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Cover picture:
Photo of the monument over the Civil War soldiers from
Bishop Hill at the Village Square in Bishop Hill.
( Photo by E. Thorsell, Oct. 2007.)
On August 18, 2012, my husband John and I attended a most unusual family reunion in Swift and Kandiyohi counties in Minnesota. Neither my husband nor I had met any of these people before, although a few people knew some of the others. Over 120 people attended, and they were from all parts of the country and even at least twelve of them came from Sweden.

What was it that brought us all together that day? It was an incident that happened on August 20, 1862, in which 13 Swedes were killed by Indians. Everyone who was gathered there was in some way related to the Lundborgs or the Brobergs who were killed that day. My husband is distantly related to the Lundborgs. The youngest attendee was the 5 month-old great-great-great-granddaughter of Johanna Lundborg Paulson, and the oldest was 100-year-old E.W. Solyst who for many years had organized a picnic around this date for the descendants of the survivors.

Previous articles
In the June, September, and December 2007 issues of SAG I had written about these family ties to my husband's Carver County ancestors (Pehr and Catarina Carlson in the East Union area) who had known these two families. In 1858 three brothers, Johannes, Anders Petter, and Lars Andreasson Lundborg, immigrated to Carver County, Minnesota. In 1860 they claimed land in western Monongalia County (now Kandiyohi). This was the far western settlement of white people in Minnesota. In 1861 their parents, Andreas Larsson Lundborg and Lena Johansdotter, brothers Gustaf and Samuel, and sister Johanna joined them. One sister, Sara, had remained in Sweden. Also two brothers, Anders Petter and Daniel Petter Broberg and their families, immigrated and claimed land two miles west of the Lundborgs in what is now Swift County. All joined the Norway Lake Lutheran Church which had been founded in 1859 by Pastor Peter Carlson from East Union Lutheran Church. There was no church building so the pastor, Andrew Jackson, traveled from home to home conducting worship services.

The attack
On the morning of August 20, 1862, Pastor Andrew Jackson was holding a service at the Lundborg home when little Peter Broberg interrupted the service by saying that the Indians were bothering those children who had been left at the Anders Broberg home. Anders Petter Broberg, Gustaf, Lars, Samuel, and Anders Petter Lundborg ran to the Broberg house. Andreas Lundborg followed more slowly. Daniel Petter took the women and children in the oxcart. Those running arrived first; they were shot and all were killed except Samuel who survived a wound to the side and being beaten. Andreas arrived to see his sons shot. The Indians shot at
him, but he managed to escape. The oxcart came into view, and the Indians fired at it. All were killed except one child from each family, Anna Stina from the A. P. Broberg family, and Peter from the D. P. Broberg family. The survivors hid in the tall grasses and on the Isle of Refuge in Norway Lake and eventually found safety in St Cloud. A more complete telling of this incident is in the September 2007 issue of SAG.

The memorial gathering
Our gathering was to start officially at 10 a.m. on the 18th at the Shelter House at Monson Lake State Park (in Swift County, Minnesota), but by 9 a.m. the people started to gather, to meet each other, to visit, and of course to have a cup of coffee and pepparkakor. The weather was perfect. The organizers had a color-coded system for the name tags to help us know the ancestor of the attendees. The six ancestors were Johannes, Johanna, Samuel, and Sara Lundborg, and Anna Stina and Peter Broberg. While Sara Lundborg had remained in Sweden, some of her children immigrated.

At 10 a.m. we walked to the nearby marker where the Anders Broberg house had stood and where those 13 victims were killed and originally buried. Charles Berget, a great-grandson of Anna Stina, read her account of the incident. A wreath was placed on the monument. There were three flowers on the wreath, one for all the whites who were killed during the Dakota War, one for the Indians, and one for the soldiers. A Swedish flag was also on the wreath. A prayer for peace, healing, and reconciliation was said.

Then we traveled by car the two miles to the marker for the Lundborg cabin. A long train of 48 cars traveled this country road which may not on most days have that many cars pass by all day long. As we drove along, I thought about little Peter Broberg, age 7, running this distance through the woods. This property on Route 7 a few miles south of Sunberg is still owned by the great-grandson of Johannes Lundborg.

To New London
Then it was off to Peace Lutheran Church (formerly Lebanon Lutheran) in New London. We were had a wonderful smörgåsbord and had a chance to look through various pictures, family trees, and artifacts. From 1 to 2 p.m. the Monongalia Historical Museum was open. This building was the original Lebanon Lutheran Church and had much information about the early years in New London and area. This building was just up the hill and on the other side of the church cemetery.

About the survivors
Back at Peace Lutheran at 2 p.m. we had a sharing time. One descendant from each of the six survivors told of what had happened to their ancestor after the massacre. Sadly there was no one descended from Peter Broberg at this gathering. One of the poignant moments was when a descendant of Anna Stina said thank you! to the descendants of the Lundborges because it was the Lundborgs who had saved the lives of the Broberg cousins and had cared for them during their escape and later.

One of the descendents, Carol Lundquist, had prepared a huge family tree and had research to show that the Brobergs and the Lundborgs were descended from Torsten Algotsson, born 7 October 1712 in Södra Härene (Vägö.) and his wife Karin Persdotter. It had been said that the Lundborgs and Brobergs were related.

Pictures and music
There was time for pictures. There was a large group picture on the steps of the old Lebanon Lutheran Church – a tradition from previous gatherings. There were pictures of family groups and of the family tree. Modern technology allowed us to share pictures and information.

At four o'clock we gathered in the sanctuary to listen to Anders Bergström from Sweden play some typical Swedish music on his violin. Then Pastor Paul Lundborg, a great-grandson of Johannes Lundborg, reflected on Pastor Andrew Jackson’s memories of that day as he looked back on it in 1890. Twenty members of his congregation were killed in just a few days and his congregation spread out across several counties and was dispersed as the settlers vacated their homes to seek safety in eastern Minnesota. In 1863 Pastor Jackson started teaching at St Ansgar Academy in East Union, Minnesota, and eventually became the pastor at West Union Lutheran church, also in Carver County.
The final event of the day was to return to the Lebanon cemetery and gather around the monument where the 13 members of the Broberg and Lundborg families were reburied in 1891. The state of Minnesota placed the monument there. A wreath similar to the one placed at the monument at the massacre site was placed by the monument in the cemetery. Once again there was a prayer for peace, healing, and reconciliation.

Old Log Church
On Sunday morning we worshipped at The Old Log Church near Norway Lake. This church is a replica of the log church that was built in 1868 when the settlers returned to this area of Minnesota. Trees were cut locally to build this church. Every year on the third Sunday of August a worship service is held to remember those early settlers. About 75 worshippers filled the little church, but outside about that many sat under a canopy to see and hear the service. Nearby an original log building had been moved to house a museum to tell the story of the area.

We have traveled in Minnesota many times and lived there for 10 1/2 years, but never before have I been as aware of this need for healing between the races. On August 17 we heard that all flags in Minnesota were to be flown at half-staff in memory of the start of this war. Throughout the Minnesota River Valley there were numerous events. Also on the 17th about 300 gathered on the South Dakota-Minnesota border. This was a symbolic welcoming home of the Dakota Indians, who were forcibly removed from Minnesota in 1863 by federal law (which has never been repealed). Minnesota secretary of state Mark Ritchie shouted “Welcome Home” to the 11 Indians on horseback and the parade of walkers who crossed the border into Minnesota amid Welcome Home signs. Historical societies had programs and churches had special services throughout the state.

Mankato hanging
Our last stop in Minnesota was in Mankato. We went by Reconciliation Park. This is the location of the hanging of 38 Indians on December 26, 1862. Over 300 were originally sentenced to be hanged, but Abraham Lincoln eliminated a number of names from the list. This is the largest mass execution ever held in the United States. John’s great-grandfather Pehr Carlson was in attendance at this event as part of the 9th Regiment, Co. H. Pehr’s brother-in-law, A. J. Carlson, was also there. In his memoirs of his time during the Civil War, he did not write about the hanging, but he said that he would let what others wrote speak about it. Perhaps even 30 years later it was too painful a memory.

Then: about 500 white settlers were killed, some soldiers died, a number of Indians were killed during this brief war, and 38 Indians were executed. White people were driven from their homesteads and did not return for about three years, if at all. The surviving Dakota Indians in Minnesota were driven from their ancestral lands and relocated in another state. Now: remembering, but also healing and reconciliation seemed to be the themes for the weekend. It is time.

The log building is “The Old Log Church” which is a replica of the church built in 1868 at that site in Kandiyohi County. Both Swedes and Norwegians attended that church at the time. The Norwegians have rebuilt the church and on the third Sunday in August hold a church service to remember those pioneers who were killed in that area in 1862. It was mostly Swedes and Norwegians living in that county in 1862.

The man in the center is E.W. Solyst who for years organized the picnic to remember the massacre. He is 100 years old now and walked around at all the sites. The lady in the center is Joan Wilcox, a great granddaughter of Johannes Lundborg and one of the organizers of this gathering. She grew up on the farm where Pastor Andrew Jackson was preaching on the morning of August 20. It has been in her family since the claim was filed for it about 1860.

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This is a small part of an estate inventory (probate), in a Swedish bouppteckning, which was done after the death of the county court judge (häradsdomare) Sven Jansson in Haborsyttan, Nordmark (Värml.). Sven died in 1857 Jan. 9 of dropsy after having been born 1793 March 28 in nearby Lersjöed in Färnebo parish. Sven was survived by his widow Carolina Abrahamsson (b. 1794), sons Johan (b. 1821) and Carl Magnus (b. 1829), and daughter Stina Cajas (b. 1823).

Sven was a wealthy man and there are pages and pages with all his property, in total 32 pages. The above page lists all the items that were to be found in the servants’ room, usually situated behind the kitchen. Sven and Carolina seem to have had two maids for indoor work, and a couple of male hands for doing farm work, but also to work in the mines, which Sven owned partly.

Sven’s probate is found in the records of Färnebo Häradsrätt, volume F IIa:52, page 1823.

Transcription and translation on p. 22.
Little Bertha Louise is found!

In SAG 2012/2 we told a story that we were borrowing from the Augustana Heritage Newsletter, with the permission of its editor, Rev. Ronald Englund. The story was about a death memorial card for a little girl who died, just 4 years old, in an unknown location, and the names of the parents were not mentioned. The card had surfaced in a thrift store in Kansas. The little girl’s name was Bertha Louise Peterson, which looked very Swedish.

Just a few days after that issue of SAG was sent out the mystery was solved. SAG reader David Johnson sent a link to a Family Tree on Ancestry.com – and there she was!

Clicking on her father’s name revealed that the family lived in Bradshaw, York County, Nebraska.

In the list of Swedish American Churches I found that there was a Bethesda Lutheran Church in York, which had records already from 1874, where I hoped there would be more information about Bertha Louise’s family. A question sent to Jill Seatholm at the Swenson Center gave the information shown at the bottom of this page. With the help of the various U.S. Censuses the following family ancestral table for Bertha Louise can be built:

1) Bertha Louise (Louisa) Peterson, born 1905 Jan. 15 in Bradshaw, York Co., NE, died there 1909 June 29.

2) Joseph Edward Peterson, born 1877 Sep. in IA, died 1926 May 27 in Bradshaw. Farmer in Bradshaw. Married 1904 Jan. 20 to


— Generation I —

4) Nils Peterson, born 1846 Jan.10 in Sweden, died 1916 Oct. 23 in Bradshaw. He first came to Iowa, but shortly before 1880 he moved with his family to York Co., NE. After the death of his wife (before 1900) he lived in Bradshaw with son Frank Alfred, born 1875 Oct. 22 in Iowa, died 1936 May 15 in Bradshaw. Married to

5) Christine N.N., born ca 1841 in Sweden, died before 1900 in Bradshaw.

6) Anders Lorents Zakrisson Sandahl, born 1848 Nov. 17 in Edshult (Jönk.), died 1933 Nov. 22 in York Co., NE. He immigrated with parents and siblings in 1858 from Bredagårds, Edshult. The family first settled in Wayne, Henry Co., IA, but moved before 1873 to York Co., NE, where he spent the rest of his life. Married 1873 Nov. 2 in York Co. to

7) Matilda Kaliff, born 1854 Apr. 9 in Gammalkil (Östg.), died 1915 June 14 in York Co., NE. She immigrated in 1869 Sep.15 from Östra Snår, Gammalkil, with parents and siblings.

— Generation II —

Remaining questions

How did little Bertha Louise’s death memorial card end up behind another picture in a thrift shop in Wichita, KS?

And who were her paternal grandparents? Nils Peterson and his wife Christine? Where in Sweden did they come from?
Your link to your history!

NEW!
The Swedish Census database (*Folkräkning*) for 1910 has now 2 million individuals. 105,110 posts were just added.

The Digital Research Room
Here you can do research about people and their property, their life, work and taxes. Contact us at the address below to find out much more!

Stockholm Tax Rolls
*Mantalslängder* and *Kronotaxeringsslängder* from 1652 to 1915. Indexes too for some of them.

One of the released prisoners in the SVAR prison records.

www.riksarkivet.se/svar

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www.riksarkivet.se/svar
People always reacted in the same way when I told them of my college major, Scandinavian Studies: “What are you going to do with that?!” To be honest, I did not have a good answer to give them when I declared my major during my sophomore year of college, but I knew I wanted to follow my interests. To me, college is about honing your passions and discovering yourself through challenging educational pursuits. Scandinavian Studies allowed me to do this, with the challenge of learning a completely new language and culture, and studying abroad in Grebbestad, Sweden. And, in true liberal arts fashion, I also studied anthropology and art to further pursue a well-rounded education.

As graduation approached, I faced the anxieties that many soon-to-be graduates face: what do I do when I enter the “real world?” By this point, I had been a student worker in the Swenson Center for four years, working in a chilly basement digitizing and transcribing letters, entering photograph records into the Past-Perfect database, and taking inventory and rehousing collection materials. I eventually realized that I loved working with material culture. Collecting, preserving, and making available these resources to researchers for many years to come is a pursuit I strongly believe in. This realization was helped not in small part through my other studies, particularly anthropology, where I actively used the resources of archives, libraries, and museums. I could readily see the value in this profession.

Thus, I decided to pursue a master’s degree in museum studies at Syracuse University in upstate New York. Here, I studied everything from exhibition preparation to community outreach. I found that, while loving all aspects of this work, collection management encompassed my interests best. While in New York, I worked at many cultural organizations, attended professional conferences, and took a week-long course in New York City visiting with leaders in this field. I interned in the education and outreach department at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse where I was able to put my art skills to work designing gallery guides and educational resources for an upcoming exhibition. I also spent three months interning at the Sitka Historical Society in Sitka, Alaska. Here I again found myself working closely with manuscript and photograph collections, taking inventory, updating catalog records, and digitizing collections. I also spent my time responding to research requests, design new collection displays, along with working to develop, maintain, and preserve collection materials. I am very fortunate to have found a position and profession that I care deeply about. I am very happy to be back working at the Swenson Center. Coming back to the collections is almost like revisiting old friends; familiar faces unchanged thanks to the diligent work of the archivists before me.

This time, again approaching graduation, I faced new anxieties about the job market, student loans, and finding a position that was a good fit for my skills and interests. Naturally, I looked to cultural organizations that dealt with Scandinavian history, culture, and language. I was fortunate enough to be considered for the position as archivist/librarian here at the Swenson Center, and I could hardly control my excitement. This was my perfect position given my combination of education, skills, and interests. Now that I am here, I can see that this position is an even better fit than I first realized. Here I am able to engage in outreach efforts to the campus and greater community, work with students (including Scandinavian Studies students!), respond to research requests, design new collection displays, along with working to develop, maintain, and preserve collection materials. I am very fortunate to have found a position and profession that I care deeply about. I am very happy to be back working at the Swenson Center.
April 6th and 7th 2012 marked the somber 150th anniversary of one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, fought at Shiloh/Pittsburg Landing, TN. It began as a surprise attack by Confederate soldiers to protect their vital rail communications center of Corinth, MS, threatened by Gen. Grant’s approaching Union army. Nearly 67,000 Federal troops and 45,000 Confederates met at Shiloh in the costliest battle yet fought in that war. It left some 13,000 Federal and 10,700 Confederate casualties, including nearly 3,500 dead. Among the fallen were young Swedish immigrant soldiers from the Bishop Hill/Andover area.

Senior officers wrote “big picture” after-battle reports, but they tell little of the private soldier.

U.S. Grant, in his 1885 narrative of the battle, reported: “...Shiloh was the most severe battle fought in the West during the war, and but few in the east equaled it for hard, determined fighting. I saw an open field in our possession on the second day, over which the Confederates had made repeated charges the day before, so covered with dead that it would have been possible to walk across the clearing in any direction, stepping on dead bodies, without a foot touching the ground.” But, a member of Swedish-born Col. Oscar Malmborg’s 55th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment described it from the soldier’s viewpoint: “My chief memories are the battlefield horrors – mangled humanity, dead horses, deep mud, horrible stenches, and insufficient food.”

Oscar Malmborg was acting as an immigrant agent for the Illinois Central Railroad in Sweden as the war approached. Upon his return to Illinois, Malmborg was appointed Swedish-Norwegian vice-consul for Chicago in November 1861, but resigned to join as an officer in the 55th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment. His leadership played a key role in the Federal success at the battle of Shiloh. He was a controversial, but successful, officer, disliked by subordinates for his strict discipline, yet appreciated by his superiors for his unit’s battlefield performance.

Western Illinois Swedes at the battle of Shiloh

Early Civil War units were recruited locally for three-year enlistments by organizers who often became their commanders. They thus reflected their leaders’ and regional populations, including immigrant communities, whether German, Scotch, Irish, Norwegian, or Swedish. In western Illinois, two predominantly Swedish units were recruited from the Quad Cities, Andover, Galesburg, and Bishop Hill areas.

They are memorialized today by post-Civil War statues in village and city parks, as in Bishop Hill, or in Andover, by a large plaque outside the entrance of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Both my great-grandfather, Lars Nordin (Lewis Norton), and his brother, Karl Nordin (Charles Norton), are recognized there. Lars served as a sergeant in H Company, 112th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, from 15 August 1862 until 20 June 1865, and Karl, as an enlisted man in A and later, the Swedish C Company, 43rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, from 24 February 1864 to 30 November 1865. Karl’s Civil War British-made Tower musket remains a proud family possession, now in the care of descendant Jim Norton of Green Valley, AZ.

Of special interest to western Illinois are C Company, 43rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and D Company, 57th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, both almost completely Swedish, and both serving in some of the earliest and deadliest conflicts of the war, including the battle at Pittsburg Landing, or Shiloh, in April, 1862. It is said that more American soldiers were killed during that single en-
gagement than in all previous wars fought by the United States. Its costly losses, about 23,746 killed, wounded, or missing, brought the horrors of modern warfare home to both the military and civilian populations, north and south. It also brought an end to hopes of a short war, and a realization on the part of U.S. Grant that he would have to put relentless military pressure on the entire Confederate war machine to be successful in defeating the insurrection. The war’s ultimate cost was great, measured just in loss of human life. About 10% of all young northern males, and 30% of southern young men, are thought to have died during the war.\(^5\)

Federal counterattack, supported by heavy reinforcements, yielded a costly victory. The regiment of 500 experienced 206 casualties, including 49 dead. They continued to the successful siege of nearby Corinth.

**D Company, Illinois 57th Infantry Regiment at Shiloh.**

This unique unit, known as the “Swedish Union Guard,” was organized before the war, in the summer of 1860, at Bishop Hill, as a home guard drill unit, by Eric Forssé, a 12-year veteran of the Swedish Army. It was first made up almost completely of Bishop Hill Swedes.

To fill remaining vacancies after mobilization, Capt. Forssé recruited in the 16 October 1861 issue of the Swedish-language newspaper *Hemlandet* of Chicago, in a lengthy article, written from their training site at Camp Bureau, near Princeton, IL. The appeal was simple: “Countrymen and brothers! You, who feel your obligation to both our adopted country and the Scandinavian name in this important hour, come and unite with us, and let us march off, side by side, in this most proper of all wars, to win renewed honor for the noble Scandinavian name.” The unit thus entered the war with recruits from Altona, Andover, Berlin, Bishop Hill, Galva, Galesburg, Geneseo, Gillson, Henry, Moline, Nekoma, Princeton, Wataga, Victoria, Iowa City, and Swede Point, IA.

While still at Camp Bureau in training with the 56th Volunteer Infantry, they were talked into attempting to join a sharpshooter unit downriver, probably Birge’s Western Sharpshooters.\(^4\) On 27 October 1861, the Swedes and others simply went AWOL, secretly boarding the steamer *Musselman*, only to be stopped near Alton when Federal artillery fired across its bow. After brief arrest, D company and the 56th were freed, and consolidated into the Illinois 57th Volunteer Infantry. The incident never appeared in official records, but was reported later by a unit member, Capt. Eric Johnson, in his history of the unit.\(^7\) Unit member Eric Berglund also told that story in his Civil War daybook, detailing efforts in Springfield of their Captain and Peter Wikström to get them released for active duty, after their apprehension for what appeared to be desertion.

On 26 March 1862, they were ordered upriver to Pittsburg Landing, attached to Col. T.W. Sweeney’s 3rd Brigade, in Brig. Gen. W.H.L. Wallace’s 2nd Division. The 57th assembled on 6 March in response to distant firing, and marched into battle along the Corinth Road. They moved that afternoon to their left, closer to the Tennessee River, in support of Gen. Hurlbut’s division, but were forced to retire under fire. They endured a night of miserable rain, then participated in the victory of the second day, thanks largely to reinforcements from Maj. Gen. Buell’s fresh forces arriving from the north. Those simple facts hide many stories, told best by the soldiers themselves.

**Soldier’s tales**

Lt. Eric Johnson recorded his experience of the battle, published as “Lieut. E. Johnson’s Journal” in the *Henry County Chronicle*, 29 April 1862, Cambridge, IL. Another enlisted member, Charles Valentine, wrote home to Sweden about his experiences in a letter published by *Hemlandet*, Chicago, IL, 6 August 1862, describing the everyday problems of the soldier.\(^8\)

Lt. Eric Johnson’s published journal details conditions under which the unit fought at Shiloh. The day before the battle, Lt. Johnson sent $1,278 in funds from unit members’ first partial pay of 4 April, back to families and friends in Bishop Hill, which was delivered to Olof Johnson for distribution, in anticipation of the pending battle.

Enlisted soldier Charles Valentine reported in his letter published in *Hemlandet* 8 June 1862 that Olof Johnson responded from Bishop Hill by sending the unit “…half a barrel of pickled whitefish, along with other necessities of life. That pleased us well, and even we who did not belong to the Colony, nor came from there, also got a lick of the spoon…” Valentine noted that “…The majority of our soldiers are at present rather sick-looking and pale, and not because of any wasted living….because the nogood sutlers are often not at all ashamed to demand all of 25 cents for a cup of beer, and for butter they usually charge 40 cents per pound, and everything else in proportion at such unheard-of prices, so living here in the forest is no paradise...Our provisions have been rather meager for some time, so for such a long time now we have not had anything but rather disgusting and inferior bacon, a kind of smoked pork sides; and we have been forced to eat only such inferior pork, fried and boiled, in the severe heat, with bad crackers, until we just recently at least put into operation an oven and a person reasonably skilled in the art of baking, who furnishes us with bread, so at least we do not just plain starve to death. The money we had previously received in pay we have had to spend on articles of food, because it has been completely impossible to live off the food we received as rations.”

On a more positive note, Valentine wrote: “On the 19th of this month our whole regiment was in full parade formation. They had to do their drills for a rather grand flag, which would be presented to the company in the regiment most skilled in war games.
And the great honor of being the winner there, and taking that prize, went to our company. For that, we had our Major (Forsse) to thank, who had made it his highest priority that we should be the most outstanding in the drills.”

Lt. Eric Johnson's own narrative of the two-day battle and its aftermath deserves special attention, showing skills which later served him well as a writer and newspaper publisher in Swedish-America. He writes of Sunday morning 6 April: “To Arms! To Arms! Fall In! sounds from mouth to mouth, and the distant roar of heavy, rapid cannonading proclaims that the enemy has attacked our defenses. As each moment passes, the pounding sounds more distinctly, making it evident the enemy was gaining ground, and by 8:00 a.m. the sound of musketry became distinct...never, through the whole day, from daybreak until dark was there one moment's rest or cessation of hostilities, rather a continuous roar that cannot be described by the pen. But, we heard that, all around, the enemy was gaining on us by their superior numbers, though we disputed every inch of ground, and about 5:00 p.m. things began to look very bad, the enemy had taken most of our batteries and almost had possession of our (Pittsburg) landing. A kind of Bull Run (defeatist) spirit had taken hold of some of our troops, and if it had not been for the Tennessee River, it would have become a second Bull Run (panic).

“But, thank God, there was no way to get across, and at just the opportune time, Gen. Buell came and saved us, for had he not come, we would now have been prisoners...nobly did the 57th do its duty, standing on its ground for a long time, unaided, against three times their number. The first position they occupied was in defense of one of our batteries. Here, they lay flat on the ground (took cover), and here, the bullets flew like hail, and shells passed overhead by the thousands. Here, Corporal Warner was wounded. From here they moved a little further and took cover, but because the enemy was trying to flank them on the left, they were ordered on, and advanced nobly, crossing gullies and ravines, engaging the enemy and forcing their
retreat, but as our regiment advanced, they were flanked on three sides by three different enemy regiments, and they became exposed to terrible crossfire, but they still stood their ground until they received orders to fall back.

“It was here that Chas. M. Green fell. He was brave among the brave, and fell nobly, an honor to his ancestry, his adopted country, and his numerous friends. Major (Norman B.) Page (Adjutant, 57th) also fell here, cheering on the men while shooting away at the enemy with his revolver... when our prospects were darkest, Gen. Buell came to our aid with what little he could get cross the river. Then we drove the enemy back a short distance, after a most terrible fight, when night came and put a stop to the bloody work of the day, both sides glad for the rest. But our gunboats shelled the enemy the whole night, wreaking terrible havoc among them.

“Monday, April 7th. Immediately at daybreak, the battle commenced again in earnest. During the night, Gen. Buell had crossed (the Tennessee River) with his forces. The troops were now fresh, and the enemy began to yield ground, but fighting with great perseverance, disputing every foot. But at last, after seven hours of the hardest fighting ever witnessed by mortal eyes, they were forced to retreat, and the flight became general, our forces pursuing... though victory crowns our efforts and struggles, and the air is rent with our cries of rejoicing, we cannot shut our eyes to the sad sight that meets our vision – the misery and pain of the wounded. Here ought to be hundreds of surgeons where there is but one.

Monday, April 8th. Today has been the saddest one for me. War is a terrible thing. But nothing is worse than to walk over the battlefield after the fighting. Today, I went out with the party detailed to bury the dead. We buried all of the regiment together, right where our flag stood during the fight. The slaughter on both sides is terrible... The place is marked so it can be easily found by those who in the future may wish to see where their friends or relatives stood, nobly fighting for their liberties – and where they met a hero’s death and grave. All this is glory for a soldier, and what we must be prepared for every minute.”

Lt. Johnson closed his report with some simple soldiers’ thoughts... “Cheer up friends! Not as bad, after all, as it might have been. We expected to go through all this and expect still more similar scenes. But, then, look at the blessings we are handing down to prosperity. Say, then, is it not worth dying for?... Another big fight, and then another, and so on, until the rebellion is crushed. Then, if we live, we will come home to enjoy the fruits of our labor. If not, then you must go on without us.”

The “Swedish Union Guard” continued to the siege of Corinth 29 April - 30 May, where they lost others, then to fighting later at Vicksburg. At the end of their three-year enlistment, they were rewarded with 30 days’ reenlistment leave, and were welcomed home to a grand reception in Galva’s Norton Hall on 29 January 1864. They then returned as “veterans” to participate in Sherman’s devastatingly effective “march to the sea,” and, finally, in the Grand Review before President Johnson and his generals in Washington on 27 May 1865. They mustered out at Camp Douglas, IL, on 7 July 1865.

**Olof Krans**

Among members of D Company was a truly unique sergeant, Olof (Ersson) Krans, whose family emigrated from Västmanland, Sweden, in 1850. He became an ox boy in Bishop Hill, joined Company D, but was released from Civil War duty in June 1862 because of poor health. He returned to the Bishop Hill area where he became a photographer, house- and sign painter, and portrait artist in Galva. For the Bishop Hill Colony’s 50th anniversary in 1896, he was commissioned to do a series of paintings, depicting Bishop Hill life and colonists as they began their American adventure. His subjects either loved or hated those paintings, but most were kept and treasured. His work was recognized in a jointly-released commemorative stamp by both Sweden and the United States in 1988. A documentary video on Krans was produced by Athenafilm of Sweden in 1996. A major book on Krans is now being prepared by Illinois folkart historian Merle Glick, jointly with the Lakeview Museum of Peoria.

Krans’s paintings are now recognized as some of America’s best primitive art. Many are housed in their own museum at the Bishop Hill State Historic Site. They give a view not only of pioneering life on the prairies around Bishop Hill, but of Swedes in the Civil War. They depict Krans himself in bivouac with D Company, and later as a proud veteran in the Grand Army of the Republic. He also painted Capt. Eric Johnson in civilian attire, plus a uniformed portrait of Maj. Eric Forssé, who in 1869 led a group of 50 settlers to found the town of Falun, Kansas. The exhibit contains photographs of Maj. Erik Berglund (Erik Bergland), who had the distinction of becoming the first Swede to graduate from the
U.S. Military Academy, after Civil war service as a staff officer in the 57th. He later returned to the Academy as instructor, then continued a distinguished military career as an engineer officer.  

A special Civil war display is part of that museum. It shows not only weapons and musical instruments used by D Company, but a collection of translated Civil War letters written by members of the unit.


For more reading:


Hannings, Bud. Every Day of the Civil War, Chronological Encyclopedia. 2010.


Olson, E.W. & Engberg, Martin J. History of the Swedes of Illinois, Part 1, Chicago, IL 1908.

Endnotes:


4) Lucien B. Crooker, The Story of the 55th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War 1861-1865, 1887, contains a frank appraisal of Malmborg, including dismissed court martial charges brought against him as commander of the 55th. His unit’s service at Shiloh on 6 April 1862 was vital to Grant’s successful defense of his threatened lines on the first day. Malmborg’s regiment, using the European “hollow square” formation, held the Federals’ vital left wing near Pittsburg Landing, despite being nearly surrounded. They participated in the second day’s successful counterattack. The 55th suffered 1 officer and 51 enlisted killed, and 9 officers and 190 enlisted wounded, with another 26 captured, out of a total unit strength of 512 men.


6) Birge’s Western Sharpshooters were training at Benton Barracks, MO. Its C and F companies were already being recruited largely from western Illinois and eastern Iowa. It later became the 66th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Eric Bergland’s diary for 27 October notes: “The Captain got orders to march at daybreak today and made ready. Accordingly at 4 o’clock in the morning (we) marched out to town and from there to Trenton, a distance of about 12 miles, where we got on a boat and steamed down the river for St. Louis.” On 29 October he wrote: “We arrived at Alton about 11:00 o’clock and we were stopped there by a cannon ball which struck the boat in the bow and made us make for the shore, where we were taken prisoners…to the old penitentiary at Alton till night, when we went on the train to Camp Butler.” On 7 November he wrote: “The officers came back at about 9:00 last night with a petition to the Governor to let us go to St. Louis right away, which the boys signed, after which the officers went back to Springfield again. They are gone today, hard at work at Springfield.” On Friday, 8 November he noted: “The Captain returned tonight with the news that we are to go to Chicago to fill up the regiment, and after that to go to St. Louis…”


8) Illinois Historic Preservation Agency historian Mark Johnson, Springfield, IL, has provided translated copies of the Eric Forsse recruiting letters, the published journal of Lt. Eric Johnson, and letter of Charles Valentine.

9) D Company deaths at Shiloh were only Charles Green (Myrtengren) of Bishop Hill and Adolf Johnson of Princeton, but over the next several months at Corinth, deaths were Andrew Anderson 4 October, Otto Peal(sic) 3 October, Jonas Westhund(sic) 9 July, and Olof Wixtrum(sic) of Bishop Hill 7 October, Eric Hedberg of Galva 10 July, Jonas Moberg of Andover 24 August, and George Reden, 7 August 1863.

10) The Major Eric Bergland Collection (Hayes-30), Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont, Ohio, contains copies of his Civil War diaries and letters, and researcher Phillip Stoneberg’s interview about Bergland’s memories of life in Bishop Hill.

Civil War widows
The U.S. National Archives recently released a new video in their “Inside the Vaults” series that highlights the project to digitize the Civil War widows’ pension files. A team of 60 volunteers led by National Archives personnel crossed the 100,000 mark of 1.28 million case files. FamilySearch is providing volunteers who create the digital images. I think Fold3 produces the index. Fold3.com publishes the index and images on their website.

(Ancestry Insider 2012 Aug. 23)

Ancestry grows
Ancestry informed recently that they have acquired the website 1000memories, where you can post your old photos. Photos can be uploaded from your hard drive or transferred from facebook, instagram, or Flickr. Photos can be scanned by scanner, digital camera, or smart-phone app.

(Link on p. 30)

Princess Madeleine is engaged
On Oct. 25, 2012, it was announced that H.R.H Princess Madeleine of Sweden, youngest daughter of King Carl XIV Gustaf and Queen Silvia, was engaged to be married to M. Christopher O'Neill of New York. Mr. O’Neill is 38 year old, and works in the financial sector.

Mr. O’Neill and Princess Madeleine.

Ancestry is sold!
“Ancestry.com is being acquired by Permira, a European private equity firm, for $1.6 billion. It requires stockholder approval but is virtually a done deal since more than 30% of Ancestry.com is held by previous investors and officers of the company.

“The announcement triggered a number of lawsuits against the Ancestry.com board of directors claiming breaches of fiduciary duty and other violations for not acting in the company’s shareholders’ best interests and stockholders were defrauded because the company is worth much more than the buyout price. This is standard operating procedure for acquisition of public companies. The net effect is that stockholders gain little and lawyers make a lot of money.

“How will this affect the genealogical community? ... Permira appears to be a company that buys and sells other companies and is likely totally disinterested in the purpose of Ancestry.com. Thus are the ways of ’Wall Street.’ ”

(Nu? What’s New? 2012 Oct.28)

H. Arnold Barton receives award
Professor Emeritus H. Arnold Barton of Tyresö, Sweden, formerly of Carbondale, Ill., was awarded the Great Achievement Award by Swedish Council of America at their meeting in Karlstad in September 2012.

Dr. Barton was presented with the award by Anne-Charlotte Harvey. Dr. Barton was formerly professor of history at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and a longtime editor of the Swedish-American Historical Quarterly. SAG congratulates Dr. Barton for this well-earned award! Dr. Barton is also a member of the SAG Editorial Committee.

Swedish Genealogy Days 2013
The Swedish Genealogy Days (Släktforskardagarna) will be held in Köping on Aug. 24–25. Köping is situated between Örebro and Västerås.
My Grandparents, John and Carrie Nelson of Fryksände

BY MYRTLE J. FAGENSTROM AND EUNICE HOLMGREN
FROM MYRTLE’S BOOK “MEMORIES”

The immigration
Grandfather John Nelson, Sr., was a tailor in Sweden. When his daughters sewed new dresses, they would get their dad to make the buttonholes. Grandpa said he never would have left Sweden if he could have bought a sewing machine.

When he sold his property in Sweden, he was somehow swindled out of his money so he had to borrow money to get to America. I remember Uncle Victor telling that it was grandpa’s main desire to get out of debt before he died. He just made it.

The Nelsons left Vermland, Sweden, in June of 1869, with four children, all under eleven years old. They thought their children would have greater opportunities in America. They didn’t realize then what hardships they would meet in this land.

When they reached Christiania, Norway, they had to stay there two weeks waiting for a boat, but were finally on their way in a sailing vessel. It made good time as long as the wind was in their favor. They even passed a steamship one day. Then the wind died down and they couldn’t move. That same steamship passed them and they never saw it again. They were on the ocean for nine weeks, the same time as the Pilgrims. Grandma was pregnant and sick most of the time, so Grandpa prayed that she wouldn’t die so he would have to have her thrown overboard. Lena, who was the oldest, cried and was consoled with the promise that she could have all the white bread she wanted when they got to America. She was skeptical and said in Swedish, “Like fun I will.” (Vackert for ja.)

They had bought tickets to Cokato, Minnesota, but when they got to Minneapolis, found that the railroad ended there. A bachelor who was living in a dugout let Grandma and the children stay there while he and Grandpa joined the gang to extend the railroad. It took sixteen weeks from the time they left Sweden until they reached their destination.

After making their home in Cokato for six years, they decided to move to Swift County where they homesteaded five miles northeast of Kerkhoven. The Indians had been chased out of Minnesota and there was much hardship and many massacres.

A new home in Kerkhoven, MN
When they settled on their last farm, Grandpa chose the highest spot of land on which to build a two-storey house. Folks laughed and asked if he was building a hotel. Grandma wove her own rag rugs on a large loom. The girls sewed these strips together and used straw for padding so they had “wall-to-wall carpeting.” Curtains were made from yards of white cheese cloth. The more you could drape on the floor, the more stylish you were. Mattresses were filled with straw, emptied, and refilled every Saturday. Each spring their summer kitchen was freshly papered with newspapers. To make their own candles, they had tallow on top of water in a boiler, fastened strings to a stick, and hand dipped them. They had plenty of milk, cream, and eggs, but an apple sometimes had to be divided into ten pieces.

When Grandma was asked for a recipe, she’d say “so much of this and so much of that.” When pinned down for measurements, she’d say, “maybe a cup of everything except the soda.” Until the boys were old enough, grandma did most of the milking. She got really provoked when the kids would use her wooden-soled shoes for sliding, as they got too slippery. They put heated rocks in their sled to keep warm when they went to church. When all were aboard, Grandma would come running with a comb in hand and would braid and comb her hair on the way to church.

Grandpa John grew his own tobacco, an unusual crop in that part of the country. Farming wasn’t easy in those days, with more drawbacks than anyone can imagine.

The locusts came
One of the most trying periods was during the two summers of the grasshopper plague. In July of 1876, the grasshoppers came and destroyed all the grain. The ground was black as if it had never been planted and the air was full of these locusts. They tried in many ways to get rid of them but to no avail. Grandpa had to borrow money to buy seed for the next year. He, like everyone else, didn’t expect the grasshoppers to return, but they did, and destroyed everything, leaving in July just as suddenly as they had come. Grandpa had the seed debt to pay and nothing to show for his work.

They drove oxen, and once when uncle John was in town, the oxen got scared by the smell of a bear which a clown had on a chain. They started for home and arrived covered with foamy sweat.

Renting land from Indians
Alfred and Charlie were the ones that started to go to the Sisseton area to rent land from an old Indian. This
Indian had four wives and numerous children and for each child, the government gave him 40 acres of land. They would do the spring work on the farm at Kerkhoven, then take horses and equipment to the Indian’s land west of Sisseton, break as much prairie land and sow flax as long as it was advisable to plant. Then they would come back home to harvest the crops, then go back to Sisseton to harvest there.

Victor said that throughout the time they did this, Alfred made over fifty trips between Kerkhoven and Sisseton with about 120 miles one way. He would be so lonesome that he sang the old Swedish hymns until he was so hoarse he could only squeak. Emil got involved in this too, as they plowed with a steam engine and were going to put up a tow mill. One year Emma, who was about eighteen, went along to be the cook. An old ugly Indian came, terrifying her since she was alone. She made out that he was asking for the Nelsons. She asked if he knew where this Indian’s land was. His nod of the head and an “ugh” indicated that he knew, so she told him that was where they were. It turned out that this was the landlord himself.

Victor told about overnight fishing trips to Norway Lake. They used nets and came home with a single wagon box full of fish, which they would clean and pack down in salt to preserve. No fish and game laws existed then. He also told of working in Emil’s shop in Kerkhoven to help shoe horses. When it got icy as it often does in winter, every farmer had to have at least one team shod so they could walk on ice. There were three or four men who were kept busy; one at the forge shaping the shoes as the others nailed them on the horses.

**Daily life**

Emma used to play her guitar and her brothers, Alfred and Victor, sang with her at meetings in the various homes before the church was built. The Bethel Baptist Church in Kerkhoven was organized in 1894 with thirteen charter members, Grandma Carrie and John, Jr., among them. Grandpa John had sometime before this donated one acre of his farm to the young congregation for a cemetery. As it turned out, he was the first one to be buried there [d. 1899 Oct. 30]. His body was later moved to the Hillside Cemetery in Kerkhoven where Grandma was buried at his side.

Grandma lived with daughter Emma’s family from time to time when she wasn’t at Aunt Ida’s in Sisseton. She never did master the English language, so she spoke to the children in Swedish, which was no problem since that was what they mostly used at home.

During one of Grandma’s stays at Emma’s place, Eunice and her brother had gone to bed. But something very funny had come up so they were having a hilarious time. Grandma appeared in the doorway and she quoted a Bible verse, perhaps John 3:16. The children were too much wound up to stop, so they were still giggling. Grandma said, “Va skratter ni ått, skrattar ni ått Gud’s Ord?” (What are you laughing at, are you laughing at God’s Word?)

Grandma said, “I have ten children and it got to be people out of all of them. It grows sense into them.” She would read her paper and come upon some account of a family with a sick member. This sickness would become progressively worse to the point of desperation. Then someone would go out into the woods and find some herb and bring it home. From that they would make a concoction which turned out to be “Kuriko.” That was a patent cure-all, good for what ails you, from dandruff to ingrown toenails. When Grandma got that far she would throw down her paper in disgust. She would sit and read her Swedish paper, covering one eye with her hand, but never wearing glasses. As she read she would weep in sympathy for the people she did not know, had never met, or even heard of before. Her heart must have been big enough to include everyone. She prayed for her family even to unborn generations. Grandma died in 1921 July 5, but I’ll never forget cousin Ruby Lepler’s hearty laugh when she told about Grandma being such a happy widow.

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John Nelson left Svenneby, Fryksände, Sweden, on 1869 May 3, with his family. In Sweden he was Jan Nilsson Hagberg, and his wife was Karin Jansdotter. They traveled with their children: Karin (b.1858 Sep. 7); Nils (b. 1860 Oct. 8); Johan (b. 1863 Sep. 23); and Per Emil (b. 1865 Nov. 26). In the U.S. six more children were born, including the writer’s mother Hilma (b. 1872 Apr.14 in Cokato, MN). Hilma married Isaak Johan Moe, born 1869 Sep.3 in Hattfjelldal, Norway. Their daughter Myrtle was born 1899 Sep. 1 in Black Eagle, MT. (Dates from Emibas).
In June 2012 the new building was opened to the public. On October 2 the SAG Editor, with friends, visited the ASI, which later in the same week was officially dedicated by the King and Queen of Sweden.

Almost the first thing you notice, when entering the ASI by the new entrance, is the huge tapestry by Helena Hernmarck, which hangs on the wall, close to the Cafeteria FIKA. The tapestry shows some of the vividly colored accessories of Swedish folk costumes, and is aptly named “Folk Costume Details.”

Size: height: 15 feet  
width: 9 feet
In Minneapolis has grown!

Between the new Nelson building and the old Turnblad mansion there is now a nice inner courtyard, which can be used for social functions, concerts, and much more, even *kubb* games.

In the Nelson Cultural Center there are new lecture rooms and a huge auditorium, which can also be used for banquets. In the building is also found an office for Gustavus Adolphus College, based in St. Peter, Minnesota, as well as the seat of Swedish Council of America.

There are now several elevators that connect the old and the new building. The whole institution is now accessible for handicapped people.

There is the Osher Gallery for exhibitions in the new building, and much more space for new exhibits in the Turnblad mansion. A gift shop is situated close to the new entrance in the Nelson building. We found that they stocked very few books on immigration history, or Swedish history, things that probably interests many visitors. Also we did not see any postcards showing these spectacular buildings.

*(Thanks to Dee and Ray Kleinow for help with the photos).*
King and Queen visits Minnesota

A nice Välkommen was given to King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden who came to Minnesota for a three-day visit last October 5th & 6th.

While here, they visited the Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., to help mark the 150th anniversary of its founding by Swedish immigrants.

On the following day, they took an active part in the Royal Dedication of the new Carl & Leslie Nelson Culture Center which took place on the grassy campus of the American Swedish Institute, beneath the shelter of a white canvas tent on a cool, windy day. The dignitaries who joined the King and Queen for this celebration were Bruce Karstadt, ASI president and CEO, Truett Lawson, ASI Board of Trustees, chair, Leslie Nelson, board member and major donor, Senator Amy Klobuchar and both the U.S. ambassador to Sweden Mark Brzezinski and the Swedish ambassador to the U.S. Jonas Hafström. A beautiful music performance was given by the Spelmanslag and the Twin Cities Nyckelharpalag.

We had the honor of attending this Royal Dedication with our house guest Helmer Olofsson from Växjö, Sweden. Having toured the city of Stockholm, watched the Parade of Soldiers and the daily changing of the Royal Guard in the Royal Palace courtyard, touring the Royal Palace and the Drottningholm Palace & it’s beautiful gardens which has been the royal family’s primary residence since 1981, it was extra special, seeing the King and Queen in our home state.

Ostrom Tragedy in Washington

In SAG 2/12, page 20, there is an article about Nobel Prize Laureate Elinor Ostrom and her husband Vincent.

Some effort was made to find out where Vincent Ostrom’s Swedish roots were to be found.

His family was found as immigrating from Kläppe in Marby parish in Jämtland in 1901, and settled in Whatcom County, WA.

One of the sons in the family was named Alfred, born in Marby in 1894 Nov. 13, and he and his wife Alma Knutson became the parents of Vincent.

SAG reader Bo Björklund, Kista, Sweden, read this article and then shared some information he had about Alfred’s fate.

Alfred died already in 1931 Sep. 24 in Everson, Whatcom County, age 37. Bo now told that Alfred had been shot by a neighbor, and that this was a double tragedy as the killer committed suicide right after his deed.
In Memoriam: **Ulla Sköld**

An important member of the SAG Workshop staff has left us all

**Ulla Sköld** of Västerås, Sweden, died 2012 Sep. 6 after a long battle with cancer. She was born 1937 July 20, and leaves husband Daniel, sons Ulf and Magnus, and their families.

She was for eleven years a very important member of the staff of the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City.

*Karna Olsson*, then organizer of the Workshop writes:

I first met Ulla the summer of 1998. I had spent two weeks driving my Father, Nils William Olsson, on what was to be his last trip to Sweden. For years I had heard him and Mother speak of Ulla and Daniel but had never met them. Because of my parents’ ages, I assumed Ulla and Daniel were of their generation. Imagine my surprise when I discovered them to be the same generation as myself.

Ulla and her husband, Daniel and my husband, Phil, and myself hit it off immediately. Both Phil and Daniel enjoyed cars and motorcycles and had good senses of humor. Ulla explained to me from her genealogy research that we were distantly related from a common ancestor in the 1600’s, a craftsman who had migrated to Sweden to help the Swedes transform their iron into weaponry. I also soon learned that Ulla’s avocation was genealogy and her passion was the genealogy of the soldiers of Västmanland, her home province.

Forward some time and my father asked me to take over the organization of his annual Salt Lake City genealogy weeks in conjunction with the Swenson Center in Rock Island, IL. Father was failing physically and wished the Salt Lake City experience to continue...already he had Elisabeth Thorsell of Sweden traveling to be a resource person. Losing Father meant we needed another person for Salt Lake City. After meeting Ulla and realizing her knowledge, I suggested we ask Ulla to come to SLC and help. Ulla accepted and it was the beginning of a long and rewarding time both in Salt Lake City and in our respective communities.

In turn Daniel invited my husband Phil to travel to Sweden and take up motorcycling, something my husband hadn’t done in twenty-five years. This became an annual jaunt for Phil. He would travel to Sweden and stay with Ulla and Daniel before he and Daniel headed north, west, or south on week-long journeys. The two men and a third Swedish friend, Börje, traveled thousands of miles over the next eight years. When in Salt Lake City, the two men, Phil and Daniel, would travel in a rented car all over the west, seeing the different canyons, exploring Las Vegas, and various national parks.

Once the week in Salt Lake City was finished, Ulla and Daniel would travel east and visit us in Maine. Sometimes they ended up at our home at the same time we returned. We ate lobster, visited coastal communities, and enjoyed each other’s company. One of Ulla’s favorite experiences was to head down to the coast, she and I. She would say as we drove, often in silence, “it is good friendship when you don’t have to talk, just be together.” Always I would stop on a hill called “Caterpillar hill,” an area covered with wild blueberries. By the time Ulla and I would be at this spot, the blueberry barrens would have turned a lovely rust red. Ulla just loved this natural phenomenon. We would sit quietly taking in the beauty of the barrens, dotted with boulders left by glaciers ages ago.

It has been a couple of years since Ulla has visited Maine...and I realize she will not again...but whenever I do drive by a blueberry barren in the late fall, Ulla will be with me...two friends who could visit in silence and appreciate the wonders of the world.

Thank you Ulla for being part of the SAG Workshop world and my world.

*Karna Olsson*

<karnaolsson125@gmail.com>

![Ulla and Daniel in Salt Lake City 2009. (Photo by Judy Olsson Baouab).](image)
Tor Johnson (1902–1971) has a solid reputation as an actor in so-called horror movies. Here follows an obituary that was found on the web site www.findagrave.com. No author is mentioned:

“Actor. Born in Sweden in 1903, the husky son of Karl J. Johansson and Lovissa Petersson, he became a professional wrestler while in his early teens. Shortening his name to “Tor Johnson,” the young man journeyed to the United States and California in 1928. He immediately found work on the wrestling circuit as “The Super Swedish Angel,” a large economy size version of the International Villain, Frenchman Maurice Tillett, who was wrestling in the U.S. at the time as “The French Angel”. In 1934 Johnson made his American film debut in “Kid Millions” with popular comic Eddie Cantor, then, while continuing to wrestle, appeared in over thirty films, including “Man on the Flying Trapeze” with W.C. Fields, “Shadow of the Thin Man” with William Powell and Myrna Loy, “Canterville Ghost” with Charles Laughton, “Lost in a Harem” with Abbott & Costello, “Ghost Catchers” with Olsen & Johnson, “Road to Rio” with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, and Dorothy Lamour, “State of the Union” with Spencer Tracy and Kathryn Hepburn, “Alias the Champ” with fellow-grappler Gorgeous George, “The Lemon Drop Kid” with Bob Hope, “The Black Sleep” with Basil Rathbone, John Carradine, and Bela Lugosi, “Carousel” with Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones, and perhaps his most (in)famous film of them all, “Plan 9 from Outer Space” with Bela Lugosi and “Vampira,” for writer-director Ed Wood. Tor Johnson’s television appearances included “You Bet Your Life” with Groucho Marx and George Fenneman, “Peter Gunn” with Craig Stevens and Lola Albright, “The Red Skelton Show” with Red Skelton, and “Bonanza” with Lorne Greene and Michael Landon. In the mid-1960s a mask and special effects company, Don Post Studios, immortalized the “Gentle Giant” by taking a life mask of the actor-wrestler, and also creating a best-selling commercial “monster mask” of Tor. The four-hundred pounds-plus character actor, in turn, recreated his best-known movie persona – “Lobo” – for a series of personal appearances with the Don Post Studios-Stunt Stars from Screenland Traveling Monster Show, seen at Uni-Mart stores throughout Southern California. In 1969 he retired to his home in Sylmar, a community near Hollywood, adjoining the San Fernando Valley. Plagued by ongoing heart problems most of his life, he passed away at the age of 67, at San Fernando Valley Hospital in San Fernando, California. The cause of his death was congestive heart failure. In 1994, Tor Johnson was portrayed by wrestler George “The Animal” Steele in Tim Burton’s motion picture “Ed Wood,” with Johnny Depp and Martin Landau.

Tor Johnson in “Plan 9 from Outer Space.”

Tor Johnson’s grave marker at Eternal Valley Park, Newhall, Los Angeles county, California. (Findagrave.com).
**Tor’s life in the records**

According to American biographies, Tore was born in Sweden in 1903. For some reason this is not right; he was born in Brännkyrka in 1902, just south of Stockholm (see picture above). Tore grew up in a working-class family, and they moved from Brännkyrka to the nearby island of Söder and then back again several times. He had a brother Ernst Teodor, b. 1884; sister Elsa Lovisa, b. 1889, who left for Chicago in 1906; Hilda Elvira, b. 1891; and Ester Maria, b. 1894. If any other siblings also emigrated is not known. In 1919 Tore left for America, but somehow told the authorities that he was going to Brännkyrka, as that is what is recorded in the Maria Magdalena moving-out records.

He arrived at Ellis Island on Sep. 30 on the **Stockholm**, is called an electrician, and his destination is sister Elsie Möller in Chicago. He is listed as Karl Erik.

In 1922 he returned to Sweden, and in 1923 he left again for America on the **Kungsholm**, this time in the company of his future wife, Greta Maria Alfrida Johansson, born 1898 Aug. 9 in Kungsholm, Stockholm.

They arrived at Ellis Island on 1923 March 28, and are both recorded as being unmarried. Their destination is his aunt, M. Nordmark, in Chicago, his mother’s older sister. Their marriage record has not been found.

It has not been possible to find them in the 1930 census, but in 1940 they are living in New York, on 48th street in Kings County in Brooklyn. Tore and Greta are married and their son Tore (later: Karl) is born ca 1925 in New York. In 1935 they lived in Boston, but were now in New York. Tore is listed as a building worker, not an actor.

They moved later to California, and in Tor’s death notice he is listed as having signed up for the Social Security in New York before 1951. Tor died in Sylmar, Los Angeles Co., California, on 1971 May 12.

This obituary was found in the Van Nuys Valley News 1971 May 16 (from Newspaperarchive.com).

**Tor’s ancestors**

1) Karl Erik Tore (Tor) Johnson, b. 19 Oct 1902 in Tellusborg, Brännkyrka, Stock., died 12 May 1971 in Sylmar, Los Angeles Co., CA.

— **Generation I** —

2) f Karl Johan Johansson, b. 28 Sep 1865 in Härad, Södm. died 15 Apr 1925 in Maria, Stockholm, AB. Stone and building worker. Married 15 Feb 1891 in Jakob och Johannes, Stockholm, Stock., to the following ancestor:

3) m Louisa Christina Pettersson, b. 4 Aug 1867 in Österåker, Stock., still alive in 1926 in Stockholm.

— **Generation II** —

4) Father unknown

5) fm Clara Josefinena Lennqvist, b. 29 Jun 1845 in Klackhaga, Länna, Södm. died 27 Jan 1920 in Ålebytorp, Överselö, D.

She worked most of her life as a domestic. In 1869 she married Johan Albert Andersson, b. 20 Oct 1846 in Tumbo, Södm., a tenant farmer in the Mariefred area. He ran away from home in the summer of 1875, and is later supposed to be in America.

6) mf Per Gustaf Pettersson, b. 14 Oct 1827 in Tensta, Upps., died after 1881. He was a farm laborer, and later lived in Stockholm and moved in and out of the city. Married to the following ancestor:

7) mm Maria Margareta Gustafsdotter, b. 24 Dec 1822 in Lillkyrka, Upps., died after 1881.

— **Generation III** —

11) fm m Maria Sofia Persdotter, b. 6 Sep 1827 in Klackhaga, Länna, Södm. Married 26 Dec 1849 in Länna, Södm. to Johan Eric Lennqvist, b. 10 Jun 1820 in Stora Risviken, Länna, D. He lived with his in-laws at Granlund on Klackhaga lands in Länna, but around 1853 he left his wife and disappeared.

— **Generation IV** —

22) fm mf Per Ersson, b. 26 Mar 1788 in Länna, Södm. died in 1860 in Länna. Farmer at Klackhaga in Länna. In 1855 he moved as a widower to the parish poorhouse. Married to the following ancestor.

23) fm mm Anna Andersdotter, b. 12 Feb 1794 in Länna, Södm. died of stomach ache 17 Jan 1829 in Klackhaga, Länna, Södm.
The solution of the Handwriting Example 32

Transcription

Möbler

I Kökskammaren

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<td>5:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Nyckelskåp</td>
<td>0:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Slagbord</td>
<td>1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Dito - mindre</td>
<td>1:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Thebord - dito</td>
<td>1:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Soffa med öfwerdrag</td>
<td>3:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Dito - Ligg</td>
<td>5:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Kommod</td>
<td>0:75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Spegel</td>
<td>1:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Dito med låda</td>
<td>1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 st Flaskfoder</td>
<td>1:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transport 246:65  12333:30 (total sum)

Translation

In the servants’s room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 wallclock</td>
<td>12:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cupboard</td>
<td>5:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cupboard for keys</td>
<td>0:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 drop-leaf table</td>
<td>1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 the same - smaller</td>
<td>1:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tea table</td>
<td>1:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sofa with cover</td>
<td>3:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 the same - for sleeping</td>
<td>5:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 washstand</td>
<td>0:75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 mirror</td>
<td>1:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 the same with drawer</td>
<td>1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 wooden box with bottles</td>
<td>1:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This probate inventory was taken in March of 1857. In 1855 Sweden had changed its money from from the old riksdaler specie to the riksdaler riksdaler riksmynt, which was divided in to 100 öre. This probate is in riksdaler riksdaler riksmynt (rdr rmt).

As a comparison it can be mentioned that a laborer’s day of work cost 1:50 rdr rmt. A piga, tending sheep, got 142:50 per year + food and lodging. 20 eggs (a tjog) cost 0:65 rdr rmt. A barrel of rye was 15 rdr rmt. A ticket for New York was 150 rdr rmt.
One of the basics of Swedish that was studied during the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City during the last week of September was to understand the importance of Å, Ä, and Ö. These three letters come at the end of the Swedish alphabet. If you ignore them, you might end up researching in Boda, instead of Böda. Then you wonder: What happened to the ancestors?

The Å, Ä, and Ö song
Laura Reich has many ideas, and one of them was the following song. The lyrics were written by Ingrid Nilsson and Jill Seaholm. The tune is *Three blind mice*, and it can be sung just as it is, or in rounds. Ingrid Nilsson led the group when the song was first sung at the end of the Workshop.

The Å Ä Ö Song:

Å Ä Ö
Å Å Ö
Å Å Ö
Å Å Ö

They’re all at the end of the alphabet
Keep this in mind when you do your search
Or else you won’t find what you are looking for
Å Ä Ö
Å Å Ö

*To the left: Laura Reich with her Å, Ä, and Ö button.*

The Å, Ä, and Ö button was an idea from Karna Olsson when she was the Workshop organizer. It was a good idea, and it was revived this year. Everyone in the group got a button just to remind all of the importance of those letters.

But really, all letters are important, so always try to get the spelling correct. Don’t confuse Skeda (Östg.) with Skede (Jönk.). And remember that the old spelling with Hv (Hvetlanda) is now Vetlanda!
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 Book Review Editor, Dennis L. Johnson, at <1_viking@verizon.net> or Dennis Johnson, 174 Stauffer Road, Bucktown Crossing, Pottstown, PA 19465, so he knows what you are working on.

Brothers from the North


This book assembles a series of 17 essays and papers by 17 leading scholars and writers who are experts in the Scandinavian-American immigrant experience. The essays deal primarily with the period 1840-1925, and focus primarily on the relations in the U.S. among first and second generation Swedish and Norwegian immigrants in various locations. The essays are arranged in four sections.

First, the context of the immigration is examined by Dag Blanck, who looks at the patterns of Swedish-Norwegian interaction, and by H. Arnold Barton, who provides a number of comparisons between Swedes and Norwegians in the U.S. The essays deal primarily with the period 1840-1925, and focus primarily on the relations in the U.S. among first and second generation Swedish and Norwegian immigrants in various locations. The essays are arranged in four sections.

The second section of the book has five essays which primarily deal with the differences in culture between Swedes and Norwegians and the ways in which this affected the relations between the two groups as they settled in the U.S. Writers look at the effects of folk humor (James P. Leary), new organizations (Odd S. Lovoll), the language shift in each group (Angela Falk), and the viewpoint of historians toward the immigrant experience (Mark Safstrom). One essay, by Ingeborg Kongslien, a Norwegian professor, compares the two national immigrant sagas: Giants in the Earth by Rolvaag and The Emigrants, by Moberg.

In the third section, four essays focus on conflict between the two groups in the U.S., especially regarding the 1905 Union dissolution between Norway and Sweden (Jørn Brøndal and Ulf J. Björk), and also the conflicts among the many newly established Lutheran congregations and synods in the U.S. during the immigration period (Mark Granquist). One essay, by Kurt W. Peterson, a professor of history at North Park University in Chicago, looks at conflicts in the churches over the teaching of evolution during this period.

The fourth and last section addresses the building of communities by both groups, with six examples including architects and engineers (mostly engineers) coming from Sweden to the U.S. 1880-1930, with a completely different pattern than usual immigrants (Per-Olof Grönberg), the experience of Swedish students at a Norwegian American college (Joy K. Lintelman), a small community of Swedes and Norwegians on the isolated north shore of Lake Superior called Hovland, MN (Philip J. Anderson), the two groups in Willmar, Minnesota, in the early twentieth century (Byron J. Nordstrom), political involvements by both groups in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and the experiences of Scandinavians in the Rocky Mountain West (Jennifer Eastman Attebery).

Each of the essays included in this book contributes new insights into the wide range of immigrant experiences in many locations, and the relations between Swedes and Norwegians as they found themselves in close contact in these new communities. The two groups had much in common such as their primarily rural Nordic ancestry, a very similar language allowing relatively easy communication, a common Protestant Lutheran religious faith, and many cultural similarities. (The authors occasionally referred to Danes, Finns, or Icelanders, but their numbers were small compared with Swedes and Norwegians in most of the locations described.)

There were significant differences in culture as well. The overall resulting pattern that can be drawn from this book is that as long as the two nationalities were few in number...
and fairly isolated, they generally got along well in building communities, sharing churches, schools, and cooperative efforts in farming and living. There were enough differences, however, that once each group achieved a critical mass in any location, they tended to separate into their own more culturally homogeneous communities and institutions. This was especially evident in building churches, organizing church synods, founding colleges, hospitals, and other institutions, and even to some extent in intermarriage patterns.

Even today, after four and five generations, efforts at pan-scandinavianism usually fall short, those interested in their ethnic heritage tend to see themselves more as Swedes or Norwegians than as Scandinavians. A great deal of blending and intermarriage has taken place in succeeding generations, not only among Scandinavians but between them and people of other ethnic heritages. For most, the language of their heritage has been lost and many cultural differences have blurred, but remnants can still be found in many households and families, particularly in certain foods, in ways of observing Christmas and other holidays, and in the persistence of some ethnic organizations. These ethnic traces are sustained largely by the mothers, who are most in control of organizing family and household meals and observances, but even that is lessening with each generation.

In most small towns with sizable numbers of people with Scandinavian heritage, the churches generally reflect differences as well; one Lutheran church will have a dominant Swedish history, one Norwegian, and possibly a Free Church or Mission Covenant church. If the town is large enough, there may even be a Finnish or a Laestadian congregation, and probably a Missouri Synod (conservative) Lutheran church. The once strongly ethnic churches are slowly changing into churches with an ethnic history, but now having a much more blended mix of members more closely resembling their community at large.

The well-assembled group of essays in this book is strongly recommended for those who wish to delve more deeply into Swedish-Norwegian relations through the immigration period. It will add depth to their knowledge of the variety of circumstances involved in the immigration experiences of Norwegians and Swedes to North America. The essays are all well written, and extensive footnotes and references provide background and offer opportunities for further reading. Some essays include illustrations or graphs, notes are provided on the background of each contributor, and a complete index allows the reader to seek out particular subjects, individuals, and locations.

Dennis L. Johnson

The difficult 1930s


Following the first chapters about the background to the Great Depression, the crash, the New Deal, and other information, the author explores Lennart Setterdahl’s oral histories. While reading Dr. Beijbom’s book page after page, I became totally engaged. The stories of our countrymen who had actually lived through the Depression make even the written word come alive with action.

Some Swedes were too proud to work for the WPA (Work Projects Administration). Arthur Erickson was one of them. “The Chicago harbor was a nödhjälpsarbete (work project) but I never worked for the WPA. I’d rather starve,” he said. But Edvin Svenson, who had lost money in the stock market, swallowed his pride and stood in the soup lines.

He summed up his own experience of the 30s: “It was a sad time with long lines outside the Red Cross and Salvation Army. I was ashamed to stand in those lines and wait for a bowl of soup. But thousands of others stood there because nöden har ingen lag (necessity knows no law).”

How did the greenhorns – of any nationality – survive three years of unemployment? How did so many of the survivors manage to become successful in the end? This book will be an eye opener for many researchers of Swedish America.
Three Short Takes

Several compact volumes have come to my attention in the past few weeks which may be of interest to our readers. A brief review and information follows:


This brief account of the life of Swedish King Gustav Adolf, grandson of Gustav I, also known as Gustaf Vasa, was written before 1930 to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of Gustav Adolf’s coming to Pomerania in 1630 to defend the religious and political liberties of Protestants in Germany.

The author, William Dallmann (1862-1952) tells the story of the heroic Swedish king from the point of view of a 20th century Lutheran. Dallmann was born in Pomerania, ordained in the U.S. as a Missouri Lutheran Pastor, served several churches in various locations, and rose to a prominent position in the Missouri Lutheran Synod. He was a prolific author of numerous books on Martin Luther, early Protestant leaders, the Apostles, and other religious subjects. The Midnight Lion is perhaps one of his less well-known works.

In this book, Dallmann offers a background to the causes of the Thirty Years War, then moves to the early life of Gustaf Adolf, his coronation at age 17, and his youthful leap into the defense of the Protestant reformation. His career as outlined in the book consisted primarily of his participation and leadership in this great war and the numerous battles in the eighteen campaigns of the war. The book ends with the King’s death in battle at Lützen at age 38. Gustaf Adolf was first a soldier, he left the affairs of state to his friend and advisor, Axel Oxenstierna.

This is a fine first reader for persons interested in the life of this heroic Swedish king which, while brief, introduces lay readers and scholars to this man, one of the most famous and beloved Swedes of all time.


Lindsborg, Kansas, is one of the very well-known small town Swedish settlements in the U.S., having been settled in the late 1860’s by immigrants from Sweden and other Swedes from Illinois and other nearby locations. It remains very strongly Swedish, especially on the days of their semi-annual October celebration, or Hyllningsfest, begun in 1941. Most of the time it is a typical Midwestern small town but with several prominent Swedish elements including gift shops, a Swedish restaurant, and other features.
Like many of these small towns, it has its own college, 600 student Bethany College, founded in 1881 as a Lutheran school. Lindsborg is part of an agricultural community in the Smoky Valley of Kansas, just off Interstate Highway 35, about 30 miles south of Salina. Lindsborg now has a population of about 3,000 residents.

The book is organized as a collection of about 35 essays, the first 23 about early Lindsborg (1860's to early 1900's) and the remaining articles about Lindsborg today (2010). Each essay focuses on a particular subject such as the naming of Lindsborg, entertainment for pioneers, or happenings (now) in 2010. Pioneer days, Indians in the Smoky Valley, early church controversies, music and traditions, Depression hobos are all touched on, and more currently there are essays on celebrations, city organizations today, King Carl Gustaf's visit in April 1976, and major happenings in 2010. It is designed to give you a flavor of the many facets of this small, mostly Swedish heritage community, rather than a detailed chronological history.

The author, Bill Carlson, is a long time teacher and athletic coach in area schools and later an administrator of the Bethany Home, a retirement community in Lindsborg. He has been an active leader in Lindsborg for many years, and he is dedicated to preserving the history of Lindsborg. The book informs the reader not only about Lindsborg, but gives insights into typical small town life in our agricultural Midwest shared by many other communities.

3) Scandinavian Kings and Queens, three stories, by Selma Lagerlöf, Penfield Press, Iowa City, Iowa, no publication date, 79 pages, ill., Penfield Press $12.95, Amazon.com $130.84(?), used $9.76, kindle $10.95.

Penfield Press has undertaken to republish many works of Selma Lagerlöf and has published this interesting small volume containing her accounts of three well-known stories from Sweden's history, Astrid,
Sigrid Storråda, and The Silver Mine. The first two stories are taken from her 1899 book, Queens at Kungahälla (Drottningar i Kungahälla), a collection of stories about 12th century Swedish royalty. The third story is from her 1908 book of short stories, The Girl from the Marsh Croft (Tösen från Stormyrtorpet), a story about the time of King Gustav III. Each is, in a way, a morality tale.

Included as a preface is an essay, On the Site of the Great Kungahälla, a description of the great city which once stood not far from the mouth of the Göta River (älv) above present day Göteborg, where the present town of Kungälv now stands. A modern visitor finds only fields and meadows, with no sign of the great dwelling place of kings in the twelfth century. There once stood the great hall, a marketplace, docks and wharfs, the church, the convent, kilns, the weeping bridge, and the great ships at the piers. All now gone.

The first story, Astrid, is about the bondswoman (trälkvinna) who by deceit became the wife of King Olaf Haraldsson of Norway in place of the Swedish King's daughter, Ingegerd, who was pledged to him. They found, however that when the deceit was unmasked, they truly loved each other and Olaf forgave her. She was in fact the Swedish king's daughter by a bondswoman.

The second tale is of another Swedish queen, Sigrid Storråda, who was betrothed to another king of Norway, Olaf Tryggvason. King Olaf was a Christian king and Sigrid was a heathen, and at the last moment she was rejected by King Olaf because of visions of disaster, and signs that he had if he joined with this heathen woman.

The third story is called The Silver Mine, in which King Gustav III (1746–1792) is traveling through Dalecarlia when his coach is disabled. While waiting, he speaks to a man in the parsonage whom he takes for a peasant. It is in fact the parson, who relates to the king the story of the few peasants who find a silver mine near their poor village. It brought nothing but pain and suffering to the finders, and the parson was pledged to keep the mine hidden so as not to corrupt the entire village. The king understands the lesson of the story, judges correctly that this is the parson who is keeping the mine secret, and tells him to continue to do so in spite of the king's great need for money to protect his nation.

These simple tales are masterfully written, in a way that conveys the sense of the times and the traditions and beliefs of the people in the time of the story. Selma Lagerlöf (1858–1940) is one of the best known writers Sweden has produced and her stories are read and enjoyed all over the world in multiple translations. She received a Nobel prize for literature in 1909, and soon after repurchased her family home, Mårbacka, in Värmland, where she lived and wrote most of the rest of her life.

Dennis L. Johnson

What was life like?


This book was a find at my recent visit to the Old Sturbridge Giftshop, and it looked very interesting. It is not just about Swedish immigrants,
but about people from all corners of the world; their joys and problems in the new country were often similar.

The author describes the purpose of the book as “It seeks to recreate the world of the immigrants – as much as any such thing can be done – in order to understand their daily lives as they lived them. By seeing the environments through which these immigrants passed in their very mobile and diverse careers, we can better understand what they did and how they reacted to the considerable challenges they faced.”

Then he goes on and discusses the reasons for emigration, among which he counts the end of the Napoleonic wars, and the new stability in Europe, and later the new movements, when the reigning classes did not listen to the wishes of ordinary people. This caused revolutions in, for instance, France and Germany, and people left in the thousands to look for better understanding and conditions in America. Also he mentions that in 1800 some 184 million people inhabited Europe; by 1850 there were 266 million and by 1900 more than 390 million, and all these wanted food, and jobs, and the U.S.A seemed to be the solution of these problems.

A factor that was important was also the amount of land that became available in western U.S.A. There a farmer could buy a large farm for the money he had received for his small farm in the homeland.

In the chapter “Leaving Home” various stories are cited from accounts about various people of why they emigrated. One Norwegian, Ole Rynning, had plans to start a community in northern Illinois for a group of religious dissenters, a project that later failed. A German woman immigrated because her husband, a doctor, saw better prospects of finding paying patients in America than among the poor people in his hometown. In beginning there were hardships, but after twenty years they were doing well. There are many similar stories from other groups of immigrants, and it is interesting to compare them with the stories of the Swedes.

Another chapter is called “Across the Atlantic and into America 1820–1845.” The stories here focus on the progress of transportation that came along during this period: better roads, many canals, and finally the railroads that could take people further than anyone could imagine at the start of this period.

Others than the Swedes also seem to be quick to organize their own churches and societies, both for social contacts and for mutual help in case of illness and death.

This is a very rich book, which I think will be useful for the understanding of the conditions for the “New Americans.”

Elisabeth Thorsell
Interesting Web Sites

Old names of illnesses: http://www.antiquusmorbus.com/
The Legal Genealogist: http://www.legalgenealogist.com/
Swedish-American Family Photos: swedishamericanphotos.blogspot.se/
To find Evangelical Lutheran churches in America:
    http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Search/Find-a-Congregation.aspx
FamilySearch Online research courses: https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html
The Nordic Culture Clubs: http://www.nordiccultureclubs.org/
A website for posting old photos: http://1000memories.com/
New address for Illinois statewide databases:
Old Swedish books on CD: http://enobdr.myshopify.com/
Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansacem/
The Royal Family (link to English pages in top right corner): http://www.kungahuset.se/
American Swedish Historical Museum: http://americanswedish.org/calendar.htm
Swedish Place Names Index (by län): http://www2.sofi.se/SOFIU/topo1951/_cdweb/index.htm
The most common Swedish surnames in alfa-order:
    http://spraakbanken.gu.se/statistik/lbenamnalf.phtml
The Jussi Björling Society-USA: www.jussibjorlingsociety.org/

A grocery store in Hedemora, Sweden, around 1922. (Private collection).
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.

**Lindman, Tyson, Wilhelm, Rozar, Hurst, Koch**

I am looking for all descendants from the following member of my family:

*Carl Bleckert Lindman*, b. 1856 June 19 in Kungsholm, Stockholm. He emigrated in 1887 Nov. 23 from Stockholm, and might first have lived for a short while in New York City before moving to Philadelphia, where he lived the rest of his life. He was a seaman, but also an engineer. In 1889 May 5 he in ?? married *Emma Augusta Sophia Ohlsson*, born 1861 Mar. 9 in Dalarö (Stock.), who had been a maid at Carl’s parents household. She immigrated 1889 Mar. 30 from Stockholm. Carl died 1919 in Philadelphia, and Emma in 1948.

They had the following children, all born in Philadelphia:

1) *Ina Sigrid*, born 1890 Mar.? She was an office manager at United Fruit in New York City and died 1963 Aug. in New York City. She never married and had no children.

2) *Agnes Marion*, b. 1892 Jan. ? Married in 1915 in Philadelphia to *Harold B. Tyson*, b. 1894 Nov. 28. He was a printer, and died 1958 Aug. ? They had children *Harold* (b. 1917); *Hildren* (b. ca 1921); *David L* (b. ca 1923); *Marian* (b. ca 1925).

3) *Carl Bleckert*, b. 1893 Oct.?, engineer. He and his family lived for a few years with his mother in Philadelphia, but moved before 1927 to Orange Co., California. His death has not been found, but he was alive in 1940. He married in 1919 to *Frances Pratt*, b. 1901 Jan. 26 in Pennsylvania, died 1942 Jun. 17 in Orange County, CA.

   They had children:
   (3) *John Biryard*, b. 1925 May 3 in Los Angeles Co., died 1979 in Riverside Co., CA.


5) *Helen Elizabeth*, b. 1898 Jan. 28 in Philadelphia. In 1930 she was a teacher in a public school. Married to *George Ferdinand Koch*, b. 1898 Feb. 21 in Pennsylvania. He was some kind of a salesman. They had children *Helen* (b. ca 1920) and *Nancy* (b. ca 1923).

Any and all information on these families will be most welcome!

*Johan Alexander Lindman, Nortuna, S-743 93 Vattholma, Sweden. E-mail: <johan.alex.lindman@spray.se>*

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**Send queries to SAG! Not everything is online**

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Dear friends,

Time passes quickly, and summer is just a distant memory. I and my colleague and longtime friend Ingrid Nilsson spent 3 weeks in the U.S. in September and early October. First came the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City, which was fun as usual with many new and old friends. Personally I also met with a long-lost relative on my farmors side, who suddenly popped up on Ancestry. I just wish my Dad had still been around, so he would have known this.

For the first time we had a lecture at our farewell party about Jussi Björling, by Walter Rudolph, president of the U.S. Jussi Björling Society. We also heard some excerpts from Jussi’s recordings; very nice. Someone wondered about his unusual first name, so he has now been checked in the Stora Tuna birth records, where he was found as being born on 1911 Feb. 2 and named Johan Jonatan, so Jussi is just a nickname, which he evidently liked.

Next we went to Burnsville, MN, where our friends, Dee and Ray Kleinow, took us for a tour to admire the new extensions to the American Swedish Institute. The new premises looks very good and will give space for many new programs and events.

The last stop in the U.S. was Sturbridge, MA, where the local Swedish Ancestry Research Association (SARA) had organized a two-day Swedish research conference, with lectures, one-on-ones, and a nice banquet. The SwedGen Group (Anna-Lena Hultman, Charlotte Börjessson, and Olof Cronberg held a number of lectures, as well as Ingrid and I. We hope that the participants heard some new things and learnt a bit more about Swedish genealogy.

Before we left the area we also toured Old Sturbridge Village, the Skansen of Massachusetts!

Back home life has been as usual, with a few lectures at places like Sollentuna and Fagersta, SAG work, but also making jars and jars of apple sauce, as we have three trees in our yard, and they produce a lot of apples. It is good to have with the traditional ham at Christmas.

And as Christmas is getting close, I take the opportunity to wish you all a God Jul and Gott Nytt År!

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 e-mail: jilseaholm@augustana.edu or call 309.794.7204. Thank you!

SAG Workshop
Salt Lake City
3 – 9 Nov.
2013!

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.

Contact Jill Seaholm at 309-794-7204, or e-mail: <sag@augustana.edu>.
## 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]).

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

**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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Län (County)</th>
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<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (lään) as they were before 1991. The provinces (landskap).