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Bits & Pieces

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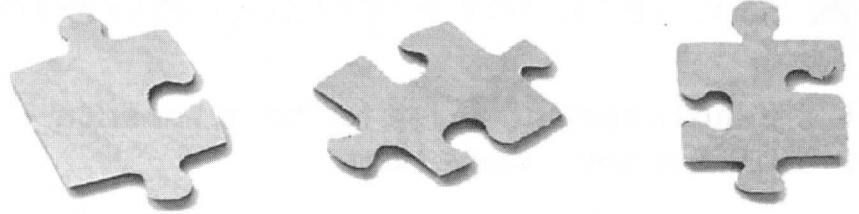
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Bits & Pieces



House of Genealogy in Leksand, Sweden, is closing

The sad news came out this summer that the House of Genealogy in Leksand, Sweden, will close at the end of this year. The House has been an important part of the Swedish genealogical community for 21 years, but now has to close because of the sharp decline in the number of visitors. People prefer to sit at home and do their research on the internet, instead of travelling to Leksand and reading microfiche. Also their economy was damaged when Gengline/Ancestry moved a big scanning job to Ireland. The present owner, Grig-gus Per Norberg, will carry on some of their services from his home base in Stora Skedvi (Dala.).

President Obama visited Sweden

During September 4–5 President Barack Obama visited Sweden for a meeting with the Swedish government. He also had lunch with the King and Queen, and visited the Stockholm synagogue in memory of Raoul Wallenberg. After the visit the President continued to Russia.



President Obama and Fredrik Reinfeldt, prime minister of Sweden.

The Carl Sandburg medal to Glen Brolander

The Carl Sandburg Medal is given by the Swedish-American Historical Society to those in the Swedish American community that have benefited the community through their work. Previous recipients of the Sandburg Medal include former University of Minnesota President Nils Hasselmo and the late Conrad Bergendoff, former president of Augustana College.

Glen Brolander, who is 100 percent Swedish, developed his interest in his Swedish heritage when he joined the staff of Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. It is the oldest of all Swedish-American colleges and he worked there for 40 years as the school's vice president for financial affairs. Since then, he and his wife, Elaine, have connected with relatives and family in Sweden.

(*Stillwater Gazette* 2013 Sep. 19)



From left: Eric R. Lund (officer at large of the SAHS), Glen Brolander, and Philip J. Anderson (president of the SAHS).



New Swedish ambassador to the U.S.



The new Swedish ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Björn Lyrvall, presented his credentials to President Obama in September.

Mr. Lyrvall is 52 years old, born in Hofors (Gäst.), but grew up in Borlänge (Dala.). He is married with three children. As a young man he went to university in Pennsylvania and has since worked for the Swedish foreign office for 27 years.

Ancestry.com has acquired Find A Grave

Well-known web site Find A Grave has been bought by Ancestry.com, which has raised questions about if the site will remain free to the users.

Here is an answer from Jim Tipton, founder of the site:

What will change at Find A Grave?

•The short answer is: nothing. The site will remain free and continue to operate as it has for the last eighteen years. I will continue to run the website but will have the support of a full, dedicated Find A Grave team at Ancestry.com – so the pace of updates / improvements / new features should accelerate.

(<http://www.findagrave.com/ancestryFAQs.html> [accessed 2013 Oct.8]).