



Maggie Walz by
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Emigration from the Torne Valley to the U.S. appears to have started sometime in 1860, in which several interacting factors. Several years of

poor harvests and later a division of farms into larger units underperformed livelihoods to some.

Around the same time adopted in America the so-called "homestead act" what was that people were allowed to keep the soil if it was cultivated for 5 years

Many ended up in the mining districts of northern Michigan where copper was the mineral that was mined That contact with their surroundings kept alive understand when you read the article below comes from Haparandabladet vintage 1900 Help from the Americas to the beautiful "American newspapers contain information on how both the Swedes and Finns collect contributions to the alleviation of the suffering in Finland. According to us the conclusion of a message has been in Calumeth collected for the population south of Oulu over 3000 dollars and now is, at best, engaged in the collection of voluntary monetary relief to it, on either side of Torneälven resident population, which is also considered to be in want, like what is the case in various areas in the interior Finland From a to us from America arrived letters thus signed Maggie IN. Walz will we render the following:

The population from the Torne Valley was sitting in his office in Finnish Calumeth, there Tornedalsbor had gathered from the region round about. All were unanimous on the issue of collection of contributions to the

distress of their surroundings. The President emphasized including their desires and hopes, that in America the existing population from the beautiful might in action show sympathy and love for family and friends yonder in the distant vicinity of his home, the more so, he knowingly, such as the relevant collection never before among the emigrants made to homeland best. Acquaintance would also, to Tornedalsvägen residents in America were known to sacrifice, once the question was conducive of anything good.

Hereupon elected board, and became members elected the following Tornedalsbor, namely W.Laakso chairman, Isaac W.Frimodig, Secretary and Miss Maggie In Walz, the treasurer.

The collection would be done partly through lists and through anordande of bazaars, evening entertainments etc. Before they parted, someone suggested that collections should be among those present accommodated; proposal was adopted shortly, and suddenly raised 58 dollars.

(The letter contains the list of gifvarena, among others. Whom wear beautiful, and also in the Netherlands Tornio parish generally familiar names, such as Niemi, Saukkola, Pekkala, Huhta, Korpi, Lahti, Lantto, Tapani, Kaarle, Liisa Antti, Niska, Pyyny, Heikinpieti etc..

(Source Vigert Haapasaari)



Margareta Johanna Wälivainio was born December 2, 1861 in Finnish Kuivakangas as the illegitimate daughter of Helena Christina Isaksdotter Iivari born December 4, 1839

Helena Christina married in 1865 to Abraham Isaksson Myllymäki from Orasjärvi Övertorneå spouses became the new owners of the farm Wälivainio in Orjasjärvi same year

In marriage were born two further children including one son reached adulthood

John Abraham was born September 26, 1872 (to America June 11, 1888) Helena Christina was widowed in 1874 and remarried in 1880 to Pehr Nilsson Wälikoski by Karl Gustav's congregation who became the new master on Wälivainio this marriage were born the twins Laura Christina was born September 14, 1880 and Fia Katharina September 15, 1880, systrana emigrated to America July 4, 1896

Johanna Margareta (Greta) grew up in Orasjärvi and went in Montell's school in Övertorneå where she was considered an intelligent and energetic student

Greta Johanna emigrated to America only 19 years old May 8, 1881 and ends in the town of Calumet in Houghton County, Michigan

Once in America, she took the name Maggie Walz probably partly a shortening of Wälivainio while an easier name to pronounce

In addition to his first job in the store, she went in night school and learned English almost immediately and could thus help other fishing-language translation and in other business contexts

Greta Johanna then went to Valpariso College of the State of Indiana and got in after only one year of studies degree in economics

Back in Calumet formed Greta to breastfed with her friend Linda Malmberg a women's Suomen Nais Yhdistus in Calumet, Greta was a champion of women's rights in society and she is considered one of the foreground figures that women in America were given the right to vote The compound consisted of 42 members and meetings were held once a week

Margaret advocated that women would develop its own intelligence and that the status of women would come from her and not from her husband's She also advocated that women should refrain from visiting dance events and saloons and to enter into marriage based on love and that it was much better to never marry than to end up in a marriage with psychological suffering and poverty that could come from a marriage with an alcoholic husband

Maggie was chosen as a delegate from Calumet participate in the World Women's Temperance League, held in

Glasgow city, Scotland, and as a delegate in the World Missionary Congress, held at the same time, after it became the participation in womens suffrage convention in London and she tells me afterwards that because she is a strong supporter of equal rights for women so she did well on all of these congresses

Home in Calumet, she went ahead and founded his own newspaper Naisten Lehti where she was publisher and editor

Margie went on to build its own large property in downtown Calumet at Pine Steet Stock at a cost of \$ 15,000, the building on three levels architect designed by Charles K Shand, an architect who notably designed the opera house in Calumet, Calumet Theatre today

The house's lower floor was besides her newspaper even her clothing shop and premises leased to other business owners, the upper floors were the offices and apartments that were rented

All this enterprise made Maggie a wealthy woman

Maggie comes back to Övertorneå first time in 1887 and refer people to the copper mines of Calumet, those who want to go there get the ticket paid for and it paid off later in America, she also paid for tickets to women who wanted to create a new future in America

14 young women from the beautiful went with Maggie to America the following year

In total, it is believed that at least 500 people from the beautiful got in this way the possibility to emigrate to America She is said to have made five trips home to Övertorneå (I can not confirm), a wealthy woman was it who came to visit, and here in Övertorneå socialized in the best circles with the nice people, the vicar, the folk high school director, etc.

In America, so she organized also in 1900 a hemvänderresa to emigrants who previously emigrated and want to live their last days at home in beautiful, the trip went over the World Exhibition in Paris!

It was during that trip that Haparandabladet wrote condescending about her and she was called a greedy woman who attracts poor people to destruction in America

She answers Haparanda sheet by mail and inform them about the initiative she started in Calumet to raise money to relieve the distress of the poor beautiful, this letter is published in Haparandabladet (see the article at the beginning)

Back in America became Maggie besides their own business federal land agent and she formed a Tornedal colony on Drommond Island which was named after her, namely Kreetan (Greta), where she established a second home and was also where responsible for society's post office Foundations of society would consist of kooperativ capitalism and rest on Christian values and the people flocked there from other states, they were given 160 acres of land (80 acres) which became even private property if they operated it for 5 years There were about 300 Pimples and Tornedalians who accepted the offer and moved to Kreetan

Maggie left the colony after about ten years because she felt that it has become too socialist, there were also several landowners who left the colony because they felt that the soil was too poor for agriculture, there are today only a few houses the remains of the place where Maggie had her verksamhethet and society is today called Johnsville

Maggie remained in Calumet until his death in 1927 in spite of her assiduous work became her financial situation weaker because of her generous help

to all who needed support she called ``
Jane Addams of Northern Michigan ``
who helped their fellow countrymen to
get into the American society
Maggie ways to control and set ended
up with that not everyone liked her and
it led to some conflicts, there were
those who thought she tricked people
into moving to Kreetans worthless
farmland and it was said that even
though she was wearing a dress so
she behaved like a man and that she
sounded like a captain of a ship who
gave the order, and there was that
business of her property was involved
in fires without natural causes
Finally, one must admit that Maggie
was a peerless woman who got much
accomplished during his life and that
we Tornedalians can stretch ourselves
and be proud of that little Övertorneå
fostered such a woman

Roland Juntti