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Swedish American Genealogist
A journal devoted to Swedish American biography, genealogy, and personal history

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Cover picture:
The postcard from Silver Hill, Alabama. John Nordholm is probably the man to the right. Read more in Paul D. Sward’s article on page 1.

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I was raised with a strong sense of my Swedish heritage. The town that I was born in, Kewanee, Illinois, had a large population of ethnic Swedes due in large part to the nearby community of Bishop Hill, which had been settled by Swedish immigrants in the mid 19th century.

Although both my paternal grandparents had been born in the United States, both of them spoke Swedish. My grandfather was the son of Swedish immigrants from Skåne. My grandmother was born to a mother who had emigrated from Småland and an American-born father that was the son of “Bishop Hill” Swedes who had emigrated from Hälsingland. As a child I was exposed to a kaleidoscope of Swedish culture. My grandfather would regale me with stories about Gustavus Adolphus and the Thirty Years’ War. My grandmother would take me to visit Bishop Hill where she and her friends would converse in a mixture of English and Swedish.

Unfortunately, over the years I have retained very little of this and my renewed interest has been a rediscovery of my heritage.

One of the many pieces in this puzzle of rediscovery relates to my paternal grandfather’s uncle, John Nordholm. I have a vague memory of my grandparents discussing him. They referred to him as the family member who settled in the woods of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. What became of John Nordholm? Why did he settle in a remote part of Michigan when his siblings settled in Illinois? Why did he take the surname of Nordholm, when my great-grandmother went by an anglicized version of her patronymic surname (Nelson)? He was an intriguing figure to me.

The two previous generations that had knowledge of John Nordholm are now gone. Consequently, my starting point began with an old family photograph; a family story that John Nordholm was buried in Wallace, Michigan; and that there was an image of him permanently affixed to his headstone.

The chase begins
Since John Nordholm was allegedly my paternal great-grandmother’s brother, I began my research in the parish records.1 An examination of records revealed only one sibling that seemed likely to be John Nordholm, Jöns Nilsson.

Jöns Nilsson was born at Ugerup Torp #12, Köpinge parish, Kristianstad län to Nils Pehrsson and Elna Jönsdotter on July 8, 1869. Jöns remained with his family until the parish records indicated that he immigrated to “Amerika” on June 15, 1888.2 Parenthetically, all of Nils and Elna’s seven children immigrated to the United States prior to 1900.3 A record dated July 19, 1888, in the EmiHamn database indicates that Jöns Nilsson departed from Malmö destined for New York,4 eleven days past his nineteenth birthday.

I was unable to specifically identify a record of Jöns Nilsson’s arrival in the U.S., although I did uncover a few possibilities. However, none of these possibilities helped further the research.

The next logical step was to examine the census records, but I faced a problem which many genealogists face, the lack of a complete 1890 U.S. Census. Since almost all of my relatives that emigrated from Skåne and Småland arrived in the 1880s, I had found other ways to conduct research during this time frame, either through local records or family documents. Three of Jöns Nilsson’s siblings settled in Kewanee, Illinois, and appear in the 1890’s records of a local church.5 From family documentation I was able to identify that two other siblings relocated to the Chicago, Illinois, area, but I was unable to determine where Jöns and his brother Pehr settled. However, in...
researching Jöns’s sister, who died in 1923, I discovered that her obituary references a brother named John Nordholm residing in Wallace, Michigan.

The chase leads to Wallace, Michigan

At this point, the only avenue that I had for further research was Wallace, Michigan. I began with the 1900 U.S. federal census for Menominee County, Michigan, where Wallace is located. I was unable to find an appropriate match under Nilsson/Nordholm, but I did find a Johan Noertholm residing in Ingallston township who is a perfect match for country of origin, date of birth, and date of immigration. I am fairly confident that this is Jöns Nilsson/Nordholm. He is shown as a day laborer boarding with a family of German origin. I suspect that the name was corrupted either by the census taker or by a member of the German family providing the census information.

Found him in the census

An examination of the 1910 U.S. census for Menominee County revealed a John N. Nordholm residing in Mellen Township. Again this individual is a perfect match for Jöns. It further identified John Nordholm as a single farmer who owned his own farm. This same John Nordholm also appeared in the 1920 and 1930 U.S. census for Menominee County. It became clear that I needed to conduct some field research in Menominee County. Although I also live in Michigan, this is a geographically large state. I live in the far southeastern corner of the lower peninsula of Michigan and Menominee County is located in the far western part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, separated by five hundred miles. Consequently, I put my quest for John Nordholm on the shelf and moved on to other things.

Encountering Sheldon Anderson – a good man

Many years later I planned a fishing trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with a friend of mine. Realizing that our fishing camp was within sixty miles of Wallace, Michigan, I convinced my fishing partner that we needed to make a side trip to Wallace. Prior to our departure, I made a telephone call to the Wallace, Michigan, post office inquiring about the local cemeteries. This call resulted in Sheldon Anderson contacting me. Sheldon is a native of Menominee County who had recently retired from the U.S. Department of Interior where he had served as a forester. His career had taken him away from the county, but he had returned after retiring. Sheldon is also of Swedish ancestry and was now serving as the sexton for the Mellen Township Cemetery. I explained to Sheldon my search for John Nordholm. Sheldon advised that there was a John N. Nordholm buried in the cemetery and he offered to meet us at the cemetery when we arrived.

On the appointed day, my friend and I arrived early at the Mellen Township Cemetery. The cemetery is relatively small and well marked. I easily found John Nordholm’s grave based on the information that Sheldon had provided. The headstone was marked “John N. Nordholm” and had an indentation where an image could have been attached at one time.

Sheldon arrived shortly thereafter. Sheldon is the type of person that you immediately like when you first meet him. He is intelligent, friendly, and to the point. Sheldon related that he had been making some local inquiries on John Nordholm. First he advised that he had spoken to another resident of the area, Les Newlin, who had knowledge of John Nordholm. Mr. Newlin had advised Sheldon that there had indeed been an image of John Nordholm attached to the headstone and that he, Mr. Newlin, had a photograph of the image. Additionally, Mr. Newlin was in
possession of a table made by John Nordholm. Sheldon explained that Mr. Newlin had a distant relative, Charles Nelson, who had been a friend and neighbor of John Nordholm. Sheldon asked me if I wished to visit Mr. Newlin that day, which of course I did. Sheldon then asked me if I wanted to see John Nordholm's farm. It was a lucky day when I made contact with Sheldon Anderson.

After a short drive we parked on the side of a lonely county road. Sheldon led us into the partially wooded undergrowth by the road. As we were walking it became apparent that this land had been cleared and farmed at one time. Shortly we came upon an abandoned farmstead that once belonged to John Nordholm. There were four buildings on the farmstead in various states of disrepair. However, the barn was in quite good condition. Clearly it had been a prosperous farm at one time. After having some fun exploring the various buildings we departed to visit Mr. Newlin. Unfortunately he was not at home.

Sheldon graciously brought us to his home where he made the cemetery sexton records available. A review of the record relating to the burial of John Nordholm quickly validated my search. My grandfather and all his siblings were on the deed for the burial plot. This was clearly my grandfather's uncle. After thanking Sheldon for all his time and trouble, we bid him goodbye and returned to our fishing camp.

Sheldon continues the chase
After I returned home Sheldon contacted me and advised that he had spoken with an older gentleman in the area named Al Pearson. Mr. Pearson's family had lived near John Nordholm and he remembered him. Subsequently, I spoke with Mr. Pearson. He told that his father and John Nordholm had been friends. John Nordholm had obtained the first radio in the area and Mr. Pearson's family would come to John's home to listen to the new invention. Mr. Pearson related that John was a carpenter and he had helped Mr. Pearson with woodworking projects. Mr. Pearson described him as nice man.

Sheldon had also located John Nordholm's death certificate and sent a copy. Of particular interest was the cause of death of John Nordholm: “Found dead in garage, exhaustion from trying to start car.”

A couple of years had passed when
Sheldon contacted me again. Sheldon related that the image of John Nordholm that had been on his headstone had been found. It was a ceramic piece that had been adhered to the headstone and apparently had fallen off. One of the cemetery caretakers had thrown it in a desk drawer where it remained until Sheldon discovered it. Additionally, Les Newlin had discovered a postcard that John Nordholm had sent to Charles Nelson. Sheldon sent copies of the headstone image and the postcard.

The postcard had a photograph on one side of two men in a horse and buggy. I compared the photograph that I had of Jöns Nilsson as a young man to the cemetery image, as well as to the younger man in the postcard photograph. They all appear to be the same man from different times in his life.

Silverhill, Alabama

The postcard had been sent from Silverhill, Alabama, and was dated December 3, 1908. It struck me as odd that John Nordholm, an immigrant Swedish farmer from northern Michigan would be visiting Alabama at this time.

John Nordholm’s visit no longer seemed odd after I found Lilly Setterdahl’s *Memories Preserved, Vol. 2*. Ms. Setterdahl’s work covers in depth the Silverhill Colony that had been settled by Swedes coming primarily from the Midwest beginning in 1896. Oscar Johnson, a resident of Chicago and an immigrant from the Swedish province of Dalarna, had founded the colony. Along with others, Johnson formed the Svea Land Company and offered land for sale in Silverhill which attracted ethnic Swedes from all parts of the U.S. I had been completely unaware of this interesting piece of Swedish-American history.

However, Silverhill, Alabama, raised some new questions about John Nordholm. Was he just visiting or had he considered relocating there? Did he have friends or relatives in Silverhill?

Les Newlin was aware of other people from the Mellen Township area that had travelled to visit the Silverhill colony. So perhaps John Nordholm was just there to visit. Regardless it appears that he did not relocate to Silverhill and remained a resident of Michigan until his death.

The aftermath of the chase

My search for John Nordholm has been a partial success. I know his origin and a little of his life in Michigan. What attracted him to Michigan is still unknown. The obvious attraction was the Swedish community in the area.

In the 1900 U.S. Census there were 1,832 people living in Mellen township and adjacent Ingallston township. Of this number, 271 individuals were identified as being born in Sweden. These numbers do not include the U.S. born children of the native Swedes. Consequently, the ethnic Swedish population of this area exceeded 20%. Sheldon’s cousin, Ron Newlin, who has conducted re-search on Swedish settlers of this area, advised that most of the settlers originated from Värmland. However, local church records did reveal a few Swedes of Skåne origin including John Nordholm.

Why Nordholm?

Why did Jöns/John choose the Nordholm surname? I have subsequently discovered that Jöns/John’s brother, Pehr, changed his name to Peter Nordholm. Furthermore, another brother, Simon, retained his soldier’s surname, Lilja. The answer to the surname question seems to be that each of the siblings chose their American surname without consideration of the other siblings choices.

Clearly there is more research that could be conducted, but at this point I have satisfied my curiosity concerning John Nordholm. It appears that he was well liked and had prospered in life. He was a Swedish immigrant who made a successful new life in his adopted country. Unfortunately, John had no children of his own, but I take pride in that I am related to him and his photograph will always hang on my den wall.

Endnotes:

1 Köpinge parish, Kristianstad län, Husförhörslängd.
2 Köpinge parish, Kristianstad län, Utflyttningslängd.
3 Ibid.
4 Emigranten Populär (database).
5 Records of Zion Lutheran Church, Kewanee, Illinois (Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center).
6 State of Michigan Death Certificate, Menominee County, Mellen Township.
8 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Menominee County, Michigan.
9 Simon after residing in the U.S. returned to Sweden. I have corresponded with one of his descendants, Gunnar Lilja, who currently resides in Stoby, Sweden.

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The Emigrant Institute Emigrates

Since 2008 the ongoing discussions regarding the incorporation of the Swedish Emigrant Institute (SEI) into the entity known as Småland’s Cultural Park now seem to have reached an end. The Institute quite simply cannot accept the conditions which are based on the premise that the Institute should subordinate its mission and become a de facto wing of Småland’s Museum. That many advantages would result from this cooperation is overshadowed by the fact that the Institute’s board of directors would function as a powerless appendage of the Park’s directorate and that the founding principles of the Institute would be eviscerated. Especially disturbing is the fact that the founding purpose of the SEI could no longer be guaranteed. It is particularly doubtful that the Institute’s international activities could continue, given that this does not seem to interest the Cultural Park. At least as damaging is that the Institute’s finances collapsing due to decreased support from the municipality of Växjö and the county government of Kronoberg. It has not helped with a diminished state subsidy, contributions from the Friendship Association, or a generous grant from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and the Central Bank’s Jubilee Fund. The financial capital is now gone, with the exception of the value represented by the property The House of Emigrants. After word that additional contributions at this time from the Cultural Park cannot be counted on, the SEI, together with the loan-giving bank, has decided to put the property up for sale and lay off the employees. The property’s value prevents bankruptcy and will allow for the orderly transfer of the archives, library, exhibitions, etc., to a place and institution where the work hopefully can be re-established.

The abandonment of The House of Emigrants, dedicated in 1968 and designed purposely for its work, is a tragedy and a national scandal of great import. The blame falls on the unyielding stance taken by the owners of AB Kulturparken Småland. Surprisingly, the politicians, the tourist establishment, and the business community have shown great indifference towards a cultural institution that has, for 42 years, generated goodwill and attracted ca one million visitors to Växjö and Kronoberg County. An estimate of the opposition’s attitude can be found in the blog comments of the Chairman of the Community Council Bo Frank in Smålandsposten April 15, 2010: “All parties in the community and the county council stand behind the Cultural Park’s actions and invite the Emigrant Institute to continue to develop as part of the Cultural Park. If the Institute wishes instead to break off the activity, it may do so.”

The importance of the Friendship Organization increases at this moment of need. More than ever, the Institute now needs its members’ support, advice, and ideas. If it comes about that the Swedish Emigrant Institute moves from Växjö, the Friendship Association will naturally follow and perhaps even strengthen its work with new partners.

Ulf Beijbom
Professor
Former director of SEI

[Also published in Sweden & America magazine]

Ed’s note: If you plan to go there this summer, check their web site <www.utvandrarnashus.se/eng/>
The 1880 Swedish Census is going to become a CD-database! Will be released later in 2010!

The 1897–1939 Scanned extracts from the Swedish Civil Registration. Births, Marriages and Deaths, and Census 1930.

New scans of the original Mormon microfilms for more than half the län in Sweden. Try Ervalla parish in Örebro län for free!

Two of the released prisoners in the SVAR prison records.

We have many new, exciting resources for researchers.
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At the meeting in the “Quad Cities” on Friday, 9 April 2010, by the board of the Swedish Council of America (SCA) and a number of affiliated organizations in Iowa and Illinois there were festivities and a banquet.

Five SCA “Awards of Merit” were given to some well-known and diligent promoters of Swedish America.

Here are some of the accomplishments of the awardees:

“Herb Hult has spent countless volunteer hours making the Swedish American Museum in Swedesburg a reality over the past 20 years. Herb presently serves on the Swedish Heritage Society’s Board of Directors and is also a grant director.”

“Herb’s greatest contribution and achievement has been an on-going project. Four books which he has compiled show the location of all past and present landowners, homes, churches, and schools in Swedesburg and Wayne township in Henry County, Iowa.”

“Judy Ahlquist Mayer and Helene Leaf: “They both started coming in regularly to the Swenson Center when the Center acquired a subscription to Genline in 2005. With their regular assistance, we have been able to provide on-site researchers with professional individual service.

“The expertise and tenacity they have developed by reading and interpreting old Swedish parish records is impressive and highly valued by our patrons. We often receive comments from a researcher such as “I could never have found this information without Judy/Helene.”

John Norton: “John is being nominated by the Augustana Historical Society because the past four years he has served as editor of our newsletter which should be published twice annually. He gets so interested in the translating that he does that he will publish three times annually! He gives tirelessly of his time to support the Swedish heritage in the Quad City Area.”

“John’s volunteer activities include service on the board of Scandinavian Seminar, the Augustana Heritage Association, and newsletter editor of the Augustana Historical Society newsletter. He is a former vice-president and board member of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association.”

“Lilly Setterdahl “is the author or coauthor of eleven books of nonfiction, and numerous research articles dealing with the history and experiences of Swedish immigrants. Her major book titles are: Swedes in Moline, Illinois (2003), Minnesota Swedes, two volumes (1996 and 1999), Rockford Swedes (coauthored 1993), and A Century of Song (1992).”

[Eds note]: Lilly’s new book Chicago Swedes: They spoke from the heart, presents 340 oral histories and 300 photographs produced by her late husband Lennart Setterdahl, 1967-1992. It will be reviewed soon in SAG.
Ready to go?

By Michael John Neill

The Editor’s Introduction:
I recently noticed Michael John Neill’s new venture with his Casefile Clues, which looked like something I might find useful in my quest to better understand how to do U.S. genealogy, and became a subscriber. Among the first issues was the following article, which I found thought-provoking. So I asked for Mr. Neill’s permission to reprint it in SAG, which he gave me.

Here comes the article
Ready to Go?

This week’s Casefile Clues originally appeared in the Ancestry Daily News on 15 November 1999 and takes a look at the future instead of our typical trip into the past.

As morbid as it sounds, when I go I want my death certificate filled out accurately and my mother’s maiden name (Ufkes) spelled correctly in my obituary. It would be deeply ironic if such information were incorrect in the final records of a genealogist. However, a family historian needs to think about more than having a correct death certificate and obituary.

If, heaven forbid, you were to die in the next few days, what would happen to your genealogical materials? Can you even locate them? Could anyone else? Are they somewhat organized? Could your spouse or someone else step in and figure out what you were doing and what was what?

If you live far from family members, do you have important information where it can easily be located? Would someone be tempted to “dump” your genealogy information rather than ship it to a person or a place that would take it? The author barely had twenty-four hours to go through his grandmother’s home in Florida and decide what to ship home, what to donate, and what to throw out.

Is there anyone who would even want your collection of information? Are your materials in such a disorganized state that anyone would even bother with them? As you have researched, have you indicated where you obtained copies of various papers, or have you gathered and piled? Would someone receiving your files have any idea where you obtained your information? Or would your materials be simply a collection of photocopies, printouts, and digital scans from unknown sources?

Have you done something with your genealogical information besides collecting more of it? Are your photographs, newspaper clippings, and other materials inventoried and organized in a fashion that someone else could determine what your collection contained?

Do you have a preference for what will happen to your materials when you are no longer among the living? You may need to stipulate such information in your will or estate planning. And remember that someone settling your estate is really more concerned with dealing with finances than with a box of papers or a disk full of information. Do you really trust and expect your executor to handle your genealogical materials the way you want them to be handled?

Find out if the person or group you wish to have your materials actually wants them. Some libraries and archives are facing space constraints and may have to turn down material, especially that which is undocumented and unorganized. This type of material has a greater chance of being refused. If your material is organized, have you considered digitizing it as a way to preserve it for future generations? And remember that undocumented information is still undocumented even if digitized. You may have to find other family members besides your children to whom to give your information and files – this may mean splitting up your collection of material.

Have you attempted to preserve old letters or other handwritten materials by transcribing them and donating copies to relevant libraries or archives? This is an excellent way to preserve such records. The transcription should be done accurately, carefully, and thoughtfully. Make certain to use archival safe materials in which to store these relics of your past.

Are you the only one who knows the identity of individuals in certain pictures? Are you the only one who knows what family member made or purchased the antique dresser or table that sits in your home? Share this information. You don’t have to give the furniture away just yet, but let others know about it so that its history does not disappear when you are gone.
Have you written or compiled a documented family history and distributed copies on high quality paper to interested persons and relevant libraries? Are you preserving your information in other ways besides electronic media? It won’t last forever and there’s little guarantee that the file format you use today will be readable in twenty years. Are you sharing your data responsibly in an attempt to preserve it?

It is not just death we should be concerned about. What if your home burned? What if there was a natural disaster? Have you shared some of your information with others so that re-obtaining it would not be onerous? Are there any personal family artifacts that you may wish to store somewhere besides your home? Are some of your materials at risk of being flooded in your basement?

No one likes to think of that time when they will no longer be among the living. Yet it happens to all of us. Genealogists should leave behind more than boxes of unorganized papers and digital media. No one can get their material organized in one day. Start slowly, one family at a time to make the process more manageable.

Consider too that simply submitting information to Ancestry.com or another commercial site does not necessarily guarantee long-term preservation of your information. Companies go out of business and websites go down.

All of us need to give some thought to these issues to ensure that the genealogical information we have worked so hard to collect actually outlives us. There is not necessarily one answer, but do not let your family history work die with you.

Remember: Genealogist—preserve thyself.

Footnote:

About the author:
Michael John Neill is a well-known genealogist and lecturer on the local and national level. He lives in Illinois and is a mathematics teacher.

He presents himself like this: “I write Casefile Clues a weekly genealogy newsletter focusing on genealogy research methodology and interpretation. Every week I look at a record or a problem from one of the many families of my children scattered across the U.S. and Europe. Casefile Clues does not try to “scoop” the latest news, rather I focus on using and interpreting records. My goal is to give you ideas to help you with your own research. Since 1995, I have written over 600 genealogy columns for both Ancestry and Eastman’s Online Newsletter. My new columns for Casefile Clues are distributed only through direct e-mail.”

To find out more visit his web site at http://www.casefileclues.com/ or search for Casefile Clues at Facebook. Mr. Neill’s children have 1/16 part of their ancestors from Sweden, from Östergötland.

The Royal Wedding

On June 19, 2010, Crown Princess Victoria will marry Mr. Daniel Westling of Ockelbo, Sweden. Mr. Westling has been a gym owner, and was the private trainer for the Crown Princess, who turned out to be the love of his life. The couple got engaged in February 2009, and now it is time for the big wedding in Stockholm Cathedral (Storkyrkan). At this occasion Mr. Westling will become Prince Daniel, duke of Västergötland, as the Crown Princess is already the Duchess of Västergötland. The newlyweds will reside at the Haga Palace in northern Stockholm.

It might also be noted that Princess Madeleine has broken her engagement to Mr. Jonas Bergström.
When I started doing genealogy in September of 1994, I planned on only researching my grandfather Peterson ancestors because I knew nothing about my grandmother Zetterlund. Because she died when my father was so very young, he remembered very little about her. All he told me was she died in 1917 in Springfield, MA, and of course she was born in Sweden. My grandfather also died before I was born so I never had an opportunity to talk with my grandparents.

Before my father died in 1981, he decided to try and find his mother’s gravesite. I can remember him talking with a funeral director and asking him to try and find this for him as he wanted to make arrangements to have his mother moved and placed with his father in the New Swedish Cemetery. Unfortunately, he was told that they had found that the cemetery records had burned and there was no way of telling where in the cemetery his mother was buried. This fact made him very, very unhappy and he never talked about it again.

Therefore, I knew it would not be possible for me, a novice genealogist, to locate any information or records regarding my grandmother Ester or her family.

A hopeless task?
Wrong, wrong, wrong!!! Basically all the information about Ester I had or had heard was incorrect.

The following is the story of how I found Ester and the continuing research to learn more about her family in the United States and Sweden. I knew the year that Ester married Otto, in Springfield, as I had a copy of their marriage certificate. The first fact I noticed was that in the U.S. her name was spelled Setterlund. Otto was listed in the city directories, in Springfield until 1915. My father Carl Joseph was born there on October 15, 1912, and his sister, Lydia, in 1914. Then, they disappeared. My mother said she thought my father said they lived in Connecticut for a little while.

I went to Waltham to research the 1920 Connecticut census to see if perhaps I could find my grandfather Otto and the two children. To my complete amazement not only did I find Otto, my father, and his sister, but Ester was also listed. This could not be correct, she died in 1917! I was told that perhaps the husband was afraid that if no mother was listed, he would lose his children, so he included her name on the census? Not knowing how to pursue this I simply went to the library, got the names and telephone numbers of all the cemeteries in Connecticut and started calling each, asking if they had an Ester Peterson buried there. Unbelievably, it only took three or four telephone calls until on Nov. 1, 1995, one of the cemeteries told me that they indeed had an Ester Peterson buried there; she died in June 1920. Unfortunately this was the only information that they had: no address, no age, and no name of the person who had bought the plot. Thus, no way of knowing if this was my grandmother or not.

Nov. 9, 1995: Off to Bridgeport. I go to try and get a death certificate for the person buried at this cemetery. It was a long shot, but I had to find out. Bridgeport is ca 110 miles from my home, but I still had to find out. After finding the correct building, I purchased a copy of the death certificate, and it was my grandmother Ester! The address on this certificate was the same address as on the 1920 census and it listed my grandfather Otto as her husband.

While walking back to the car I saw a library just across the street. Off we go to see if perhaps Otto is listed in the city directories, and dreamer that I am maybe, just maybe an obituary for Ester. Otto was not in any of the Bridgeport city directories, however, Ester had an obituary!!! Even the librarians were surprised and thrilled that I had found this. We left the library truly amazed at our finding this day.

Off to the Mountain Grove cemetery
The office personnel was very nice and explained that the little information they had is all that is legally required. The cemetery is very large and a nice man drove as we followed, to show us where Ester’s grave was. Sadly, it is unmarked.

We went across the street to a monument company and got some pricing on having a stone put on her grave. We now started home still amazed that today I had found my grandmother...

No one in my family could believe that I had found Ester’s grave after what my father had been told. Actually I found it unbelievable.

To finish the story of Ester’s gravesite: my family and I discussed what we should do as we knew my father was very unhappy thinking his mother’s grave would not be visited by his children and grandchildren. My
grandfather is buried in a single grave at the New Swedish Cemetery and with this fact and the knowledge of the difficulties involved in moving a body, we decided to have her memorialized by having her maiden name, date of birth, date of death and the word MOTHER inscribed on my grandfather’s monument just below his name and the word Father. This was completed the week of my father’s birthday, October 1996, and my sister, mother, husband, and myself went and brought flowers for the first time ever to my grandmother. My father is buried just a few rows up from this grave. My son has since visited it with me and we all plan to continue.

What was her background?
Now to see if I can find out anything about her family. I thought Ester was probably the only Zetterlund that immigrated because if there had been others, wouldn’t my father have known something about them? NO! She definitely was not the only Zetterlund who immigrated.

We went to Springfield to search the indexes to the New York passenger records. I found no Ester Zetterlund. However, I found one Ester Setterlund who came in 1910. It did not say from where, but it did say she was a 20-year-old female.

I kept this information until I could go to Pittsfield. We finally got to go to Pittsfield in August of 1996 and again there she was. Esters arrived at the port of New York on Sep.18, 1910, and she was traveling with her sister Maria Setterlund [both indexed as “Salterlund”], going to Springfield to what is very difficult to read but I think it says to see her sister B. Johanson. The address is unreadable. There were two sisters, one in Springfield, and it stated that Maria had come previously to the U.S. in 1910.

More pieces to the puzzle fitted nicely into place. I was able to find the 1910 and the 1920 census for MA for Maria in Springfield. I have not been able to locate B. Johanson as of yet.

The passenger record was difficult to read as far as where in Sweden Maria and Ester had come from. I carried this record everywhere for a long time, hoping someone could read it. Many guesses were given but no one could really tell for sure. Thus, without a parish no records of her family could be found. However, I was very happy just to have found her.

Later, someone suggested that it could be Sunne, in Värmland.

A letter was written, on my behalf, to the parish of Sunne in Värmland explaining that I was trying to locate any living relatives and thought my grandmother was born in Sunne. Again, more information came listing my grandmother and all her siblings, the addresses of any still living in Sunne and the records of where and when the others moved.

I learned that Ester had many siblings; so far I have been able to find out the following information [added by the editor from Sunne church records]:

Ester Karolina was born 6 Oct. 1889 in Norra Borgerby in Sunne, daughter of the homestead owner Lars Zetterlund (born 8 June 1851 in Norra Råda, Värmland), and his wife Kerstin Persdotter [incorrectly listed as Maria in the birth records], born 3 Jan. 1852 in Sunne, and they had been married 16 Nov. 1875. Several of the siblings also came to the U.S.

Ester’s siblings were:

a. Olof, b. 16 Aug 1876 in Skog, Gävleborg län.

b. Betty Kristina, b. 9 Jan. in Ockelbo, Gävleborg län.

c. Inga Mathilda, b. 27 Sep. 1879 in Skog.


e. Maria Viktoria, b. 21 Feb. 1881 in Skog.

f. Elin Amanda, b. 31 May 1885 in Sunne.

g. Emma Alfvida, b. 25 May 1887 in Sunne.

h. Lydia Charlotta, b. 16 Apr. 1896 in Sunne.

They were all living at Norra Borgery by in 1895.

Sources:
Sunne C:15, page 344
Sunne AI:67, page 127
Sunne AI:71, page 134
Sunne AI:75, page 152

About the author
Carla Peterson Sullivan was an avid genealogist who passed away in 2003. She was passionate about her Swedish ancestry, and tried to write down the story of all her Swedish ancestors. Most of her genealogy collection was donated to the Swedish Ancestry Research Association [SARA] of Worcester, MA. Some of her material has been printed in the SARA Newsletter. The above story was printed in the 2010 February Newsletter and is reprinted in SAG with permission from SARA.
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An “America Letter” from 1846

Translated by John E. Norton

This is a translation from a publication called Beskrifning öfwer Norra Amerikas Förenta Stater och ser-skildt öfwer Staden Newyork, jemte Anteckningar och Bref... ...Andra tillöpta Upplagan, Westerwik, Trykte hos D.C. Ekblad et Comp. 1846 [Description of the North American United States and especially of the city of New York, and notes and letters, 2nd augmented edition, Västerwik, printed by D.C. Ekblad & Co. 1846].

Page 23:

One of the young tradesmen who a few years ago emigrated from Gefle to North America, has, in a letter dated Louisville, Kentucky, 7 January 1846, provided a relative living in Gefle information about his fate after arrival in America. The emigrants went from New York to Wisconsin, with the thought of settling there, but changed their minds upon seeing the situation in which the Swedes there, the well-known Fri-mans and (Gustaf) Unonius, found themselves. The economic condition of these persons was described as far from good. Our emigrants sold here at auction the ironware they had brought at a considerable loss, since neither the designs nor workmanship met American demands. Upon seeing the emigrants’ axes, they asked us about the purpose of those tools, and when they were informed, they laughed heartily at the clumsy work. From here, the emigrants returned to Buffalo, where they, during their travel inland, had become acquainted with a Swede named Mosell(?) , upon whose advice the writer and one of his followers bought various small articles, like knives, books, etc., which they sold around the nearby area. This activity appears to have succeeded in no small way, since the writer, after a year, had earned about $200.00, which however was spent when he became infected with fever. After recovery, the same work was continued in the state of New York, Canada and other locations. During these trips he became acquainted with a trader in Louisville, for whom he worked from April to December last year, when he himself opened a little general store in that city, which he hopes will succeed, since work possibilities in relation to the country’s natural riches, and the yearly increasing means of communications, are much better there than in the homeland. Most of the writer’s comrades have followed his example, and have put farming out of their minds. The first winter, however, the writer and another native of Gefle worked for a farmer, for food and tutoring in English. This farmer gave them plenty of work, but was described as an educated person, and their time with him was considered very useful to them. The writer could not complain about the people. The Americans have appeared generally to him as friendly, well-mannered, industrious and hard working, but not always so principled, so a stranger should be watchful in order to avoid being cheated.

Endnote:
1) Translator’s note: this was probably Georg Henrik Collini, who emigrated in the spring of 1843 together with Nils Fredrik Åström, Jonas Svedberg, Fabian Fränel, and Carl Magnus Flack, aboard the Carolina. They arrived New York City 28 August 1843. An unsigned letter dated Buffalo, New York, 20 August 1846 appeared in the Östgöta Correspondenten of 28 October 1846. It states that Collini was then in Louisville, while Nils Fredrik Åström and Jonas Svedberg were operating a restaurant in Chicago, where Carl Magnus Flack was also living.


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A not uncommon problem in working backwards in one’s family pedigree is to discover that a child is born to an unwed mother, and one wonders then if it is possible to find the missing father. This is a problem for which it is impossible to lay down general rules or solutions, but perhaps a few experiences in my research can give hints as to possible ways of solving the mystery.

In olden days when there was a strong social consciousness and strong ecclesiastical control, the problem with illegitimate children was not as prevalent as it became in the 19th century, as documented by the parish registers. Unfortunately we do not know too much about this problem before 1871, but in that year a publication appeared in Sweden titled Historisk statistik för Sverige (Historical Statistics for Sweden), which according to the year of publication (1871) gave the number of unwed mothers as 10% of all women giving birth. Thus it is probable that every genealogist sooner or later will find the word illegitimate (oäoäkta) in the birth registers in some generation.

An easily solved problem
If one is lucky one may not have to hunt for the child’s father very long as in the case of the following child - “Anders Petter, born 28 Jan. 1846, the son of Inga Carin Persdotter, servant (piga) from Humlebäcken on the estate of Eksjöhult in Ulrika parish (Ög.). It was legally determined that the child’s father was Anders Fredrik Nilsson, a servant (dräng) in Kärr.”

More difficult cases
If the parish records are not that helpful, one will have to attempt other avenues. The first thing to determine is to see if the child, as it grows to adulthood, uses the same patronymic (a father’s name like Larsson) as his mother or maternal grandfather. If this is not the case but it carries the name Jonsdotter, the mother is named Larsdotter, and the grandfather Svensson, one may suspect that someone named Jon or Jonas was the child’s father, and then see if the mother had been a maid servant (piga) in the same household as a person named Jon of the approximately the same age. If one finds a Jon who seems to fit the case, one may follow him in the parish records in order to see if the clergyman has added a note which may solve the mystery.

Gustaf Pettersson, a servant (dräng) in Malma, Västra Ryd parish (Ög.) wished to move from his parish to Norra Vi, another parish in Östergötland, in 1858. The clergyman noted in the household examination roll that “Anna Lotta Andersdotter in Malma expressly forbids that Gustaf Pettersson be given a certificate of freedom to marry.” This Anna Lotta was found on the following page to have given birth 20 Sept. 1858 to an illegitimate son named Johan Alfred, and she seems to have had reasons for naming Gustaf Pettersson as the father of the child and therefore wished to block him from having the certificate, since he was not free to marry, according to her statement. In this specific case the man stated that he was not the father of the child and in 1861 swore an oath that such was the case. The notation in the household examination followed him, nevertheless, until he departed for America in 1866.

If one finds a plausible candidate as the father but has found nothing in the parish records to prove this point, one should follow his career until he dies. A notation may show up much later, for example the child may have been domiciled with the supposed father. It has even occurred that the child finally is mentioned in the estate inventory of the deceased.

The secretary in the Department of the Army (Krigskollegium), Fred-
The birth of Ludvig Wilhelm Alfons, as child #205, born on the 20th, and baptized on 3 October by the H[off] Predikant (= clergyman to the Court) Sjöstedt. Parents: unknown, mother’s age 25 years, living in Repslagaren Q[uar]ter. Midwife 1876, which specified that his estate should be divided in two equal parts, one of these to go to his son, Ludvig Wilhelm Alfons Westée, a manufacturer in North America, and the other to his daughter Edla Lovisa Adelaide, married to a Gustav.

This proved that Ludvig Wilhelm Alfons really was the son of Fredrik Wilhelm, which his descendants had claimed right along. However, he was born in Hedvig Eleonora parish in Stockholm; of “unknown parents”, his mother was 25 years old and lived in the Repslagaren quarter.

The sister, Edla Lovisa Adelaide, was married to a battalion adjutant named Gustav Wilhelm Gustavi, who later lived in Rappestad Parish (Ög.). The parish records of Rappestad state that Edla was born in Jacob-Johannes Parish in Stockholm in 1840, but she is not to be found in the birth register. In a special volume for the births of illegitimate children there is a note, however, which has been pasted in, dated 1853, in which Fredrik Wilhelm admits that he and his then deceased betrothed, Lovisa Ulrica Nyman, were Edla’s parents.

The fact that Edla is not listed as born in Jacob Parish may be due to the fact that she was born in one of the city’s birthing centers and that the parents used their prerogative of being registered as “unknown.”

Child Murder Manifesto

The Swedish King Gustaf III was often confronted with cases having to do with mothers who had taken the life of an infant, and whether he should have them executed or pardoned. He finally became quite concerned by the number of infants killed, and issued a manifesto known as “child murder manifesto” (barnmordsplakatet), signed into law 17 Oct. 1778. This order said among other things that “a woman who wished to give birth at an unspecified location, could do so without being molested and without being queried as to her name or other personal details.”

This functioned quite well in the cities, where one often sees the statement “unknown parents” (okända föräldrar) in the birth registers, but scarcely in rural areas, where people usually knew quite a bit about their neighbors.

In the cities, however, despite the notation concerning unknown parents sometimes the mother’s age is given as well as an address. If one checks the latter for the time period in question one will often find the residence of a midwife who took care of the wayward girls (obemärkta flickor), a term used even into modern times. In such cases it is almost hopeless to continue the search.

It is somewhat different if the child was born at a birthing center (barnbärdhus) or if the child had been admitted to an orphanage soon after its birth. One should then search the journals and registers, since sometimes the mother deposited with the institution a sealed envelope which might contain the key to solving the puzzle by naming the parents of the child.

The child of the unwed mother in rural areas

Let us now return to the illegitimate child in rural Sweden. One should not forget that despite everything else it was considered a crime up until 1864 for persons to indulge in premarital intercourse or adultery. There were specified punishments to be meted out according to Sweden’s legal Code of 1734, which stated that the first time these crimes were perpetrated the man was to pay a fine of ten daler and the woman five, or for the man 14 days’ prison or workhouse and for the woman half that amount. The nature of these crimes was such that it was difficult to prove unless it resulted in the birth of a child.

Of the fines collected half was to go to the parish treasury, and it may pay to search the parish accounts or those of the special account set up for the poor, shortly after the birth of the child to see if the mother paid a fine to the church. If one is fortunate, one might find that a man paid the double amount at about the same time, pretty good evidence for looking a little closer as to who the father might be.

If the mother paid her fine to the parish and to the poor, the next step is to look at the court records of the hundred (härad). Here the simplest way is to look at the fines paid (saköreslängd), which is generally found bound at the end of the court records themselves at each assizes. In this register one can search for those who were fined, often with a reference to the court case itself, so that one may go directly to the court record without having to go through the entire large volume.

Most of the time it was the county sheriff (länsman) who brought charges against the man and the woman, but occasionally it was also the father of the woman who charged his daughter, or the woman who brought suit against the child’s father for child support.

On 6 Jan. 1836 Maria Larsdotter, a servant (piga) in Löt parish on the island of Öland paid a fine of 32 shillings (skilling) to her parish church.
for having indulged in fornication (lönskaläge). On 6 Nov. 1835 she had given birth to her daughter Stina Cajsa, and she now was to be brought into the church after the purification process and she wished to have her debt to the church paid before this event. Stina Cajsa, the daughter, used the patronymic Olsdotter as an adult, the mother was Maria Larsdotter, and the maternal grandfather's name was Lars Andersson, so the child's patronymic should give us a clue as to who the father was.

In the court records for the northern district of Öland (Ölands Norra härad) for the assizes held during the winter term of 1836 this case came up for consideration under § 285. A. Thiman, the sheriff, had sued Olof Johnson, a farmer in Stora Hagelund in Alböke parish (Kalm.) and Maria Larsdotter, a servant in Lundby, Löt parish “to assume responsibility for having indulged in fornication, urging the court to sentence Olof Johnson, the defendant, to pay child support.”

Both parties were present and admitted their guilt. Maria demanded that Olof should pay her annually one barrel of rye as well as 100 daler for the child's subsistence, which he refused to do.

The court then announced its decision that Olof should be fined three daler and 16 skilling or be incarcerated for 14 days in the county jail and in addition pay one daler and 16 skilling to the parish church in Löt. In addition he was to pay Maria annually a barrel of good rye and six daler and 32 skilling; should he refuse, the court would order the foreclosure of his farm. Maria was to pay 32 skilling to Löt church which she already had done.

In this case the man admitted his guilt, but there are many cases where the man denied the charge and despite the fact that there had been witnesses who had seen the couple in the same bed, continued to deny the charge, finally swearing an oath to free himself. In such cases the woman had to accept that there was no official father for her child, which could pose quite a problem.

The inheritance rights of the illegitimate child
According to the Law of 1734 a child born out of wedlock did not inherit anything from either of the parents or their families. This was changed in 1866, so the child could inherit from the mother, provided that she had had the child recorded in the church records as her child. In 1905 an illegitimate child got the full inheritance rights after the mother and her family, but not until 1970 after the father and his family.

Other sources
Among other sources that should be tried, should they exist in the parish examined, are the series known as the G Series, [rarely filmed] consisting of registers of pardons issued for offenders as well as journals of punishment meted out to those guilty, where persons are named who were absolved by the clergyman either secretly or openly before the public. This was one of the methods used by the church to uphold public morality as well as punish the guilty.

In older times, when an illegitimate child was an unusual occurrence, one may find the event reported to the diocesan chapter (Domkapitlet), where such cases can be found in the records submitted by each parish.

As is usual when it comes to difficult problems in genealogical research, one must try all possible avenues in order to solve the problem. I have here sought to discuss some of the most important ones. My chief advice is to leave no path untried until success has been reached.

Literature on the subject
There is very little literature on the subject of finding the unknown father, whereas the illegitimate child and its mother have been studied in many works. Among these I should mention Jonas Frykman’s Horan i bondesamhället (The Whore in Rural Society) (1977), which gives too dark a picture of the unwed mother and her prospects for the future. Svante and Sten W. Jakobsson have given in Orons och förtvivlan gerningar (The Results of Anxiety and Despair) (1987) a shocking picture of the anxiety the unwed mother experienced in the face of her pregnancy and birth of the child. This study touches on the situation in Stockholm. Beata Losman in Kvinnor, män och barn på
The Bernadotte Family – 200 years in Sweden

On the 21st of August 1810 the Swedish parliament, assembled in Örebro, elected the French Marshal Jean Baptiste Bernadotte, Prince of Ponte Corvo, to be the new Crown Prince and become the King of Sweden, when his adoptive father, King Karl XIII, died.

The King had originally wanted a Danish prince to inherit the Crown, but many Swedish officers wanted a well-known and very efficient French Marshal, and also a friend of Napoleon’s instead. They hoped that he would help Sweden to regain Finland, which had been conquered by Russia in 1809.

These officers and some French lobbyists were very successful, and Bernadotte was elected and later changed his name to Carl Johan.

However, he did not share the view that he was to start a war with Russia; instead he joined the coalition against Napoleon, and helped to dethrone him. After that he turned against Denmark, and conquered Norway in 1814, which had for centuries been a part of Denmark. The union between Sweden and Norway lasted until 1905. Since the war against Denmark in 1814 Sweden has not participated in any war.

The Bernadotte dynasty has created kings Karl XIV Johan (1818–1844), Oscar I (1844–1859), Karl XV (1859–1872), Oscar II (1872–1907), Gustaf V (1907–1950, Gustaf VI Adolf (1950–1973), and now Carl XVI Gustaf, who has been the King of Sweden since 1973.
The above text is taken from the minutes of criminal cases (Protokoll i brottmål) of the Svea Hovrätt (Svea Court of Appeal), volume AlaB1:117 (July-Dec. 1834).

Since the early middle ages there had been local court meetings in the various districts (härad). Anyone who was not satisfied with the rulings of the häradsrätten could appeal to the king, and maybe get it changed.

Around 1600 the king Karl IX found this to be not very effective and tried to find a better way to handle these court cases. But it was his son Gustaf II Adolf who in 1614 founded the Svea Hovrätt as a court of appeal. In some cases it was possible to write to the king and ask for a change of verdict or to ask for a pardon.

In 1623 a hovrätt was founded in Åbo (Turku) in Finland, then a part of Sweden. In 1630 another one in Dorpat (Tartu) in Estonia, then a part of Sweden. The Göta Hovrätt was founded in 1634 in Jönköping, to handle cases from southern Sweden (including Värmland up to 1813, afterwards in Svea hovrätt). In 1820 there was founded the Hovrätten över Skåne. During the 1900s were also founded the Hovrätten för Västra Sverige in Göteborg (1936), then the Hovrätten för Nedre Norrland in Sundsvall (1948), and the Hovrätten för Övre Norrland in Umeå (1936).

The superior court for Sweden is called Högsta Domstolen and was founded in 1789 by Gustaf III. It is situated in Stockholm.

All cases with a verdict of execution, from the häradsrätt, were sent on to the hovrätt, and if they confirmed the verdict, the sentenced person could write to the king and ask for pardon or a lesser sentence.

The records of the Svea Hovrätt are kept at the Riksarkivet (National Archives) in Stockholm. Records from Göta Hovrätt are now kept in the Landsarkivet (Regional Archives) in Västervik, and only a small part of the records are microfilmed.

Solution on page 22.
The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly

The Quarterly, now (in 2010) in its 62nd year, has been called “the most important and continuing source of information about Swedes in North America” and is cited frequently in books and articles as a reference. Its editors have included Paul A. Varg, E. Gustav Johnson, Franklin D. Scott, Arnold Barton, Raymond Jarvi, and, currently, Byron Nordstrom.

All of the issues from 1950 through 2005 as well as two indexes have been digitized and are accessible online. This index is excellent and very easy to navigate [Ed:s opinion].

Link on the links page, p. 30. Use the link and then on the page there is a sentence in red at the bottom of the page; click on that and you will come to the search page.

This index was made possible by a grant from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.

New genealogical program for Mac

Ancestry.com has announced plans to make available a Mac version of its Family Tree Maker genealogical software package later this year. (Nu? What’s new? newsletter 2010 May 2).

Margaret Sooy Bridwell elected first woman governor of Swedish Colonial Society

The Swedish Colonial Society, which is known for its study of The New Sweden Colony, made some history of its own with the election of Margaret S. Bridwell as its 33rd governor. (Swedish Council of America, eUpdate May 2010).

John Norton – Swedish American of the year

It was recently announced that John E. Norton of Moline, Ill., was recently elected to the honor of The Swedish-American of the Year 2010. John E. Norton has been a board member of Scandinavian Seminar, The American Scandinavian Association at Augustana College, and the Augustana Historical Society in Rock Island, where he edits their quarterly newsletter, and the Bishop Hill Heritage Association, devoted to restoration of this pioneering Swedish “prairie Utopia.” He has maintained his Swedish language through those connections, and values his Swedish background highly.

John Norton will come to Sweden in the summer and take part in various Swedish-American celebrations, including the John Ericsson Day in Filipstad on 31st of August in Filipstad.

(Swedish Council of America, eUpdate May 2010).

Agneta Nilsson to receive the Ellis Island Medal

Agneta Nilsson, the founder of the Swedish Women’s Educational Association (SWEA), is set to receive the 2010 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The medal is awarded by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations and Mrs. Nilsson will join the remarkable roster of distinguished American citizens who have already received this honor.

(Swedish Council of America, eUpdate May 2010).

Minnesota Book Awards for 2010

Award for General Nonfiction, sponsored by Minnesota AFL-CIO:


I Go to America traces the story of writer Mina Anderson, who emigrated from Sweden to Wisconsin and then to the Twin Cities where she worked as a domestic servant. It explores her move to rural Mille Lacs County where she and her husband worked a farm, raised seven children, and contributed widely to rural Swedish community life through her poetry, fiction, and letters to Swedish American newspapers. Joy K. Lintelman is a professor of history at Concordia College in Moorhead.

Link on page 30!

Mrs. Willow Hagans elected new SCA chair

At the recent meeting of the board of Swedish Council of America Mrs. Willow Hagans of Detroit, Mich., was elected as the new chair.

Mrs. Hagans’s goals during her tenure as Chair include running the SCA as a business, continuing to expand its outreach to affiliates, promoting various Swedish-American events, and enriching our links to Sweden through our office in Karlstad, Sweden.

(Swedish Council of America, eUpdate May 2010).

The John Morton Project

The Swedish Colonial Society runs a project on researching John Morton, one of the more important early Swedes, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. See link on p.30.
Sweden was a poor country in the latter part of the 19th century, and Stockholm was one of the worst places in the country to live if you were poor. The rapidly growing Stockholm of the time was a place of misery — many poor people were moving in looking for work of any kind. Lodgings were miserable, work was often dangerous, there was too much alcohol, disease, prostitution, unwed mothers, orphanages, children looking for work, and so on. If you were healthy and could not provide for yourself, you were sent to mandatory work, and if you were sick and poor you had to beg.

Stockholm for poor people could easily be compared to the London of the time described in English author Charles Dickens’s novels, although smaller and colder.

Still, Stockholm at the end of the 19th century and the turn of the 20th century was a place showing much progress. Many new, beautiful buildings were constructed; museums, theaters, and restaurants were opened; daily papers were published. Poets and novelists became prominent and attracted readers, and some of them became famous: August Strindberg was one of them.

A new opera house was built. New architects were busy. Parks were laid out and opened for all.

New schools were opened and all children had the right to a free basic education. There were scholarships to the higher schools for poor and bright children. Stockholm University College (Stockholms Högskola) was founded. (The old university was in Uppsala).

Many were employed in the factories, not necessarily in good jobs, but still jobs which would give a father a decent possibility to provide for his family. It took until after World War II, however, for Stockholm to leave most of its misery behind.

The Strindin family
As a professional genealogist I was very well aware of all this, but I was still very surprised and upset to follow the destiny of one family in Stockholm.

The father was Edvard Strindin, who was born on 27 Aug. 1842 in Sundsvall in northern Sweden.


Let us first look into her background:

Johanna Charlotta’s mother was Johanna Catharina Andersson, born on 30 Oct. 1826 in Adolf Fredrik parish, Stockholm. She was unmarried and the name of her daughter’s father was not given in the birth record. Later on she was married to a janitor, since in the census of 1890 she was noted as a janitor’s widow.

She had a second daughter, Emma Mathilda, born in 1854, who was still unmarried and living with her mother in 1890, but according to the census of 1900, she later married and bore three children.

I guess the surname Andersson for mother and daughters came from Johanna Catharina’s subsequent husband, the janitor.

Johanna Catharina Andersson had an unwed mother as well, but that mother was just noted as “unknown,” of age 45. Such a note in the birth records was not exactly an exception, but rather common in Stockholm of that period.

Unwed mothers and Swedish laws
According to a royal ordinance of 1778, an unwed mother had the right to stay “unknown” in the records if she preferred to, and then leave her child to an orphanage. By that she avoided punishment from the church for sexual association out of marriage, which was forbidden by law until 1864 in Sweden.

Still long after the 1860's, this right to keep unknown in the records was frequently made use of up until 1917, when a new family law was passed, and it was no longer possible.

There was a surplus of women in Stockholm during the 19th century, which meant a “men’s market,” so to speak. Men more often emigrated, but women with fewer options and less means moved to Stockholm or had to stay where they were for good.

This right to stay unknown was taken advantage of in the bigger cities mostly, such as Stockholm and Gothenburg, where people could stay rather anonymous. In the smaller parishes everybody was well aware of who gave birth to illegitimate children.

Now and then pregnant and unmarried girls went to Stockholm to give birth anonymously, left their children at an orphanage, and then returned home to their country parishes, hoping that nobody would know about it. They rented a bed somewhere for some months and looked for an occasional job during the period before childbirth. The orphans were mostly sent out in the
country from the orphanages to foster parents, where, as a rule, they were put to hard work as soon as possible.

Sweden had for centuries been more or less ruled by the church and its very strict moral laws, and those who most often had to suffer from them were poor young girls.

**Back to the Strindins**

Edvard Strindin’s father was a sea captain who lived in Sundsvall. Edvard’s grandfathers had both been merchants in the area. The Strindin name was originally first used by a man coming from a place called Strinne, where the name Strindberg had its origin too. There does not seem to be any connection between these two families.

In 1870, as a young man of 28, Edvard moved to Stockholm and almost immediately married Johanna Andersson. He was noted as an actor in the records, and I have found him as a member of the staff of a Stockholm theater in 1902 performing in a play by the famous Norwegian writer Henrik Ibsen. Johanna worked in the theater as an actress for many years.

Most of the time after his marriage, however, they were members of different acting companies, touring around Sweden.

**Edvard and Johanna Strindin’s children (at least 12 children):**


Anna Emilia Katarina, born 29 Dec. 1876 in Jakob parish. (Jakob-Johannes Cia:26:57.) Parents living at Lutternsgatan 8 in Jakob. She was recorded in the birth record of Jakob parish, but baptized Jan. 1877 in Jönköping city as her parents probably were on tour there then. She emigrated 22 Dec. 1892 to Winchester, Mass., U.S.A. In 1900 she was a servant of a family named Stone in Winchester. She was married and has descendants in the U.S.A.


Stillborn girl, born and died 1880 in Jakob.

Nils Gustaf, born 9 March 1881 in Jakob. (Record Fla:6, page 282.) Died as a baby in Halmstad, parents now living at Lutternsgatan 8.

Per Erik Gunnar, born 1 Aug. 1885 in Stockholm. In 1900 he was a foster child in a farmer's family in Österhaninge parish, close to Stockholm, together with some five other children. He immigrated to Winchester in 1904, but returned to Sweden. He died unmarried in 1957, March 11, in Stockholm.

In the birth records Anna was noted as child number 5 and Gunnar as child number 11 of the family, so the couple had at least 12 children. Of these 12 children, three managed to survive, probably since they were left to live in foster families!

In 1900 the Strindin couple was living by themselves in Stockholm. Their two under-aged children, Gunnar and Karin, were taken care of by other people. Anna was in America by then.

Johanna Charlotta Strindin died 17 July 1920 at one of the Stockholm Poorhouses.

Edvard Strindin, the actor, died 15 June 1921, in Maria Magdalena parish, Stockholm, of a brain hemorrhage.

Stockholm was certainly a mess, but this Strindin family situation was not the common one. It looks quite horrible to me.

Actors of the past

Heavy drinking was very common, and I would guess alcohol had much to do with this family. Beyond that, an actor's family bringing their newborn babies with on laborious tours would certainly not mean a good start for them. The wife Johanna took part in the acting or scene work in some way and was needed on the tours. She must have been constantly pregnant during some 15 years, from age 23 to at least 39, poor woman.

Today actors are considered idols and are looked upon as glamorous and admirable, and some of them are able to make good money, contrary to the past. The Swedish word for “actor” is skådespelare, but a common word for touring actors was “taskspelare,” a nasty word, somewhat like “juggler” or “conjurer,” according to my dictionary. In their performances on tour they sang, played instruments, did tricks, and performed comedies.

Their reputation out in the country was not exactly as low as that of circus people or gypsies, but almost. Those people at least had their camps to live in. It happened that hotels refused to take actors in, since they were afraid of not being paid for food and lodging. Private landlords often had the same attitude. Then the poor actors were starving and cold – and to improve their situation, they drank. No wonder that babies on the tour did not survive.

Today our social authorities will interfere directly in those family situations. But in those days...

We have had charity organizations for a long time, but not until 1917 was a law passed telling all parishes and cities that they had to have special authority assistants to take care of poor people and children.

Sources:

Census of Sweden 1890 and 1900. Family records, Sundsvall.
Birth and death records, Stockholm and Sundsvall.

Endnotes

1 Lives in 1890 with her maternal grandmother in Kurland nr 13 i Adolf Fredrik (rote 5). Roteman-nen database.

2 Stockholm City Archives. Database of Death certificates (Dödbevis).

3 Stockholm City Archives. Database of Death certificates (Dödbevis).

4 The Söder Database (CD).

The author is Kerstin Jonmyren, who lives at Vintervägen 15 611 36 Nyköping, Sweden Home page: www.swedgenco.tk

This ad was found in the Wermlands Läns Tidning 20 May 1879.
Riksarkivet – Swedish National Archives

Riksarkivet – the Swedish National Archives is situated in the Marieberg area of Stockholm. The present building, inaugurated in 1968, does not look very grand, but is a spacious, modern building that goes down many levels into the rock.

Riksarkivet is one of the oldest public agencies in Sweden, its history reaching back to the Middle Ages. In 1618, Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna created a new organization for record keeping and the National Archives came into being. Today, the National Archives has the supervision of all public records of the agencies of the central government, while it delegates to the regional archives the supervision of records generated by regional and local authorities. They receive and preserve records from public administration as well as from private corporations and individuals, and make them available for research.

The Riksarkivet does not have any church records, as those are regarded as local public records and are kept in the different regional archives (Landsarkiv) in the country. There is a list of them on the Riksarkivet web site with addresses and contact information.

Riksarkivet is open to everyone, and you do not have to have any special permit to visit the archives. On their English web site there is a downloadable brochure which tells more about the holdings.

Web site: http://www.riksarkivet.se/
then look for the English link.

Address:
Riksarkivet, Box 12541, S-102 29 Stockholm, Sweden.

Street address: Fyrverkarbacken 13, Marieberg, Stockholm.
The solution of the (Hand)writing Example XXIV

Transcription


Translation

The same day was read His Majesty the King’s gracious Rescript1 of the 14 June 1834 concerning the general labor convict Daniel Wilhelm Svedell, who by the Royal Court of Appeal, through a conviction of 17th last April, was legally declared to have wounded and laid a forceful hand on the Commandant of the South Correctional Penitentiary, the Major and Knight of the Order of the Sword Carl Fredric Georgii, had been sentenced, according to Chapter 18 and paragraph 8 of the Code of Misdeeds, and according to the Royal Statute of 20 January 1779, to lose his life and be beheaded, which sentence His Royal Majesty found legally founded, but by grace has freed Svedell from the capital punishment and permitted him to suffer for his crime by twenty pairs of rods2, public admonition in church, and lifetime hard labor at Malmö fortress.

1) A rescript is a document that is issued not on the initiative of the author, but in response (it literally means ‘written back’) to a specific demand made by its addressee. It does not apply to more general legislation etcetera.[Wikipedia].

2) Flagellation or flogging is the act of methodically beating or whipping (Latin flagellum, "whip") the human body. Specialised implements for it include rods, switches, the cat o’ nine tails and the sjambok. Typically, flogging is imposed on an unwilling subject as a punishment. In Sweden it was common that the flogging was done by a number of pairs of rods. The victim had to walk between two lines of men with rods, who had to whip hard, else they faced having to suffer flogging themselves. This type of punishment was abolished in 1855. [Wikipedia]
A great financier


Few people in the U.S. today recall the name of Ivar Kreuger, the Swede known as “The Match King,” whose name was known to almost all in the 1920’s. Some of us seniors may have a dim memory of his name, but he is largely unknown to younger people today. Yet he had greater influence on the financial markets in the first decades of the 20th century than almost any other person. From a modest start, Ivar Kreuger built up a vast empire based initially on the manufacture of safety matches, but eventually extending to the control of hundreds of corporations and properties in Europe and the U.S. By 1929 he was claimed to be the “third richest man in the world.” In current dollars, his fortune probably exceeded that of some of the top-ranking wealthy people today such as Ingvar Kamprad of IKEA, Bill Gates of Microsoft, Warren Buffet, and others. It all ended with the collapse of his empire, and his suicide, in 1932.

Ivar Kreuger was born in Kalmar, Sweden, in 1880, the eldest son of an owner of several match factories in that city. He had five younger siblings, four sisters and a brother, Torsten. He was very bright in school and graduated at age 16. He then studied at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, graduating with combined master’s degrees in mechanical and civil engineering in 1904. Soon after graduating he traveled abroad and worked as an engineer in the U.S., Mexico, South Africa, and other countries, but spent most of his time in the U.S. He worked for several engineering companies and became acquainted with a patented concrete/steel reinforcement system, invented by Julius Kahn. By 1907 he had obtained the rights to introduce the system in Sweden and Germany, and returned to Sweden. A cousin, Henrik Kreuger, was an expert in reinforced concrete construction, and Ivar and Henrik formed the construction firm of Kreuger and Toll, with engineer Paul Toll. A similar firm was formed in Germany with Anders Jordahl, a colleague from his time in America.

Within a few years, this new system became accepted and the firm worked on several large contracts including the construction of the Olympic Stadium in 1912, the foundation work for the new Stockholm Town Hall, 1913, and the department store Nordiska Kompaniet (NK) in 1914. Ivar Kreuger appeared to be the salesman, with cousin Henrik doing the engineering. These early successes led to Ivar beginning to focus on new companies and corporations, rather than construction. Kreuger and Toll, run by Paul Toll, remained the construction company, and a new company, Kreuger and Toll Holdings, was formed in 1917 with Ivar as the general manager and shareholder. Swedish banker Oscar Rydbeck became a close associate and assisted Kreuger and Toll until the crash in 1932.

Meanwhile, the Kreuger family’s match factories ran into financial problems. Ivar and banker Rydbeck turned these factories into a stock corporation to raise capital. This new corporation became the base for the growth of the reorganization of the entire Swedish match industry as Kreuger acquired several other small match companies and soon merged with the largest match company in Sweden to form Swedish Match in 1917. By so doing and adding several match companies in Norway and Finland, Kreuger became a major competitor to large manufacturers in other regions. By negotiating monopoly agreements with other countries in return for loans, Swedish Match then became the world’s largest match manufacturer. A U.S. affiliate was set up, and this group eventually came to control almost three-quarters of the world production of matches. This company became the prototype for many large international corporations which were to follow, many continuing until today.

After the First World War, Kreuger gained control of the forest industry and acquired majority shares in L. M. Ericsson Telephone, Boliden Mining, SKF Ball Bearings, and banks in Sweden, Germany, and France. By 1925-30, Kreuger organized loans to many of the struggling nations in Europe to speed up their reconstruction, in return for certain monopoly agreements to produce, sell, or distribute matches in the country. These loans were from capital raised by both Swedish and American banks. He developed novel ways of financing these loans, in-

Portnoy’s book describes in fascinating detail over 14 chapters the amazing origin and growth of the Kreuger empire, from his birth in 1880 to his death at a still youthful 52 years of age in 1932, presumably by his own hand, when the collapse of his empire was certain. Exhaustive research is evident in the many records the author has reviewed, places he has visited, and persons he has interviewed, all recorded in a lengthy bibliography and endnotes. Kreuger was a genius at seizing the opportunities that were presented to him and turning them into tremendous growth. There was little regulation of investments at that time, and he was able to play fast and...
loose with accounting methods; financial reporting and audits were cursory if they existed at all. He managed to compartmentalize all his associates and companies such that no one but Kreuger himself really knew what was going on in the big picture. He carefully built a reputation for detailed knowledge and an aura of success that led others who should have known better to invest heavily in his ventures with little or no questioning.

Kreuger's house of cards survived even when others began to fail in the crash of 1929. By virtue of his reputation and force of will, all continued as long as he was able to maintain growth and dividends, and continue to borrow money to meet his obligations. In the end, failure to obtain some $11,000,000 to repay a loan, and the revelation that some Italian bonds he held were forgeries, triggered his final collapse. He knew it was coming and had bought a pistol in the final days, which he used on himself in his hotel room in Paris before the crucial meeting. Claims that he was murdered have continued to the present day and his brother Torsten wrote a book making this claim, but the matter has never been finally resolved. Certainly there would have been many with adequate motive, as the collapse became evident. The autopsy was cursory, and Kreuger's body was interred within a few days.

It is evident from this book that Ivar Kreuger was a brilliant and creative man, highly skilled in the art of negotiation, picking subordinates to suit his needs, and highly ambitious to succeed in all his undertakings. A major fault, however, was his lack of integrity in conveying with honesty his complex transactions, and his willingness to conceal or mask his activities from all inquiries. There is no mention anywhere in the book of any influence on Ivar of religious faith or practice. Perhaps if he had, he would not have been nearly as successful for as long as he was. His entire life and death brings to mind the well-known Biblical quotation, “for what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36)

The author in his final chapter, ‘Coda,’ ponders the question of the legacy of Ivar Kreuger. Many wrote him off as a common crook, others said he did not cheat more than others, he just did it better. Some, most notably his countrymen in Sweden, saw him as a national hero
whose success was undermined by his competitors and his enemies. Some continue to pursue conspiracy theories, or the fact that he had concocted an elaborate escape plan and was not dead, but was in hiding. The author has concluded that the truth lies somewhere between that of financial genius and scoundrel, hero and villain, builder and destroyer. In the mid-thirties, many hearings were held in the U.S. and in Sweden to get at the truth. These resulted in legislation regulating the investment business in both countries and elsewhere. With the recovery from the worldwide Great Depression, many investors found there was some value left in their holdings, to as much as fifty per cent, and many of his corporations survive today as healthy, viable companies.

This book is particularly timely in the light of today’s rather shaky recovery from the current world recession, the most severe since the great one of the 1930’s. Kreuger’s life brings to mind the Enron scandal of the 1990’s, the more recent Ponzi scheme of Bernard Madoff, and other financial bubbles. In 1984, Ivar Kreuger made the top five list of financial scandals published by the Financial Times, ranking just behind the South Seas Bubble and the Mississippi Scheme of John Law. This book should be required reading for all students of finance and government, and for the public at large. Still, but for luck and circumstance, this larger than life figure could have as easily become simply another immigrant engineer to the U.S., living in Chicago as another penniless Swede seeking a job and survival in America.

Dennis L. Johnson

Swedish recipes


Not just a book of Swedish recipes, this book holds a great deal more. The last half of the book does contain cooking recipes for about eighty well-known and not so well-known Swedish recipes, ranging from appetizers to desserts, all organized by category. Of even greater interest is the first half of the book, a collection of brief essays about the history, origins, and customs which have resulted in the various dishes and traditional foods. Foods which are familiar to all Swedes, and to many Swedish Americans.

The author, Judith Pierce Rosenberg, is a free lance writer, teacher, and mother of two grown children. She divides her time between living in California and in Stockholm. She is an American, born in Wichita, Kansas, who met her Swedish husband in a commune in San Francisco in 1976, both age 19. They soon traveled to Sweden and she became captivated by the country and by Swedish life and customs. Presently, they have a home in the Stockholm archipelago as well as in Silicon Valley, California. She has been a student of Swedish cooking for over 15 years, and has assembled this book with the help of friends in Sweden and through travel to many locations in her adopted nation.

Swedish Americans will enjoy trying dishes from this collection of recipes and comparing them with those they may have inherited from their own Swedish parents or grandparents. The author freely admits that the recipes she has collected vary from one province or part of Sweden to another, and even include a few touches of her own. Visiting many restaurants and talking to many Swedish friends and cooks was also an important part of her culinary education. She mentions that one of her first tasks, in order to try some of these new recipes, was to buy a set of metric measuring cups and spoons. Fortunately, she has converted all the recipes back to U.S. measures in the book.

The cook in your household will no doubt enjoy experimenting with some of these recipes for everything from breads to desserts. For me, who already has a good cook in my own house, the more interesting part of the book was the first half and the many historical traditions and customs to be found among these foods. You will learn more than you knew before about cloudberries, crayfish, Lapland food, the bread and butter table, the Christmas Smörgåsbord,
and even the Nobel Banquet. Not even lutfisk is ignored, nor is blood sausage, and Julskinka (Christmas Ham). Your curiosity will be satisfied about why every IKEA store in the U.S. and elsewhere has certain foods in its food shop, and why your grandfather enjoyed eating certain foods that your children will not touch, even if bribed with large silver coins or chocolate.

I was especially intrigued by the author’s account of a trip to Visby, Gotland, and her description of the town, which I have not yet visited. The high point of this visit was the enjoyment of a medieval feast, available only during the brief summer tourist season, at a restaurant named Medeltidskrogen Clematis. The food served was an “affluent medieval platter,” which began with a wood bowl filled with sliced apple and sausage, chunks of cheese, smoked mutton, shelled hazelnuts, and candied rose petals. Another wooden dish brought one of the main courses, lamb cutlets, spareribs, and chopped cabbage braised in honey, the entire meal eaten with one’s hands. The event was topped off with a performance of breathing fire, a spectacular show. This repast would certainly have brought to mind Viking days of a thousand years ago.

Not being Swedish born, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of all the recipes or the traditions described in her book, but to this Swedish American they certainly appear to be plausible and well-researched by Judith Rosenberg. Most households interested in the history of Swedish foods and stories about Swedish culinary traditions will find this volume both a useful recipe book and a very interesting book to read.

Dennis L. Johnson

New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)

In the recent issue of the Swedish-American Historical Quarterly (January 2010) there was an interesting article by Marion T. Marzolf about “The Swedish Presence in Twentieth-Century American weaving.” In the article she tells about the decline of American home weaving during the industrialization period, and how small cottage industries later were started in, for instance, the Appalachian mountains as a way for the women in these poor areas to make some extra money. This was partly based on the influence from Swedish immigrant women, who continued home weaving from tradition, which also was strong in Sweden during the Arts and Crafts era in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The weaving schools sent students to Sweden to learn more about weaving techniques from Handarbetets Vänner and other well-known institutions.

In this issue is also told the story about the “Scandinavian Department of the Salvation Army in the U.S.”, by Milton E. Nelson.

Family Tree Magazine (already dated July 2010 (!)), has, as usual, a number of useful articles for genealogists, but not particularly geared towards the Swedish ones (which is not to be expected.) In this issue we can learn much more to get the best out of Facebook and other “social media”. I hope you have noted that SAG now has its own page on Facebook? Most of the people on Facebook are younger ones, and that can be very helpful when you are trying to fill out your database with the younger generation.

Soap making might not sound like an interesting topic in genealogy, but actually the article on this subject in the July Family Tree Magazine is quite fascinating. You will read about the ways that soap making was handled in Old England, where the tax people required the soap maker to have padlocks on his pans, and a taxman had to be present at each boiling. It seems obvious that the soap became very expensive, and people made do with what they could produce themselves from tallow, birch ashes and more.

Smiths galore!

Svenska Smedsläkter 2, published by the Smiths’ Genealogical Society (Föreningen för Svenska Smedsläkter), 2009. 358 pages softcover. Price 260 SEK + postage. Contact Ulf Berggren at <ulfbulfb@yahoo.se> (in Swedish)

This book contains family genealogies for the following smith’s families: Aldrin, Brusk, Göthberg, Hammar, Hane, Lang, Lindberg, Lodén, Lundström, Lybeck, Lögqvist, Nordahl, Palm, Ringel, Spångberg, Ståhle, Sverkström, Taberman, Tjernlund, Vieweg, Wahlquist, Wård, and Ohman. Mostly the articles start with the oldest known direct ancestor and then follow the family members up to about 1800. The society has used this time limit, as it is much easier to follow people after 1800, and also there are fewer individuals to research in the 1700s.
Interesting Web Sites

The Swedish American Historical Quarterly Index:
http://www.swedishamericanhist.org/publications/index.html
Barbro Behrendtz’s pages on emigrants from Gärdsrom and much more:
http://www.barbrobehrendtz.se/engelska1.html
South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society (Serving south Cook and east Will counties, Illinois including Chicago’s Roseland / Pullman neighborhoods): http://www.ssghs.org/
The 2010 Minnesota Book Awards: http://www.thefriends.org/news.htm#22mnba_winners
Oregon genealogy records: http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/banners/genealogy.htm
Atlanta (GA) Historic Newspaper archives 1847-1922:
http://atlnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/atlnewspapers/search
Orders, Decorations, and Medals of Sweden: http://www.medals.org.uk/sweden/sweden.htm
A birth date calculator: http://www.progenealogists.com/birthfromdeath.htm
Various U.S. city directories and yearbooks: http://www.evendon.net/PGHLookups/DirM.htm
To convert GID numbers from Genline to proper volumes: http://scangen.se/gid.php
Digitized Swedish newspapers: http://magasin.kb.se:8080/searchinterface/
Latvian genealogy: http://www.balticgen.com/
Index to old SAG issues: http://www.augustana.edu/x14857.xml

All the above web links will be found as clickable links on
www.etgenealogy.se/sag.htm

This train is seen by the Nordmark railway station in Värmland around 1900. The train is transporting limestone from the limestone mine to one of the local blast furnaces (masugn), where it was used in the process of ironmaking.
(Photo: courtesy of the Nordmark Heritage Association).
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.

Lind

I am looking for my relatives who were born in Sweden but immigrated as children during the 1880s to the U.S. According to the 1900 U.S. federal census, Eli Lind was born 21 Nov. 1871 (date from Ohio Death Index) in Sweden, his wife Minne was born Sep. 1869 in Sweden, and their two daughters were Marie, born Aug. 1896 in Pennsylvania, and Jennie, born Oct. 1896. In 1900 they lived in Youngstown, Ohio, where Eli is recorded as a day-laborer.

In 1910 they had moved to Duquesne in Pennsylvania, and the family had grown with daughter Hilda, who was born around 1902, also in Ohio. In 1920 they were back in Ohio, now living in Masillon, Stark county, and Jennie and Hilda are still living at home. In 1930 Eli is a widower and daughter Hilda, who is a high school teacher, lives with him in Masillon. Eli still works as a furnace tender/helper in a steel mill. Eli dies 13 Nov. 1948 in Masillon, according to the Ohio Death Index.

Any information on this family would be much appreciated!

Ann-Marie Engfeldt, Fabriksgatan 2 F, SE-43278 Tvååker, Sweden. E-Mail: <liza2@telia.com>

Bloomquist, Blomqvist, Bloom

My great-grandfather Charles Alfred Bloomquist is a mystery to me. Some records indicate he was born in 1871 and others 1870, sometimes with the exact date of 1 January, but no good match is found in the Swedish emigration databases. I know nothing of this man prior to 3 July 1897, when he married my great-grandmother Rose Von Allman in Beaver Falls, Beaver county, Pennsylvania. On the marriage license (the surname is spelled Blumquist) he states that his parents are “Charles and Sophia Blumquist,” that his birthplace is Sweden, and that he is 26 years old and works as a steel worker, residing in Beaver Falls.

While he was at the courthouse that same day, he filed a declaration of intention to become a U.S. citizen. In that declaration his surname is spelled Bloomquist. The document says he was born in 1871 in Sweden, from whence he migrated in the year 1894. His signature appears “Cha Blumqvist.”

On 12 March 1900 he became a naturalized citizen (“Second Papers”), and the witness for his 5-year minimum residency in Pennsylvania was a man named Alfred Lundberg. This man is enumerated on the same page of the 1900 U.S. census as my great-grandfather, so they lived near each other at the time and possibly worked together in the same steel mill. Another Swede, August Dahlstrom, was naturalized in the court at Beaver county that same day. I don't know if they have a connection.

By 1902 Charles moved to Pittsburgh and worked in the steel mills, but later became an upholsterer. He used the surname “Bloom” interchangeably with “Bloomquist” for many years. He and Rose had seven children: Anna, Lillian, Charles, Rose, Mildred, Clarence, and Harry, only the last three lived to adulthood. Charles died 18 July 1932 in Pittsburgh, and his funeral records say that his father's name was “Eriksson Bloomquist.” I don't know if Charles had any siblings. I don't know where he came from in Sweden except that his daughter's marriage record says he was from “Stockholm.” I know a lot about him from 1897 until his death, but nothing that helps with tracing his past.

A few likely ones are:
- Karl Blomquist came over on the S.S. EMS, arriving in NYC on 26 Jun 1893.
- Karl Alfred Blomqvist born 1871 in “S. Telge.”

Information, ideas, suggestions on how to find my great-grandfather are most welcome!

Stephen D. Bloomquist, 1889 Brandywine Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101-3311, U.S.A.
E-mail: <steve.bloomquist@verizon.net>
Dear friends,

Summer is here! Which feels good, even though this issue is called the March issue, and is late. I do try to catch up with the backlog, but things keep happening so I can not make it (yet). Still there is not much in a journal of this type that gets old, as most of the contents are old anyway.

This issue is the first of volume 30, and this jubilee will be celebrated in each issue of this year by “recycling” some past, but still good, articles, published in the early years of SAG.

If you are looking for a certain old article, but do not remember when it was printed, there is a good Index on the Swenson Center web site, and a link is found on the Link page.

SAG is not a journal with lots of articles about Royalty, but the wedding of the Crown Princess and her fiancé Daniel Westlund is THE big event here this summer. The thing I am mostly interested in is to visit Storkyrkan (Stockholm Cathedral) and see what it looks like when it has been cleaned for a cost of about 13 million SEK. I hope I see a difference.

The bad and sad thing now for all genealogists is the probable demise of the Swedish Emigrant Institute (SEI) in Växjö, as explained in an article on page 5 by Professor Ulf Beijbom, the longtime director of the SEI. The SEI has not received the funding that an institution of this kind needs, and has not been very much appreciated by the local politicians. It is hoped that the SEI will be able to sell their building, and then move with the intact collections to a friendlier place.

Several persons have told me that they plan to go to the Dalsland Conference 13-15 August. It is good to see that the idea of an Emigration conference has become so popular and has a growing attendance. Dalsland is a beautiful place in the summer, as is all of Sweden.

This is also the time of the year that many descendants of the immigrants come to Sweden. Hopefully most are well prepared, and know what they are looking for, otherwise it can be hard to find “grandmother Anna from Småland.”

Till next time!  
Elisabeth Thorsell

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**The Genealogy Days in Örebro**

The annual Swedish Genealogy Days will take place on 27–29 August in Örebro.

Örebro is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the meeting of the Swedish parliament in 1810 that elected Fieldmarshal Jean Baptiste Bernadotte to become the Swedish Crown Prince Karl Johan.

There will be festivities all year round, and the Genealogy Days are filled with lectures, exhibitions, and demonstrations by archives, online companies, societies, booksellers, and much more. It is the meeting place for all genealogists, and you are also most welcome!

http://www.sfd2010.se/

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**SAG Workshop**

Salt Lake City


2010

Welcome to join our happy group of researchers at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City!

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> (This year’s Workshop is full, but ask to be put on the mailing list for next year.)
### 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>
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<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>Smål and Smål.</td>
<td>Smål.</td>
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<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>Värml.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halland</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Väbo.</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>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blekinge</td>
<td>Blek.</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalarna</td>
<td>Dlrn.</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotland</td>
<td>Gotl.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gävleborg</td>
<td>Gävl.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halland</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>AC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jämtland</td>
<td>Jmtl.</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jönköping</td>
<td>Jön.</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmar</td>
<td>Kalm.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kronoberg</td>
<td>Kron.</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrbotten</td>
<td>Nbtrn.</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skåne</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</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 (län) as they were before 1991.

The provinces (landskap).