1872  Born August 6, Hässjö Parish, Västernorrland, Sweden.

1892  Entered Swedish military service.

1893  Released from the Swedish military to immigrate to the United States.

1894  Settled in Merrill, Wisconsin; worked in local sawmill.

1895  Studied photography as an apprentice at the Jones Photography Studio in Merrill, Wisconsin.

1900  Granted American citizenship.

1902  Purchased Fred Hanson Photography Studio in Cokato.

1905  Bought a corner lot at Fourth Street and Broadway Ave.; moved Hanson building there and added the skylight.

1913  Sold studio to George Swedburg and entered automobile business briefly.

1914  Visited father and two brothers in Sweden; returned to Minnesota upon the outbreak of World War I; rented the J. J. Sundquist Studio in Dassel.

1918  Bought former studio in Cokato from George Swedburg.

1918  Original skylight damaged by hail, present skylight constructed. Original backdrop covered and a new one painted by an itinerant artisan.

1927  Married Esther Hanson of Dassel in Iron Mountain, Michigan.

1935  Theodore (Ted), their only child, was born. Added the adjoining apartment where the family lived.
1950s  Esther ran a small gift shop out of front half of the studio.
1953  Akerlund practiced trade part-time almost until his death.
1954  Gust died January 21, Cokato, age 81; Esther lived in the apartment until 1983.
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1965  Photographer Dwight Barnes rents the Akerlund Studio for his photography business until 1985.
1976  Studio entered on the National Register of Historic Places.
1984  Studio donated by family of Gust Akerlund for restoration.
1985  Esther Akerlund died, August 24, Cokato Manor.
1986  Grand opening of the restored studio.
1992  Studio damaged by tornado, building shifted on foundation by over three inches.
2006  Digitization of the Akerlund negative collection began. It was completed in 2016.
2008  Foundation replaced on the front portion of the structure.
2020  Studio deemed a nationally significant National Register site alongside approval of substantial updates to the Studio’s original National Register form.