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The Last Page

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The Last Page

Dear friends,

Now we are in the middle of winter, but the darkest part is now just a memory and we value the longer daylight.

When working on this issue, I experienced a nice bit of serendipity (the phenomenon of finding what you are looking for just by chance). When working with the letter from Lars Adolf Löfquist (p. 16) I first found that he had settled in Fort William, Canada. Then I looked for this place and found that it is now a part of Thunder Bay, Ontario. A friend, Elinor Barr, who is working on an important book about the Swedes in Canada, lives there. So I wrote and asked her if she could locate the Lofquists in the 1911 Canadian census? Elinor wrote back immediately

and told me that her grandparents had been good friends with the Lofquists! And then she gave me a lot of information, which was much more interesting than any census lookup.

If anyone of you has had a serendipity experience, please let me know, as I know it happens now and then.

The American genealogist Hank Jones encountered so many stories of serendipity, that he wrote to a number of colleagues and asked for their stories. These he then published in a book, *Psychic Roots: Serendipity and Intuition in Genealogy*. The book is a good read, and even includes a story by Nils William Olson(!).

Various projects are going on here.

The Federation has re-started the huge project of inventorying the headstones of all Swedish cemeteries. This has been attempted before. During a 30-year period many thousands of headstones were transcribed on paper, but now it will be available on the internet with photos and more information.

More and more records are now available online. For SVAR subscribers the birth records extracts for 1941 have now been released. The National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) are now allowing church records older than 70 years to be online. In case a book has notations younger than that they are not online. But 1900s research has now become much easier.

Till next time!

Elisabeth Thorsell

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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.

Contact *Jill Seaholm* at 309-794-7204, or e-mail: <sag@augustana.edu>. You can now ask to be put on the mailing list for the workshop.