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Bits & Pieces

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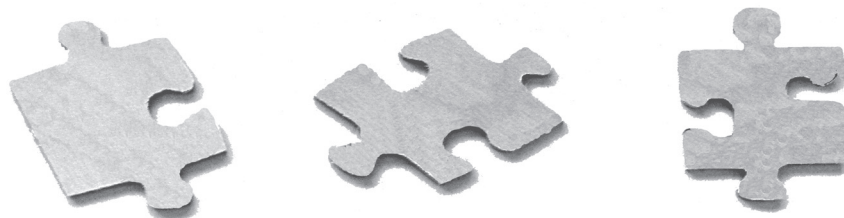
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Bits & Pieces



Ancestry.com adds more than 50 million new birth, marriage, and death records

Ancestry.com has added 53 new historical vital record collections to its nearly half a billion U.S. vital records. The new additions encompass now 23 states, and includes more than 50 million historical records dating from the 1600s (some of the oldest U.S. records available) through 2010. They have been made available through partnerships with state and local archives, county offices, and newspapers. (*Link on p. 29*)

(*Nu? What's New. 2011 Nov.6*)

Kingsburg Swedish Center

Kingsburg in California has a strong Swedish heritage, and now there will be a Swedish Center on the premises of the Stockholm Bakery. The owner of the bakery, Jann Coles, has plans to have lectures in Swedish, exhibitions about the Swedish immigrants, and much more.

Contact her at
<stockholmbakery@gmail.com>
(*The Bridge 2011/3*)

EmiWeb now has Mormons too

The subscription database *EmiWeb* adds new databases all the time to their site.

Now they have added some 27,000 Mormon immigrants from Scandinavia, in a joint effort with Family-Search.org for the period of 1853–1920.

There is also a new database of about 4,000 Swedes in Alaska, with birth dates for most of them and when they came there, etc.

(*Link on page 29*).

A major grant to SweAme

The *Swedish America Heritage Online* organization [SweAme] (*see next page*) has received a major grant from the Barbro Osher “Pro Suecia Foundation.” This grant makes it possible for SweAme to continue the work entering all Swedes in the 1900 U.S. federal census for Maine and California in their database.

(*E-mail 20011 Nov. 14 from David Borg*).

Social Security Administration extends FOIA restriction to 100 years

Unfortunately, it's now official. I have been ordering Social Security applications for several decades, and have found them especially valuable over the last decade for assisting with my Army cases. A few years ago, I noticed that they were starting to block out names of parents on the applications – which is very unfortunate since that's the primary reason for ordering them. Still, the restriction seemed to pertain to applications for those born from 1940 or so on, and the explanation was that their parents could still be alive. So though I wasn't keen on it, I could understand the logic.

But recently – without any announcement – the Administration extended the restriction to 100 years – that is, 100 years from the birth of the applicant, so you can now only obtain this record in an unaltered state for those born prior to 1912.

(*Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak's Roots World 2011 Nov. 17*). *Link on p. 29*.

New U.S. ambassador to Sweden 2011 Oct. 3

The U.S. Embassy in Stockholm announced that *Mark Francis Brzezinski*, currently a specialized partner in anti-corruption law at McGuireWoods, has been chosen by President Obama as the new U.S. ambassador to Sweden.

Mr. Brzezinski has experience, both as a Director on the National Security Council and as an attorney at Hogan & Hartson. He has close ties to Eastern Europe from his time at the National Security Council, working mostly with the Balkans, Russia, Eurasia, and Southeast Europe, and from working in Poland as a Fulbright Scholar in the early stages of his career.

(<http://sacc-usa.org/>)

Swedish Bridge Conference in 2012

The dates are now fixed for the next Swedish Bridge Conference, which will be held in Karlstad 12–15 September 2012. The conference will be a joint arrangement with the Sweden America Center, Swedish Council of America, Karlstad City, The Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies, University of Karlstad, and Vasa Order of America.

More information will follow when the plans have been fixed.

(*The Bridge 2011/3*)

70 years' privacy is enough

The Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) has changed the privacy rules, and decided that 70 years is enough. This means that many of the volumes of church records that end before 1940 may now be scanned and available on the SVAR website.

(*SVAR website 2011 Nov. 14*).