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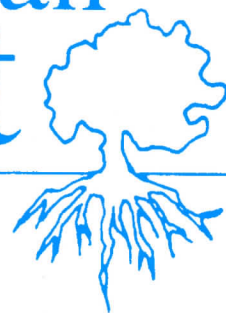
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Swedish American Genealogist

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biography, genealogy, and personal history*



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Publisher:

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center
Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61201-2296
Telephone: 309-794-7204. Fax: 309-794-7443
E-mail: sag@augustana.edu
Web address: <http://www.augustana.edu/swenson/>

Editor: Elisabeth Thorsell

Hästkövägen 45, 177 39 Järfälla, Sweden
E-mail: sag@etgenealogy.se

Editorial Committee:

H. Arnold Barton, Tyresö, Sweden
Dag Blanck, Stockholm, Sweden
Dennis L. Johnson, Pottstown, PA
Ronald J. Johnson, Madison, WI
Christopher Olsson, Stockton Springs, ME
Priscilla Jönsson Sorknes, Minneapolis, MN

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Cover picture:

Picture from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper 1906.
(Library of Congress).

Miss Bremer visits the Swedish settlement at Pine Lake, WI

Famous Swedish writer travels in America 1849-1851

BY FREDRIKA BREMER

TRANSLATED BY MARY HOWITT 1853

Introduction

Fredrika Bremer was born in Åbo, Finland, in 1801 in a well-to-do family. In 1804 the Bremer family moved to Stockholm, and in 1805 bought the manor of Årsta, in Österhaninge parish southeast of Stockholm, which was the family home for decades. Here she lived with her siblings and was educated at home. She stayed unmarried, and in the 1820s started a career as a writer. Her first published work was *Teckningar utur hvardagslifvet* (Sketches from everyday life) in 1828, then she published more novels and became very popular in Sweden. In the 1840s her works were also translated into other languages, including English. Politically, she was a liberal who felt sympathy for social issues and for the working class movement, and, of course, for women's rights.

In 1849 she left for a study tour of the U.S. and stayed until 1851, travelling to many parts of the country, always eager to learn about the questions of the time: abolition, social problems, and women's right to education, and much more. As a celebrity she was also able to meet with Bronson Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and other famous persons.

After her return to Sweden she published her American experiences in *The Homes of the New World: Impressions of America* in 1853. She continued to work for better conditions for people and was one of the founders of a school for deaf people, and also worked for the right of women to vote, etc. Fredrika Bremer died at Årsta in 1865.

Elisabeth Thorsell

The Pine Lake settlement

Pine Lake Settlement (New Upsala) in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, was founded in 1841 by Gustaf Unonius and friends, but by 1849 most of them had left for other places, as the farming land was not good, and the Swedes were scholars, not farmers. Mr. Unonius entered the Episcopalian church, and later in 1849, he founded the Swedish Episcopal Church of St. Ansgarius in Chicago, Illinois. In 1858 he returned to Sweden, hoping to get a post in the Church of Sweden, but that failed and he became a customs officer, and died in 1902.

Fredrika comes to Pine Lake

On the morning of the 29th of September 1850 I arrived at this, the first Swedish colony of the West. Herr Lange¹ drove me there in a little carriage, along a road which was anything but good, through a solitary region, a distance of somewhat above twenty miles from Milwaukee. It was on a Sunday morning, a beautiful sunshiny morning.

There remain still of the little Swedish colony of Pine Lake about half a dozen families, who live as farmers in the neighborhood. It is lake scenery, and as lovely and romantic as any may be imagined – regular Swedish lake scenery; and one can understand how those first Swedish emigrants were enchanted, so that, without first examining the



Fredrika Bremer in the 1840s.

quality of the soil, they determined to found here a New Sweden, and to build a New Upsala! I spent the forenoon in visiting the various Swedish families. Nearly all live in log-houses, and seem to be in somewhat low circumstances. The most prosperous seemed to be that of the smith; he, I fancy, had been a smith in Sweden, and had built himself a pretty frame house in the forest; he was a really good fellow, and had a nice young Norwegian for his wife: also a Mr. Bergman,² who had been a gentleman in Sweden, but who was here a clever, hard-working peasant farmer; had some acres of good land, which he cultivated ably, and was getting on well. He was of a remarkably cheerful, good-tempered, and vigorous Swedish temperament; he had fine cattle, which he himself attended to, and a good harvest of maize, which now stood cut in the field to dry in the sun. He had enlarged his log house by a little frame

house which he had built up to it; and in the log house he had the very prettiest, kindest, most charming young Swedish wife,³ with cheeks as fresh as red roses, such as one seldom sees in America, and that spite of her having a four-weeks' old little boy, her first child, and having, with the assistance only of her young sister, to do all the work of the house herself. It was a joyous and happy home, a good Swedish home, in the midst of an American wilderness. And the dinner which I had there was, with all its simplicity, exquisitely good, better than many a one which I have eaten in the great and magnificent hotels of America. We were ten Swedes at dinner; most of the number young men, one of whom was betrothed to the handsome young sister of the mistress of the house. Good milk, excellent bread and butter, the most savory waterfowl and delicious tarts, cordial hospitality, cheerfulness, and good feeling, crowning the board; and, besides all the rest, that beautiful Swedish language spoken by every one – these altogether made that meal a regular festival to me.

Our young and handsome hostess attended to the table, sometimes went out into the kitchen – the adjoining room – to look after the cooking, or to attend to her little baby in the cradle, which cried aloud for its dinner, then came back again to us, and still the roses bloomed freshly on her cheeks, and still the kind smile was on her lips, spite of an anxious look in those clear blue eyes. Both sisters were blonde, with round countenances, blue eyes, light hair, fair complexions, regular white teeth, lovely and slender figures – some true Swedes, especially the young wife, a lovely specimen of the young Swedish woman.

In the afternoon she took me by a little path through the wood, down to the wonderfully beautiful Pine Lake, on the banks of which, but deeper still in the woods, her home was situated, and near to which the other Swedish houses also stood. On our way I asked her about her life, and thus came to hear, but without the least complaint on her part, of its

many difficulties. The difficulty of obtaining the help of servants, male and female, is one of the inconveniences and difficulties which the colonists of the West have to encounter. They must either pay for labor at an enormously high rate – and often it is not to be had on any terms – or they must do without it; and if their own powers of labor fail, either through sickness or any other misfortune, then is want the inevitable consequence. There is need of much affection and firm reliance for any one, under such circumstances, to venture on settling down here; but these both lived in the heart of the young Swede, and her eyes sparkled as she spoke of her husband, his kind, good heart, and his vigor both of mind and body. While we were standing beside that quiet lake, garlanded by thick branching trees and underwood, splendid with the coloring of autumn, we heard the husband's voice as he drove the oxen down to water, and soon we saw their huge horns pushing a way through the thick foliage. Our cheerful, well-bred host was now a brisk ox-driver.

Next visit

After this we betook ourselves to the oldest house of the colony on Pine Lake, where lived Mrs. Bergvall's mother, the Widow Petterson,⁴ and who expected us to coffee; and thither we drove, Mr. Lange and I, in our little open carriage, the other Swedish families driving there also, but with oxen. A young Swede, who had married a fat, elderly American widow, was of the company. I saw them going on through the wood, she sitting with her parasol on the carriage, while her young husband drove the oxen. One of Mrs. Petterson's sons, a young man of about twenty, rode before us as a guide through the labyrinths of the wood. Thus we arrived at a log house, resembling one of the peasant cottages around Årsta, standing upon a green hill, commanding the most beautiful view over the lake, which was here seen in nearly its whole extent.

Mrs. Petterson, a large woman, who in her youth must have been

handsome, came out to receive me, bent double and supported on a crutch-stick, but her open countenance beaming with kindness. She is not yet fifty, but is aged and broken down before her time by severe labor and trouble. I saw in her a true type of the Swedish woman of the middle class, with that overflowing heart which finds vent in tears, in kind looks and words, and who does not measure by any niggard rule either what the hand gives or the tongue speaks; a regularly magnificent, warm-hearted gossip, who loves to entertain her friends with good cheer as much as she loves her life. She regaled us with the most delicious coffee, and flavored that warm beverage with warm, kind looks, and words.

Her husband began here as a farmer, but neither he nor his wife were accustomed to hard work; their land was poor (with the exception of Bergvall's farm, all the land around Pine Lake appears to be of a poor quality), they could not get help, and they were without the conveniences of life; they had a large family, which kept increasing; they endured incredible hardships. Mrs. Petterson, while suckling her children, was compelled to do the most laborious work; bent double with rheumatism, she was often obliged to wash for the whole family on her knees. Her husband was at last obliged to give up farming; he then took to shoemaking, and at this trade succeeded in making a livelihood for himself and his family. He had now been dead a few years, and his widow was preparing to leave the little house and garden, which she could no longer look after, and remove to her son-in-law, Bergvall's. She felt herself worn out, old, and finished before her time, as she said; but still did not regret having come to America, because, as regarded her children and their future, she saw a new world opened to them, richer and happier than that which the mother country could have offered them, and she would have been glad to have purchased this future for them at the sacrifice of her own life; she would be well contented to go

down to the grave, even before her time, and there to have done with her crutch. Their children, four sons and four daughters – the two youngest born here, and still children – were all of them agreeable, and some of them remarkably handsome, in particular the two youngest boys – Knut and Sten. Sten rowed me in a little boat along the shores of the charming lake; he was a beautiful, slender youth of seventeen; and as he sat there in his white shirt-sleeves, with his blue silk waistcoat, with his clear, dark-blue eyes, and a pure, good expression in that lovely, fresh, youthful countenance, he was the perfect idea of a shepherd in some beautiful idyll. The sisters, when we were alone, praised Knut and Sten as sincerely kind and good lads, who would do anything for their sisters and their home.

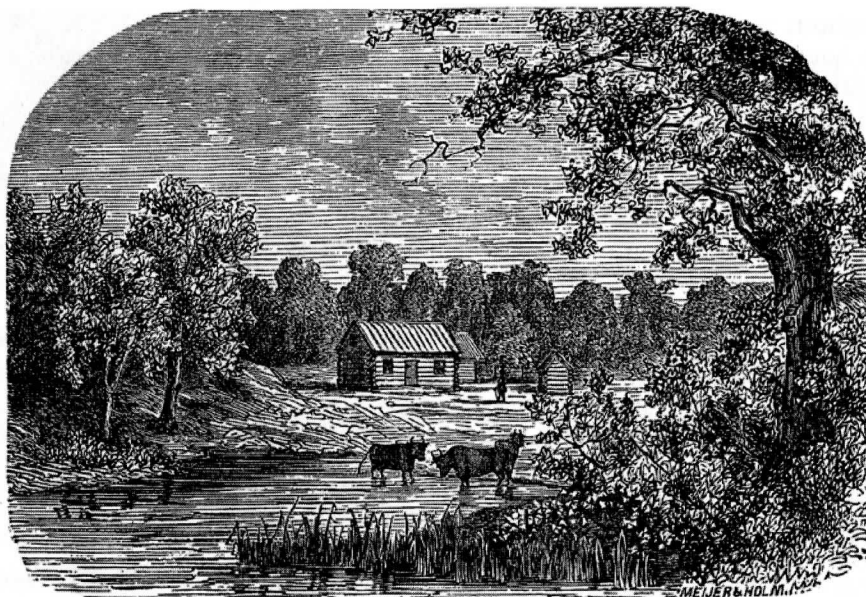
The site of New Upsala

We rowed along the wooded lake-shores, which, brilliant in their autumnal coloring, were reflected in the mirror-like waters. And here, upon a lofty promontory covered with splendid masses of wood, was New Upsala to stand – such was the intention of Unonius and his friends when they first came to this wild region, and were enchanted with its beauty. Ah! that wild district will not maintain Upsala's sons. I saw the desolate houses where he, Unonius, and von Schneidau⁵ struggled in vain to live.

But the place itself was delightful and lovely – characterized by a Swedish beauty, for dark pines towered up among the trees, and the wood grew down to the very edge of the lake, as is the case in our Scandinavian lakes, where the Neck sits in the moonlight, and plays upon the harp, and sings beneath the overarching verdure. The sun set; but even here, again, all wore a Northern aspect; it was cold, and without that splendid glow of coloring which is so general in American sunsets.

An evening party

Returning to the log house, we spent



*A cabin by the Pine Lake shore.
(From Swedes in Wisconsin by Frederick Hale [2002].)*

the evening – altogether one-and-twenty Swedes – in games, songs, and dancing, exactly as if in Sweden. I had, during the whole time of my journey to the West, been conning over in my mind a speech which I would make to my countrymen in the West; I thought how I would bear to them a salutation from their mother country, and exhort them to create a new Sweden in that new land! I thought that I would remind them of all that the Old Country had of great and beautiful, in memory, in thought, in manners and customs; I wished to awaken in their souls the inspiration of a New Scandinavia. I had often myself been deeply affected by the thoughts and the words which I intended to make use of. But now, when I was at the very place where I longed to be, and thought about my speech, I could not make it. Nor did I make it at all. I felt myself happy in being with my countrymen, happy to find them so agreeable and so Swedish still in the midst of a foreign land. But I felt more disposed for merriment than solemnity. I therefore, instead of making my speech, read to the company that little story by Hans Christian Andersen called “The Pine-tree,” and then incited my countrymen to sing Swedish songs. Neither were those beautiful Swedish voices lost here in the New World, and I was both affected and im-

pressed with a deep solemnity when the men, led by Bergvall, sang, with their fresh, clear voices,

“Up, Swedes! for king and fatherland,” and after that many other old national songs. Swedish hospitality, cheerfulness, and song live here as vigorously as ever they did in the Old Country.

The old lady, Petterson, had got ready a capital entertainment; incomparably excellent coffee, and tea especially; good venison, fruit, tarts, and many good things, all as nicely and as delicately set out as if on a prince's table. The young sons of the house waited upon us. At home, in Sweden, it would have been the daughters. All were cordial and joyous. When the meal was over we had again songs, and after that dancing. Mrs. Petterson joined in every song with a strong and clear, but somewhat shrill voice, which she said was “so not by art, but by nature, since the beginning of the world!” The good old lady would have joined us too, in the dances and the polkas, if she had not been prevented by her rheumatic lameness. I asked the respectable smith to be my partner, and we two led the *Nigar Polka*, which carried along with it young and old, and electrified all, so that the young gentlemen sprang up aloft, and the fat American lady tumbled down upon a bench overpowered by

laughter; we danced, finally, round the house.

After that we went in the beautiful evening down to the shore of the lake, and the star-song of Tegnér was sung beneath the bright, starry heavens. Somewhat later, when we were about to separate, I asked Mrs. Petterson to sing a Swedish evening hymn, and we all joined in as she sang,

"Now all the earth repositeth."

We then parted with cordial shaking of hands and mutual good wishes, and all and each returned to their homes in the star-bright night.

Staying the night

I was to remain at Mrs. Petterson's, but not without some uneasiness on my part as to the prospect of rest; for, however sumptuous had been the entertainment of the evening, yet still the state of the house testified of the greatest lack of the common conveniences of life; and I had to sleep in the sister's bed with Mrs. Petterson, and six children and grandchildren lay in the adjoining room, which was the kitchen. Among these was young Mrs. Bergvall, with her little baby and her little stepson; for, when she was about to return home with Herr Lange, his horses became frightened by the pitch darkness of the night and would not go on, and she herself was becoming frightened too, would not venture with her little children. Bergvall, therefore, set off alone through the forest, and I heard his wife calling after him: "Dear Bergvall, mind and milk the white cow well again tonight." (N.B.—It is the men in this country who milk the cows, as well as attend to all kinds of out-of-door business.) He replied to her with a cheerful "Yes." And Mrs. Bergvall and her mother prayed me to excuse there being so many of them in the house that night, etc. — me, the stranger, and who was the cause of this throng! It was I who ought to have asked for excuse; and I would rather have slept outside the house than not have appeared satisfied and pleased with every thing within it. And when Mrs. Petterson had lain



Mrs. Pettersson, Charlotta Magdalena Berg (1803-187?). (From Swedes in Wisconsin, by Frederick Hale [2002].)

down, she said, "Ah, Miss Bremer, how much more people can bear than can be believed possible!" I sighed, and said, "Yes, indeed!" gave up the search for an extinguisher, which could not be found, put out the candle, therefore, with a piece of paper, and crept into my portion of the bed, where, though my sleep was nothing to speak of, I yet rested comfortably. I was glad the next morning to feel well, and to rise with the sun, which, however, shone somewhat dimly through the mist above the beautiful lake. It was a cool, moist morning; but these warmhearted people, the warm and good coffee, and the hospitable entertainment, warmed both soul and body.

Leaving Pine Lake

It was with heartfelt emotion and gratitude that I, after breakfast, took leave of my Swedish friends. Mrs. Petterson would have given me the only valuable which she now possessed — a great, big gold ring; but I could not consent to it. How richly had she gifted me already! We parted, not without tears. That amiable young mother, her cheeks blooming like wild roses, accompanied me through the wood, walking beside the carriage silently and kindly, and silently we parted with a cordial pressure of the hand and a glance. That lovely young Swede was the most beautiful flower of that American wilderness. She will beautify and ennoble it.

Heartfelt kindness and hospitality, seriousness and mirth in pure family life — these characteristics of Swedish life, where it is good — should be transplanted into the Western wilderness by the Swedish colonists, as they are in this instance. That day among the Swedes by Pine Lake; that splendid old lady; those handsome, warmhearted men; those lovely, modest, and kind young women; that affectionate domestic life; that rich hospitality in poor cottagers — all are to me a pledge of it. The Swedes must continue to be Swedes, even in the New World; and their national life and temperament, their dances and games, their star-songs and hymns, must give to the western land a new element of life and beauty. They must continue to be such a people in this country that earnestness and mirth may prosper among them, and that they may be pious and joyful at the same time, as well on Sundays as on all other days. And they must learn from the American people that regularity and perseverance, that systematizing in life, in which they are yet deficient. A new Scandinavia shall one day bloom in the valley of the Mississippi in the great assembly of peoples there, with men and women, games, and songs, and dances, with days as gay and as innocent as this day at Pine Lake!

Advice from Pine Lake

During this day I put some questions to all the Swedes whom I met regarding the circumstances and the prospects of the Swedes in this new country, as compared with those of the old, and their answers were very nearly similar, and might be comprised in the following:

"If we were to work as hard in Sweden as we do here, we should be as well off there, and often better.

"None who are not accustomed to hard, agricultural labor ought to become farmers in this country.

"No one who is in any other way well off in his native land ought to come hither, unless, having a large family, he may do so on account of his children; because children have

a better prospect here for their future than at home. They are admitted into schools for nothing; receive good education, and easily have an opportunity of maintaining themselves.

"But the old, who are not accustomed to hard labor, and the absence of all conveniences of life, can not long resist the effects of the climate, sickness, and other hardships.

"Young unmarried people may come hither advantageously, if they will begin by taking service with others. As servants in American families they will be well-fed and clothed, and have good wages, so that they may soon lay by a good deal. For young and healthy people it is not difficult to get on well here; but they must be prepared to work really hard, and in the beginning to suffer from the climate and from the diseases prevalent in this country.

"The Norwegians get on better in a general way than the Swedes, because they apply themselves more to work and housewifery, and think less of amusement than we do. They also emigrate in larger companies, and thus can help one another in their work and settling down."

The same evening that I spent at Mrs. Petterson's, I saw a peasant from Norrland, who had come with his son to look at her little farm, having some thought of purchasing it. He had lately come hither from Sweden, but merely, as he said, to look about him. He was, however, so well pleased with what he saw, that he was going back to fetch his wife, his children, and his movables, and they return here to settle. The man was one of the most beautiful specimens of the Swedish peasant, tall, strong-limbed, with fine, regular features, large, dark blue eyes, his hair parted above his forehead, and falling straight down both sides of his face – a strong, honest, good, and noble countenance, such as it does one good to look upon. The son was quite young, but promised to resemble his father in manly beauty. It grieved me to think that such men should leave Sweden. Yet the new Sweden will be all the better for them.

With that ascending September sun, Mr. Lange and I advanced along the winding paths of the wood till we reached the great high road, where we were to meet the diligence by which I was to proceed to Madison, while Mr. Lange returned to Milwaukee. Many incomparably lovely lakes, with romantic shores, are scattered through this district, and human habitations are springing up along them daily. I heard the names of some of these lakes – Silver Lake, Nobbmaddin Lake, as well as Lake Naschota, a most beautiful lake, on the borders of which I awaited the diligence. Here stood a beautiful newly-built country house, where the grounds were beginning to be laid out. Openings had been made here and there in the thick wild forest, to give fine views of that romantic lake.

The diligence came. It was full of gentlemen; but they made room. I squeezed myself in among the strangers, and, supported by both hands upon my umbrella, as by a stick, I was shaken, or rather hurled, unmercifully hither and thither upon the new-born roads of Wisconsin, which are no roads at all, but a succession of hills, and holes, and water-pools, in which first one wheel sank and then the other, while the opposite one stood high up in the air. Sometimes the carriage came to a sudden stand-still, half overturned in a hole, and it was some time before it could be dragged out again, only to be thrown into the same position on the other side. To me that mode of traveling seemed really incredible, nor could I comprehend how, at that rate, we should ever get along at all. Sometimes we drove for a considerable distance in the water, so deep that I expected to see the whole equipage either swim or sink altogether. And when we reached dry land, it was only to take the most extraordinary leaps over stocks and stones. They comforted me by telling me that the diligence was not in the habit of being upset very often! And, to my astonishment, I really did arrive at Watertown without being overturned, but was not able to proceed without a night's rest.

Endnotes:

- 1) Oscar Lange, a business man, born in Sweden in 1812, and residing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Married to Catharine, born in Ireland around 1822. (U.S. Federal Census 1850, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Milwaukee Ward 3.)
- 2) Probably identical with George Edvard Bergvall, born 8 April 1806 in Göteborg Domkyrkoparish, as no suitable Bergman has been found in SPANY. Mr. Bergwall (#672 in SPANY) was a customs official, and after been involved in a scrutiny of his work, he left Sweden in 1842, and settled in Pine Lake. After having been widowed in 1846 he married again. He and his family are listed in the 1850 U.S. Federal Census under the name of Bargwell. (U.S. Federal Census 1850, Wisconsin, Waukesha County, Merton).
- 3) She was Ebba Maria Eleonora Pettersson, (#749 in SPANY) and was born 10 Sep. 1828 in Mölltorp (Vägö.). She came in 1843 to Pine Lake with her mother and siblings. After being widowed in 1846, she soon remarried to Geoge Edvard Bergwall. According to the Census the Bergwalls had a daughter Agnes age 4, and a son Canute (Knut) aged 2 in 1850.
- 4) The Widow Pettersson was born Charlotta Magdalena Berg, 16 June 1803 in Söderhamn (Häls.) (#744 in SPANY). She was married to Knut Hallström, a Swedish civil servant with the postal services, who had fled Sweden in 1842 after being suspected of falsifying his accounts, and altered his name to Bengt Pettersson. In SPANY he is recorded as being a shoemaker in Wisconsin, and died in Pine Lake in 1845. Widow Pettersson died between 1870 and 1880. She was two years younger than Fredrika, who still calls her "Old lady Pettersson."
- 5) Polycarpus von Schneidau, (# 689 in SPANY, born 29 Feb. 1812 in Stockholm, immigrated in 1842 with his wife, who was a Jewess, and not proper for an officer's wife. They settled in Pine Lake, but moved in 1844 to Chicago, where he became a successful daguerrotypist. He died there in 1859.

SPANY = *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820–1850*, by Nils William Olsson and Erik Wikén (1995).

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One of the released prisoners in the SVAR prison records.



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News from the Swenson Center

The 2013 Olsson scholar and his experiences at the Swenson Center

BY JURI REBKOVITZ

After having finished my degree in Scandinavian Studies and American Cultural History, I decided to work on a PhD thesis that would allow me to combine the knowledge gained during my studies with another subject that has always been interesting to me: migration. While immigration to America is a topic that has been dealt with in an extensive amount of literature, there is a clear lack of works with a comparative approach. Therefore, I chose to write about the interaction between the largest immigrant groups in 19th century Wisconsin and Minnesota, two states known up to this day for their German and Scandinavian heritage respectively. My study with the working title "German and Scandinavian Immigration to Minnesota and Wisconsin during the Second Half of the 19th Century – Contacts, Conflicts, and Cooperation" aims at drawing a detailed picture of the relationship between these two immigrant groups by giving an in-depth illustration of their mutual perception, stereotyping, and behavior patterns. At the same time, backgrounds, extents, and consequences of occurring conflicts and cooperations in three different thematic fields – politics, religion, and social and cultural relations – will be examined.

In order to bring my PhD dissertation to a successful end with satisfying results, extensive research in several archives is necessary. Looking through various collections online, I found the Swenson Center to own many potentially useful primary sources, thus I was glad to receive the *Dagmar and Nils William Olsson Visiting Scholar Award*. During the five weeks spent in Rock Island, I analyzed Swedish-American news-

papers from Minnesota and Wisconsin as well as several personal papers written in the relevant time period, hoping to find Swedish immigrants' views on Germans and comments on contemporary matters, events, and characters. In the end, I collected much more interesting material than expected.

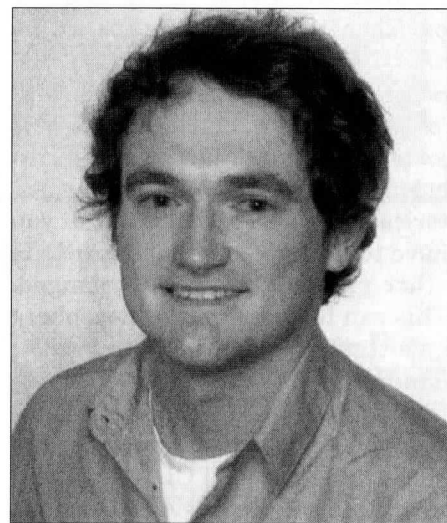
Looking at politics, notably Carl Schurz ("*den utmärkte statsmannen*") was a popular character also among Swedes. Although a majority of the German immigrant population was affiliated with the Democratic Party, this connection is referred to on only one occasion ("*tyskens parti*"). Furthermore, Swedish newspapers would not hesitate to give recommendations to vote for a German Republican candidate. While a candidate's German ethnic background is usually mentioned, it is in most cases not used as a crucial argument against him.

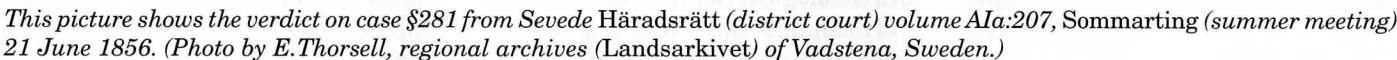
In the field of religion, close social and theological ties between German and Scandinavian Lutherans existed. Swedish newspapers regularly covered events in German Lutheran life and church leaders like Erik Norelius at times seem to have played a significant role for Germans. In the face of the widespread anti-Catholicism during the treated period of time, it is not surprising to find strong anti-Catholic opinions also among the Swedes, but it is peculiar that whenever a connection between the Catholic faith and one particular nationality is made, it is always with the Irish and not with German Catholics.

As for the third area of interest, German culture and language had a high reputation among many of the Swedes. German-American singing societies are seen as something worth imitating and one newspaper sug-

gests readers with good German skills to see a German theater performance. Particularly older sources mention joint celebrations, for example on the 4th of July. In the rare cases in which explicit criticism of Germans can be found, they are accused of a distinct cultural chauvinism that goes hand-in-hand with constant complaints about American society. The stereotype of the merry, beer-drinking German prevails in Swedish sources, too. Last but not least, one newspaper considers it necessary to justify itself for the among Germans apparently popular stereotype of the "*dumme Schweden*" (*stupid Swedes*).

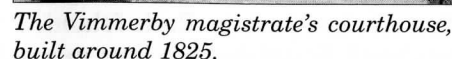
In conclusion, my stay at the Swenson Center was very fruitful and I was able to make some important contributions to my PhD thesis. I was also fortunate to be at Augustana College for the "Indians and Immigrants: Entangled Histories" conference, hence I would finally like to thank the entire Swenson Center staff not only for their excellent help during my research stay, but also for organizing and inviting me to that interesting event.





The population in 1882 was 15,498 individuals. As a whole, the *härad* is mostly a forested and hilly area, with several rivers and many lakes. There are many industries based on the forests: sawmills and such. There is also an iron works at Storebro, a glass factory at Venzelholm, and some smaller paper mills. There is one railroad from Vimmerby to Hultsfred, and from there to Västervik.

Transcription and translation on
p. 22.



In Memoriam: Glen Earl Brolander

The Swenson Center is mourning the loss of one of the most important persons in its history, Mr. Glen Earl Brolander, who passed away on March 15, 2014, in Stillwater, Minnesota, at the age of 84.

It was Glen's vision for a center for Swedish immigration research that brought about the creation of the Swenson Center at Augustana. He enlisted the financial support of Birger and Lyal Swenson and in September of 1981 the Center opened its doors on the third floor of what is now Denkmann Hall on the Augustana campus. Glen was the first chairman of the Center's advisory committee, stepping down in 2004. During these years, he worked tirelessly to advance the Center in so many ways, and it is no exaggeration to say that Glen has significantly shaped the Center.

Glen's personal passion for Swedish activities led to many dedicated roles of leadership. He also served as chairman of the board of the Swedish Council of America in Minneapolis, was president of the Swedish American Historical Society in Chicago and the Augustana Chapter of the American Scandinavian Foundation, and led the Western Illinois com-

mittees for the visits of the king and queen of Sweden in 1976 and 1988.

He had a long and distinguished career as an administrator at Augustana College, retiring in 1992 as vice president for financial affairs, after serving the college for 39 years.

Brolander was awarded the Order of the Polar Star (*Nordstjärneorden*) in 1979, he was named Swedish-American of the Year in 1998 by the Vasa Order of America, he received the Great Achievement Award from Swedish Council of America in 2012, and in 2013 Glen was awarded the Carl Sandburg Medal by the Swedish-American Historical Society.

Glen is survived by his wife of 54 years, Elaine Nestander Brolander, son Randall (Donna), daughter Sher-yl (David Johnson), five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

For The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center
Dag Blanck
Jill Seaholm



The digital collection of the Swedish-American Historical Society (SAHS)

In the April Newsletter of the SAHS there was information about the society's digitization of some old books on the pioneering Swedes.

It is a little complicated to find the books, but go to the society's website (*link on p. 30*), then click on *Research*, next on

SAHS archives, and then on *Digital collections*, and finally down on this page to *Swedish-American Historical Book Collection*. On the left side there is a button *Browse*, click now on that and you will see the books in question.

The collection so far consists of Gustaf

Unonius' *Memoirs*, Rosalie Roos' *Travels in America 1851-1855*, *Guide to Swedish-American Archival and Manuscript Sources in the United States* (1983), and a couple of other valuable, but hard to find, books.

A journey from Sweden to America

"The children have so much better chance in this new world". Part 1.

BY MATILDA PERSDOTTER OLSON

SUBMITTED BY JOHN R. OLSON

In the spring of 1887, when she was only eight years old, my paternal great-grandmother Matilda Persdotter Olson (1878-1972) and her family immigrated from the village of Södra Vallösa in Sjörup parish, (Skån.) Sweden, to America. They traveled via Copenhagen, Glasgow, and across the Atlantic Ocean to New York's Castle Garden immigration center. They would settle in east-central Nebraska where Matilda would spend the rest of her life until her death in 1972. Based on information from the memoir she composed from 1950 to 1962, her parents' motives for leaving Sweden were largely economic: their farm in Sweden was too small and the soil too poor to support her growing family. An additional motive was the earlier immigration of Matilda's uncle (her mother's brother) from Sweden to America; his letters home to Sweden urged the family to come to America as there were much better chances in the new world.

Not surprisingly, the trip in 1887 from Sweden to America and their new home in Nebraska left a strong impression on the young Matilda. In her later years, she was foresighted enough to leave a written record of that time and the journey to America that she experienced. Beginning on New Year's Day in 1950, when Matilda was 71 years of age, she began to "write down some of my life's history" in a spiral notebook. She would continue to use that notebook over the next 12 years to periodically

record her recollections and the events in her life. Matilda died in 1972 at the age of 93. Through her writings, she has provided her descendants with a detailed description of how her family lived in Sweden: how her parents made a living, what they ate, and how, when they butchered the hog at Christmas, "everything was saved except the squeal." She provided vivid details of the journey from Malmö, Sweden, to Copenhagen and Glasgow, and from there across the Atlantic Ocean to New York. She continues her memoir with the family's somewhat difficult journey by train west from New York to Nebraska.

There is a temptation to try to paraphrase what Matilda wrote about her journey in 1887 in order to better communicate what transpired. I do not feel, however, that I can improve on what Matilda wrote. Her childhood experiences in Sweden and

during the trip to America, as described in the first 20 pages of her 85-page handwritten memoir, were no doubt experienced by thousands of other adults and children leaving Sweden during the late 19th century. But through her writings, Matilda has provided a detailed running narrative of those experiences that can be shared. Thus, other than providing a few explanatory notes and a few selected edits, the following is Matilda Olson's story of her family leaving Sweden and starting a new life in America.

Life in Sweden 1878-1887

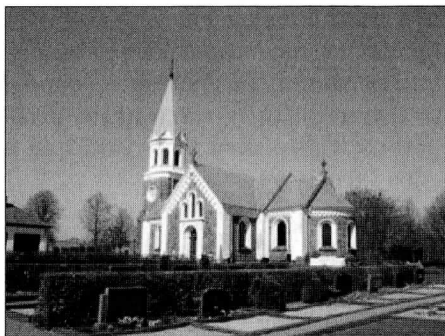
I have often said that I would write down some of my life's history but have never gotten around to do it, so today this first of Jan. 1950 I thought I would make a try.

I was born in Sjörup (Skån.) 19 Oct

Per Olsson #10

Personernas Namn, stånd, embete, yrke och näringslag (hockstuga-, inhyses- och fattighjörn), nationalitet (om främmande), lyten (avg- sista, blöda, döftumma).		Födelse-		Äktenskap		Flyttat		Inflyttad- år och månad	Bod
År.	Mån. och dag.	Ort, (Söcken i Län, Stad)	Gift.	Enk- ling eller Enka.	Kopier.	från (Söcken i Län, Stad eller pag. i Husförbör- Boken).	År, månad och dag.		
1									
2	1878	10/10							
3	1879	10/10							
4	1880	10/10							
5	1881	10/10							

The Per Olsson family in Södra Vallösa #10 in Sjörup. (Sjörup AI:16, p. 126. Picture from SVAR / Digitala forskarsalen).



Sjörup new church was built in 1882 in Vallösa village when the medieval church became too small for the congregation.

1878. My parents, Per (Peter) Olsson and Elna Mårtensdotter,¹ were poor people living on a little farm of about 7 acres. My grandfather² was living with them as it was his home which he sold to my father when he and my mother married. The soil was thin and stony and not easy to make the crops grow and yield very much. So father had to seek employment outside the home part of the year. He worked at a project where they were making a fill and wheeling the dirt with wheelbarrows. It was all hand labor and very hard to go on planking way out in the lake and dumping their loads. Later father bought 3 acres of ground and also one more horse – he had one already – and then besides the farming, he did hauling of gravel for the new church which was being built in the village³ all together of stone and cement.

School and Christmas memories

At six years of age I was sent to school in the village with perhaps 50 or 60 others to learn to read and write. During this time one more was added to the household. My brother Johan (John) was born May 2, 1885. It was pretty hard for my parents to make ends meet. The taxes were high and the interest on the land they had bought had to be paid. All they could raise was rye, oats, and barley. No corn in that country. They planted black peas to harvest for fodder for the cows. We had two. We did not have much grain to sell. Most of the rye had to be taken to the mill and ground into flour for bread. We very

seldom got any wheat bread, only at Christmas. We bought one pig and raised it for meat during the year, feeding him on boiled white carrots, and a little ground meal till he was big enough to butcher at Christmas time.

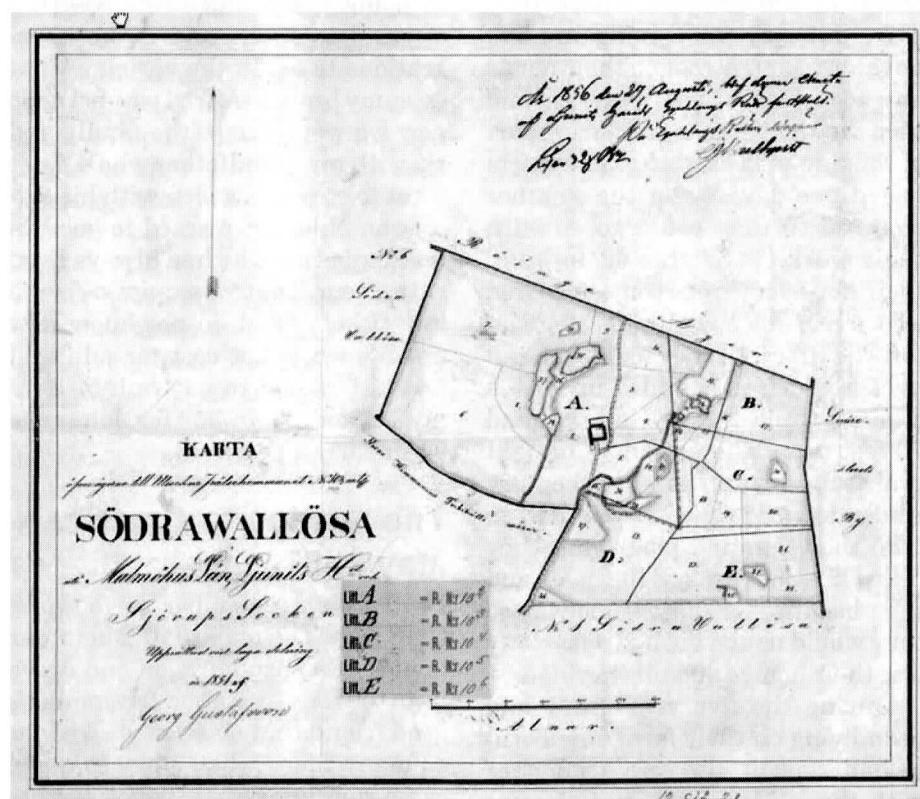
A week or two before Christmas, we always butchered the pig, and everything was saved except the squeal. We saved the blood and stirred it up with barley flour and made sausage, stuffed it into the cleaned entrails, and cooked them; that was supposed to last for several days. Sometimes we fried the slices if it got too dry. The sides were salted and also the hams and then smoked. Ribs and backbone were used for soup. The head was made into head cheese that was a Christmas delicacy. We had that for breakfast with butter [?] for the holidays. Also, the liver and lungs were ground up for sausage and stuffed in casings; even the feet were scraped and cleaned, cooked, and pickled in salt and vinegar with spices.⁴

My, how happy we were when we had a little meat to eat at holiday

time, but we could not have a very big piece at any time because that meat was to last a whole year. Most of the time during the year we had salt herring and potatoes boiled with the skins on and a little bread for breakfast and a little milk. We usually had soup for dinner, either pea soup or potato soup, sometimes cabbage soup, a very small piece of meat, and bread. For supper we had mush and milk or else a bit of syrup.

My mother's brother, Bengt Mårtensson,⁵ had immigrated to America in 1875 and had stopped in Iowa with a friend⁶ he knew from Sweden. They tried to get work, but the people did not care to hire green Swedes; did not think they knew how to farm, so they had to start and work for no pay at first to show them they were willing to try, then they were paid; I think it was around \$15.00 a month. But even at that, my Uncle made little money. He corresponded with my mother right along and later asked for my Aunt Tilda⁷ to come over to America and bring another girl with her.

My father had a sister Hannah and she was interested to go along,



Map of Södra Vallösa #10 in Sjörup, drawn in 1851 after the redistribution of land (Laga skifte). The Olssons lived on farm E.

so they went to America in the year of 1879.⁸ Later in the same year, my Uncle Ben (Bengt) and Aunt Hannah were married.⁹ My Aunt Tilda had worked out as a maid for some time until she married Peter Johnson on 23 Feb. 1881.¹⁰

Hannah and Ben's farming life

My uncle Ben and Aunt Hannah stayed in Iowa 2 years and rented a farm, then in 1882 they came to Nebraska and bought 160 acres of land west of Genoa, and built a small granary in the year before they came out to stay. In the spring they loaded all their property and livestock in a boxcar and came early in the spring because Uncle wanted to do some building. He got started on the stable and had the sides up and then a terrible blizzard struck the country. It blew so hard and snowed and they had no shelter for the animals; so Aunt bundled up as best she could and went out and helped my Uncle nail some boards on the roof so they had shelter for the animals. It got so cold that it was impossible to keep warm in the granary where they lived, but they were young and had no family so they cooked their meals and took care of the livestock and then they had to go to bed during part of the day to keep warm. The storm lasted two days. Later the weather changed so they could go on with their work. They started to build their house of three rooms, also had a corn crib and a windmill put up later. The first well they had had a tall bucket which they pulled up with a crank. I think the well was around 70 feet deep. They also had to fight prairie fires in the fall when they saw smoke at a distance. Uncle had to take the team and plow what they called fire lines around the home and then backfire for quite some way so they would not be burned out. Many lost their homes and all they had.

During the five years they had been living on their farm, my mother had kept up the correspondence with them. My Uncle wrote letters to them in Sweden and told them

what a wonderful country America was. He told them anyone that was willing to work would have a good chance of making a living in this country and would not have to slave and work for others all their life like they did in the old country, but could have something of their own.

The decision to go to America, spring 1887

Finally when my parents realized they never could pay for the extra land they had bought, which by the way, cost more than 7,000 [?] *kronor* an acre, they decided to sell their home and sail for America. Uncle wrote them that it is so much better when you have the children to bring them when they are young; they have so much better chance in this new world. They found a buyer.¹¹ A man who had been in America some years and earned quite a lot of money had come back to Sweden to his family. He bought father's home.

That was the first part of 1887. Then the folks had to have a sale and sell all that they had except bedding and such things as they could pack in a big chest and some wearing apparel in sacks and make preparations to go. In the spring of that year, my brother Alfred was born. So now we were five in the family and six with my grandfather who did not want to stay in Sweden with his oldest son Nils, but wanted to go with mother because he had always lived with them. That was quite a few to buy tickets for. I do not know how much each ticket cost for adults. I know they had to pay half-fare for myself and 25 *kronor* for John who was nearly 2 years old.

The voyage to America, May 1887

I will always remember the morning of 18 May. The man that bought our home got a spring wagon and drove us to the railway station. My mother's good friend that she had worked for so many times when she was a girl came running across the oat field to bid a last goodbye. Mother wrote to

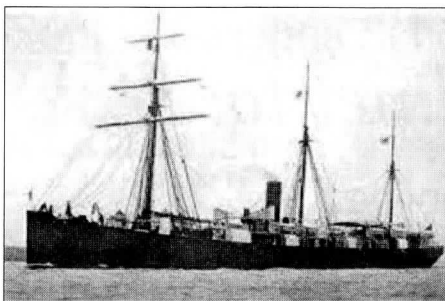
her, and I did also when I was grown up, but we never saw her again. She and her family did not want to come to America; they were quite prosperous where they were and had a good farm.

Well, we were on our way. I do not remember much about the train ride. We arrived at Malmö sometime in the evening and boarded a small ship to go across to Copenhagen in Denmark. That evening while the ship lay at anchor, the older folks went down to their bunks after supper to retire, but the young people stayed on deck and got someone to play a fiddle for them and danced until the ship went out to sea. They all seemed so happy and had a good time, but just after they were out a few miles a storm came up; then the people became seasick and that was another story. Every one nearly was just as sick as could be until morning when we arrived in Copenhagen and could leave the ship.

We stayed there for a short while before we boarded another vessel and sailed on the North Sea to Glasgow in Scotland.

I do not remember much about that trip nor how long we were on the ship, but when we got there to disembark, they just herded us like a group of cattle along the streets to a hotel; no one got a ride but had to walk and that was hard on old people. My grandfather was crippled. He had a broken hip so he limped. He had an awful time to keep up. My father had to take him by the arm, and another young fellow by the name of Nils Munson took the other arm and they helped him along. Besides that, father had to carry John that was 2 years; quite small. Mother carried Alfred and a satchel and I had to run along the best I could. I was supposed to carry the copper pail we brought with us for drinking water. I can remember I fell down many times and bumped the pail. We got to the hotel and had to stay there, I think it was three days, to wait for more passengers before we embarked on the large vessel¹² that took us across the Atlantic Ocean.

I don't remember much about go-



S/S Ethiopia.

ing aboard but I do remember how very poor the accommodations were. We were put 4 families in one room that was not very big. The bunks were in tiers, one section above the others, just made of boards, no mattress unless you brought your own. I think father bought one for grandfather made of gunny sacking and filled with hay before we started. We did not have any table when they served the meals. We had some tin basins for the food which they ladled out of big tubs the waiters carried around and had to sit on the edge of our bunk to eat. We had white bread and soup with quite nice meat for dinner; for supper we had herring and potatoes and tea every forenoon.

About 10:00 they made everyone that was able go on deck to get some air. Another girl that was about 14 years old and I used to go up together. I was just a little past 8 years old. It was cold on deck. We had to bundle up with shawls and head scarfs. And while we were up, the deck hands came down to sweep. The floors were sprinkled with sawdust that had a very strong disinfectant mixed with it; smelled like creosote; I always think of that smell on the ship. The weather was not stormy but very foggy nearly all the time. They would sound the fog horn every few minutes for fear of running into another vessel that they might meet when they could not see but a very short distance ahead.

Arrival in New York, June 1887

It took a week to cross the Atlantic and then we arrived in New York.¹² I can not recall what time of day or night when we arrived, but I remem-

ber they had us disembark when it was day. We had to go through the customs. They opened up our baggage and looked at what we had so that we did not bring anything into the country that was forbidden. Later at a place called Castle Garden¹³ we all had to go before a doctor before we were allowed to proceed. My brother John had something breaking out on his body which was caused by the heavy clothing and warm weather coming on. They almost refused to let us pass, and grandfather was old; 73 years. They would never have let him pass, only my Uncle¹⁴ had taken the precaution of having a contract drawn up and it was signed by him here in his hometown of America to the effect that he would be responsible for his keep and care upon arriving that we had to show in written English. Of course, we could not speak a single word of English to make our wants known. They passed us on, and the next thing was getting on a train and going inland. When we started, we were a whole train-load of immigrants. I don't know how many cars but as we proceeded, many came to their destination in the eastern states and got off at their address. One episode I forgot to mention while we were on the ship passing over, there was a great company of Jews in the next rooms to us. They spoke a different language than we, and they were so noisy we could hardly get any peace to sleep till midnight. I think they were performing their religious rites by sometimes mumbling and at other times very loud, prayers. After leaving the ship, we never saw them again.

(To be continued)

Endnotes:

- 1) The father Per (Peter) Olsson was born 26 Dec. 1846 in Katslösa (Skån.) and the mother Elna Mårtensdotter was born 8 Sep. 1845 in Snårestad (Skån.). The couple were married on 1 Feb. 1878 (Sjörup AI:16, p. 126, *Arkiv Digital*).
- 2) Mårten Bengtsson (1813-1891), Matilda's maternal grandfather.

- 3) Södra Vallösa, Sjörup parish, Malmöhus län, Sweden.
- 4) From a separate two-page remembrance composed by Matilda Olson on 14 Dec. 1952.
- 5) Bengt Mårtensson was born 8 July 1850 in Sjörup, and left on 7 May 1875 from Mossby in Västra Nöbbelöv (Skån.) for America (*Emibas*).
- 6) Peter Johnson (1846-1928).
- 7) Matilda's mother's sister, Matilda Mårtensdotter, born 28 Jan. 1855 in Sjörup, and had first left her home in 19 April 1877 to go to Roskilde in Denmark, and left for the U.S. in 1879 (*Emibas*). She was known as Boel in Sweden, but changed her name to Matilda in the U.S.
- 8) Matilda Mortenson and Hanna Olson both arrived in New York on July 28, 1879 on the ship *Helvetia*, (New York passenger lists [1820-1957], *Ancestry.com*). Hanna was born 30 March 1850 in Katslösa, and left 24 June 1879 from Slimminge (Skån.) for America (*Emibas*).
- 9) Ben Mortenson and Hanna Olson were married in Fremont County, Iowa, on 15 August 1879 (Fremont Co. Iowa, marriage records). Their wedding day was just over two weeks after Hanna's arrival in America.
- 10) Peter Johnson and Matilda Mortenson were also married in Fremont County, Iowa, on 23 Feb. 1881 (Fremont Co., IA, marriage records).
- 11) A buyer for their farm in Södra Vallösa.
- 12) Matilda and her family arrived in New York on 6 June 1887 on the *S/S Ethiopia* (Anchor Line) out of Glasgow (New York Passenger Lists, [1820-1957], *Ancestry.com*).
- 13) Castle Garden, the New York immigration center on Manhattan Island, operated from 1855-1890.
- 14) Bengt (aka Ben) Mortenson (1850-1937), by this time living near Genoa, in Nance County, Nebraska.

The submitter is
John Olson
1222 SW 3rd Street
Ankeny, IA 50023
<jolson_dnr@hotmail.com>



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Förteckning

öfver utvandrare, som af undertecknad befordras med Ångfartyget *"Orlando"*, som
den *19 Mars* härifrån afgår till *Hull*

Kontrakt- lots No	Utvandrarens yrke och namn.	Födelseort till län och socken.	Alder.	Man.	Qvinna.	Summa.	Bestämmelseort.
2254	Simon Fritzon	Bohus Län Hisingen	27	1	1		Chicago
2255	A. M. Dahlgren	Trollhättan	35	1	1		Omaha nebr.
2256	A. P. Larsson	"	27	1	1		Chicago
				3	3		

"Orlando"
Ship Manifest
19 March, 1875
Göteborg to Hull

Göteborg den 19 mars 1875
C. W. Hägerström

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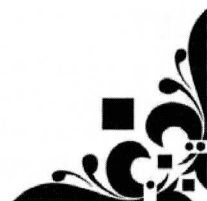
These lists include information such as the name of the ship, departure date, passenger name and age and often the birth place and residence in Sweden and final destination.

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Sophia Carolina Schön - prior to her return to Sweden in 1863

A Bishop Hill pioneer

BY LARS-ÅKE WÄNGSTEDT

TRANSLATION AND SOME ADDENDA
BY ELISABETH THORSELL

Sophia was born 20 May 1821 in Österunda (Väsm)¹ daughter of the *klockare* Carl Albin Schön and his wife Anna Stina Olsdotter. During her life as a maid she heard Erik Jansson preach. In 1843 she worked at Domta in Österunda, and two of her work mates were adherents of the Erik Jansson's teachings. Ulrika Andersdotter had burnt religious books, and Wilhelmina Larsdotter got this recorded about her in the clerical survey; "Disobedient to her parents, defaming the teachings of Luther, Erik Jansonist, bad conduct."² Sophia then became one of Erik Jansson's most powerful disciples and the foremost candidate to be one of the three female prophets who are named in a letter from Hälsingland that was published in *Kopparbergs Läns Tidning* on Thursday 7 August 1845.

I have not really studied her history, and thus cannot tell much about her life before 1844. That year Erik Jansson bought a small farm at Lumnäs in Forsa parish in Hälsingland, and thus Sophia became a maid (*piga*) at Stenbo in Forsa. She is then 23 years old. She took part in the third big bookburning, which took place on a Saturday, the 7th of December 1845. Researcher Paul Elmen wrote "*Sophia Schön, servant of Jon Olsson, and later a prominent figure at Bishop Hill, was an enthusiastic participant.*"³

At the trial in Forsa on Monday 24 February 1845, fifteen individuals were each fined 16 *Riksdaler*; 32 *Skilling Banco*, which in today's money would be around 2,000 SEK. Writer Emil Herlenius wrote that Sophia was especially frank when she gave her defence speech.⁴

The next dramatic and well-

known incident in Sophia's story happened the following late summer. She is in Österunda parish to – among other chores – help the Stenbo-son Olof Jonsson (later called Stenberg) with the harvest at the farm Klockargården, which he had acquired from Erik Jansson. There she and everyone in the house are awakened on 16 August by the clergyman Nils Abraham Arenander and several other men who entered the house to look for Olof Jonsson and Erik Jansson whom they do not like. Sophia is charged with living illegally (not having a domestic passport) in Österunda, and is forced to walk half naked 5 kilometers to be reported to the local bailiff, but he lets her go. The story of Sophia then suing the intruders is told by the bailiff Ekholm⁵ in the court minutes from Torstuna legal district (*häradsrätt*), and in a pamphlet from Galva, and

referred to in the writings of Herlenius, Elmen, and Wejryd.⁶ Here she is shown to be a most spirited and knowledgeable woman who is not letting herself be bullied by old-fashioned attitudes and false statements.

Sophia returns to Stenbo at the end of August, and by that time the emigration has begun. The farmer Olof Olsson from Kinsta in Söderala parish has been visiting with friends and relatives in western and northern Hälsingland before his and his family's exploratory journey to America. On Friday 12 September the brig *Neptunus* leaves Gävle⁷ and arrives at New York on 16 December. Olof Olsson receives positive oral information that is reported back home in letters. It thus takes about three-four months before his brother Jonas and all other followers of Erik Jansson hear the first news from this trip. But by then they had already decided on



The Steeple building in Bishop Hill. (Photo by E. Thorsell 2007).

launching phase two, and that involves Sophia.

The bark *Ceres* is recorded as having left Gävle on Thursday 2 October 1845, loaded with pig iron and other items.⁸ Included are probably not the 16 people who will emigrate. They will have to board in Söderhamn. One of them is Sophia who received her passport in Gävle on 23 October. The ship is wrecked outside the little town of Öregrund in northern Uppland, but the passengers seem to have all survived.⁹

Sophia came to America the next year on the brig *Agder* in the company of 34 other followers of Erik Jansson, mainly from Nora in Västmanland county. They left Sweden on Friday 26 June 1846 and arrived in New York on Monday 28 September.¹⁰ This is where Sophia's life in America begins, something which has been, surprisingly, little written about in reports on Bishop Hill. Still, Paul Elmen wrote “- to visitors who have never heard of Sophia Schön or Jonas Olsson, Bishop Hill has become an interesting historical site.”¹¹ He obviously places her first among the women of Bishop Hill.

Birgitta Andersson of Voxna has studied Bishop Hill for an unpublished work which I have had access to. In this she says that Sophia was the only woman in a group that arrived in Bishop Hill in January-Feb. 1847.¹²

Through the material success of the colony, marriages are not only allowed, but also promoted. One of five marriage ceremonies performed on 16 July 1848 is for Sophia and Jan Erik Olsson Silén, who was also called Lomiss in a handwritten list of early marriages. The original marriage certificate is not found in the Henry County courthouse.

Sophia's husband #1

Jan Erik Silén was born 3 April 1825 at Syllby 1 in Österunda. He was one of the twelve apostles Erik Jansson designated when he himself had to stay away from enemies and the authorities. Jan Erik leaves Bishop Hill in 1849 and first lives in Gales-

burg, before he in 1851 moves to Victoria, Knox Co., Ill., and buys a farm there and becomes a farmer. He also left the Erik Jansson congregation and is not recorded in the membership roster of 1850. In this Sophia is recorded as the widow Silén, but her husband is still alive.

In 26 July 1856 he is married in Victoria to the widow Catharina Petronella Wilhelmina Skoglund from Kinsta in Söderåla. He acquires two stepchildren, but also has four of his own. His wife died in 1876, and he remarried on 19 June 1878 in Knox County, IL, to Matilda Rodin¹³ from Västra Ryd, possibly from Östergötland. John E. Silen died 31 July 1919 in Galesburg, Knox Co., Ill.¹⁴

Sophia probably did not stay long as a “widow” and seems to have remarried a Peterson. Why else would Olof Krans have named her portrait “Mrs. Sophia Skön (Peterson)”?¹⁵ The portrait must have been painted after Olof Krans left his military career in 1862, and definitely before she left to go back to Sweden in the spring of 1863.¹⁶

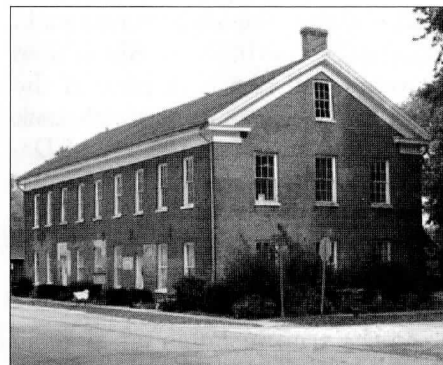
Her husband Peterson has not yet been identified. He ought to have worked and lived in Bishop Hill. There is no information that Sophia lived elsewhere. The lack of information might point to a late and short marriage, when the colony was dissolving, and the old routines did not work anymore. That would mean the early 1860s.

Endnotes:

- 1) Österunda birth records (Österunda C:2 [1815-1861] *Bild 18, Arkiv Digital*). Her father died in 1831, and as a young girl she had to go into service as a maid. She went to her first communion in Österunda in 21 Jan. 1838 (Österunda AI:11 [1837-1841] *Bild 92 / sid 82, Arkiv Digital*).
- 2) Österunda AI:12 [1842-1846] *Bild 43, Arkiv Digital*.
- 3) *Wheat Flour Messiah*, by Paul Elmen (1976).
- 4) *Erik Janssismens historia*, by Emil Herlenius (1900, reprint 2000).
- 5) *Läseriet i Österunda*, by Johan

Erik Ekholm (1843-1846).

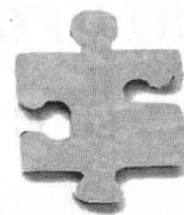
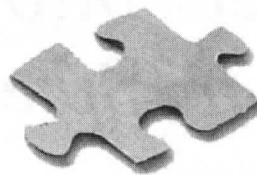
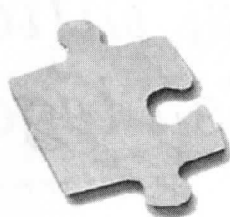
- 6) Article in *Bulletinen* (Bishop Hill-sällskapet), by Cecilia Wejryd (2001:1).
- 7) *Norrlandsposten* #71, 16 September 1845.
- 8) *Norrlandsposten* #76 3 October 1845.
- 9) *Who were the Janssonist immigrants onboard the Ceres?*, by Lars-Åke Wångstedt (*Swedish American Genealogist* 2008/4).
- 10) SPAUS [#1587] *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850*, by Nils William Olsson and Erik Wikén (1995).
- 11) *Wheat Flour Messiah*, by Paul Elmen (1976).
- 12) *Ansikten Som Speglar / Faces that reflect*, by Birgitta Andersson (unpublished manuscript).
- 13) Her origins have not yet been found. In the *Illinois Marriages 1815-1935* (Family Search.org) her father is mentioned as being Gustaf Svensson and her mother Sara Greta Jansdotter. According to the U.S. Census of 1900 she was born in Sweden Jan. 1842.
- 14) *Illinois Deaths and Stillbirth, 1916-1947* (FamilySearch.org).
- 15) *Wheat Flour Messiah*, by Paul Elmen (1976).
- 16) *Sophia Carolina Schön, companion to Erik Jansson, returned to Sweden - what happened next*, by Lars-Åke Wångstedt (*Swedish American Genealogist* 2012:4).



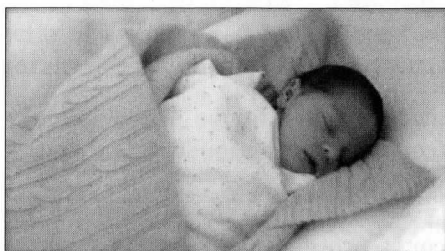
Main Street, Bishop Hill 2007.

Lars-Åke Wångstedt lives in Edsbyn, Sweden,
His e-mail is
<lars-ake@wangstedt.net>

Bits & Pieces



H.R.H. Princess Leonore



Her Royal Highness Princess *Leonore* Lilian Maria of Sweden was born on 21 Feb. 2014 in New York, U.S. Her parents are Mr. Christopher O'Neill and his wife, H.R.H. Princess Madeleine of Sweden, the youngest daughter of the king and queen. Little Leonore was given the title of Duchess of Gotland by her grandfather the King. (Photo by Mr. Christopher O'Neill [Royalcourt.se]).

The new season of *Allt för Sverige*

The casting is done, but unfortunately the names of the participants will not be released until the fall, according to the producers.

The Emigration Center of Karlskrona lives on

The Migration Center of Karlstad has stepped in to save the Karlskrona part of the Swedish Emigrant Institute. In Karlskrona they have been working for several years to research the emigration from southern Sweden to northern Germany. Poor farm laborers who did not have funds to go to America were recruited to work on the huge estates in, for instance, Mecklenburg and Schleswig-Holstein. (*Släkthistoria* 2/2014).

"A child doesn't belong to the mother or father; a child belongs to his ancestors."

A million Vikings in Britain

Almost one million Britons alive today are of Viking descent, which means one in 33 men can claim to be direct descendants of the Vikings.

Around 930,000 descendants of the warrior race exist today – despite the Norse warriors' British rule ending more than 900 years ago.

A genetic study carried out by BritainsDNA compared the Y chromosome markers - DNA inherited from father to son - of more than 3,500 men to six DNA patterns that are rarely found outside of Scandinavia and are associated with the Norse Vikings.

(MailOnline 2014 Mar. 11)
Link on page 30.

Skolt Sámi Archives Candidate for UNESCO List

The National Archives Service of Finland and the Sámi Archives have proposed including the Skolt Sámi archives in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Only 301 items have been listed in the register so far.

The archives from Suonjel, Pechenga, are the most significant body of documentation in the cultural heritage of the Skolt Sámi. The oldest document in the archives dates to 1601 and the most recent document to 1775.

(*Geneanet Blog* 3 April 2014)

The Swedish Genealogy Convention 30-31 Aug. 2014

Welcome to Karlstad for two days of genealogy fun! The theme is "Migration – past, present and future."

See link on p. 30.



The American Swedish Historical Museum meets Pippi!

The American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia opens a new exhibition all about the strongest girl in the world – Pippi Longstocking! She was introduced in 1945 by Swedish writer *Astrid Lindgren* and has been a favorite ever since.

The exhibition started on March 23rd and closes on Feb. 16th, 2015.

(*ASHM Newsletter Mar. 23rd, 2014*).



King Erik sees the light of day again

The little casket in Uppsala cathedral that has contained the bones of King Erik was opened again on 23 April 2014. This was done so that his few remains can be inspected by modern methods, and shed light on his eating habits, as compared with information from poor medieval people, found in mass graves.

The casket contained the king's head with a gilded copper crown on his head.

King Erik was king of Sweden from some time in the 1150s until he was killed in battle just outside the cathedral in Uppsala on 18 May 1160. He was succeeded by the Danish prince Magnus Henriksson, who was killed 1161 in the battle of Örebro.

Erik's picture has been on the coat of arms for Stockholm since 1376.

(*Svenska Dagbladet* 24 April 2014, and *Wikipedia*).

Murdered babies, infidel wives, and more from Swedish legal records

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

Originally, in Viking times, the various provinces had their own laws that were not written down until the 1200s. Before that they had been kept orally by younger men listening to the old wise men. These constituted the court (the *ting*), and had for years learned the laws by heart. The oldest law in written form is the *Äldre Västgötalagen* (Old Västergötland law), which was supposedly written down around 1220.

In the 1350s the first book of laws that were in force for the whole country was instituted by King *Magnus Eriksson*, and it was for all rural areas. The cities got their own book of laws, the *Stadslag*. The law book of King Magnus was updated in the 1400s by King Kristoffer, and was then in force until 1734.

By the 1600s the old law book was not up-to-date any longer and after

long discussion and deliberations, a total revision was accepted by the parliament in 1734. It went into force in 1736, and is still regarded as the current book of Swedish laws, even though all the laws now have been changed. The last one to be changed was the one about having a ring in the muzzles of swine that were to graze in oak forests, so they did not harm the valuable oak trees. One of the important improvements in the 1734 law was that a probate or inventory (*bouppteckning*) was to be done after all people died, and that is generally when they start to exist in a separate set of books.

Levels of courts

The basic division of the lowest courts was the *härad*, which is the most common word for this, often translated as a legal district. In some areas, Dalarna for instance, the same division is called *tingslag*.

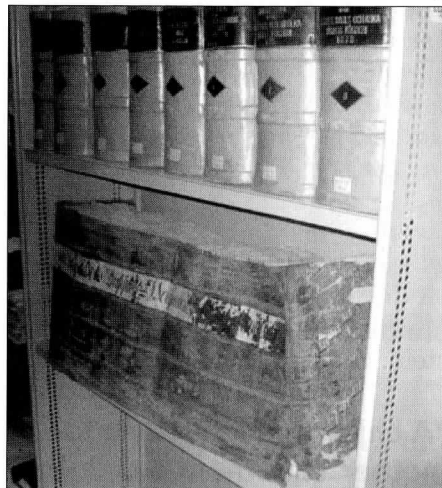
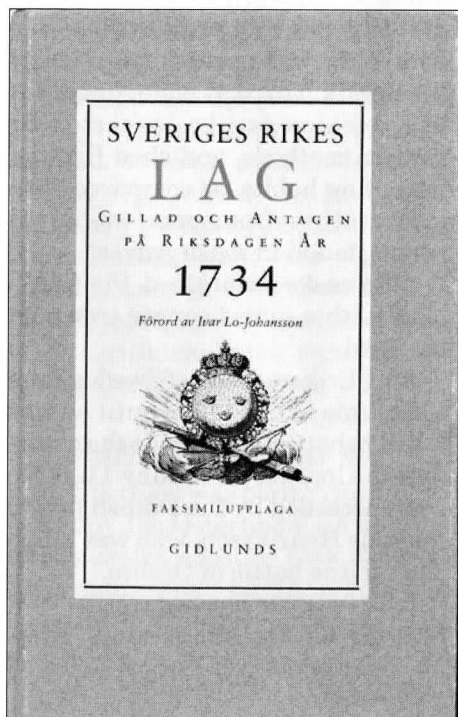
The *härad* was a group of nearby parishes and they usually met at a specific place in the *härad*, called *tingsställe*. Generally the *häradsrätt* met three times a year at this place, *vinterting*, *sommarting*, and *hösteting*. Each meeting could last for a week or more, depending on how much business there was to handle. The *häradsrätt* was led by a man who had studied the law and had an exam from one of the universities; he was the *häradshövding*. Then he had a permanent jury of 12 local men of good repute by his side; they were the *nämndemän*, permanent jurymen. The man who had served the longest on the *nämnd* was the *häradsdomare*, which was an honorary title. The *nämndemän* had to be farmers

owning their farms. The *länsman* (constable) functioned often as the prosecutor.

A notary kept the minutes of the court proceedings in a big book, a *dombok*. In a small *härad* one book would be sufficient for the whole year, but in a more populous *härad* there could be one big book for each of the meetings.

Until the early 1600s the only possibility to appeal a judgment was to write to the king, who in the 1610s instituted the *Svea hovrätt* (court of appeal) in Stockholm, and in 1634 the *Göta hovrätt* in Jönköping for the southern part of the country. The records from *Svea hovrätt* are kept in the National Archives in Stockholm, and from *Göta hovrätt* in Vadstena. The latter has about 5 kilometers of books.

Every year the *häradsrätt* and *Rådshusrätt* (magistrates courts in cities) had to send in copies of the minutes of the courts, which are called renovations. This usually



Some of the records from Göta hovrätt, in the stacks of the regional archives (Landsarkivet) in Vadstena, Sweden.

means that if a courthouse has burnt, there might be a copy in the *hovrätt* archives.

The *hovrätt* was supposed to check that the lower courts had handled their cases correctly, and was able to change the sentences, if they felt that was handled wrong in the lower court. All death sentences were always sent directly to the *hovrätt*, who often changed them to other forms of sentences, like imprisonment, hard labor or heavy fines.

In 1789 King Gustaf III instituted the *Högsta domstolen*, the final court of appeal, instead of appealing to the king directly. But even after that it was still possible to write directly to the king and beg for pardon, from a death sentence for instance.

How is a *häradsrättsdombok* organized?

The records always start by the date and the place where the court met. Then comes the name of the judge, the *härads hövding*, and the prosecutor (*åklagaren*). Then there is a list of all the *nämndemän* and the place where they lived is also mentioned.

Next there is a note that the whole court and the people went to church to listen to a sermon about the importance of being fair in the work of the court.

Then the real work starts with copying wills, testaments, agreements about elder care, and much more. Next comes the sales of real estates, guardianship, prenuptial contracts, etc. These items were in the 1800s mostly kept in separate books, generally called *småprotokoll* (smaller court minutes).

Sometimes criminal cases were kept separately, but mostly they were mixed in with cases concerning debts, bankruptcy, inheritances, and many other things. In the old days it seems to have been very popular to sue your relatives or neighbors in court for very minimal offences.

One member of my family in the late 1700s was sued by a neighboring woman for having said some bad things about her, and my woman

Saköres Längd vid Winterlingen med Philiphaug Bergslags Jernkolts i Februari Månad 1767.		Sern	Bro	Udsk	Udsk	Udsk	Udsk	Udsk	Udsk
Petterson		7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Anders Långbäck	14	3 10	3 10	1 35	1 35	1 35	1 35	1 35	4
Anders Långbäck	7	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	2
Anders Långbäck	14	3 10	3 10	1 35	1 35	1 35	1 35	1 35	4
Anders Långbäck	7	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	2
Anders Långbäck	14	3 10	3 10	1 35	1 35	1 35	1 35	1 35	4
Anders Långbäck	7	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	1 25	2

A list of fines from the Winter meeting of the Färnebo Häradsrätt in Värmland 1767. (Picture from Arkiv Digital).

sued her adversary back. The court decided that they both should take care of what they were saying, under a penalty of a couple of *dalers*, if they did not stop badmouthing each other.

At the end of each meeting there is usually a couple of pages that looks like accounts, and it is. The name is *saköreslängd*. It is a very helpful list of people who have been sentenced to pay fines. Each of them is listed on a separate line, usually beginning with the case number, and then what the offence was and how much the fine was in different columns according to whom the fine should be paid. If you are hunting an unknown father, then the columns to look for are often labeled “*Kyrkor och fattiga*” (churches and paupers). But not all court cases ended in fines, some were dismissed and others ended in a jail sentence, and those criminals will not be found in the *saköreslängd*.

A murdered baby in 1817

This happened in 1817 in Nordmark parish in eastern Värmland. The young mining farmer (*bergsgesman*) Petter Nilsson, born 1788, of the village of Grundsjön, in May 1817 married the girl Lisa Matsdotter, born 1792, even though his female relatives warned him not to marry her, as she did not have the best reputation.

They were right. At Midsummer

1817, when Petter was working in the forest, Lisa went out to the forest too, but not to the same area as where Petter was, and she gave birth to a little boy. She might have just left him, or suffocated him, but after he was dead she dug a hole in the soil in their smithy and buried him there. After a few days, talk began in the village, as Petter’s aunt saw that Lisa had lost weight suddenly. After a few days the parish priest, the local constable and some older married women came to Petter and Lisa’s home and started to ask questions. Finally she gave in, after having been examined by the women and found to have milk in her breasts. She told them where the body was. The local doctor performed an autopsy, and declared that the baby was most probably killed.

The husband Petter said that he was not the father, and that he had not suspected anything wrong with Lisa.

The *Häradsrätt* of Färnebo handled this case in 1817 and in August 30 sentenced Lisa to death, first by decapitation and then her body was to be burnt. All death sentences were to be sent to the Court of Appeal, in this case the *Svea hovrätt*, that returned the document to the *häradsrätt*, and asked them to call more witnesses, which they did. During the new hearing of the case it became known that Lisa, who came from a fairly poor family, had had a steady boyfriend, Jon Jonsson, in the next parish, who was also a poor man.

When Petter, who owned his farm, proposed to her, she had accepted him, but did not dare to tell him that she was pregnant, fearing that he would then leave her, and she would lose her livelihood, and also did love him, she said.

The *hovrätt* in March 1818 maintained the death sentence, but told Lisa that she could apply to the king for a pardon. This pardon was soon granted and her sentence was commuted to 10 years of labor at a female house of correction (*spinnhus*).

At that time there were only three of these in the country: Stockholm, Norrköping, Göteborg. The first two had their lists of inmates online, so I checked the Göteborg one, and there she was. During her time here her husband Petter asked for a divorce, and was given this by the diocesan chapter of Karlstad in 1825, and he later remarried and had a son.

In 1826 Lisa again wrote to the king and asked to be released early, which was granted to her. There was no information about where she went.

So I spent quite some time looking in the area of her home. In her father's probate in 1833, she was listed as being married, but nothing about where she lived.

Next I went back to the records of the correction house and now noticed that there were a few marriages recorded in another part of the volume, and there she was! She had on 28 Aug. 1826 married the day laborer Johannes Johnson from Starrkärr parish, near Göteborg. She must have known him for some time, but how is not known, as she already in September gave birth to a daughter Lisa. The baby died as an infant

of typhoid. Lisa and Johannes also later had a son Emanuel, who also died, and Lisa herself died in 1838 June 6. Lisa had no descendants, but her siblings had descendants, and they are still to be found in Nordmark.

Carl Gustaf Sandberg and his wife

This man was born in 1816 in Brunneby parish in Östergötland, a soldier's son. As he grew up he became a shoemaker's apprentice, but in his spare time also committed petty larceny. For instance, in 1839 he just happened to find a wallet along the road, belonging to an iron factory owner (*brukspatron*). He used the money to rent a horse and buggy and went with his fiancée to the town of Motala to buy meat, wine, and ale for their wedding. When he shortly afterwards was arrested, he was questioned about a bill of 100 *riksdaler* that he still had on him. Where did it come from? He told a story that he had won that gambling in Stockholm, but the iron factory owner could show a letter from a business acquaintance in Värmland, in which that man said that he was going to send him 100 *riksdaler*. The note that Sandberg had was quite new and issued in Karlstad, the county seat of Värmland. So he ended up in jail.

Around 1840 there is a note that he is in the Linköping jail, and in 1842 he was moved to "the end of the parish" (*socknens slut*) in the clerical survey. Then there is a note that he had suffered a flogging in the Malmö prison and done forced labor in Linköping. He was released in 1845. In 1851 he and his family moved to a

house on the Klockrike common. His profession is now changed from shoemaker to mason. In 1850 he is again suspected of theft and spent several weeks in jail awaiting trial. The jail records show him to be 5 foot 6 inches tall, blue eyes, and dark brown hair. His clothes then were a leather apron, blue coat, blue pants, a striped waistcoat, black scarf, a shirt, boots, a black woolen hat, and a pair of linen trousers (perhaps his underwear?).¹ He was released again on 22 March 1851 as the Göta *hovrätt* did not find that there was enough evidence against him.

He married 28 Aug. 1840 to Anna Charlotta Abrahamsdotter Lundholm, and they had five children together, of which two died as infants.

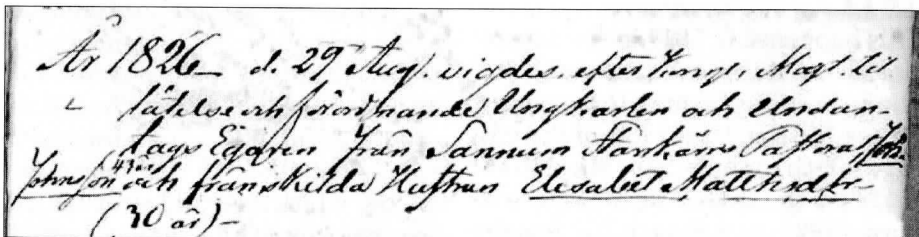
The marriage seemed to fall apart² and in 1858 he moved officially (but had not been at home for about 2 years) from Klockrike in Östergötland to Västerås, the county seat of Västmanland. He took the surviving children with him and applied for a divorce. This was granted by the Linköping diocese in 1858.

In connection with this he wrote to the parish priest of Klockrike the following letter:

To the most honorable Mr. Dean (prost),

As an answer to the letter from the parish office regarding my former friend's crime against the 6th Commandment to the degree that she again in my absence has given birth to a child and has asked for forgiveness for her crime, and she is forgiven by me. So that she is not to be legally punished, but I resign all right to matrimony with her, and leave her free and unhindered to marry my rival, and I will forever be free from her legally as divorced.

Through the honorable parish office I ask for a copy of the decree that tells me I am forever free of her. Which is also my right, as I will no more be a stand-in for her, as I have been for a longer period. I have kept her way of living a secret from the public, but now that she herself shows it in full light of day, so do not judge me, as



The marriage of Lisa and Johannes Johnson (Göteborgs fattighusförsamling C:1 (1763-1860) Bild 120 / sid 363, Arkiv Digital) He is called a bachelor and cottage owner (*undantagsegare*) and she a divorced wife, and they were married by a decree from the king.

this is not the first time it has happened. As I too late realized this, my self-esteem does not let me suffer any more, but I am and will forever be from her divorced, I am also asking for my testimonies to be returned to me and I also ask for my moving-out record from the parish. I will never come back to Östergötland, except for my own business. All my happiness is gone forever, I would rather kill myself than return in marriage to my former beloved one.

What concerns my belongings I will take care of that later.

Signed C.G. Sandberg³

Carl Gustaf stayed in Västmanland the rest of his life and died 1878 in Fellingsbro (Väsm.). He remarried in December 1858 to Johanna Carolina Andersdotter, born in 1834, but did not have any more children.

His former wife, Anna Charlotta, who had a reputation for drinking, remarried in 1867 to Anders Petter Brandt, born 1825, who had been sentenced several times for theft. In 1880 he was sentenced to 5 years of hard labor. He and his wife were both alive in 1890 and lived in Klockrike.⁴

This was just two examples of the many interesting stories that can be found in the court minutes. There are many more!

Endnotes:

- 1) This description of Sandberg and his belongings are found in the database of prisoners in Linköping jail. There is a link to the database on page 30.
- 2) On 22 March 1856 Anna Charlotta was sentenced to 20 days on water and bread, or to pay 80 riksdaler for the crime of adultery. She could not pay and served time instead in the female spinnhus. Information in the same database.
- 3) This letter is found in Boberg häradsrätt A1a:87, Winter meeting 1856 §6. (Regional archive at Vadstena, Sweden).
- 4) From database Population of Sweden 1890 (Sveriges Befolkning 1890). (DVD).

Ok. K. den 27/12 88.

N^o 1588

Beskrifning, rörande ~~förra skuraren~~ Anders Petter Johansson Brandt,
som den 25 December 1884 frigifres från straffängelset i Carlskrona.

N^o 26 i stamrullan samt N^o 254 i porträttrullan.

Födelseår, månad och dag: 1825 den 3 December

Födelseort till församling, härad (stad) och län: Någa församling, Linköpings län.

Senaste kyrkskrifningsort: Klockrike församling, Linköpings län.

Udger nu bestraffning för: 5^{te} rean stöld i bärskida tider och stauen.

Utslaget, af hvilken myndighet och när det afkunnats: Linköpings Rådhusrätt den 9 Mars 1880.

Straffet samt tiden, då det började: 5 års straffarbete samt 5 års förlust af medborgerligt förhåande; straffet började den 9 Mars 1880.

Förut undergått bestraffningar för: 4^{te} rean stöld.

Förpassningsort vid frigifningen: Klockrike församling, Linköpings län.

Beloppet af egna medel och besparad arbetsförtjänst vid frigifningen: 49 Kronor 2 öre

Fångens fotografi.

Hår: Gråprångad;

Skägg: Ja;

Ogon: Blå;

Näsa: Uppstående;

Mun: Ordinär;

Ny: Blå;

Höjd: 6 fot;

Kroppshyggna: Ordinär;

Anant utmärkande kännetecken: Högeröfverligt leische, mindre ärr i högra knäet och några delar af ryggen.

Carlskrona den 24 December 1884.

Augustinsson
Fängels-Direktör.

* Nummern ifylles af vederbörande polismyndighet i den ordning beskrifningarne från de särskilda fängelserna ingå.

This information on Anders Petter Brandt is from the database of released prisoners (Frigivna straffångar) on the SVAR/Digitala forskarsalen web site, see page 6.

He was sentenced in 1880 for the 5th time for stealing at various places in Östergötland. The sentence was 5 years of prison and 5 years of loss of his civil rights (förlust af medborgerligt förhåande). He had spent his prison time in Karlskrona.

His description tells that he is starting to get grey hair and beard, blue eyes, nose pointing upwards, ordinary mouth, pale skin, 6 foot tall, has a hernia on his right side, and small scars on his right knee and the lower part of his back.

The solution to the Handwriting Example 38

Transcription

No 281

Utslag

till No 178

I målet No 178 emellan t.f. Kr. Lmn¹ GEE Ekelöf, Åkl². samt Gustaf Carlsson i Tjursfall, tilltalad för underlåtenhet att lysa om hittegods Alldenstund S^{den3} genom frivilligt erkännande inför Rätten är lagligen öfvertygad att hafva underlåtit att på föreskrifvet sätt låta kungöra och i närmaste kyrka lysa att han den 16 sistl. januari å allmänna landsvägen vid Algutstorp upphittat en till 16 sk⁴ banko värderad portmonnais med deri inneslutne tio rdr rgs, pröfvar HäradsRätten jemlikt 48 Kap. 4. 3 R.B. rättvist döma S^{den} att härför böta det upphittades dubbla värde med fjorton rdr⁵ bko till treskiftes emellan Kronan, Häradet och Åkl., samt att utgifva fyndet; Skolande S^{den}, derest tillgång till böterna saknas, jemlikt 24 punkt. i Kongl. Förkl. den 23 Mars 1807, samt 5 kap.4§ StrB⁶, enligt dess lydelse i Kongl. Förord. den 10 Juni 1841, i stället undergå fem dagars fängelse vid vatten och bröd i Länshäktet.

Notes:

- 1) The abbreviations are to be read: Tillförordnad Krono Länsman
- 2) Åkl. = Åklagare
- 3) S^{den} = Svaranden
- 4) Sk = skilling
- 5) rdr = riksdaler
- 6) StrB = Straffbalken

Translation

Verdict Case 281

In case # 178 between the temporarily appointed bailiff for the Crown, prosecutor, GEE Ekelöf, and Gustaf Carlsson of Tjursfall, indicted for the omission of not having made public his finding of treasure.

As the accused through his free will has admitted this in front of the court, he is legally proven to have omitted to make his find public in the prescribed way and in the nearest church let it be known that he on the 16th last January on the common road had found a purse, valued at 16 skilling banko, and containing ten riksdaler riksgäld, thus the District Court finds, according to the 48 Chapter, parts 3 and 4 of the Penal code, fair to sentence the defendant to be fined twice the amount which is fourteen riksdaler riksgäld to be shared in three parts, one for the Crown, one for the District, and one for the prosecutor, and give up his find. If the defendant does not have money to pay the fines, he is, according to the 24th point in the King's Explanation of the 23 March 1807, and the 5th Chapter, 4th § in the Penal Code, according to the wording in the King's statute of 10 June 1841, instead to undergo five days on water and bread in the county jail.

Emigrant Traffic on the North Sea

BY NILS WILLIAM OLSSON (†)

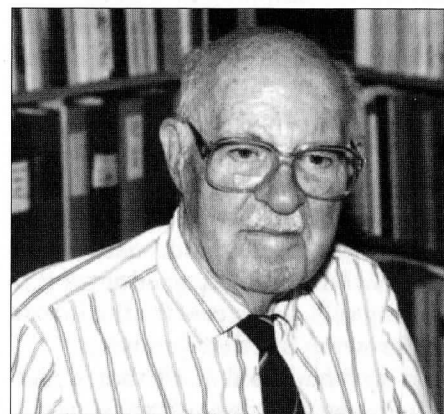
Americans of Swedish descent, whose ancestors made the long journey from Sweden to America, find the Swedish emigration phenomenon divided roughly into three time periods. These periods correspond roughly to (a) – the early emigration era, i.e. up to the 1850s and 1860s, (b) – the middle period, which saw the culmination of emigration, and (c) – the period just prior to and after the First World War.

The first period coincided with the sailing ship era, when Swedish sailing vessels from Göteborg, Stockholm, and the Norrland ports of Gävle and Söderhamn, ferried passengers the entire distance from Sweden to America. With few exceptions, the Swedish emigrants who left Sweden during the period 1820-1860 went the entire distance on Swedish or foreign vessels. The second period begins with the advent of the improved and more dependable steamship, the acceleration of emigrant traffic, and the need for speedier communications across the Atlantic. This was the time when the journey was split into two segments – the first being the trip across the North Sea from Copenhagen, Göteborg, or the Danish port of Esbjerg, located on the west coast of Jutland, directly to Hull on the east coast of England. From Hull the transportation of thousands of emigrants was carried out via the railway to Liverpool, where the giant British transoceanic steamships were tied up, waiting to receive their human cargoes. Despite the inconvenience of splitting the journey, the time saved was enormous and emigrants could now, hopefully, make the westward journey in much shorter time. It is true that many emigrants, particularly

from southern Sweden, found it preferable to travel to Germany and then via Hamburg or Bremen travel the long journey across the North Atlantic. It is estimated that roughly 15% of the Swedish emigrants chose this method.

The third epoch begins in the last decades of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century, when the Thingvalla Line out of Copenhagen, later to be renamed the Scandinavian American Line and later, in 1915, the Swedish American Line out of Göteborg, were able to offer direct and speedy transatlantic service aboard modern and comfortable steamships.

It is the middle period, however, which chiefly interests us, for this is the period which, more than the two other, involved the majority of the Swedish emigrants who sought a new life style in the West. Efforts to provide direct service via steamships between Göteborg and Hull had begun already in April 1834, when a British company, the St. George Steamship Company of Liverpool, dispatched its first steamer, the *Superb*, from Hull to Göteborg. It was followed by another vessel, the *Cornubia*. The steamers kept to the schedule fairly well, but the number of passengers who availed themselves of this new swift means of transportation, were few, varying from five to ten each journey. Also, because of the cholera epidemics which raged at this time and which forced the ships to go into quarantine at Käsö, outside of Göteborg, traffic slowed and the number of passengers was further reduced. This first start in steamship service lasted but through the summer of 1834. By the time the ice broke up the next spring



Nils William Olsson (1909–2007).
Founder of SAG.

it was back to the sailing vessels again, the company having lost too much money on the venture.

The hope of inaugurating regular steamship traffic between Sweden and England still remained, however. In 1840 the British firm of Wilson, Hudson & Co., situated in Hull, opened traffic between Hull and Göteborg with two leased steamers, the *Glen Albyn* and the *Innisfail*. These were in turn replaced by two other vessels, the *Scotia* and the *Express*. Also this second attempt failed, after only two years.

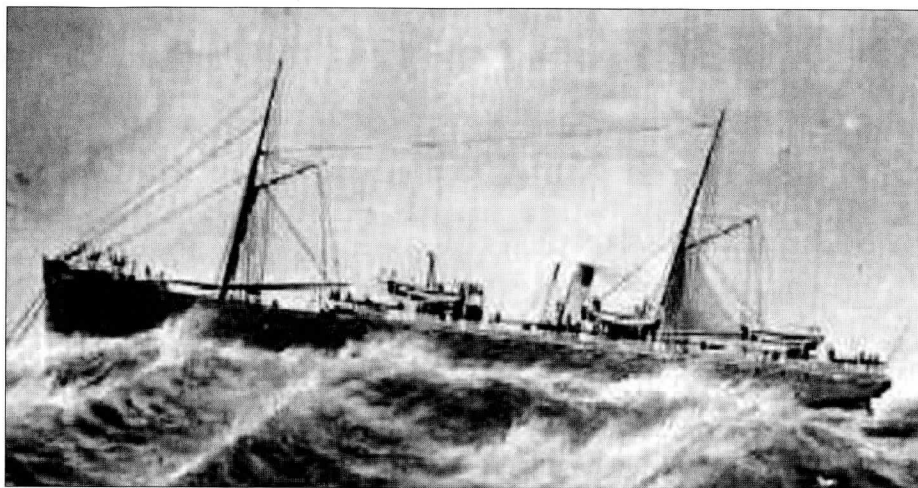
It was during these two years, however, that despite the paucity of passengers, something happened which was to create an entirely different situation. On board the *Innisfail*, which arrived in Göteborg from Hull on 19 Aug. 1842 was a Swedish passenger, who was returning to Sweden, after a grand tour, which had included a visit to the United States. He was Robert Rettig, the son of the Swedish tobacco tycoon in Gävle, Per Christian Rettig. On the journey across the North Sea young Rettig had made the acquaintance of an Englishman, David Wilson, a son of the ship's owner in Hull, Thomas

Wilson. Robert Rettig brought David Wilson and his brother John West Wilson to Gävle, where both spent some time studying Swedish and pursuing mercantile studies.

On 1 Dec. 1843, John West Wilson, then but 28 years old, founded in Göteborg the shipping firm of J. W. Wilson, which today under the name of Wilson & Co. still carries on the business of shipping and freight forwarding. His father, Thomas Wilson in Hull, owned the head firm in that city, and thus father and son could conduct a transit traffic across the North Sea to the mutual satisfaction of both. In Göteborg, John West Wilson established a thriving business in exporting to England – oats, cattle and Swedish wood products, importing to Sweden coal for the infant but growing Swedish industry.

It was not until 1848 that a new attempt was made to establish regular steamship service between Göteborg and Hull. Despite the former failures, many things had changed, not least the burgeoning emigrant traffic and the recent discovery of gold in California. Plans advanced slowly. Wilson suggested a contract with the Swedish Government that he would carry all mail free of charge, if the Government would waive all port charges in Sweden and Norway. After two years Wilson finally had his contract and on 29 June 1850 the first steamer *Courier* arrived in Göteborg with several passengers on board. After that a vessel departed from Göteborg every fortnight, touching at the port of Kristiansand in south Norway en route. In the beginning the service ran into some difficulties, particularly the cholera epidemic, which again forced vessels to go into Kängö quarantine for long periods of time.

In March of 1851, however, the first World's Fair was opened in London and traffic began picking up. The first tariffs were announced. The round trip between Göteborg and Hull in first class commanded a price of seven pounds, in second class it was four pounds. The railway journey from Hull to London was a little more than a pound.



S/S Orlando.

By the fall of 1852 the *Courier* was replaced with a brand new vessel, the steamship *Scandinavian*, measuring 500 tons, which provided the direct weekly connection with Hull, without going via Kristiansand. As a rule the journey across the North Sea consumed about 52 hours of travel.

The emigration to America, which during the 1840s had begun to develop at a modest rate, began in the 1850s to accelerate beyond the wildest dreams. The English steamship lines began building bigger and faster ships in order to compete with the sailing vessel traffic. Here the steamships could offer the speed which shrank the time consumed on the Atlantic run from period of eight, ten, or up to twelve weeks to an average of a fortnight. John West Wilson saw the opportunities and began negotiating with the British Atlantic Lines to coordinate the traffic by sending passengers to Hull, then by rail to Liverpool, the giant departure port for all of the British Isles, as well as parts of the European continent. Wilson thus inaugurated a service which was to continue uninterrupted up to the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.

Thus the *Oscar*, a spanking new propeller driven steamship, measuring 700 ton and built in 1853, was able to sail for Hull from Göteborg 19 May 1854, carrying 120 emigrants. In June of the same year the *Oscar* carried no less than 350 Swedish emigrants. At that time there were no less than 1,500 individuals from various parts of Sweden lodged in

Göteborg, waiting for space to cross the North Sea and the Atlantic. As the emigration grew, so did also the Wilson Line. At times it was necessary to bring over extra steamers from Hull to cope with the immense traffic. Among these temporary vessels, which aided the emigration effort, were such ships as the *Baltic*, *Humber*, *Propeller*, *Hamburg*, *Neva*, *North Sea*, *Kingston*, *Hawk*, *Jupiter*, *St. George*, *Arctic* and many others.

In 1859 the Wilson Line added a new vessel, the *Arctic*, which measured close to 700 tons. Increased emigration forced the line to acquire two new and modern steamships, the *Argo*, measuring 716 tons and which could carry 282 passengers, and the *Pacific*, which measured 688 tons and could handle 302 passengers. Soon another vessel, the *Hero*, measuring 985 tons joined the traffic and made the crossing over the North Sea in the record time of 39 hours. *Argo* and *Oder*, the latter measuring 694 tons, were to be the regular steamships which plied the North Sea continually through the 1850s and 1860s. The number of passengers increased. By 1865 the Wilson ships averaged between 170 and 200 passengers on each journey and on one journey alone, the *Argo* was filled to capacity with 300 passengers. The emigration scene in Göteborg on those days when the vessels left for Hull was one of excitement, confusion, anticipation, as well as sadness.

The *Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfartstidning* carried a story on 26 Aug. 1865, which paints the scene as

seen by the newspaper's reporter:

"Every week we witness larger and smaller groups of peasants from almost every province in Sweden, who have arrived here, ostensibly to travel with the large British steamships to the New World. The entire deck is covered with chests and bed clothes. The motivating drive for making this journey is the fact that relatives in America have written letters telling of how good life is over there. Thus one sells house and land in order to make the journey.

"Down in the harbor, where the Hull steamer *Argo* is docked, there is life and activity. The deck has to be cleared before departure, and now everybody is working desperately to stow the baggage. The emigrants are to be quartered on the middle deck.

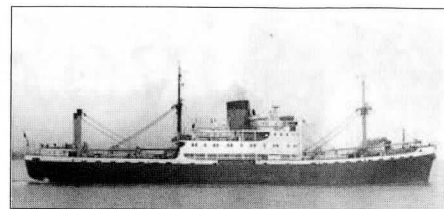
The cargo consists of sawn timber and between the cargo and the deck there is enough room so that one or two hundred persons can lodge here comfortably. Along the sides of the vessel are provisional seats, which also maybe used for a head rest for those who wish to sleep. Here, also, the bed clothes are spread ready for the night's rest.

"The large hatchway provides the room with light and fresh air. Even around the engines, emigrants have made themselves comfortable. Boys and girls, mothers with babies, still nursing, young and old, every class of humanity is represented here. The

family fathers are attempting to cheer up their families, telling them to keep up their courage. The women seem passive. The Word of God is on their lips and with tearful eyes and anxiety in their hearts they attempt to sing a religious hymn in their solemn meditation. The men busy themselves seeing that everything is in order. They then settle down around a sea chest, take out their provisions of pork, meat, butter, cheese and bread. They are loquacious and freely dispense the one "for the road."

"Now the signal is given and the departure is at hand. Now the situation changes. Friends and relatives leave the ship. The passengers gather along the railing for the last look at the city. Now, the engines start up and there is unrest on board, weeping, moaning, crying, and shrieking is heard. Many of the passengers change their moods as they soberly reminisce about their homes and life in their native land. "Farewell, dear Sweden" is the cry one hears from many lips. Soon one can see nothing of the *Argo* in the beautiful September (read August) evening but the pillar of smoke streaking across the horizon."

Greater hordes of emigrants made it necessary to build larger and more commodious vessels. In 1866 a new *Hero* arrived in Göteborg (the old one had been sold to Australia). It measured 1,034 tons and could carry 550



S/S Rollo.

passengers. The *Argo* was replaced with the *Albion*, which measured 1,066 tons.

But it was in the late 1860s and the 1870s that the Wilson Line really increased its carrying capacity. Two ships, the *Orlando* and the *Rollo* were built in Hull 1869-1870 and measured the unheard-of size of 1,500 tons and could carry from 800 to 900 passengers. These vessels were serving the emigrant trade for many years and thousands and thousands of Swedish emigrants began their journeys to the United States aboard one of these two sturdy vessels. In 1881 another vessel, the *Romeo*, measuring 1,855 tons, replaced the *Rollo*. The *Ariosto*, measuring 2,376 tons, the largest ship which at that time called at Göteborg regularly, was added in 1890. In later years two other Wilson ships were added to the Göteborg-Hull run. These were the *Calypso*, measuring 2,876 tons, built in 1904 and the *Eskimo*, built in 1910, measuring 3,326 tons.

As mentioned earlier, the outbreak of World War I brought an abrupt end to the emigrant traffic between Göteborg and Hull. When the war was over it was the Swedish American Line that was to take over as the transportation medium for Swedes wishing to migrate. But that is another chapter.

For thousands of Americans, who have heard their parents and grandparents speak about their first chapter of their odyssey to the New World, names like the *Orlando*, the *Rollo*, the *Romeo*, and the *Ariosto* evoke a nostalgia which is difficult to describe. These were the ships that furnished the first break in the link that tied them to their native land.

This article was first published in SAG 1984/4.



Emigrants boarding a steamer in 1874.



Book Reviews

Here you will find information about interesting books on the immigration experience, genealogical manuals, books on Swedish customs, and much more. We welcome contacts with SAG readers, suggestions on books to review perhaps.

If you want to review a book yourself, please contact the SAG Editor, at <sag@etgenealogy.se> so we know what you are working on.

A family story

Swedish Ancestry of Bruce William Anderson, Bonnie Lynne (Anderson) Black, and Keith Vincent Anderson, by Bruce William Anderson, 2012, self-published, hardcover, 425 pages. More information from the author at <andersbrj@att.net>

This book is about the ancestry of three siblings, including the author, Bruce William Anderson, of Niles, Michigan. Most personal genealogies are not reviewed by SAG since their appeal is limited to the particular families that are included and are unlikely to have broader appeal to other readers. This genealogy is an especially complete, thorough, and well-organized example which could well serve as a model for those who wish to organize and publish the results of their research of their own families.

The author begins by listing those thirteen direct ancestors who immigrated to the United States from Sweden and includes their relationship, their parish of birth, year of

immigration, and destination, with information and photos of most of the ships they traveled on. Following this are several background sections about the historic origins of the Swedes, the migration experience, and related information about Sweden. Direct ancestor pedigree charts, some more complete than others, then chart the dates and locations of the ancestry of each of these in Sweden. Individuals on each chart are assigned numbers in the customary fashion, and a page is provided with detailed information about each individual. Supplemental information about these persons and families occupies the next section, with many photographs and brief biographies wherever available.

Churches in Sweden attended by direct ancestors are listed, with color photos of nearly all and information about their construction and features, including several interesting interiors, pulpits, altars, or other features. The genealogy ends with a complete compilation of sources and an index of all the persons named in the genealogy. An appendix adds the findings of the author's DNA results.

This volume will be added to the collection of the Swenson Center at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

Dennis L. Johnson



A poet's view of Sweden

Enchantment Äventyr. H.C.A. & I understand. A Swedish Genealogical Fairytale, by Carol Elizabeth Skog. Hardcover, 92 pages, illustrated. Published by NordicScripts, Fairfield, CT 06824. ISBN 978-0-9899270-1-7. More information from the author at <nordicscripts@gmail.com>

This is quite an unusual book, a mixture between a travelogue and a fairytale, about the author's experiences while looking for her ancestors in Småland.

It starts out with her as a small child deciding that when she was grown she firmly decided on going to Sweden. She tells how she found it difficult to get her classmates and teachers to pronounce her short surname Skog correctly, which further nurtured her wish to go back to the Old Country.

As an adult her wish is fulfilled, and one of her main goals is to meet with Count Gustaf Carlsson Bonde and his wife at Bordsjö in Småland, near Aneby, owners of the estate that the author's great-grandfather managed for the Bonde family.

Somehow she gets lost on a small country road in the deep forests with four flats tires, and at once feels the presence of the *skogsrå* (the beautiful but treacherous wood sprite). She had long blonde hair, but below her hollow back a fox tail showed.

Next, the *skogsrå* sent the author on her way into a time tunnel, and she lands beside the Askeryd church at Easter time in 1865. The author

SALE!

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302 pages of Swedes,
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Contact Jill Seaholm at
<jillseaholm@augustana.edu>



Book Reviews

sees all the people, but soon finds out that they do not see her.

Quite unhistorically she sees the women of the parish carry baskets of *fastlagsbullar* (cardamom buns) to church, where they are served with milk on a long table outside the church in the early spring..

She also suddenly sees her own *morfars's farfar* Carl Johan Carlsson, the steward for the Bonde family, but does not understand why he does not answer her greetings, because she is still invisible. She is worrying how to get out of the spell and make her able to visit with the current count Bonde?

Suddenly she is transferred to Midsummer 1872, and now takes an unseen part in the festivities, and also sees her *morfar's far*.

Finally she is released by the *skogsrå*, and gets to go on her appointment with the Bondes, who tell her a lot of the local history, for instance that the manorial estate was

bought by his ancestor Måns Bonde in 1491, a fact which is astonishing to this visitor from the New World.

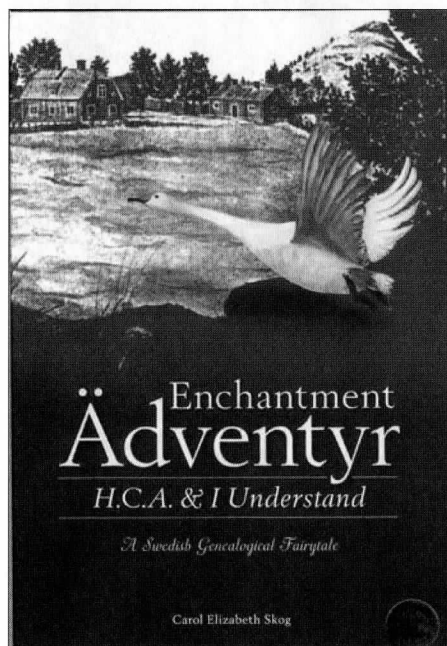
The count also shows her account books, kept by her *morfar's farfar*, which again impresses her and gives her a feeling of connection with her ancestors.

This is a very unusual book, and maybe not for everyone, but it is still interesting to see how an American tries to understand life in Sweden in the old days. The illustrations by the author add to the understanding of her adventure. (The Swedish word is *äventyr*, but the author wanted to keep the link to the English word).

H.C.A. is the abbreviation for Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, to whom the author also feels a connection.

The book ends with a couple of addenda, of varying value. Some words are given explanations, not always quite correct. Some recipes are also added. At the end is the story of how the author made contact with her Swedish relatives, and some tips on Swedish genealogy, where some are useful, and other outdated.

Elisabeth Thorsell



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Book Reviews

Iron made the localities

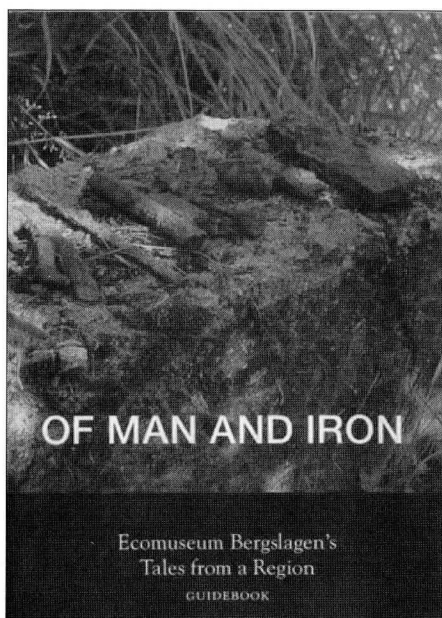
Of Man and Iron. Ekomuseum Bergslagen's Tales from a region, a guidebook, edited by Christina Lindquist and Britt-Marie Hägerman. Softcover, 192 pages, printed in 2011. ISBN 978-91-633-8581-0. [Link on p. 30.](#)

This book is invaluable for anyone who wants to discover the hidden treasures in the iron mining and ironworks area in Västmanland and parts of Dalarna, which was a very important area in the old days. The iron ore and the iron products from the mines, blast furnaces, and iron works was for centuries what Sweden exported all over the world, and was the mainstay of the Swedish economy.

During the centuries the industries and mines had their ups and downs, but many buildings still remain. When they were abandoned because of new techniques, they were often not torn down, but just left to wither away. But in the 1980s people finally began to realize that they were important places that told of the history of the people in days gone by.

The museum was founded in the form of a collaborative venture in 1986, involving seven local authorities and two county museums.

In 1990, an institution with ten founding members was created: the seven local authorities (Ludvika and Smedjebacken in Dalarna, and Norberg, Fagersta, Skinnskatteberg, Surahammar, and Hallstahammar in Västmanland); two county museums (Dalarna and Västmanland); and a



tourist organization, Westmannaturism. It brought together some 50 (today over 60) heritage sites, which are run by volunteers belonging to various local heritage associations (*hembygdsföreningar*).

This guidebook tells the stories of these more than 60 members.

It starts with a brief description of what is meant by *Bergslagen*, this

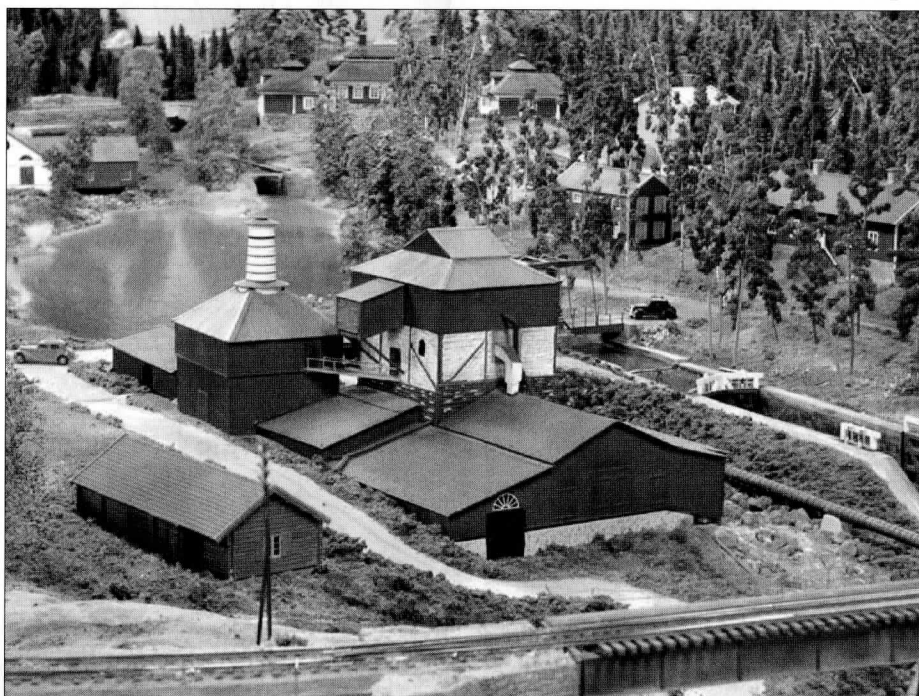
distinct area of Västmanland and Dalarna, but also other places known as Värmland *bergslag*, and Östergötland *bergslag*, for instance, all being areas where metal ore was mined, and where metal implements, small or large, were made.

In the introductory chapter, the story of the Engelbrekt uprising, starting in Norberg in the 1400s, is told, as well as how early mining and early metal working methods have been discovered by excavating the old metal ovens.

One chapter is named "From Iron Ore to Pig Iron" and another tells the story about "Iron Foundries – Ironworks – Steel works." The area has by no means died out as there are still steelworks in, for instance, Domnarvret in Borlänge.

There is a map in front of this book that shows the locations of the museums, each with a number. The book goes by municipalities: Ludvika, Smedjebacken, Norberg, Fagersta, Skinnskatteberg, and Hallstahammar.

For each municipality the local museums are described with maps,



A model of the Engelsberg works near Fagersta.



Book Reviews

Swedish Families again

SAG needs Your help!

We regard the reviews as a very important part of SAG, as the readers are spread all over the U.S., Canada, and Sweden and a lone subscriber even in Australia.

For all of them it is very difficult to keep track of the many interesting books (and movies) that are published with a *Swedish* or *Swedish-American* theme.

We need you to keep your eyes open. And we are extremely pleased if you will write a review and send it to the SAG editor.

Family histories, church histories, local group histories, and lodge histories are among the things we would like to present in SAG. And all in English.

A good book review contains the full title of the book, name of author, year of printing, name of publisher, where it can be bought, and the price of the book.

Send all book reviews to the SAG editor!

Elisabeth Thorsell
SAG editor

so they should be easy to find, and why they should be visited.

In between the various local chapters there are shorter articles, like why they used iron slag for building in the old days, who were the forest Finns, who were the local poets and story tellers.

In Fagersta you can find a World Heritage Site, the Engelsberg Works, which is a complete works area with an earth and timber clad blast furnace, a standard blast furnace, hammer forge, park, manor house, slag stone pavilion and privy, stables, warehouse, pigsty, works office, water wheel, blowing engine, crusher, hammer, workers' dwellings, archives, and a café. This can give you an idea of how your ancestors from this area lived.

There are also addresses for local tourist offices, with both phone numbers and e-mail.

Elisabeth Thorsell

Svenska Släktkalendern 2014 (Swedish Family Register 2014), edited by Magnus Bäckmark. Hardcover, 496 pages, illustrated. ISBN 978-91-637-5115-8. Price ca 750 SEK. For more information: <magnus.baekmark@swipnet.se>

The new edition of the Swedish Family Register (**in Swedish**) has now been published. It is the 47th in the series that started in 1885. This volume contains 65 families, of which 22 are updated from some previous year, and 43 are new. The theme this time has been scientists of various kinds, as for instance the historians Ahnlund, Nobel Prize laureate Arvid Carlsson, Nobel Prize laureate Hugo Theorell, and Nobel Prize laureate Manne Siegbahn. Another well-known family are the Lagerlöfs, with Nobel Prize laureate Selma Lagerlöf. Another writer was bishop Esaias Tegnér. The polar researcher Alfred Nathorst's family is also presented with its American branch Nathurst.

New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)

Family Tree Magazine for March/April 2014 is a very useful issue. It contains detailed descriptions on how to use various genealogy databases: Ancestry.com, Archives.com, Archives.gov, FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.com, Fold3.com, the Library of Congress, and MyHeritage.com. All these articles also have very interesting quick tips, and information on advanced searches, and various costs. It gives you new ideas of new ways to find those elusive people that hide in the nooks and crannies of the databases.

Another useful article is about how to find various online books, where we can learn that Ancestry.com has more than 23,400 books online (\$\$), and FamilySearch more than 100,000 books (free). There are really huge treasures to study, and the eternal hope is to find a new branch of the family, or just that missing date...

The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly 1/2014 has several interesting articles; "We Are All Scandinavians: Norwegian-American Press Reaction to the 1938 Swedish Tercentenary," by Daron W. Olson; "Religion in Sweden and Swedish America," by H. Arnold Barton; "The Shooting of Swan Nelson," by Eric R. Lund (a murder in Chicago 1893). The book review is about Mats G. Larsson's *Kensington 1898. Runfyndet som gäckade världen*, reviewed by Byron J. Nordstrom.

Interesting Web Sites

All links tested in
April 2014 and
should work

Web site of Elizabeth Shown Mills: www.historicpathways.com/

A blog on how to interest little kids in genealogy:

<http://kowalski-bellan.weebly.com/growing-little-leaves.html>

Ashville, OH, Viking Festival: <http://ashvillevikingfest.com/>

Bridge to Sweden (a small company doing tours in Sweden): www.bridgetosweden.com/

Link to article on Vikings in Britain: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2577003/A-million-Vikings-live-One-33-men-claim-direct-descendants-Norse-warriors.html#ixzz2veDQQIsa>

Useful articles on Swedish genealogy from Arkiv Digital: <http://arkivdigital.net/swedish-genealogy>
Canadian headstones: <http://canadianheadstones.com/>

The Brooklyn Eagle (now digitized 1841–1955): <http://newsstand.bklynpubliclibrary.org/>

Linköping University databases (prisoners and more [in Swedish]):

<http://www.ep.liu.se/databas/index.sv.asp>

Links to indexes of books about Swedish immigrants:

<http://www.augustana.edu/general-information/swenson-center-/genealogy/links>

Another cemetery database: <http://namesinstone.com/Default.aspx>

Swedish-American Historical Society: <http://www.swedishamericanhist.org/Research/index.html>

American Swedish Historical Museum: www.americanswedish.org/

Swedish Genealogy Days 2014: <http://www.sfd2014.se/en/index.htm>

Ekomuseum Bergslagen (In English): <http://ekomuseum.se/en/>

Old Fulton NY Newspapers and more: <http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>

Utah Digital Newspapers: <http://digitalnewspapers.org/>

Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub:

<http://newspapers.mnhs.org/web/mhsnews/web/imu.php?request=access>

YESTERDAY (to be sung to the tune of the Beatles' song - Yesterday)

Yesterday,
All those backups seemed a waste of pay
Now my database has gone away

Oh I believe in yesterday

Suddenly,
There's not half the files there used to be
And there's a deadline hanging over me

The system crashed so suddenly.
I pushed something wrong

Now my data's gone
and I long for yesterday-ay-ay-ay.

Yesterday,
The need for back-ups seemed so far away.
Thought all my data was here to stay,
Now I believe in yesterday.

(From Dick Eastman's EOGN Newsletter 26 Feb. 2014)

Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a "space available" basis. The editor reserves the right to edit these queries to conform to a general format. The inquirer is responsible for the contents of the query.

We would like to hear about your success if you receive useful information as a result of placing a query in this publication. Please send us your feedback, and we will endeavor to report your new discoveries in this section of the journal.

Anderson, Andreasson

My father's grandmother's brother, Peter Andreasson, was born 24 July 1857 in Stora Lundby (Väggö.). On 24 Jan. 1891, in Adolf Fredrik, Stockholm, he married Ida Christina Andersson, born 6 May 1856 in Hammar (Närk.). Their son Edvin Valerius Anderson was born 30 Jan. 1891, also in Adolf Fredrik.

Peter left from Göteborg on 8 April 1892 with a ticket for Delavan (unknown state), his home was given as Stockholm. There is a possible Peter Andreason, age 34, who arrived at Ellis Island on the *S/S Arizona* on 9 May, and stated that he was going to Center City, MN.

Next year his wife Ida Anderson and the little boy Edvin also left for America from Göteborg on 19 May 1893 with tickets for New York, but their home was still given as Stockholm. Ida and Edvin arrived at Ellis Island on 8 June on the *S/S Majestic*, and stated that they were going to Chicago.

In the 1900 U.S. Census Peter, Ida, and Edwin Anderson lived in the 25th Ward of Chicago, and also had a little daughter, Elsa M., born 30 April 1894 in Chicago. Peter worked as a carpenter.

In the next Census, 1910, son Edwin lived in Chicago, Ward 2, as a boarder, was single and worked as a pattern maker.

In June 1917 Edwin Valentine went through the draft board for World War I, and his information was that he was born 30 Jan. 1891 in Stockholm, Sweden, and now lived at 2635 N. Halstead Street in Chicago, and worked as a boat builder and pattern maker, employed by the firm of Tessin(?) and Peterson. He was single, not naturalized, and his only dependant was his father.

Any and all information on this family will be very welcome!

Agneta Haglund, Storåsgatan 1, S- 426 77 Västra Frölunda, Sweden

E-mail: <agneta.haglund@gmail.com>

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Andreasson, Andersson, Floren, Florine

Two sons of Andreas Ericsson and Maja Stina Andersdotter of Noltorpet, Ryd, Norska Skogsbygden, (Väggö.) immigrated to America. Johan Edvard, b. 20 Feb 1858, emigrated in 1878 and Erik Alfred, b. 5 Nov 1860, emigrated in 1879, according to the Household Examination of 1873-1881.

However, no ship manifests or immigration records have been found for either. It is not known what surname each used at the time of their immigration. They were both born as Andreasson, but it is known that Erik Alfred changed his surname to Floren at some point. He shows up as a minister for the Free Church as Rev. E. A. Floren in the late 1800s and early 1900s prior to his death in Minneapolis in 1929.

Johan Edvard was known to be a miner in Iowa, but no record, census, death, or otherwise shows up in America of him. Relatives say he used the surname Florine. It is not known when Johan Edvard died. Any information on when the surname was changed or any information on Johan Edvard would be appreciated.

Howard Florine

E-mail: <howflor@yahoo.com>

Editor's comment: one of the things to do to try to find where the immigrants ended up is to check the probate (*bouppteckning*) for the parents, if they died after the emigration of the children. Andreas Ericsson of Noltorpet died 25 January 1891, and his probate was found in the records of Kullings *Häradsrätt* (volume FII:36 [1889-1891] on page 981). Unfortunately sons Johan Edvard and Erik Alfred are only mentioned as living in America, no specific address mentioned. Their inheritance rights were to be guarded by the homestead owner Johannes Nilsson of Tången, who was present at the taking of the inventory. An interesting point was that the oldest son was mentioned as the railway worker Herman Lidén of Stenstorp (Väggö.), another surname to look for.

The widow Stina Andersdotter died at Noltorpet on 9 Nov. 1896, but no probate was found for her.

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The Last Page

Dear friends,

The winter is now over, and here in Sweden, at least in the Stockholm area, it has not been very cold, but many days in January and February went by without a glimpse of the sun. It felt like having a wet blanket over your head.

But as genealogists there are always things to do, to find those elusive family members. It is so much easier now with the internet and all the databases that are continually added.

I spent some time trying to find people belonging to my mother's family's American branch. One man was a geologist and worked for several mines in Arizona, in the Jerome area, where my husband and I spent a day many years ago and had the

best hamburgers for a long time. Anyway, this man was married, but his marriage fell apart. In a newspaper from 1908 I found that his wife had sued him for a divorce on grounds of mental cruelty. Her example was that he had hid behind a door and jumped out of there and scared her. He remarried in California, and died there in 1931, according to another newspaper listing.

Then I noticed a lady in the family, born in 1923, that I did not have a death date for. The only thing I found in the newspapers was that she had had her appendix taken out in 1941. At least she was still alive then! Somehow I started to search phone books for her, and finally found her, as she had kept her maiden name as

part of her listing in the phone book. I e-mailed this information to the cousins that I am touch with, and they contacted this lady, who was happy to hear from them, as she had no idea that any relatives were still around.

You can live for many days on finds like this! If anyone has a story like this, please send it to me for another issue of SAG.

There is always a new SAG in the works! And please remember that I need book reviews from you! Local histories with a Swedish theme, and family books, etc. It is hard for me to find them here in Sweden, so your help is needed!

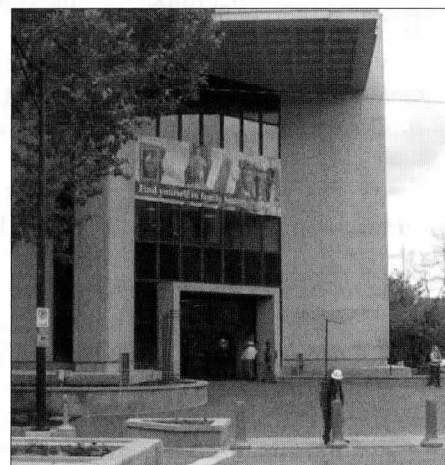
Till next time!
Elisabeth Thorsell

Help us promote the SAG journal!

Do you belong to a Swedish genealogy or other Swedish interest group? Even a group that only sometimes focuses on Sweden? We are happy to supply SAG back issues and subscription brochures for you to use as handouts. If you will have a raffle or drawing, we can even provide a certificate for a 1-year subscription to SAG for you to give away. Contact Jill Seaholm at <jillseaholm@augustana.edu>, or 309.794.7204. Thank you!



SAG Workshop *Salt Lake City* 2 – 9 Nov. 2014 !



We look forward to seeing old and new friends in our happy group of researchers !

The SAG Workshop is the highlight of the year – a fun learning experience and a chance to do your Swedish genealogy with hands-on help from experienced Swedish and American genealogists.

The social side includes both welcome and farewell receptions, a buffet dinner & entertainment.

The 2014 SAG Workshop is now fully booked!

Abbreviations

Table 1. Abbreviations for Swedish provinces (*landskap*) used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (as of March 2000) and *Sveriges Släktforskarförbund* (the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, Stockholm [SSF]).

Landskap (<i>Province</i>)	SAG & SSF <i>Abbr.</i>	Landskap (<i>Province</i>)	SAG & SSF <i>Abbr.</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Närke	Närk.
Bohuslän	Bohu.	Skåne	Skån.
Dalarna	Dala.	Småland	Smål.
Dalsland	Dals.	Södermanland	Södm.
Gotland	Gotl.	Uppland	Uppl.
Gästrikland	Gäst.	Värmland	Värm.
Halland	Hall.	Västerbotten	Väbo.
Hälsingland	Häls.	Västergötland	Vägö.
Härjedalen	Härj.	Västmanland	Väsm.
Jämtland	Jämt.	Ångermanland	Ånge.
Lappland	Lapp.	Öland	Öland
Medelpad	Mede.	Östergötland	Östg.
Norrbottn	Nobo.		

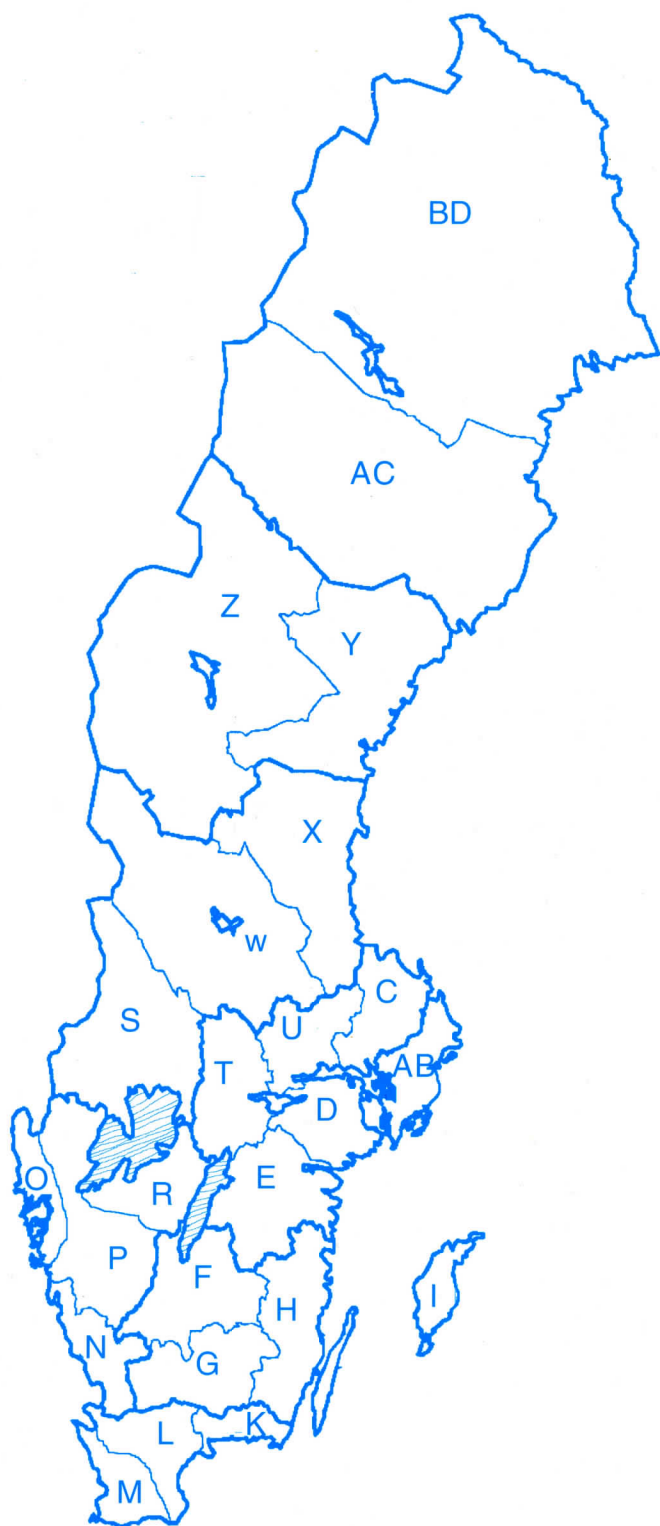
Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

Län (<i>County</i>)	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>	Län (<i>County</i>)	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Blek.	K	Stockholm	Stock.	Sthm.	AB
Dalarna ^a		Dlrn.	W	Södermanland	Söd.	Södm.	D
Gotland	Gotl.	Gotl.	I	Uppsala	Upps.	Upps.	C
Gävleborg	Gävl.	Gävl.	X	Värmland	Värm.	Vrml.	S
Halland	Hall.	Hall.	N	Västerbotten	Vbn.	Vbtn.	AC
Jämtland	Jämt.	Jmtl.	Z	Västernorrland	Vn.	Vnrl.	Y
Jönköping	Jön.	Jkpg.	F	Västmanland	Väst.	Vstm.	U
Kalmar	Kalm.	Kalm.	H	Västra Götaland ^c		Vgöt.	O
Kronoberg	Kron.	Kron.	G	Örebro	Öre.	Öreb.	T
Norrbottn	Norr.	Nbtn.	BD	Östergötland	Ög.	Östg.	E
Skåne ^b		Skån.	M				

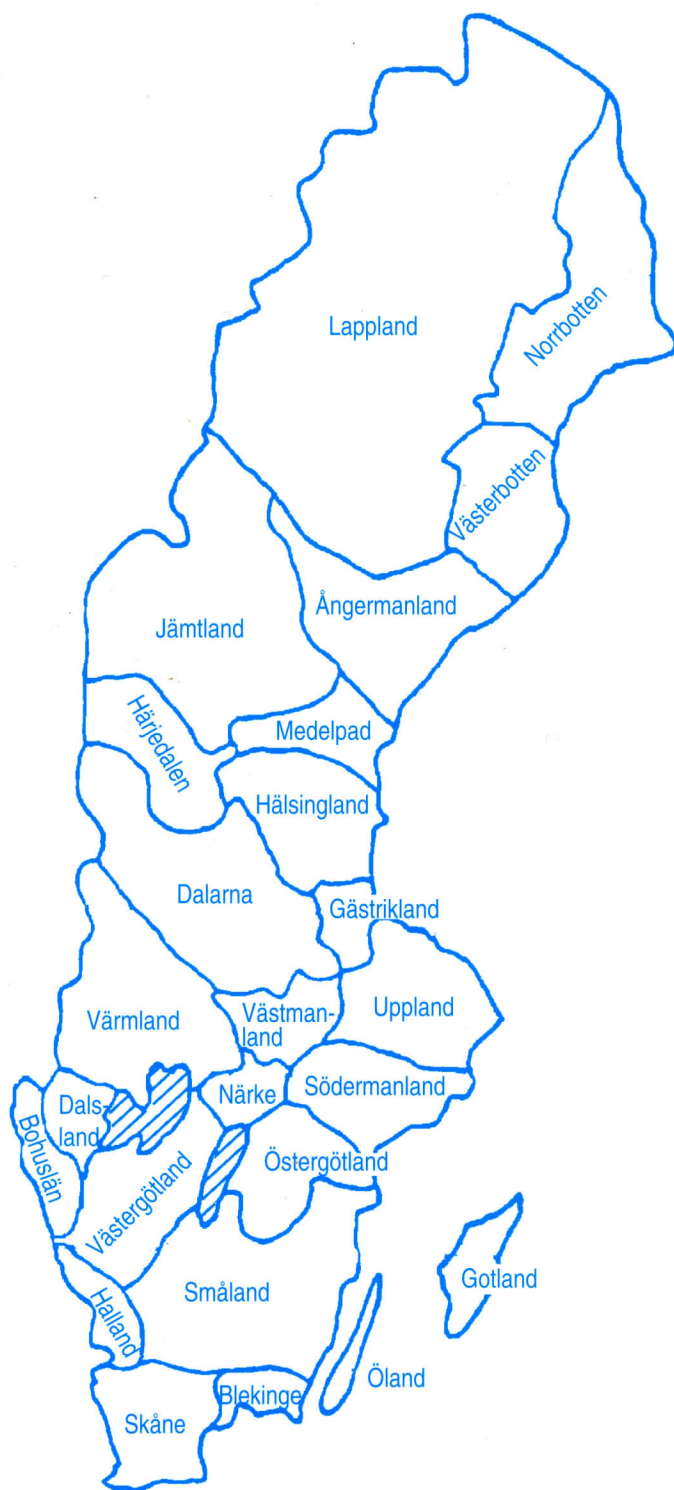
a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

b includes the former counties (*län*) of Malmöhus (Malm.; M) and Kristianstad (Krist.; L).

c includes the former counties (*län*) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).



The counties (*län*) as they were before 1991.



The provinces (*landskap*).