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Bits & Pieces

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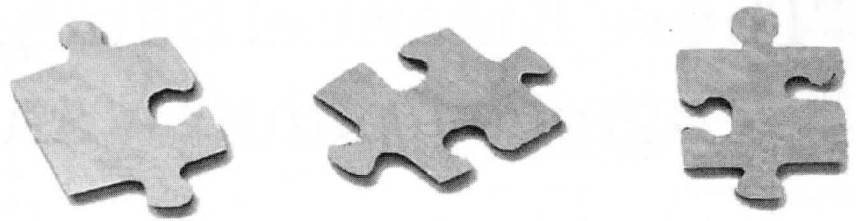
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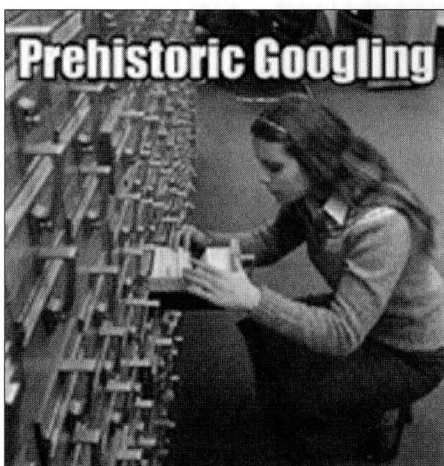
Minnesota newspapers will come online

Every newspaper in the state of Minnesota is sent to the Minnesota Historical Society, in accordance with state statutes. For decades, every newspaper (at last count about 425, mostly weeklies) was made accessible to the public via microfilm. However in the midst of a budget crunch, on June 30, 2009, the state closed its microfilm lab.

Now the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) has created a new, and probably better, plan: a digital newspaper database for researchers, called Minnesota Newspapers Online. It should launch within *two years*.

Minnesota Newspapers Online is beginning as a pilot project with 12 members of the Minnesota Newspaper Association — a trade organization of over 360 state newspapers.

(Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter 2013 Mar. 3).



This picture was found on *Facebook*, and serves as a reminder of the eons of time before computers. This also worked, but much slower, and you still had to be creative in your search.

Martina - Swedish American of the Year

Martina Arwidson of Hudson, New York, has been elected as the Swedish American of the Year for 2013 by the two Swedish districts of the Vasa Orden av Amerika. She was born 1966 in Stockholm, with some of her roots in Småland. Mrs. Arfwidson is the daughter of Gun Novak, legendary founder of the cosmetic company Face Stockholm. Mrs. Arfwidson is now the CEO of Face Stockholm, a company known for its passion for environmental health, and a healthy ideal for beauty.



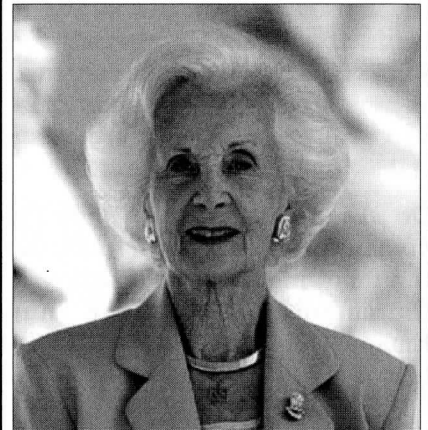
SwedGen Tour 2013

The group of travelling Swedish genealogists will be back in the U.S. in the fall. The group consists of *Ann-eli Andersson, Charlotte Börjesson, Olof Cronberg, and Anna-Lena Hultman*.

So far their plans are not fixed, but they will have a seminar at the Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg, KS, on the 28th of September.

Other stops will be announced later on their web site (*see p. 30*), and may include California.

H.R.H. Princess Lilian



H.R.H. Princess Lilian of Sweden, born as Lilian Davis in Swansea, Great Britain, on 1915 Aug. 30, died in her home in Stockholm on 2013 March 10, at the age of 97. She was since 1997 the widow of H.R.H. Prince Bertil, the King's uncle. The couple had no children.

Changes in the Swedish National Registration (*Folkbokföring*)

Ever since the Swedish government took over the keeping of the National Registration (*Folkbokföring*) in 1991 from the Church of Sweden, and even more after the separation of state and church on 2000 July 1, it has been discussed on many levels how to do this in the future? Some technocrats wanted to totally abandon the old parishes, who kept the books from the 1600s. This was a continuity that was invaluable not only to genealogists, but also to historians, demographers, and many others. The present government has now decided on keeping the parishes, but in the future called *distrikt*, and freeze the boundaries as they were in the year 2000. This new law will be decided by parliament during the spring of 2013, and in force 2016.

(Riksdag & Departement 2013 Apr. 9)