, Ipswich, Mass. Built 1734. Known in the days of the stage Coach from Boston to Ipswich,” postcard from Jane	[1912 or 1913]
Regarding visit that Jane made to Ipswich with Anna.			
I	6	“The Bride and Bridesmaid,” postcard photograph from Jennie	1913 Dec 14
I	6	“[1550] Lake Shore Drive, S. of North RV. Chicago, Ill.,” postcard photograph from Jennie	1913 Dec 23

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>			
Unidentified senders (in English)			
I	7	“Yacht Day, Quotonset Beach, Westbrook, Conn.”	1912 Jun 24
I	7	“Mr. J. Ogden Armour’s Residence, Lake Forest, Ill.”	[1912 or 1913] Sep 18
I	7	“Roma. Piazza S. Pietro”	1913 May 16
I	7	“Perugia – Brufani’s Grand Hotel”	1913 May 23
Unidentified senders (in Swedish)			
I	8	“Drive Lone Tree Point, Green Lake, Wis.”	1912 Jun 6
I	8	“East Ward School, Holdrege, Neb.”	1912 Jun 10
I	8	“Briggs Block, Brownville, Maine”	1912 Jul 28
I	8	“Boston, Mass. Beacon Street Mall”	1912 Aug 3
I	8	“View in Public Garden, Boston, Mass.”	1912 Aug 16
I	8	“Everett Building, Akron, O.”	1912 Aug 20
I	8	“North Union Station, Boston, Mass.”	1912 Aug 25
I	8	“On Hancock St., Holdrege, Neb.”	1912 Sep 5
I	8	“A Sand-Dune at Plum Island, Ipswich, Mass.”	1912 Sep 5
I	8	“Cambridge, Mass. Going to the Harvard-Yale Game, showing the Stadium”	1912 Oct 4
I	8	“Federal Building, Superior, Wis.”	1912 Oct 10
I	8	“Green Lake Wis. No. 1”	1912 Nov 13
I	8	[Green Lake, Wis.]	1912 Nov 26
I	8	“The Rubber Tree, Palm Beach, Florida”	[1912 or 1913]
I	8	“Lone Tree Point, Green Lake, Wis. No. 14”	1913 Apr 24

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>			
Unidentified senders (in Swedish)			
I	8	“Thomas Circle, Washington, DC”	1913 May 18
I	8	“Lincoln Park, Cleveland, Ohio”	1913 Jun 5
I	8	[Mountain scene]	1913 Jul 14
I	8	“Castle – Put-in-Bay, O.”	1913 Aug 5
I	8	“Chapel at St. John’s Seminary, Brighton, Mass.”	1913 Aug 5
I	8	“Cenacle Convent, Brighton, Mass.”	1913 Aug 25
Unsigned			
I	9	“Venezia – Canal grande di rialto dalla Riva del vin,” postcard	1912 May 27
I	9	“Beautiful Washington, Mount Tacoma and Reflection Lake, Paradise Park”	1913 Apr 9
I	9	“Old Bridge of Forth”	1913 Apr 14
I	9	“Bathing Scene, English Bay, Vancouver, B.C.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	9	Two women outside, postcard photograph	[1912 or 1913]
Blank Postcards Regarding Ipswich, MA			
I	10	“Bryons Little Neck Hotel & Store”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Clams Dug at Little Neck, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Interior of Old Historical House, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Ipswich Mills, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Labor in Vain Road, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Little Neck, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Little Neck Pier, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>			
I	10	“Old Baker House, Built 1672, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Old Historical House, Built 1669, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“R.R. Station, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Surf Off Castle Hill, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Tyler Block, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	10	“Wreck of Add K. Dana, Castle Hill, Ipswich, Mass.”	[1912 or 1913]
<b>Photographs</b>			
Castle Hill (Ipswich, MA)			
I	11	View of house along driveway, looking northeast	[1912 or 1913]
I	12	View of southeast side of house, showing wall and steps  Labeled on back: “This is the house.”	[1912 or 1913]
I	13	Garage, with cars parked in doorways and two men standing in front	[1912 or 1913]
I	14	Erickson, Anna Gustafson (1888-1935) sitting in driver’s seat of car, with man standing on side of car	[1912 or 1913]
I	15	Two women and three men sitting in car next to building with lattice	[1912 or 1913]
I	16	Erickson, Anna Gustafson (1888-1935) sitting with two women and one man on stone steps on hill	[1912 or 1913]
I	17	Three women standing on steps, with view of wall	[1912 or 1913]
I	18	Erickson, Florence Evelyn (1918-1979)	[ca. 1919]

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Photographs</b>			
I	19	Erickson, Anna Gustafson (1888-1935), sitting, and Signe Sophia Erickson (1885-1976), standing, studio portrait	[ca. 1914]
I	20	Gustafson, Clara (1894-1983), studio portrait by B. Frieberg, Krylbo, [Dalarna, Sweden]	[191-]
<b>Research Materials Regarding Anna Gustafson Erickson</b>			
I	21	Biographical notes by Joan Nations	2012
I	21	Copy of photograph of Anna Gustafson Erickson (1888-1935), sitting, studio portrait, [1912]	2012
I	21	Copy of photograph of Anna Gustafson Erickson (1888-1935) and John Oscar Erickson (1888-1971), standing outside near trees, 1914	2012
I	21	Printout from 1910 United States Federal Census regarding Signe Sophia Erickson (1885-1976)	2012
I	21	Printout from Ellis Island database showing Anna Gustafson Erickson (1888-1935) as passenger on Hellig Olav	2012
I	21	Copy of postcard of Hellig Olav, [1912]	2012
I	21	Printout regarding Richard Teller Crane, Jr. and Jekyll Island Club Hotel	2012