

Svend Aage Petersen alias Peter Peterson – the Animator

I will begin the story with my mothers grandfather (Peder Pedersen). He was a hired waiter, tailor and needle maker. He had a military career and he was running his house very strict.

Figure 1. Peder Pedersen.

My grandmother (Mothers mother, her name was Mathilde) were one of a set of twins, the twins were the last two out of eight children.

Mathilde was very beautiful he nickname was “Babe”. In the age of 22 she got pregnant, and I think because of her fathers (Peder) attitude to getting a child without been married, the birth was kept as a secret. Her son Svend Aage Pedersen was born 30th September 1903. The son was taken into the family without any claim to the father of the child.



Figure 2. Mathilde, my grandmother.

My grandmother (Mathilde) got pregnant again without being married, this time she got a girl on 29th July 1908, she was named Rigmor. But this time the father later married Mathilde and nine month later my mother was born on 27th July 1909, she got the name Ingrid. My mother was 6 years younger than Svend Aage. In the family Svend Aage was always known as a cousin of my mother. Svend Aage was brought up by his grandparents. And from a cousin, who is now an old lady and living in Australia; I have been told; Svend Aage had a hard life. Which lead to that he got paper to be a sailor. He got hire on a ship, and in one or another way he one day turns up in USA.

My mother often talked about her lost cousin, and she told about all the letters he has written to her. How he have been a stuntman in Hollywood. He has been stuntman for Johnny Weissmuller, the real Tarzan, and how he was engaged to a singer, she original came from Mexico, and her name was Minerva. She warned Svend Aage about Mexico and told him it was a dangerous place to go to.

Figure 3. Svend Aage, only known picture of him as child.

Around December 1930 he wrote his last letter to my mother; where he told that he was going to Mexico to look for a lost friend and his goldmine. He had gathered 6 guys with guns; who were going with him. They were heading for The Yaqui Mountain. After that letter my mother never heard from him again she asked Salvation Army (my brother remember it as being Red Cross) to look for him without any luck. That was end of story at the time when I grew up.

When my grandmother died it was revealed that Svend Aage was a half brother of my mother.

I have made a homepage with my private family search work, and through that I one day got in contact with other descendants of Peder Pedersen; who have found me through my homepage. For the first time I got pictures of my grandmothers father (Peder) and it was also from those people I got the picture of Svend Aage. That was actually very nice. Then one day one of those distant relatives told she had found a re-entry application from 1939 for Svend Aage. I did not trust that, and asked if I could see a copy. She sent me a copy. As soon as I saw the data I knew this was Svend Aage. Since I got it I have been so excited and I did not know what to do with myself. And I wished many time I still have had my mother.

I asked myself; is there any possibility to find out what happed to Svend Aage after he came back to California? Did he get married? Did he get any children? Do I have relatives in USA I do not know of? When or where did he die?

Is there any possibilities for an answer to some of those questions?

I think, my friend who found the re-entry application may have found it on ancestry.com, I know she is a member of that.

I have found my uncles dead on familysearch.org. He died 24th February 1962.



I know he got married in 1948 with Janet Easton Farrell. She died just 3 month after they married. My friend who found the re-entry form has also found their tombstones at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

Another friend of mine has found Svend Aage in the census from 1940 in Los Angeles.

I also know he chance name from Svend Aage Pedersen to Peter Peterson 9th February 1945.

He became very famous if you search the Internet with the name “Peter Peterson Animator”, you will find:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pete_Peterson_\(animator\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pete_Peterson_(animator))

Try: Mighty Joe Young Pete Peterson and you will get: <http://www.roguecinema.com/pete-peterson-stop-motions-forgotten-man-by-philip-smolen.html>

And you can even find him on Facebook.



Svend Aage working with animation of Mighty Joe Young.

The stone after Svend Aage's wife



The stone after Svend Aage Petersen alias Peter Peterson