

## Appendix : The Women of Charles XIV John.

Bernadotte's first known affair was with the glove seamstress Cathérine Joséphe Lamour (1771-1808) while he was in Grenoble. On August 4, 1789, the couple had a daughter, who died after a month.<sup>1</sup> (Since Jean had already left the city on October 22, 1788, it seems unlikely that he was the child's father.) In 1796, during his German service in Koblenz, Jean was reported to also have courted the merchant daughters Pottgiesser.<sup>2</sup> Nothing came out of it and in 1798 he married Desirée Clary (1777-1860).

1811-1823 Jean & Desirée lived in different countries. Jean had a relationship with the lady-in-waiting Mariana Koskull (1785-1841) and possibly one or two more women.

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### Mariana Koskull (1785-1841)

Charles John is supposed 1811-1823 to have been in a relationship - the last in a long line<sup>3</sup> - with Queen Charlotte's lady-in-waiting, Mariana Koskull (1785-1841). There are five sources: Rune Stensson's Brahe biography<sup>4</sup> - mostly based on information from Queen Charlotte's Diary. Magnus Crusenstolpe romanticized biography.<sup>5</sup> The memoirs of Charles John's adjutant Johan Otto Nauckhoff.<sup>6</sup> The memoirs of Charles XIII's adjutant-general Charles de Suremain:

Among the young ladies of the court, he seemed to pay the most attention to Miss v. X., more distinguished for her wit than for her beauty. She was at the same time a kind of favourite of the king, whom she amused with her good spirits and who showered her with gifts; ... I had been her protector, when she arrived at the court, and not yet had made any impression; from this time she preserved the habit of giving me her trust, which is why she did not hide her connection with the prince, and I could have known all its details, if I had been curious enough. ...

The tribute the prince [in the summer of 1811] devoted to this young woman was not long a secret. The Queen spoke to me about it, and I answered her in the same way that I answered the king [that I knew nothing]. More than one woman envied this conquest, which Miss X ... maintained more out of calculation and vanity than of love. She was neither mean nor intriguing. The prince, for his part, had too much experience with such things and moreover feared to expose himself to ridicule, to fall in love and become dependent on her; He found the relationship a comfortable distraction, a handy way to get to know the secrets of the court. If he had to have a mistress, this was as good as any other. This was the general opinion, but I do not know if Miss X ... always lived up to this.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wrangel 1889.

<sup>2</sup> Höjer 1939: s. 60.

<sup>3</sup> de Suremain 1902: s. 252.

<sup>4</sup> Stensson 1986: ss. 34-38.

<sup>5</sup> Crusenstolpe 1861: ss. 485-486; Drottning Hedvig Elisabeth Charlotta 1942: juni 1815; Elgklou 1978: s. 25.

<sup>6</sup> Nauckhoff 1844: ss. 113-115.

<sup>7</sup> de Suremain 1902: s. 204,213,221-222.

According to Queen Charlotte Jean appreciated Koskull's company and gave her privileges, for example lent her jewellery to wear. As a semi-official mistress, she took liberties. The relationship, as it now was, seems to have lasted until 1821 when she was replaced by divorced governor's wife Anna Flach (1794-1860; b. Aminoff). The relationship with Flach came to an abrupt end when Desirée arrived in 1823. She was allowed to settle in Åmål.

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Crusenstolpe's depiction of Jean's trysts with Koskull were very detailed. For example, he depicts a meeting in the chaise longue as follows: "Her breath was jagged; his burning. The smell of her rosebud mouth intoxicating. He leaned over this teasing chalice..."<sup>8</sup> There is also a later family rumour that Jean & Mariana had a child Maria Elisabeth "Malm" (1817-1894; m. Cederström 1842, m. Kjellberg 1854).<sup>9</sup> The parentage has not been verified, however.

Jean's Swedish circle of acquaintances was limited. It included the Excellency Count Magnus Fredrik Brahe (1756-1826) and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Aurore Wilhelmina Koskull (1778-1852). Jean's favourite Magnus Brahe d.y. (1790-1844; Marshal of the Realm (1831-1844) was the son of Magnus Fredrik in his 1<sup>st</sup> marriage. Mariana was Aurore's cousin. After the death of Charles XIII and Queen Charlotte, she remained at the castle. In 1823, she accompanied Crown Prince Oscar (I)'s bride-to-be to Sweden, was appointed Desirée's lady-in-waiting, but retired. Presumably Desirée was moderately delighted to socialize with Charles John's former mistress & court spy. "Now she lives in silence, resting on her laurels."<sup>10</sup>

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### Katarina Forsberg

Jean is also said to have a son with lady-in-waiting (or laundress) Katarina Forsberg. The son is supposed to have been born on July 22, 1812, in Uppsala, was named Karl Johan Forsberg and became a shoemaker in Nykarleby Finland where he died in 1894. This has not been verified but is said to be widely believed in Finland.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Crusenstolpe 1881: s. 42.

<sup>9</sup> Hassler 1981; Ulfstätter-Troell 1996: ss. 445-446.

<sup>10</sup> Ahnfelt 1880: del 1, ss. 70-71.

<sup>11</sup> Aspegren 1979: s. 27.

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