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Jönköping Genealogical Seminar

From Aug. 8 to Aug. 19 a very successful genealogical seminar was held at the Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola in Jönköping, Sweden. Sponsored by the Swedish American Historical Society of Chicago and *Swedish American Genealogist* and hosted by Dr. Gunnar Hallingberg, rector of the folk high school, where the seminar was held, the event drew attendance from practically every part of the United States. One participant arrived from Bonäs in Dalarna, Per-Gösta Lindqvist, who proved to be of excellent help in assisting the researchers in various libraries and archives.

Part of the success of this, the first, of what is hoped to be annual affairs, was due to the location in the central part of Sweden, high on the bluff, overlooking beautiful Lake Vättern. From Jönköping it was easy to move around to such centers as the archives of Göteborg, Skara, Vadstena and Växjö. Participants were also part of the large group of Americans at the Minnesota Day celebration at the Emigrant Institute in Växjö. Not only were many of these places within easy reach, but the county library at Jönköping is the depository for microfilms of all of the church records for the county of Jönköping, which made it possible for students to also make use of their evenings.

All of the participants gained something from the two weeks in Jönköping. In some instances contacts were established between Swedish and American families, which had been broken more than 60 years ago.

One of the participants, starting from the name of her grandfather, was able to find a straight line back to Johannes Rudbeckius, the famous bishop of Västerås, who lived in the 17th century, and one of the first bishops in Sweden to order his clergymen to keep careful church records.

The success of this year's program augurs well for the future. Plans are already afoot to schedule another two week seminar in Jönköping Aug. 6-17, 1984 with a visit to Växjö to coincide with next year's Minnesota Day Aug. 12.

Plan Now to attend the
Second Annual Genealogical Seminar
in
Jönköping, Sweden
Aug. 6-17, 1984

Sponsored by the Swedish American Historical Society of Chicago,
the American Swedish Institute of Minneapolis,
the Swedish American Historical Foundation of Philadelphia
and *Swedish American Genealogist*.