

Honoring the Lives of Anna and Anton Olson

Anna and Anton Olson were pioneers who independently emigrated from Sweden as teenagers in 1902 (Anton) and 1907 (Anna). Anna came from Sunne, Värmland near the Norwegian border and Anton came from Boalt, Glimåkra parish, in Skåne (southern Sweden).

They met in Chicago and married in 1909. While in Chicago, Anton worked for 9 years at the large Pullman (railroad) Car factory and Anna cleaned houses and did sewing.



By 1911, Anna and Anton had saved enough money to leave Chicago and move to the Crystal City area in South Texas and help establish a new Swedish settlement with fourteen other Swedish families.

With a few acres of sandy farmland, a one room wood-framed house and a mule, the Olsons hoped to make a good living farming vegetables. Shortly after arriving at their new farm, their daughter, Edna Louise, was born on November 27, 1912.

Their plans and hopes for their farm near Crystal City were not realized due to a lack of rainfall in South Texas and the long distances to marketplaces. Most of the other Swedish settlers moved back north, but the Olson family moved to the Taylor area northeast of Austin, close to Anna's sister Elin and husband Nils Swanson.

Starting over, they were able to rent much better farmland from John Lindquist. On May 16, 1918, their son, Edgar Douglas, was born at the farm's renthouse outside of Taylor. Ed eventually married the love of his life, Ruth Frances Cleveland from Buda, Texas, on July 6, 1941.

In 1935, after saving enough from farming their rent property, Anna and Anton bought their own farm closer to Hutto, Texas. They successfully farmed their 178 acres until their passing in 1963 (Anna) and 1969 (Anton).

Anna and Anton had hoped someday to travel back to Sweden to visit their families, but never realized that dream.
