

3-1-2014

Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag>



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#), and the [Scandinavian Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2014) "Book Reviews," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 34 : No. 1 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol34/iss1/12>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Swedish American Genealogist by an authorized editor of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.



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 Ädventyr. 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!

Swedish Voters in Chicago 1888

By Nils William Olsson
302 pages of Swedes,
comments, and indexes.

\$10 + \$5 S&H

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.

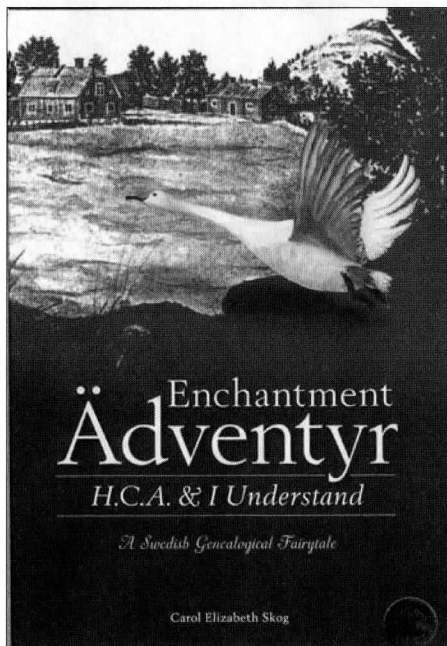
The count also shows her account books, kept by her *morfar's farfar*, which again impresses her and gives her a feeling of connection with her ancestors.

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



Add to your family history

Learn what Sweden and America were like when your ancestors emigrated

Join the Swedish-American Historical Society

Four issues a year of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, plus dividend books

The Society's latest book is *Conrad Bergendoff's Faith and Work: A Swedish-American Lutheran, 1895-1997*, by Thomas Tredway.

For more information, write

Swedish-American Historical Society
3225 W. Foster, Box 48
Chicago IL, 60625

or see www.swedishamericanhist.org

Mention the *Genealogist* when you join or order books





Book Reviews

Iron made the localities

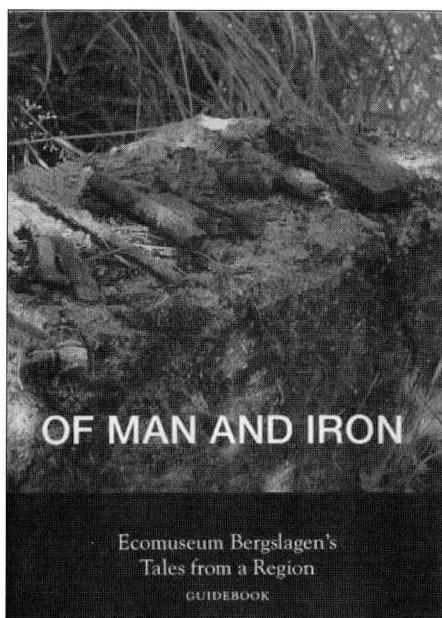
Of Man and Iron. Ekomuseum Bergslagen's Tales from a region, a guidebook, edited by Christina Lindquist and Britt-Marie Hägerman. Softcover, 192 pages, printed in 2011. ISBN 978-91-633-8581-0. Link on p. 30.

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

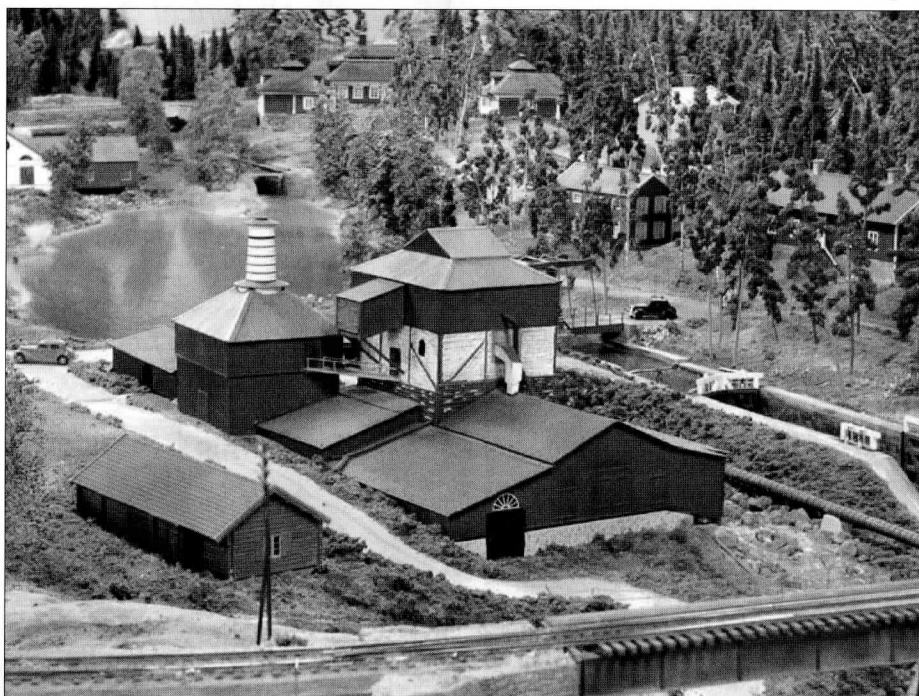
distinct area of Västmanland and Dalarna, but also other places known as Värmland *bergslag*, and Östergötland *bergslag*, for instance, all being areas where metal ore was mined, and where metal implements, small or large, were made.

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.