

CARL MODIG 1844 – 1909

Born in Daretorp died in Hernösand
Sweden

Self Biographical Notes

Translation to English

by Hans Forsslund 2012



Carl Modig Härnösand

The undersigned was born on December 12, 1844 in Daretorp parish of Skaraborg County. My father's name is Lars Anders Modig, born 1805 died 1855. My Mother Maria Stina Svendsdotter Blomkvist, born 1815 died in 1893 *. Raised in parents' home along 10 siblings, 4 of them died at a young age, the oldest of my brothers, John, died in America at age of 30 **. Alfred the founder in Sundsvall, Anna, Tilda and Gustava married and are living in Tidaholm and Nyland. At my father's death in 1855, when I was 11 years old, I had to quit school and take place as shepherd to herd 50 sheep. In 1856 I came to a shoemaker to learn to make shoes. The following year, 1857, I moved to a tailor to learn this profession.

In 1858 I was confirmed in Agnetorp parish, now Tidaholm. That same year I obtained employment at the State Railway Construction in Vretstorp near Hallsberg. In 1862 I moved to Stockholm to seek further education in the tailoring profession. Finished that training in 1865.

Did military training this year. The same year in August, I traveled to Copenhagen to search of employment and advancement in the profession, but I must return in lack of work. After that I got a job in Skåne. In the absence of other employments, I was working there in agriculture for 16 shillings a day plus food and shelter. Since I wanted to continue training in the tailoring profession, I therefore aimed to Germany and France. I tried to work my way into money for the trip in Copenhagen and Roskilde, but the difficulties for existence became too strong for me and I returned to Sweden.

Lived for a time in Kristinehamn during 1866. Visited Stockholm during the Stockholm Exhibition. Continued up the main railway line north and made my living

as a railway building worker. In 1867 I went to Sundsvall where I became acquainted with Magdalena Sjödin with whom I the same year got engaged.

Had employment as a tailor apprentice both in Sundsvall and Söderhamn. To see my future relatives I traveled to Härnösand without intending to stay there. My future father in law was tailor master with whom I could work. Married November 15 1868

In 1869 I started my own activity as a tailor master, and my first localization was at the wife Öhman's yard on Main Street, now district of the City Hall no 3. I started under small conditions, but needed almost immediate to increase in working areas and then moved 1871 over to the ironmonger Sundström's house, now the lot No. 23 on Main Street. Here it also became too crowded, so I in 1872 bought the house where the business now is located, namely Långgatan 2. The business enlarged with drapery, furrier, tricot knitting, etc. The commerce would subsequently only cover yarn and fabric trade. Tailoring ceased. Fabrics and notions were however included in the trading operations, and my store supplied tailors and "home tailors" with these types of goods.

In 1881 my wife died after having given birth to six children. Hence the five died in infancy. In 1882, I entered a new marriage with Vendla Maria Henrietta Amnéus, clergyman's daughter from Nätra. In 1884 I bought "Hvilan" a country place with agriculture farm.

I sold wholesale yarns and fabrics to retailers and developed a wholesale trade. In 1897 we employed our own traveling sales men and my son Mauritz was included as a partner. Already in 1903 we separated, however, and Mauritz took over the retail business. Of course, I dealt with wholesale. In 1901, my son Paul began in the business and he now provides me assistance.

Municipal mandates: Let me mention, 11 years as City Councillor, 15 years in poverty Health Board, 10 years in Nybergska Foundation. Among other thing initiator to that a professional fire department was introduced in Härnösand.

I've always been interested in religion. Good friend of the lecturer P.W. Waldenström and interested in his preaching. Member of the Swedish Mission Covenant. I was on of the founders in 1879 to Southern Ångermanlands Missionary Society and was its chairman for 11 years. Likewise, I was one of the founders of Härnösand Free Parish and served some years as a parish manager. Have built the Lutheran prayer-house, Imanuel Church and more than 20 residential buildings in Härnösand.

Note: This Biographical is from the book "Släkten Modigs Anor" written by John Lagerholm 1944 on behalf of Paul Modig. When Carl wrote his biographical notes is not stated but must have been after 1903 at about 60 years of age.

*) Carl is wrong about his mother's death. She died January 17, 1897 in Tidaholm.

**) Carl confuses John (Anders in USA) with his brother Sven August (Blomqvist) who emigrated 1869 (29 years). I have not been able to find any information about his fate in the U.S. John died at the aged of 71 in Ogema WI, USA, and has given rise to a large family there.

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