

12-1-2015

Bits & Pieces

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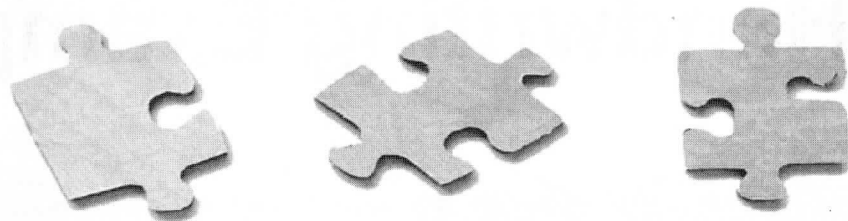
Recommended Citation

(2015) "Bits & Pieces," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 35 : No. 4 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol35/iss4/8>

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Bits & Pieces



Åland Seamen's registries digitized

The Åland Islands are Swedish-speaking islands in the middle of the Baltic Sea, and are a semi-independent part of Finland. Seafaring was one of the major occupations of the inhabitants, and many seamen did not return to Åland.

However, the seamen's house records (*Sjömanshusarkiv*) for Åland were missing. Now, we have recently added the records for the Mariehamn and the Vårdö seamen's house. You can find information about the Åland seamen and ships in the various records such as the signing-on ledgers (*påmönstrings-*), signing-off ledgers (*avmönstrings-*) and seamen rolls (*sjömansrullor*). Most of the photographed material originates from the end of the 1800's along with records for the first half of the 1900's.

(*Arkiv Digital blog 20160128*)

Nisswastämman – Scandinavian Folk Music Festival

Nisswa is an Ojibwa word and, of course, the name of one of the prettiest little hamlets in northern Minnesota. *Stämman* is a Swedish word for a "bunch of people playing music together." The conjunction of the two words is almost poetic!

It is a gathering of fiddlers, *nyckelharpers*, *hardingfele* players, accordionists, guitarists, vocalists, (you get the idea), dancers, and general aficionados of Scandinavian folk music here in the "new world."

The dates for this year are 10-11 June.

See link on page 30!

Lars Lerin's watercolors

Dark, brooding, and romantic, the watercolors of Swedish art star Lars Lerin have an unsettling, febrile beauty in this memorable new show at the American Swedish Institute.

Books, chairs, birds, trees, apartments, ships, paintings, and even a film get the Lerin treatment in this ambitious survey, his first U.S. show in 30 years. Widely exhibited in Scandinavia as well as France and Germany, Lerin has also published more than 50 books and is a popular television personality in his homeland.

The exhibition ends on 22 May 2016.



Medieval scholar dies



Hans Gillingstam, Ph.D., of Solna, Sweden, recently passed away at age 90. He was the most knowledgeable man on the Swedish nobility during the middle ages, and published more than 1700 shorter and longer articles about them. His thesis was about the Oxenstierna and Vasa families (1952), and is still regarded as *the* last word on those families.

He was a kind and helpful man, even to ignorant newbies in genealogy.

New consulate general in New York

The Swedish government decided in October to re-open the Swedish Consulate General in New York, which was closed in 2006 by the previous government for financial reasons.

The first Consulate General of Sweden had been opened in 1834, so the closure was not popular. After 2006 the Consulate General has still been working through the voluntary efforts of Mr. David E. R. Dangoor.

Sweden's new Consulate General in New York was inaugurated 1 Feb. 2016 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg and Sweden's new Consul General *Leif Pagrotsky*. Also in attendance were representatives of the U.S. Department of State and the City of New York.

The focus of the Consulate General in New York will be to promote the image of the innovative, creative, and competitive Sweden of today. Trade and investment promotion at the Consulate General is expected to largely focus on conveying knowledge and offering a network and platform for promotion activities for Swedish companies.

(*www.government.se 20160201*)

SVAR is working on the Swedish Census for 1930

The SVAR branch of the Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) is now working on digitizing the population statistics for the year 1930. It has been available in the form of pictures previously, but will now be in database format. Only Gotland is completed, but the other counties will follow.

On the SVAR site you can now also find births, marriages, and deaths for 1945. (subscription necessary).