

# Swedish American Genealogist

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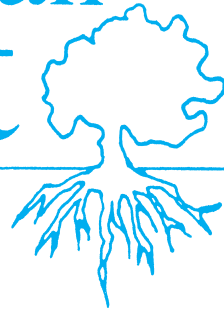
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# Swedish American Genealogist



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*Swedish American Genealogist*

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## **Cover picture:**

*Anders Fredrik Eriksson (1845-1925) from Torsång, Dalarna, with his wife, Anna Lisa Jansdotter (1851-1924), and two of their sons, Oscar Emanuel and Gustaf Agdur. The picture was taken either in 1900 or 1901, when Oscar Emanuel was doing his national service at Dalregementet. (See article on next page!).*

# Skräddar Anders Fredrik Eriksson

– the story of a Swedish Baptist in America

By MARTIN STÅHL

## An interesting find

Many genealogists probably experience great joy in their search for their ancestors when they come across individuals in their family who can tell us something more about their lives, who may have “achieved” something. Unfortunately, for most of us, this doesn’t happen very often, but when it does occur, the satisfaction grows.

Last year, shortly after I had started my genealogical research, I discovered a short note in a parish book, saying that my great-great-grandfather (ffmf) had immigrated to America in 1910. That was to become the beginning of a wonderful journey where I have slowly puzzled his life together, and, in my search, established connections with previously unknown relatives in both Sweden and the U.S.<sup>1</sup> Here I would like to tell the story of an old man who left his village in Dalarna to seek a better life for himself and his wife in a country far away from home. At the time of the immigration, four of his children had already left for America.

## Anders Fredrik’s early life and family origins

Anders Fredrik Eriksson was born 1845 February 3 in the village of Sunnanö (nr. 13),<sup>2</sup> on a peninsula of the same name, at the southern side of the Lake Runn, Dalarna. Sunnanö lies in the pretty and peaceful little parish of Torsång, close to the modern city of Borlänge. He was christened the day after in the beautiful parish church of Torsång, next to Dalälven, the river that flows through the countryside, and he was given the same name as his one-year-older brother who had died shortly after birth.



Torsång Church – the oldest in Dalarna.

The name of the farm where Anders Fredrik lived was *Skräddar*

(“tailor”), which most likely derives from one of his ancestors on the paternal line (ffffff), Erik Matsson Öman (ca 1642-1727), who according to 17<sup>th</sup> century tax records (*mantalslängder*) was a tailor. Anders Fredrik was the fifth child of Skräddar Erik Ersson (1814-1882) and Anna Eliaedotter (1813-1883). He grew up with his four siblings on the same farm that generations of his family before him had lived on.<sup>3</sup> It was the same farm on which he spent most of his life in Sweden and from which he left for America 65 years later. Between the years 1854 and 1860, Anders Fredrik attended the parish school, next to the church.<sup>4</sup>

His ancestors on his paternal line came from Torsång (on his grandfather’s side) and from the parish of Grangärde, in southern Dalarna (on his grandmother’s side). On his maternal line, Anders Fredrik’s ancestors came from the parish of Norrbärke, also in southern Dalarna. Some of his forefathers seem to be more interesting than others, such as his great-great-grandfather (mfmf), Johan Larsson (1709-1760) from Norrbärke, who was convicted of

Sunnanö										82									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Torp, häradet, och alla hushåll n. n. under ett och samma hushåll.										År, dag och månad.									
Personer för och tillika med följande, eller som presenterat sig, och som är föd. i kyrkan.										År, dag och månad.									
Födelse										Dödsfall									
År, dag och månad.										År, dag och månad.									

Torsång AIIa:3:82 (1910–1921). Picture from SVAR. The picture shows Anders Fredrik and his family leaving for the U.S. in August 1910. It also shows that son Gustaf Agdur, b. 1892 Jul. 12 is “icke döpt” (not baptized). Son Axel is a “målare” (painter).

theft and spent the last 15 years of his life in various prisons. He was also suspected of having murdered his stepson.

## The sad story of Stina Andersdotter

Twenty-seven-year-old Anders Fredrik married Stina Andersdotter in the neighboring church of Stora Tuna 1872 May 20. She was to become my great-great-grandmother (ffmm). Stina Andersdotter had worked as a maid for a number of years in the parishes of Stora Tuna and Vika ever since she had left the parental home in 1863. She was born 1845 June 28 in Ovandal (nr. 15), Stora Tuna, the daughter of Tjern Anders Ersson (1804-1876) and Anna Ersdotter (1800-1881).

In 1867, Stina Andersdotter left Vika and moved back to Stora Tuna where she was employed as a maid at the inn in Buskåker. Two years later she was arrested for having stolen money from the inn, in total 600 *riksdaler*, on several occasions during the year 1869.<sup>5</sup> This was a considerable amount, as it was the equivalent of more than a year's salary for an industrial worker. The money



*Anders Fredrik Eriksson, wife, daughter, and grandson at their home in Sunnanö, Torsång, prior to emigration in 1910. The girl in the middle is possibly a granddaughter from Mora.*

had partly been spent on the purchase of clothing in Falun, and partly been placed in Stina's bank account. However, most of the money could be handed back to its rightful owner, the widow and innkeeper Johanna Lundberg. Stina was sentenced 1870 January 12 to prison for one year and four months. Stina Andersdotter was imprisoned in the county prison of

Falun (*länsfängelset*), but was released 1871 February 7. Several prison documents give interesting information about her, such as her physical appearance and what personal belongings she had, etc.<sup>6</sup>

After her release, Stina Andersdotter returned to Stora Tuna, but this time to the village of Dalsjö, before she left Stora Tuna once and for all when she married Anders Fredrik the year after. The couple settled down on Anders Fredrik's family farm in Sunnanö. The first child, Johanna Christina, was born shortly after, but died in 1873. A second child, Johanna Sofia (my great-grandmother, ffmm), was born in Stora Tuna 1874 June 1. The place of birth cannot be identified for sure, but since the child's mother, Stina Andersdotter, died of meningitis in Dalsjö, Stora Tuna, only ten days after the birth, it is almost certain that Johanna Sofia was also born there. Stina Andersdotter was only 28 years old when she died.

## Years of travel and a new family

To provide for his young daughter, Anders Fredrik left Sunnanö in December 1874 and moved to Dalsjö to find employment as a *statare*, an



*The family farm in Sunnanö, lived in by generations of Anders Fredrik's ancestors. At the time of the emigration, it consisted of two dwelling houses, seen here at the front. The picture was taken by author Karl-Erik Forsslund in 1921, shortly before the buildings were demolished. Printed by permission of the Dalarnas museum.*

agricultural laborer who received the greatest part of his payment in kind. It was perhaps here that he met his future wife, Anna Lisa Jansdotter (an illegitimate child of the maid Greta Ersdotter, born 1851 Jan. 13 in Naglarby, Gustafs). They married in the church of Stora Tuna 1875 Sept. 17. Anna Lisa brought her illegitimate son, Carl Johan (born in 1873), into the marriage.

The couple didn't stay long in Dal-sjö. A few months later that year they moved on and were to settle in various nearby parishes over the coming years (Stora Kopparberg, Stora Tuna, and Torsång), before they finally settled down in Sunnanö in November 1879. Anders Fredrik had supported the family by taking on different jobs as a *statare* and as a *rättare* (an agricultural foreman). The number of children had been increased by the births of Elin Elisabeth (in 1876) and Fredrik Emil (in 1878; the latter sadly drowned in Stora Skedvi in the summer of 1896). Others were to follow: Oscar Emanuel (in 1880), Anna Juliana (in 1883), Axel Albin (in 1888), and Gustaf Agdur (in 1892).

## Poverty and hardship

What was life like in those days for an ordinary farming couple like Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa? It is difficult to imagine the hardship they must have gone through. A glimpse of how life would have been is given us by the parish book: in 1878, for example (the year of Fredrik Emil's birth), Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa were living in Fagersta (Stora Tuna). They were away from their family without other people to rely on for help. They lacked a social network and security. As Anders Fredrik was working long days, Anna Lisa gave birth and cared for the couple's other three children, all under the age of five.

What were the material conditions of the family? An interesting insight of how a rural home would have looked like in the 1870s and 1880s is provided by the inventories of estate of Anders Fredrik's first wife, Stina Andersdotter (1874), and his father,

Erik Ersson (1882).<sup>7</sup> The poverty is striking: no luxury items, only everyday items such as a few pieces of furniture, tools, and some clothes.

## Religious conversion and life in Sunnanö

Anders Fredrik Eriksson and his wife joined the largest dissenting movement in Sweden, the Baptist faith. They were baptized, together with Anders Fredrik's older sister Johanna Envall, 1890 September 10, in the local Baptist congregation, Torsångs *baptistförsamling*.<sup>8</sup> The congregation had 25 members and worshipped in the Elim chapel in the nearby village of Räfstylla. The couple was to remain faithful to their new religion throughout their lives.

Life went on at the farm in Sunnanö. Through maps, photos, tax and court records, etc., it has been possible to follow the development of the farm during Anders Fredrik's lifetime. It consisted of two dwelling houses of different sizes. The smaller one (which can be seen at the front of the "Forsslund" picture, p. 2) was added at some point after 1818. That year the land was divided up between the farmers in Sunnanö in a new order (*laga skifte*) and a detailed map of the peninsula, with all its buildings, was drawn up for this purpose.

The larger house (which stands to the left of the smaller house on the "Forsslund" picture – the back of it can be seen from the lake on the picture from 1910) is marked on the *laga skiftes* map. It is either the same building or it was replaced by a newer one. Apart from the two dwelling houses, there were also other buildings, used for storage, etc.<sup>9</sup>

When Anders Fredrik took over the farm after his father's death in 1882, it consisted of 1.36 acres of land (including forest). A large part of the land was then sold by Anders Fredrik in 1886, for unknown reasons. He kept a part of the property for himself and later purchased a part of land from the neighboring estate. It was all sold shortly before the emigration in April 1910 for the sum of 1,000 *kronor*; buildings with forest and land in two different estates.<sup>10</sup> Anders Fredrik was a *hemmansägare* and a *skattebonde*, which meant that he owned his land and paid the taxes directly to the Crown.

## Leaving for America

Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa were getting older. It seems to have been a natural decision, although a probably very hard one to make, when they decided to leave their village in Torsång for a secure old age in Amer-



This picture, ca 1915, shows daughter Johanna Ståhl in Falun, with husband and three sons. The boy in the middle, Bror Ragnar (1906-1992), is the author's grandfather.

ica. Four of their children had already emigrated: Carl Johan as early as 1893, Oscar Emanuel in 1903, and the two youngest boys, Axel Albin and Gustaf Agdur, in the spring of 1910. They all settled down in Chicago. Two of the daughters stayed at home: Elin Elisabeth in Mora (she married the painter August Vilhelm Språng, but sadly died in 1915, 38 years old), and Johanna Sofia in Falun (she married the railway employee Bror Gustaf Ståhl and had three sons). The third daughter, Anna Juliana, went to America on the same ship as her parents. In total, seven of the nine family members left their native country.

## Destination Chicago

The emigration from Torsång was smaller in comparison with that from other parishes in Dalarna. Of 1.3 million people who left Sweden – 45,000 of them from Dalarna – it is estimated that just under 200 people emigrated from Torsång.<sup>11</sup> Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa left their home 1910 August 19 (according to a certificate given by the parish). They travelled via Gothenburg to Oslo, where they sailed on the *Hellig Olav*

(Scandinavian-American Line) a week later. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September they arrived in New York where they first were kept for observation due to medical reasons before they were admitted.<sup>12</sup>

It must have been a great adjustment for an elderly couple from a small village in Dalarna to adapt to their new life in the great and hectic city of Chicago. The fact that several of their children were already there must have made it easier for them. A few weeks after the arrival, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, they became members of the Austin Swedish Baptist Church, where they remained active until their deaths, 14 and 15 years later.<sup>13</sup> During their first eight years in America, Anders Fredrik (or “Fredrick Erickson” as he was called in his new country) and Anna Lisa stayed at various addresses (at least two) in the city. In 1918, when the U.S. entered the First World War and the risk existed of their sons being drafted, which would mean there was no one at home to help them out, the couple moved in to the Swedish Baptist Old People’s Home “Fridhem” in Morgan Park<sup>14</sup>. Here they were admitted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March the same year. The home in Morgan Park,

previously located elsewhere, had been inaugurated in 1906 and had been provided with all the modern facilities.

## The letters home

A fascinating and unique insight to life in Chicago in the 1910s and 1920s – and how it was perceived by Swedish immigrants – is given to us through seven letters from various years between 1915 and 1923, written by Anna Lisa to her son-in-law (August Vilhelm Språng) and her grandchildren in Mora.<sup>15</sup> The letters are very touching in their love and tenderness. With all their spelling mistakes, trivial subjects, naivety, and simple form, they give us information that can’t be found elsewhere in any of the official documents. The most striking feature in the letters is the deep religiosity and the immense thankfulness to God and to the grandchildren in Mora for not having forgotten them. The sadness of never being able to see them again can be read between the lines. Despite this and the fact that life in Chicago was very simple, neither homesickness as such nor a desire to return to Sweden can be traced in the letters. They were happy where they were. According to the 1920 census, they were able to speak English, but they had not become naturalized.

The letters give us details about contacts with Swedish friends, about the war and periods of high prices (there and at home), general hardship and moves, Anders Fredrik’s worsening deafness, updates about what the children in Chicago were doing, etc. We get a view of the harsh living conditions of the family, about Oscar Emanuel who lost his wife, leaving four small children, and August Vilhelm Språng who encountered the same fate and had to raise six children on his own. Anna Lisa’s and Anders Fredrik’s health was deteriorating. In the last letter to the family in Mora, dated 1923 May 26, she couldn’t write it herself. Somebody at “Fridhem” had to help her with it. Anna Lisa expressed in the letter that she wouldn’t live for much longer.



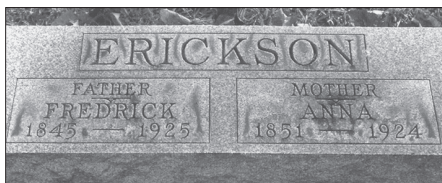
*Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa with family members in Chicago, 1915/1916.*



A group picture (detail) from "Fridhem" taken in 1921. Anders Fredrik can be seen in the middle of the back row and Anna Lisa in front of him, to his right.

## Epilogue

The last years were spent at "Fridhem." The year after her last letter to Mora, Anna Lisa died 1924 September 23. As a last personal tragedy (among several) in his life, Anders Fredrik was to experience the death of his eldest daughter, Johanna Ståhl in Falun, barely two months later. At 80 years old, he finally died the following spring, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 1925. He had survived two wives and four children. Anders Fredrik died of organic heart disease, Anna Lisa of diabetes. The couple were buried in the Forest Home Cemetery in Chicago (lot 19, sect. 57).<sup>16</sup>



What were Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa like as people? In the preserved documents we get a picture of them as a decent and hardworking couple, as a very kind couple who cared a lot for the people around them, and as a couple with a strong faith, who were for a long period engaged and active in their congregation. As two human beings who wanted to do right for themselves and

who, because of their common, everyday lives, most likely would have remained among those millions of anonymous people in history if they hadn't been brought back to life again by this article. An obituary of Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa will end the story of their lives: "...now this amiable couple is at home with the Lord. They were united with the Austin congregation in 1910 and when they stayed among us, they were always a joy and comfort at our meetings. They were thoroughly devout and never a word of complaint could be heard from them, but instead, thanked God and thanked the minister and thanked everyone who came into their lives."

## Notes

1) Material for this article has mainly been gathered from different parish archives (Torsång, Stora Tuna, Gustafs, Vika, Stora Kopparberg, Norrbärke, Grangärde, Falu Kristine, and Mora), if no other source is specifically mentioned. The original church records, court, and prison records are kept in the Regional Archives (*Landsarkivet*) in Uppsala, Sweden. The Swedish and American censuses (1880,

1890, and 1900 and, for the latter part, 1910 and 1920) have also been used.

- 2) The exact date of birth hasn't actually been possible to determine. All the Swedish records, including the register of births, mention the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February as the date. Only the records of the Torsångs *baptistförsamling* state the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February as the date of birth. This date also occurs in all the American records; for instance, in the death certificate. To make the situation even more confusing, Anders Fredrik's wife writes in a letter (dated the 7th of Dec. 1920) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February as his birthday. Did Anders Fredrik know himself what his correct date of birth was?
- 3) The village of Sunnanö was first mentioned in a record from 1368. The name means "south on the island." (See Harry Ståhls *Ortnamnen i Kopparbergslagen*, Stockholm 1960, p. 104.) In 1910 approximately 100 people were living in the village of Sunnanö. The other villages on the peninsula are Nordanö and Viken.
- 4) *Torsångs hembygdsförenings årsblad 1985: Folkbildning och skolundervisning i Torsång (tiden före 1893)*, by Thorild Ahlund, and Torsång's parish records, *skolrådets protokoll och andra handlingar rörande skolväsendet* (K4, vol. 2 and 3). The latter source contains information about Anders Fredrik's school attendance (grades, etc.).
- 5) *Stora Tuna och Gustafs tingslags häradsrätt (protokoll vid extra förrättningar, A3, vol. 6)*.
- 6) *Kriminalvårdsanstalten i Falun*: see for instance *fånggrullor* (D2aa, vol. 15), *kyrkböcker* (D2ba, vol. 8), *inkomna prästbetyg* (E6, vol. 1) and *fångarnas motböcker* (G7, vol. 6).
- 7) Inventories of estate of Stina Andersdotter (nr. 6, Torsångs *höstting* 1874) and of Erik Ersson (nr. 3, Torsångs *vårting* 1882) in Torsångs *tingslags häradsrätt, boupteckningar* (F2, vol. 11 and 12).
- 8) See Torsångs *baptistförsamling* (Elim) at Dalarnas *Folkrörelse-*



arkiv. *Historik* as well as *mötesprotokoll* (A1, vol. 1) and *medlemsmatrikel* (D1). Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa are listed as members nrs. 76 and 77.

- 9) In the inventory of estate of Erik Ersson from 1882, four other buildings are mentioned: a barn, a storage building, a cattle shed, and a forage shed. The buildings were valued higher than the land. The maps, which have been used to study the history of the property in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, can be downloaded on the website of *lantmäteriet* (the Swedish national land survey).
- 10) The main real estate was called Sub nr. 13 Sunnanö, Littra Na, 22:1. It was divided up in 1968. The neighboring estate was Sunnanö nr. 13, Littra N. The information is taken from Falu *domsagas södra tingslag: lagfartsboken* (C1b, vol. 27) and *lagfartsprotokoll* (A2a, vol. 5, 8b, 20 and 28). The following paragraphs, including attachments, are relevant: 133-134 (1898), 110 (1904), 569-570 and 606 (1916) and 103-105 (1924). The purchase was also mentioned in the newspaper *Dalpiilen* on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1910.
- 11) See *Torsångs hembygdsförenings årsblad 1996: Utvandringen från Torsång*, by Pär Nilsson/Harald Skölvling. However, this number must be seen as an absolute minimum, since individuals who de-

parted from other parishes (such as Anders Fredrik's five children) are not included in this number. With these people not taken into account, Torsång's population was reduced by approx. 14%. This figure can be compared with other parishes, such as Våmhus, which lost 60% of its population.

- 12) The emigration documents are found on the website *Ancestry.com*.
- 13) The First Swedish Baptist Church of Austin was founded in 1891. The name was later changed to "Central Avenue Baptist Church" and existed until 1982. In the membership records, Anders Fredrik and Anna Lisa are listed as nrs. 469 and 470. The records were provided by the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center (Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois).
- 14) The official name of "Fridhem" was "Home of Rest – The Swedish Baptist Home for the Aged." For the early history of the home, see *Fridhem – a brief history of a noble work 1905-1930* (Chicago 1930), by Eric Scherstrom.
- 15) The letters have kindly been provided by Jan-Olov Språng, great-grandson of Anders Fredrik Eriksson. Jan-Olov Språng has also been helpful with supplying many of the pictures. Two of them can be seen here: the picture of Johanna Ståhl and her family and the one from "Fridhem." Margot Mats-

son, another great-grandchild, has been a great help as well. The picture on the front cover and the one of the farm from 1910 have been taken from her photo collection. Other pictures have been provided by American relatives: the one of the Elim chapel by Joyce Aspinall, and the family picture from Chicago by Ken Erickson, both great-grandchildren of Anders Fredrik. A great thanks to these four people, and to others, who have contributed with material to my research.

- 16) "...nu äro dessa älskvärda makar hemma hos Herren. De förenades med Austin församlingen år 1910 och medan de bodde ibland oss voro de alltid en glädje och tröst vid våra sammankomster. De voro genom gudfruktiga och aldrig hördes ett klagans ljud från dem utan fastmera, alltid, tack gode Gud och tack käre pastor och tack till alla som kom i deras närhet." See *Församlingens banér*, the monthly newsletter of the Austin Swedish Baptist Church, Chicago, April 1925.

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## The Swedish American Line in an exhibition in Karlstad

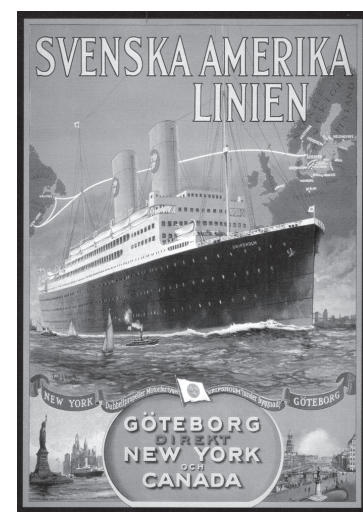
At the *Sweden America Center* in Karlstad, Sweden, there is now an exhibition about the Swedish American Line (SAL), the first direct line from Göteborg, Sweden to America. It started in 1915 and made travels to America much easier. One of the attractions of the SAL was the ambition to give even the 3rd class passengers fine accommodations, not like before, huge dormitories, but instead separate cabins. More than a million travelled by the SAL during the company's lifetime, which ended in 1975.

The exhibition in Karlstad shows all kinds of items with a connection to SAL, like a part of a cabin with a washstand, menus, and even spoons that were gifts for 1st class passengers. These items have been collected by Torsten Torstensson, Ljungskile.

A database of some of the passengers (242.000 individuals) between 1915–1950 can be found on the CD *Emigranten Populär* and at *Ancestry.com*.

The exhibition closes at the end of the year 2011.

(*Sweden & America 2011/1*)



# News from the Swenson Center

## The Dagmar and Nils William Olsson Research Fellowship

This annual fellowship helps defray costs for one person doing research for an extended period of time at the Center and was established by Nils William Olsson (1909–2007), the leading authority in the field of Swedish-American studies, and his wife Dagmar (1913–2008).

The fellowship, which is in the amount of \$2,500 (taxable income), is open to anyone doing academic research on any aspect of Swedish-American history. It is not intended to be used for genealogical research. We particularly encourage graduate students and younger scholars to apply. The minimum stay required at the Swenson Center is three weeks, and the fellowship must be used within one year of notification.

Anyone interested in applying for the fellowship should submit a two-



*The SAG editor Elisabeth Thorsell visiting with Nils William and Dagmar Olsson in their last home in Winter Park, FL, in April 2000. (Photo: Bengt Thorsell).*

to three-page proposal to the Swenson Center outlining the proposed research topic. The proposal should also include a current curriculum vitae, as well as a statement showing how the resources of the Swenson Center are appropriate for the particular project.

The deadline for applications is **May 1, 2011.**

Send your applications to  
The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center,  
Augustana College  
639 38th Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201-2296

## Some past recipients of the Olsson Scholarship

**2010**

Dr. Brita Butler-Wall  
Seattle, Washington  
*Women in the Bishop Hill Colony.*

**2009**

Ms. Erika Jackson-Eckerly  
Michigan State University  
*Scandinavian Preferred: Nordic Ethnic Identity, Gender and Work within Chicago, 1879-1933.*

**2008**

Ms. Rachel Gianni Abbott  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
*Folklore and Material Culture among Swedish Immigrants in late Nineteenth-Century Utah.*

**2007**

Dr. Elizabeth Baigent  
Oxford University, U.K.  
*Swedish Immigrants in McKeesport, PA.*

**2007**

Mr. Christopher Cantwell  
Cornell University  
*Swedish Immigrants in Chicago and their Relationship to D.L. Moody.*

**2006**

Mr. Christopher Jaffe  
Northern Illinois University  
*Swedes and Other Ethnic Groups in Rockford, Illinois.*

**2005**

Ms. Agnieszka Stasiewicz  
Jagiellonian Univ., Krakow, Poland  
*Swedish Immigrant Children and Books Published for Them by the Augustana Book Concern.*

**2004**

Ms. Joanna Daxell  
Université de Sherbrooke, Canada  
*Swedish Literature in North America.*

**2003**

Mr. Paul Lubotina  
St. Louis University  
*Swedes and other Ethnic groups on Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range.*

**2002**

Dr. Lars Nordström  
Beavercreek, Oregon  
*The Life and Work of Samuel Magnus Hill, a Pioneer Educator and Minister in Nebraska.*

**2002**

Ms. Malin Glimäng  
University of Hawai'i  
*The History of Swedish Female Immigration.*

The scholarship was first awarded in 1997.

# Your link to your history!



**NEW!**

The complete 1880 Swedish Census is available on a CD. Millions of Swedes before the Great Emigration in the 1880s!



## The Digital Research Room

Here you can do research about people and their property, their life, work and taxes.

Contact us at the address below to find out much more!



**NEW!**

The *Swedish Census of 1990* – the way to find your living cousins.

A DVD with millions of Swedes 20 years ago. See p. 24.



## Tax records

The Tax records (*mantalslängder*) are here.

From the 1640s to 1842!

One of the released prisoners in the SVAR prison records.



[www.riksarkivet.se/svar](http://www.riksarkivet.se/svar)



Riksarkivet

SVAR Box 160, S-880 40 Ramsele, Sweden  
Phone: +46-10-476 77 50  
Mail: kundtjanst@riksarkivet.se  
[www.riksarkivet.se/svar](http://www.riksarkivet.se/svar)

# Handwriting Example XXVII

Letter No. 128 J. Sep. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1911  
Perth Amboy N.J.  
Mr. A. W. Berggren  
Berta Broder  
Broder P. E. Engberg  
var hos os i dag och  
so underretade mig att min  
syster Kristina gift med  
Johan f. Krantz  
gohanson. <sup>född Krantz</sup> i Västervik är  
död det viste vi ej. var  
snell och lit os Berta

till vem vi skall vända  
os för att utför arvet,  
var snell och skriv till  
oss. vi vill så gärna  
skriva till eder igen.  
glad att få eder adress  
teknar er Broder  
Carl J. Nilsson  
414 Washington st  
Perth Amboy N.J.

## An official declaration of death that did not work

Often, when looking for something, I do not find that item in the records, but discover something else, also of interest.

The above letter jumped out at me when going through a court minute book from the Tjust *Häradsrätt* (legal district) along the coast in Småland. The book was from the Fall Meeting (*Höstetinget*) 1911, and the letter was pasted into the records. It was from a man, Carl Johan Nilsson, living in Perth Amboy, NJ, to somebody in Sweden, but what was it doing in the court records?

When reading more in the records it showed that this man was on the verge of being officially declared dead (*dödförklarad*), but evidently was still much alive. The cause for this

declaration of his death was that his half-sister Stina Lisa Krantz had died in Västervik in 1903, and Carl Johan was her closest relative, BUT! He had emigrated with wife and three children in 1881 from Tryserum (Smål.), and nobody had heard from him for many years. The law then required that a person should have been missing for 20 years or more before he could be declared dead.

He had had two sisters, but they were both dead long ago. One of them had four children, and they were the ones that had applied to the court to have Carl Johan and his family declared dead.

Before the court could do this they had to publish an advertisement for

them in the Swedish official newspaper, *Post och Inrikes Tidningar*, and this had been done three times during the fall of 1911.

Evidently this newspaper was read in the U.S. as well, as somebody told Carl Johan that people were looking for him in Sweden. The next step for him was to write to a man he knew in Sweden and ask for advice on how to handle this matter, and that letter is the one I found.

It is not difficult to imagine the disappointment of the Swedish relatives when they found out that the missing uncle was no longer missing, but very much alive and would claim his inheritance.

*Transcription on p. 23.*

# What did the emigrants pay for their tickets?

## Some examples

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

The answer to this question depends on when the emigrant travelled, and how far.

The railroad companies and the shipping lines worked together, so it was possible to buy a ticket directly from Målilla in Kalmar county, Sweden, to Red Wing, Minnesota.

## The emigrant agents

The big shipping lines had agents in the ports of departure. These could be either Americans or Swedes. For instance, the *American Line* had an agent called F.P. Denovan from 1874, and the *Allan Line* a man named David Lyon 1868-1871, who was succeeded by C. J. Möllersvärd 1871-1874, who in his turn was followed by J.P. Fehrlund.

These agents in the port cities had sub-agents all over the country, often school-masters, who were able to increase their meager income by selling tickets for the shipping lines. In this way it was possible to find easy access to tickets for America without even leaving the home parish and traveling to the nearest city.

It was also possible to write to the general agent in the port cities and ask for ticket prices and conditions in the U.S. or Canada. The agents spent lots of money on advertising, so their names became well-known all over.

Very few archives have been saved from the agents business activities. By chance one was discovered in the 1950s in a dilapidated barn in the vicinity of Göteborg. This was the archive of the *Bröderna Larsson* [Larsson brothers] who were very active as emigrant agents during the 1870s. Elis Larsson worked as an

agent for the *Guion Line* 1876-1877, then his brother Samuel took over during the years 1878-1880.

The Larsson archives have been microfilmed and can be searched through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. There are thousands of letters from prospective emigrants in the archive, asking for prices and other things.

The index to the Larsson letters is to be found on the CD *Emigranten Populär* from 2006. The letters themselves will be published on a DVD in the near future.

## Some examples of ticket prices

### 1883

Immigrant descendant *Kaye Wachter* wrote:

My Swedish relatives left Gothenburg in April 1883 for St. Peter, MN, on the *S.S. Romeo* of the Wilson Line to England and the *S.S. Catalonia* of the Cunard Line from Liverpool to Boston, MA.

The fare from Gothenburg to St. Peter, MN, paid to Charles A. Berglund, general agent for the Cunard Line in Gothenburg, was \$28 for an adult, \$14 for a 7-year-old child and \$1.40 for an infant under the age of one year. The total for one adult and two children was 208 crowns [*kronor*]

and 80 pennies [*öre*], the equivalent of \$43.40 in U.S. currency in 1883.

### 1899

Tickets from Scandinavia to New York with the White Star Line (*Hvita Stjern-Linjen*) and the ships *Britannic*, *Germanic*, or *Cymric* are sold in New York for \$26. (*Svenska Amerikanska Pressen*, Feb. 9, 1899.)

### 1910

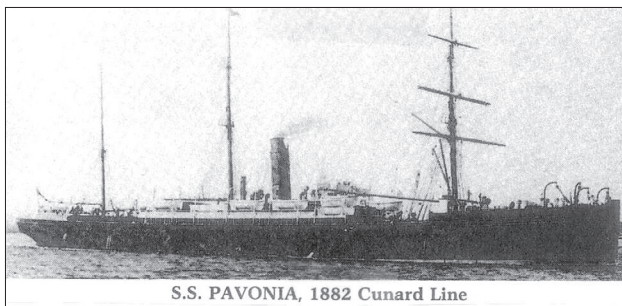
Immigrant descendant *Ann Bergstrom of San Anselmo, CA*, wrote "My grandmother, *Mathilda Bergström* of Piteå, travelled from Gothenburg to Seattle, Washington, for the sum of \$106.50. She (and her 1-year-old son) departed Gothenburg on the 11th of May to Hull or Grimsby in England, then by rail to Liverpool, and on to Quebec, Canada. She then went by Canadian Pacific Railroad to the state of Washington.

She travelled on the *SS Victorian*, a ship of the Allan Line."

### 1923

In 1923 a ticket from Göteborg to New York cost 450 kronor for 1 adult. In 1923 a ticket from Göteborg to Kansas City cost \$256 for 1 adult and 1 child. Just the boat ticket cost \$202.

(Above examples from the exhibition at Ellis Island, New York.)



S.S. PAVONIA, 1882 Cunard Line

Hufvudkontor i Liverpool:  
19 James Street.  
Repr. i Quebec:  
Allans, Rae & Co.

# ALLAN-LINIEN.

(Allan Bros & Co. U. K. Limited.)

Repr. i St. John:  
H. & A. Allan.  
Repr. i Halifax:  
S. Cunard & Co.

## Utvandrarekontrakt N:o L 3071 emellan

AXEL H. LAGERGREN, Göteborg, befullmäktigad utvandrare-agent, samt nedanstående utvandrare:

Jag Axel H. Lagergren förbinder mig härmed på sätt här nedan närmare omförmåles, från Göteborg till Seattle, Wash. i Nord-Amerika befordra nedan antecknade utvandrare mot en redan till fullo erlagd och härmed kvitterad afgift af \$ 16.50 hvarti jemväl inräknats de yid landning i Amerika förekommande afgifter af allmän beskaffenhet.

I, Axel H. Lagergren, hereby undertake, upon the following terms, to forward from Gothenburg to Seattle, Wash. in North America, the emigrant named below for the sum of \$ 16.50 ~~which~~ which amount has been duly paid and includes all ordinary charges upon landing in America.

Resan sker från Göteborg den 11/5 med ångfartyg & mellanlandsplats till Hull eller Grimsby i England och derifrån, senast efter 48 timmar efter slutad tulleexpedition med järnväg & 3:de klass till Liverpool samt från Liverpool senast inom 12 dagar efter utvandrarens ankomst dit, med oceanångare & mellanlandsplats till Quebec, St. John eller Halifax. Från Quebec, St. John eller Halifax befordras utvandraren senast efter slutad tulleexpedition och öfriga formaliteter med järnväg 3:de klass till Seattle, Wash.

För ofvansagda afgift erhåller utvandraren, utan vidare ersättning, god och tillräcklig kost jemte vård från Göteborg till landstigningsplatsen i Amerika, logis under uppehållet i England samt betördrän och vård af effekter till 10 kubikfota utrymme å ångfartyg och 150 skåp, vikt å järnväg. För barn mellan 1 och 12 år befordras reseffekter endast till hälften af hvad nu sagts till Amerika, hvarest ingen får befordran af reseffekter för barn under 5 år eger rum.

Utvandraren är berättigad att bekomma kontramärke å de effekter, som han ej sjelf har om hand, och erhåller för desamma, som utgöra

kolly och äro märkta med N:o ersättning till ett belopp af högst kronor femtio, för hvarje passagerare öfver 12 år, samt högst tjugofem kronor för barn mellan 1 och 12 år, derest effekterna icke vid landstigningsplatsen i Amerika riktigt utbeformas mot återlemnande af sagda kontramärke; dock ämnas ingen ersättning för effekterna om skada eller förlust försäkas genom sjöolycka.

Skulle utvandraren vid ankomsten till den främmande verisdelen varda af vederbörande myndighet derstädes förbjuden att invandra och kan det icke ådaga-läggas att detta förbud är föranlett af förhållanden, som inträffat efter det detta kontrakt upprättats, utfäster jag mig att återgå utvandraren betalning för bortresan samt på min bekostnad besörja utvandrarens återresa till (Göteborg) i Sverige tillika med underhåll till återkomsten samt befordrande och vård af medförda reseffekter.

Härjämte förbindar jag mig att, om sådant från utvandrarens sida påkallas, låta alla tvister om detta kontrakts tydning och utvandrarens rätt till öfverträdelse af desamma afgöras af fem gode män, utaf hvilka utvandraren utses två, jag eller i händelse jag tredskas, Konungens Befallningshafvande här i läret två och bemälda Konungens Befallningshafvande den femte.

Anser sig utvandrare ega anledning till klagan der-öfver att han icke åtnjutit den rätt och de förmåner, som på grund af detta kontrakt bort honom tillkomma, bör anmälan derom göras hos vederbörande konsul, så fort omständigheterna medgifva.

Utvandrarne namn	Alder	Sednaste vistelseort
<u>Matilda Bergström 29 Pites</u>		
<u>Erik H.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>"</u>

The journey takes place from Gothenburg the 11/5 by steamer steering passage to Hull or Grimsby in England and thence within 48 hours after having passed the customs, to Liverpool by rail 3rd class and from Liverpool within 12 days after arrival there, by Ocean steamer steering passage, to Quebec, St. John or Halifax. From Quebec, St. John or Halifax the emigrant will be forwarded immediately after having passed the customs and complied with other formalities, by 3rd class to Seattle, Wash.

At the abovementioned fare the emigrant will be supplied with good and sufficient provisions and attendance from leaving Gothenburg until arrival at place of landing in America, lodging during the stay in England and conveyance and care of effects not exceeding 10 cubicfeet space by steamer and 150 lbs weight by railway. Effects of children between 1 and 12 years are carried free at the rate of half of what has been before stated for effects to America, where no free conveyance of effects of children under 5 years is allowed.

The emigrant is entitled to a check for such effects, as are not under his own care, and will receive for same consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ packages and numbered \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ a compensation not exceeding Kronor 50 pr adult, in the event of non-delivery of the effects on surrender of said check upon arrival at place of landing in America but no compensation will be allowed for loss or damage of effects caused by sea accident.

Should the emigrant on arrival in foreign country be refused by the authorities to immigrate and if it cannot be proved that this prohibition has been caused by circumstances come to pass after this contract was made out, I do hereby agree to repay the emigrant for the passage and at my expence have him returned to Gothenburg, Sweden; likewise his maintenance on his return and forwarding and care of his baggage.

Likewise do I agree, if so required by the emigrant, to let all controversies about this contract's explication and the emigrants justice of compensation for non-fulfillment of the same to be decided by five arbiters, of whom the emigrant appoints two. For in case I refuse, the Kings governor in this government two, and the before said governor the fifth.

If the emigrant has any reason for complaint of not being treated in accordance with the terms stipulated in this contract, a report thereof should be made to the nearest Consul as soon as circumstances admit.

Göteborg den 11/5 1910.

Axel H. Lagergren

Uppvisadt och godkänt såsom upprättadt i öfverensstämmelse med Kgl. Förordningen den 4 Juni 1884, och tillägg af den 28 Sept. 1893, intygas:

Göteborg i Poliskammaren den 11/5 1910

Arthur Josephsson

Antages:

Matilda Bergström

The ticket for Matilda Bergström and her little son from Göteborg to Seattle in 1910.

### Traveller beware!

On the back of the ticket above was some information in Swedish about persons that were not allowed entry to the U.S. The text reads:

"Read this carefully before departure from Göteborg!

"According to the American Law of Immigration the following classes of strangers are denied entrance to the Unites States, viz.:

"1:o Persons who are idiots or out of their minds.

"2:o Persons who are suffering from contagious diseases, amongst which now count tuberculose illnesses as consumption, the Egyptian eye disease (trachoma), and others.

"3:o Persons who have been sentenced according to law for dishonorable crimes, which show moral decay. Among those crimes do not count political cases.

"4:o Persons who favor polygamy (Mormons).

"5:o Persons who have promised to do labor in the U.S.

"6:o Persons who are dependant on public care, are unable to work, or are so destitute that they are liable to become public charges after arrival at their destination.

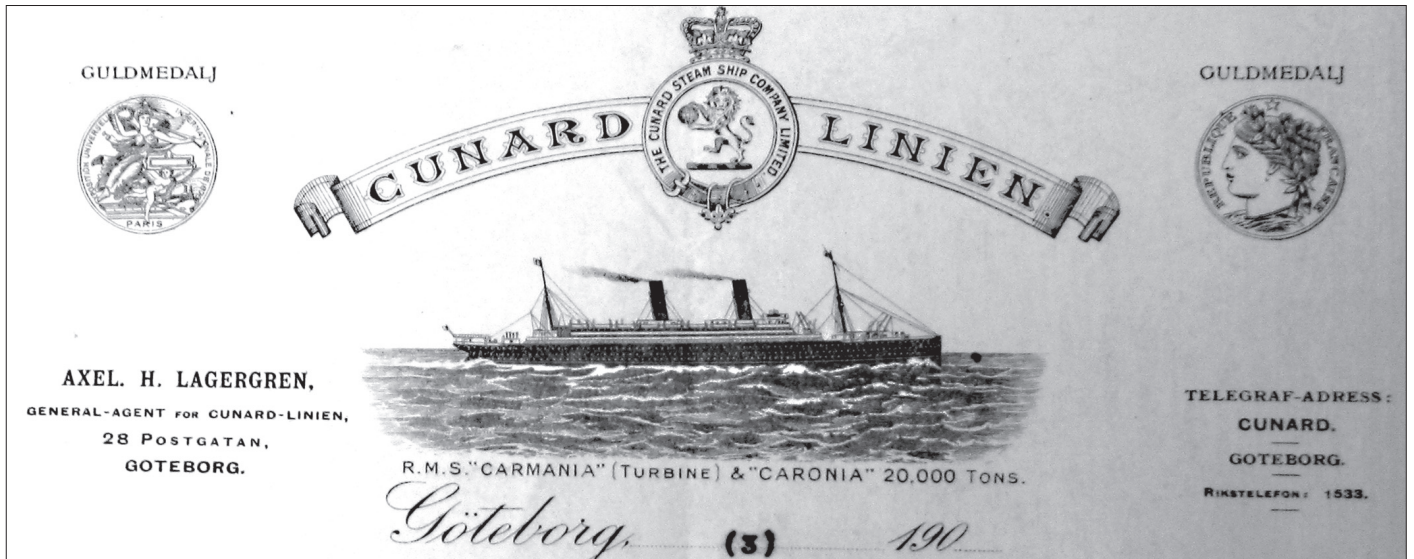
In the last point are also included elderly men and women, that is, over 60 years of age, cripples or deformed persons, unmarried pregnant women accompanied by illegitimate children,

widows accompanied by underage children, and orphans under the age of 16. But such persons may be allowed to land if they have testimonies from relatives that they are willing to accept and provide for them. Such a testimony must, to be accepted, be notarized before a notary public in America."

[Editor's note] These rules are not that different from those that one has to sign on a document when coming into the U.S. today.]

### The Emigration Survey

Not until more than 50 years had passed since the start of the Big Emigration did the Swedish government begin to ponder the conse-



quences of the country losing so many young and able individuals. In 1907 the parliament decided to do a detailed survey of the emigration. This survey, called *Emigrationsutredningen*, resulted in a set of 7 printed books, with much interesting information, which will be discussed in the next SAG.

Supposedly the basic material for the survey should be kept at the Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) in Stockholm. However, on a recent visit there it was found that most of that material was lost!

Only a few archival boxes still exist, but they had some good information on the ticket prices from Göteborg to the U.S.

Below we have information about the ticket prices for children around 1908. The White Star line charged half the price for an adult ticket for children ages 1–12, and only 15 *kronor* for children below the age of 1 year. Cunard was 5 *kronor* more expensive for infants, and it seems the other lines followed their prices. Just the Allan Line had some differences: children 1–10 years half ticket, and below 1 year cost £1, which was the same amount as 18.22 *kronor*.

The age of the children was important. It happened that a child had to stay home, as the family could not afford a full ticket for him/her at the same time.

*Barnbiljetter*

White Star line	(1905)	För barn mellan 1 och 12 år	half biljet
		under 1 år	15 kr
Cunard l.	(1908)	För barn mellan 1 och 12 år	half biljet
		" " under 1 år	20 kr (£1)
Anchor l.	(1908)	Do	Do
American l.	(1908)	Do	Do
Dominion l.	(1908)	Do	Do
Canadian Pacific l.		Do	Do
Skandinavien Amerik l.	(1908)	Do	Do
Allan l.	(Tatte tryck)	Barn mellan 1 och 10 år	half biljet
		" under 1 år	£1

This list shows the prices for tickets for children aged below 1 year, and between 1 year and 12 years for the various shipping lines. (Source: *Emigrationsutredningen*).

### Exchange rates

This table shows how many *kronor* that one had to pay to buy \$1.

Year	Kronor
1865	2.33
1866	2.61
1867	2.69
1868	2.67
1869	2.82
1870	3.25
1871	3.32
1872	3.31
1873	3.27
1874	3.37
1875	3.29
1876	3.38
1877	3.61
1878	3.75
1879	3.78
1880	3.78
1881	3.80
1882	3.77
1883	3.78
1884	3.78
1885	3.78
1886	3.77
1887	3.78
1888	3.76
1889	3.76
1890	3.77
1891	3.76
1892	3.75
1893	3.76
1894	3.74
1895	3.74
1896	3.76
1897	3.76
1898	3.78
1899	3.78
1900	3.77
1901	3.76
1902	3.76
1903	3.77
1904	3.76
1905	3.76
1906	3.79
1907	3.79
1908	3.77
1909	3.75
1910	3.75
1911	3.75
1912	3.75
1913	3.75
1914	3.80
1915	3.86
1916	3.50
1917	3.13
1918	3.09
1919	3.96
1920	4.92

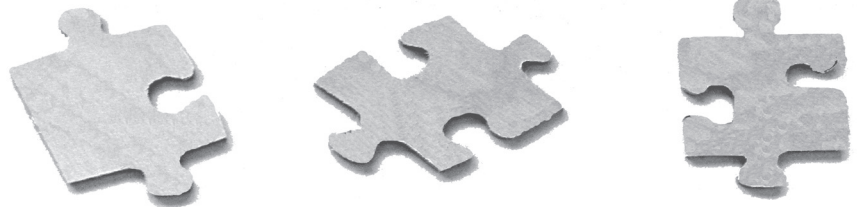
Source: <http://www.historia.se/>

Lines and steamers.	Rates.
ALLAN LINE, Liverpool.	
S/S Victorian, Virginian	Kr.145:-
" Corsican, Tunisian, Ionian, Parisian,	}
" Pretorian, Sicilian, Corinthian,	
" Mongolian, Numidian	
ALLAN LINE, Glasgow.	
All Services.	Kr.140:-
AMERICAN LINE, Southampton.	
S/S St. Paul, St. Louis, New York, Philadelphia	Kr.150:-
AMERICAN LINE, Liverpool.	
S/S Friesland, Haverford, Merion, Noordland,	}
" Westernland	
ANCHOR LINE,	
S/S Caledonia, Columbia, California, Astoria,	}
" Furnessia	
CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO. (Atlantic S/S lines)	
S/S Empress of Britain, Empress of Ireland	Kr.145:-
" Lake Manitoba, Lake Erie, Lake Champlain	Kr.140:-
CUNARD LINE	
S/S Lusitania, Mauretania	Kr.170:-
" Caronia, Carmania, Campania, Lucania	Kr.157:-
" Ivernia, Saxonia	Kr.180:-
" Etruria, Umbria	Kr.145:-
DOMINION LINE	
S/S Canada, Dominion, Kensington, Ottawa,	}
" Southwark, Vancouver	
	Kr.140:-
DONALDSON LINE	
S/S Cassandra, Athenia	Kr.140:-
WHITE STAR LINE, Southampton	
S/S Oceanic, Adriatic	Kr.157:-
" Majestic, Teutonic	Kr.150:-
WHITE STAR LINE, Liverpool	
S/S Baltic, Cedric, Celtic	Kr.157:-
" Arabic, Canopic, Republic	Kr.150:-
" Cymric	Kr.145:-
SCANDINAVIAN AMERICAN LINE	
S/S Oscar II, Hellig Olav, United States	Kr.157:-
" C.F. Tietgen	Kr.150

This list was also found in the records of the Emigrationsutredningen. It shows the ticket prices in kronor, and is dated Dec. 5 1908, signed by Axel Lagergren, the emigrant agent for the Cunard Line. Most of the ships mentioned are found in the Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals (Reprint by Genealogical Publishing Company 1998). This book shows ports of arrivals.



# Bits & Pieces



## Recent records are closed to genealogists in Finland

According to a press statement from P. T. Kuusiluoma, the general manager of the Genealogical Society of Finland (*Genealogiska Samfundet i Finland*), the Evangelical Church of Finland has decided to close all records younger than 100 years to all genealogical researchers. The only way to get information is to write to the parish offices. Mr. Kuusiluoma also mentioned that genealogists, asking for information, have to pay 30 Euros/hour (about \$42), but people just wishing for a certificate for some legal reason, only have to pay about \$6. (*Mail conversation between Mr. Kuusiluoma and the SAG Editor March 2011*).

## Midsummer will come!

And you can celebrate it at *Gammelgården* in Scandia, MN, on the 25th of June. *Link on p. 30!*

## Christina Johansson leaves Swenson Center

Christina Johansson, who for many years has been the librarian at the Swenson Center in Rock Island, IL, has now decided to move back to her native Sweden with her family.

Christina starts a new job at the Chalmers University of Technology Library in Göteborg in May. SAG wishes her the best of luck in her new life, but she will be missed!

## The 2011 New Zealand census is cancelled

The New Zealand government has decided to cancel the planned 2011 census for the country. Due to the big earthquake on the Southern Island, there would have been too many gaps in the census, and other things are more important now.



## The Swedes in Canada project goes on

*Elinor Barr*, who is the chief writer and researcher for this project, recently sent out an update in which she told that the final manuscript is now under consideration by the University of Toronto Press.

She hopes that the book will appear "in real life" before the end of 2011.

## Genline's pictures now on Ancestry

The almost 20 million pictures at Swedish company Genline are now available on ancestry.com and Genline will slowly disappear from your screens. The pictures are still the same, but the viewer is ancestry.com's and works a bit different, but should not be difficult to use. To work with the pictures you need to have a World Deluxe subscription.

## The 2011 Peter Cassel Days in Sweden

Every two years the *Peter Cassel Days* are arranged in Kinda and Ydre communities in southern Östergötland to commemorate the emigration of Peter Cassel and his followers in 1845 from Kisa, and of Andrew Peterson in 1850 from Västra Ryd to Minnesota, where he wrote his famous diary. The America Week in Kinda and Ydre starts on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, and is followed on the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> by many events. More details in the next SAG.



## The American Swedish Institute will close

The American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN, will be closed to the public during the period of May–October due to the construction of the new premises, and additional work to the Turnblad mansion.

April 2011: Groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 16. Site work begins.

May 2011: Construction for the Nelson Cultural Center begins. Lower level renovation begins; museum closes to the public (May 2), and many ASI activities are relocated.

*Link on p. 30!*

## First Great Achievement Award presented to Siri Eliason

Swedish Council of America is proud to present its first *SCA Great Achievement Award* to *Mrs. Siri Eliason*. The award will be presented in conjunction with the SCA board meeting in Portland, OR, at an awards banquet on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Her involvement with the promotion of Swedish business and culture includes leadership roles within the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, the American Scandinavian Foundation NY, California Lutheran University, and the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation CA, along with Swedish Council of America. She also served as honorary Consul General of Sweden in San Francisco.

*(SCA eUpdate, March 2011)*

# The Old Picture

On this page we publish old pictures sent in by our SAG readers. If you have a picture you want to see on this page, either send a digital copy, scanned in at no less than 300 dpi and saved as a jpg or tiff file, or send a good paper copy to the editor at the address shown on the inside cover. Do not send any originals, as we can not accept responsibility for them. Neither can we promise to publish all pictures.



This photo was sent in by SAG reader P. Robert Willey, Bloomington, Illinois. His e-mail is <hogworc@comcast.net>

The photograph is taken in the 1880's in Sweden. Individuals are from left to right: *Charlotta Ellida Nordgren* (b. 1869 in Stockholm), *Christina Charlotta (Perlström) Nordgren* (b. 1844 in Gävle) & *Anna Charlotta Nordgren* (b. 1875 in Gävle).

These females are my grandmother (Anna Charlotta Nordgren), her mother and sister who sailed from Liverpool & Queenstown, England and arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, November 14, 1887, aboard the *SS Pavonia*. They settled in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The father of the family, the journeyman glovemaker *Johan Axel Nordgren* (b. 1844 in Gävle) had left already in 1886 from Gävle with a ticket for New York. He had evidently found work in Worcester, as his wife and daughters travelled directly there the next year.

The photographer was called *Hanna Bergdahl* on this photo, but her full name was Klara Johanna Bergdahl, born in 1840 in Ekeby (Uppl.). She seems to have started her photo studio in Gävle in 1871, and was still active in 1900, as she was found in the Swedish census for 1900.

It is interesting that many women worked as photographers and had their own photo studios. This was one of the "new" professions that started to grow during the later 1800s and was not reserved for men, as were many of the traditional professions, like carpentry, comb making, or other older guild crafts.

# From Hälsingland to Bloody Shiloh and beyond

## A Swedish - American farm boy in the American Civil War. Part 1

BY PAUL SWARD

When I began my foray into Swedish genealogy, I discovered that I had a number of distant relatives that had served in the American Civil War. In searching for background material, I found that much had been written about German and Irish immigrant soldiers, but I found very little on Swedes. However, enough has been written to provide a basic understanding of Swedish-American involvement in the Civil War. In particular, I found Roger Kvist's articles on the Swedish Union Guards,<sup>1</sup> and the Galesburg Light Guards,<sup>2</sup> as well as his article on the social history of Swedish-Illinois units in the Civil War,<sup>3</sup> very helpful. Those articles along with Nels Hokanson's work on Swedish immigrants and Olson, Schön, and Engberg's *History of Swedes in Illinois*, served as a foundation to begin my inquiry.<sup>4</sup>

Subsequently, I obtained the military and pension records of the Swedish relatives that I had identified who had served in the Civil War. As I examined these records, one individual in particular captured my interest.

### Andrew Engstrom (Anders Engström)

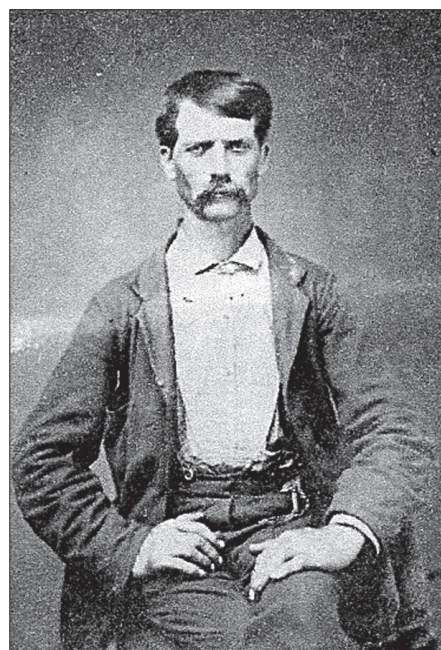
Anders Engström was born in Viken #9, Alfta Parish, Gävleborg län,

Sweden, on May 26, 1842, to *Bonden* Per Jönsson Engström and Carin Andersdotter.<sup>5</sup> Church records indicate that Per Engström with his wife and five children departed from the parish on July 15, 1853, for North America.<sup>6</sup> In one of Anders's obituaries, it states that the family sailed from Gävle to New York arriving after eighty days at sea.<sup>7</sup>

The Engström family journeyed to Illinois where they joined the Bishop Hill Colony that had been founded by the Janssonist religious sect. Bishop Hill Church records indicate that Per Jönsson Engström and family became members in 1853.<sup>8</sup> Per Engström and family appear in the 1860 Illinois Federal Census with the last name of Angstrom, farming in Weller Township (Bishop Hill Post Office), Henry County, Illinois. At this point Anders is identified as Andrew.

### Swedish-American Volunteers

On April 15, 1861, President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers to serve for three months to repress the rebellion. By the end of the war approximately 2,250 Swedes had enlisted in the Union army. The state of Illinois alone provided in excess of 1,300 Swedish soldiers.<sup>9</sup> In response to the first call for volunteers, the Galesburg Light Guards, which had



A tintype kept in the family, believed to be Andrew Engstrom.

been organized in Galesburg, Illinois, and consisted exclusively of Swedes, volunteered their services. Because of the overwhelming response of volunteers, this company was not called into service. However, a second call occurred when Congress authorized 300,000 volunteers for three years service. The Galesburg Company was reformed. However, many of the original members had joined other units. At muster the new company consisted of 97 Swedes and two Germans.<sup>10</sup>

Andrew Engstrom enlisted in this company on September 1, 1861. The original enlistment document is not part of the record. The company descriptive book is unclear as to where he enlisted. Civil War records are often incomplete or contradictory. Andrew is shown as enlisting at Bishop Hill/Wataga, Illinois. The

49. Anders	26	26	Bonden Per Jönsson	Sold. Eric Lindstrom och
			hans Carin Andersdotter 30	hans Kerstin Nilstedt i Grängsbo,
			dotter S. M. G. i	Drängarna Eric Jönsson och
			Hälsing	Pigan Carin Hansdotter
				från S. i Viken

Anders's birth records from 1842 May 26 in Alfta, Hälsingland, Sweden.

correct information appears to be that his residence was Bishop Hill and that he enlisted in Wataga. However, because of this confusing document, his residence is listed incorrectly in the Illinois Adjutant General's Report as Wataga, Illinois. The company descriptive book further indicates that Andrew was nineteen years old, 5'7" inches in height, was a farmer, had a "flattered" complexion, dark hair, and dark eyes.<sup>11</sup>

Andrew is appointed as a musician (drummer) and is mustered in at Camp Butler in Springfield, Illinois, on September 5, 1861. The company was designated as Company C of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Infantry. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was, with the exception of Company C, primarily composed of and commanded by German-Americans. Company C was designated the flag company for the regiment.<sup>12</sup>



*A Union infantry drum.*

## **A Swedish drummer boy goes to war**

On October 13<sup>th</sup> the regiment was ordered to St. Louis where they were given old Austrian muskets. Prior to being sent to Otterville, Missouri, they were issued old Harpers Ferry and English Tower muskets. These weapons had been altered from flintlock to percussion guns. This was an improvement, but still substandard for the era. The regiment arrived at Otterville on November 4<sup>th</sup> and remained there until they were ordered back to St. Louis on January 20, 1862. After their arrival in St. Louis, they were issued .54 caliber Belgian rifles. This was an excellent weapon and served them well at the

Battle of Shiloh.<sup>13</sup>

On February 6<sup>th</sup> the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was ordered to join General Grant's expedition against Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in Tennessee. Fort Henry surrendered after being attacked by naval gunboats before Grant's army came into play. Grant moved on to attack Fort Donelson, but the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois remained at Fort Henry to guard the transports and supplies. This assignment did not sit well with the boys of Company C: "This proved a great disappointment to many of the Swedish boys who had an apprehension that the war would be over in a short time and they would have to return home without having taken part in any real battle."<sup>13</sup> Unfortunately, this was a needless concern. Company C and Andrew Engstrom were about to be caught in the maelstrom of one of the most horrific battles fought in the American Civil War.

## **Bloody Shiloh**

On April 6, 1862, Company C was encamped near Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, and a short distance from a small church named Shiloh. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of General McClernand's Division of General Grant's Army of the Tennessee. The regiment had been there for three weeks and every morning for the last week the Colonel of the regiment had roused his men early. Apparently they made so much noise that there had been frequent complaints to General McClernand from other units.<sup>14</sup> The regiment's early rising was fortuitous on this day. As the soldiers of Company C were awaiting orders to form ranks that morning, volleys of musketry fire were heard coming from the picket line. Confederate General Johnston and his 44,000 soldiers of the Army of Mississippi had started a surprise attack.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was one of the few regiments that was prepared to meet the enemy. Parenthetically, Andrew's obituary claimed that he was the first drummer to beat the long roll (call to arms) that day.<sup>15</sup> Quickly many

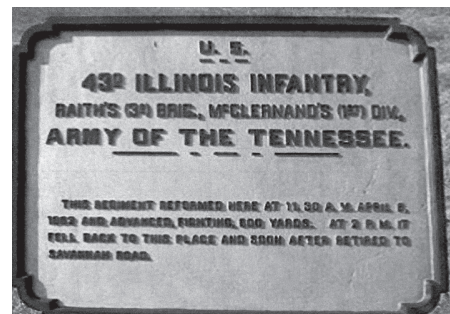
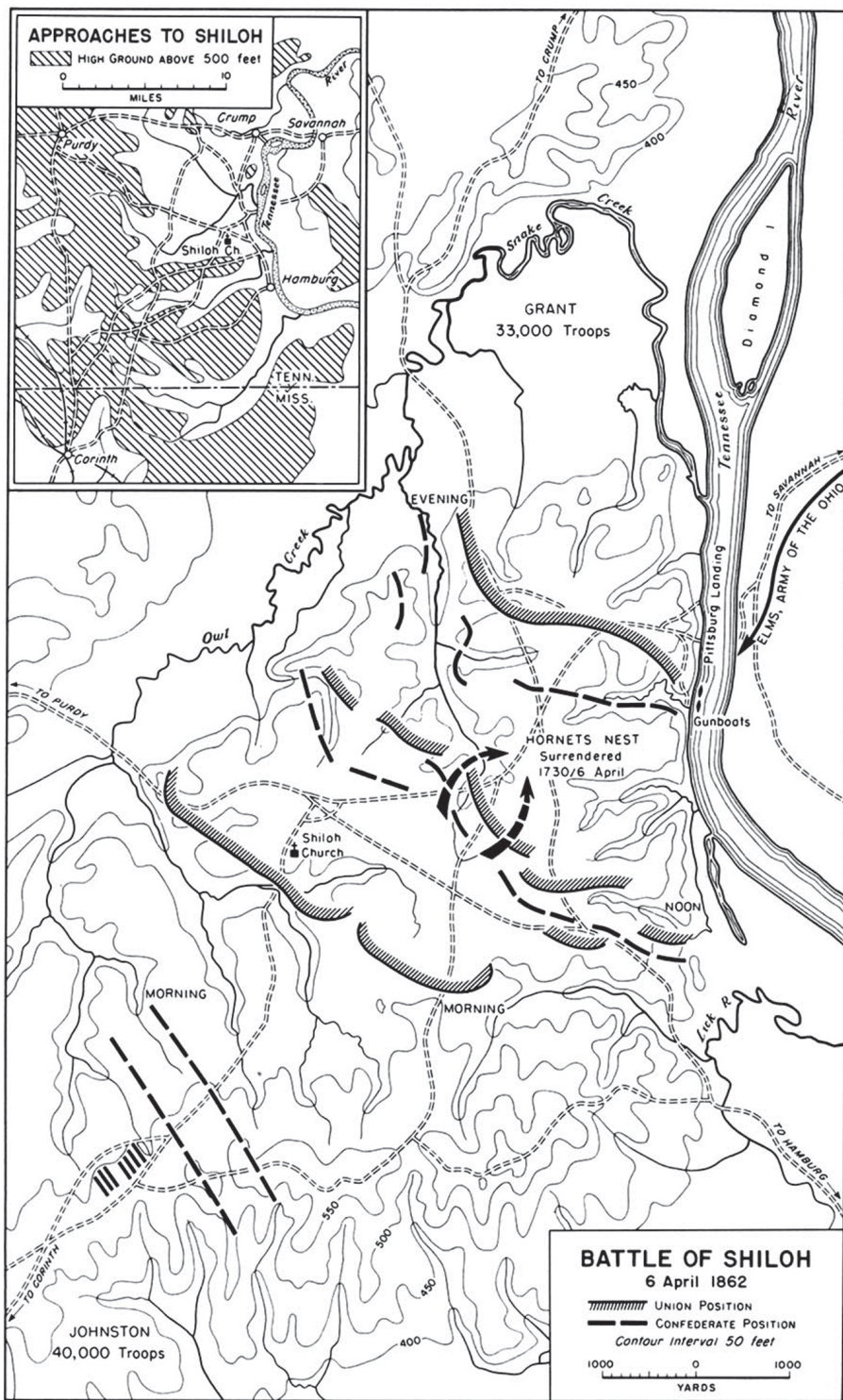
Union regiments collapsed under the Rebel attack. The 49<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment, which was on the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois's immediate left, panicked and fled the field. Company C as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was ordered to fill the gap. For approximately ten minutes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion stood their ground although heavily outnumbered.

Eventually the Confederate onslaught forced them to fall back upon the rest of the regiment. At this point, one of boys of Company C had been killed and three others were severely wounded. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois held its position for a time, but soon it was forced back when flanked by Confederate forces. It reformed approximately one thousand feet from its original position leaving 36 dead soldiers behind.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois held this position repulsing several determined assaults until it and two other regiments were the only Union units remaining on this part of the battlefield. The enemy was on their flanks and in their rear.<sup>16</sup> Another Swedish boy of Company C had lost his life and others had been severely wounded. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois retreated by a circuitous route of about one mile and was able to unite with other Union forces. From this position they repulsed three other frenzied charges and stood firm until nightfall.<sup>17</sup>

On the second day of the battle the situation reversed. Significant Union reinforcements had arrived and the Confederates were driven from the battlefield. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois saw combat on the second day, but not of the same intensity. On the third day the Confederates retreated to Corinth, Mississippi. The Battle of Shiloh resulted in 13,047 Union soldiers being killed, wounded, or captured. The Confederate forces suffered 10,699 casualties.<sup>18</sup>

These losses were stunning considering that the losses from America's three previous wars – the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War totaled only 23,741.<sup>19</sup> The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois had seen 49 of its soldiers killed and 157 wounded in the bloody fighting at Shiloh. Three Swedes of



The Shiloh monument of the Illinois 43<sup>rd</sup> regiment.

medical treatment took their toll on the average soldier. In addition, Union soldiers – and in particular Swedish-born soldiers – were unused to the southern climate. Quite often they would be encamped near or be required to slog through malarial bottom land or swamps.

Prior to Shiloh, six Swedes of Company C had died and one had been discharged for disability unrelated to combat. Before the end of 1862 another eleven soldiers were discharged for disability and five more had died. Additionally, another eight were discharged for the wounds that they had received in combat. Of the 99 soldiers that began with Company C, 15 were dead and 20 others had been discharged for wounds, illness, or injuries.<sup>21</sup>

## A turning point in the war – siege of Vicksburg

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois participated in the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi, which resulted in the capture of that city on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1862. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois spent the next year in southern Tennessee and northern Mississippi. The regiment was sent on frequent expeditions to counter Confederate troop movements or intercept Rebel raiders. In one particular brisk action the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois engaged the forces of the famous Confederate cavalry general, Nathan Bedford Forrest. It occurred in mid-December near Jackson, Tennessee. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was part of a force that had been sent to intercept Forrest who had been conducting one of his spectacular raids behind Union lines. Although unsuccessful in stopping Forrest's raid, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois and 61<sup>st</sup> Illinois repulsed a

Company C had been killed and fourteen had been severely wounded. The Captain of Company C, Olof Edvall, had received a mortal wound on the second day. He died a month later.<sup>20</sup> Fortunately, Andrew Engstrom survived the bloodbath of Shiloh apparently unscathed.

## Illness, injury, and death

The sad fact of life in the Union army was that far more men died from illness or accidents than due to combat. This was also true for Company C. Almost constant exposure to the elements, frequent marches in inclement weather, improper nutrition, poor sanitation, and 19<sup>th</sup> century



*The Union troops enter Vicksburg on 1863 July 4. (Picture from National Geographic, vol. 124/1, July 1963).*

cavalry charge by Forrest's troopers, inflicting heavy casualties on the Rebels and only suffering two wounded men.

On May 1, 1863, the regimental records indicate that Andrew Engstrom was relieved of his previous duty as a drummer and became a regular private. For the remainder of the war Andrew would carry a musket.

Also in May 1863, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Regiment became part of the Vicksburg Campaign. They boarded a steamboat and traveled up the Yazoo River to challenge a small Confederate force, commanded by General Wirt Adams, which was threatening General Grant's supply line necessary to maintain the siege at Vicksburg. After landing near Satartia, Mississippi, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois and other units drove the Confederates from the area, effectively ending the threat. Until Vicksburg fell, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was encamped at Haines Bluff protecting the supply line.<sup>22</sup>

## Across the Mississippi

After the surrender of Vicksburg, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was transported to Helena, Arkansas, to be part of an expedition to capture Little Rock, Arkansas. The Union forces under general Steele forced the Confederates to flee Little Rock on September 1, 1863. Although the first unit to enter Little Rock was a cavalry regiment, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was allegedly the first infantry regiment to enter the city upon its capture.

It is interesting to note that the well-known Swedish-American Colonel Hans Mattson, commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment, also made that claim for his regiment.<sup>23</sup> The 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois was detailed to serve as provost guard in Little Rock. The provost guard served as the army's police force, (although this seems a curious assignment for a regiment consisting primarily of native speaking German and Swedish soldiers). It appears that they

performed this function until perhaps as late as the beginning of 1864.

By the end of 1863, three additional men were mustered into Company C, all Swedes, but this did not compensate for the additional losses. Another five Swedes had been discharged for disabilities, two others had been reassigned to the Invalid Corps, and another four had died.<sup>24</sup>

## Andrew reenlists

Due to the considerable losses the 43<sup>rd</sup> Illinois had incurred, the regiment was reorganized in September 1864. Companies A, B, and C were consolidated into a new Company A. This new company was officered by the Swedish officers from Company C and the majority of soldiers in this new company were the Swedish boys from Company C.

In November of 1863 there were nine months remaining of the three-year enlistment. The boys in the new Company A were offered a thirty day furlough and transportation back home if they reenlisted. Additionally, they would receive a \$400 bounty, paid when they were mustered out, if they reenlisted. Most of the surviving members of the old Company C reenlisted. Andrew reenlisted on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1863, for another three years. An actual copy of his reenlistment is extant. This document indicates that Andrew was born in "Helsingland," Sweden, that he was twenty-one years old, and a farmer. Of special interest is that Andrew did not sign his name, but "made his mark" which served as a signature.<sup>25</sup> It is unknown whether Andrew's motive for reenlistment was patriotism, camaraderie, or the money.

The furlough began in February 1864. While back in Illinois, Company A gained 30 new recruits all of which were Swedes.

*To be continued.*

## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Kvist, Roger. "The Swedish Union Guards of Bishop Hill During the Civil War," *Swedish American Genealogist (SAG)*, Vol. XVI, No. 3, September 1996.

- <sup>2</sup> Kvist, Roger. "The Galesburg Light Guards During the Civil War," *SAG*, Vol. XVII, No. 2, June 1997.
- <sup>3</sup> Kvist, Roger. "A Social History of the Swedish Ethnic Units from Illinois in the Civil War," *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, Vol. L, No. 1, January 1999.
- <sup>4</sup> Olson, Schön, and Engberg. *History of the Swedes in Illinois*, Chicago 1908.
- <sup>5</sup> Alfta Parish, Gävleborg län, *Födelslängd* (Birth records).
- <sup>6</sup> Alfta Parish, Gävleborg län, *Husförhörslängd* (Cl. survey AI:15a:228).
- <sup>7</sup> Unknown Kansas newspaper, 1915.
- <sup>8</sup> Bishop Hill Colony Church Membership Book.
- <sup>9</sup> Hokanson, Nels "Swedish Immigrants in Lincoln's Time," 1942.
- <sup>10</sup> Kvist. "The Galesburg Light Guards During the Civil War."
- <sup>11</sup> Andrew Engstrom's Compiled Military Service Record, National Archives and Records Administration.
- <sup>12</sup> Olson, Schön, and Engberg.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>15</sup> Hicken, Victor. *Illinois in the Civil War*, Urbana, 1966.
- <sup>16</sup> Unknown Nebraska newspaper, 1915.
- <sup>17</sup> Sword, Wiley. *Shiloh: Bloody April*, New York, 2001.
- <sup>18</sup> Olson, Schön, and Engberg.
- <sup>19</sup> Sword.
- <sup>20</sup> Foote, Shelby. *The Civil War; a Narrative*, New York, 1963.
- <sup>21</sup> Olson, Schön, and Engberg.
- <sup>22</sup> *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois Containing Reports for the Years 1861 – 1866*, Springfield, 1901.
- <sup>23</sup> Bearss, Edwin. *The Campaign For Vicksburg*, Dayton, 1986.
- <sup>24</sup> Olson, Schön, and Engberg.
- <sup>25</sup> *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois Containing Reports for the Years 1861–1866*, Springfield, 1901.

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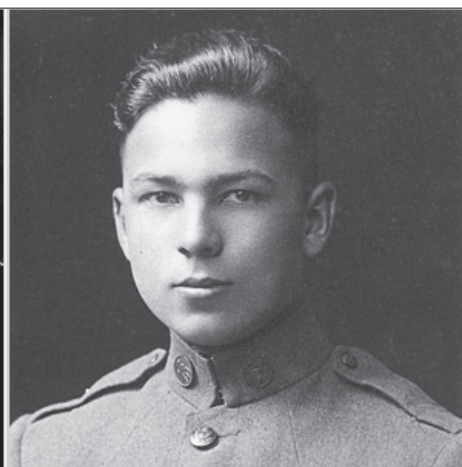
## The oldest U.S. veteran of the WWI has passed away

Frank Buckles, who drove an Army ambulance in France in 1918 and came to symbolize a generation of embattled young Americans as the last of the World War I doughboys, died on Sunday 27 Feb. 2011 at his home in Charles Town, W. Va. He was 110.

His death was announced by a family spokesman, David DeJonge, The Associated Press said.

He was only a corporal and he never got closer than 30 or so miles from the Western Front trenches, but Mr. Buckles became something of a national treasure as the last living link to the two million men who joined the American Expeditionary Forces in France in "the war to end all wars." Frank Woodruff Buckles was born Feb. 1, 1901, on a farm near Bethany, Mo. He was living in Oakwood, Okla., when America entered World War I and he tried to enlist in the Marine Corps at age 16, having been inspired by recruiting posters.

The Marines turned him down as underage and under the required weight. The Navy didn't want him either, saying he had flat feet. But the Army took him in August 1917 after he had lied about his age, and he volunteered to be an ambulance driv-



er, hearing that that was the quickest path to service in France.

He traveled widely over the years, working for steamship companies, and he was on business in Manila when the Japanese occupied it following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. He was imprisoned by the Japanese, losing more than 50 pounds, before being liberated by an American airborne unit in February 1945.

After retiring from steamship work in the mid-1950s, Mr. Buckles ran a cattle farm in Charles Town, and he was still riding a tractor there at age 104.

The last known of the nearly 5 million American veterans of World War I, Frank Buckles, was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

According to media there are now only two veterans from the "Great War" still alive.

They are the seaman *Claude Choules*, born in Britain, and now living in Australia, where he is the oldest living man. The other survivor is British *Florence Green (née Patterson)* who joined the Women's Royal Air Force in September 1918 at the age of 17,<sup>[2]</sup><sup>[3]</sup> where she served as an Officer's Mess Steward [waitress].

Both survivors were born in 1901.

## More on the Tigerhjelm family

In SAG 3-4/10 there was on p. 30 an article about a Tigerhjelm family, whose members had been buried in Vasa, Goodhue County, in Minnesota. Mr. Tigerhjelm and his wife, who was Norwegian, had spent time in Norway and been married there. I did not try to go into the Norwegian records, but a SAG reader, *Chris Bingsfors*, who is experienced in those, has found some additional information.

She tells that Carl Petter Tigerhjelm and Valborg Larsen had mar-

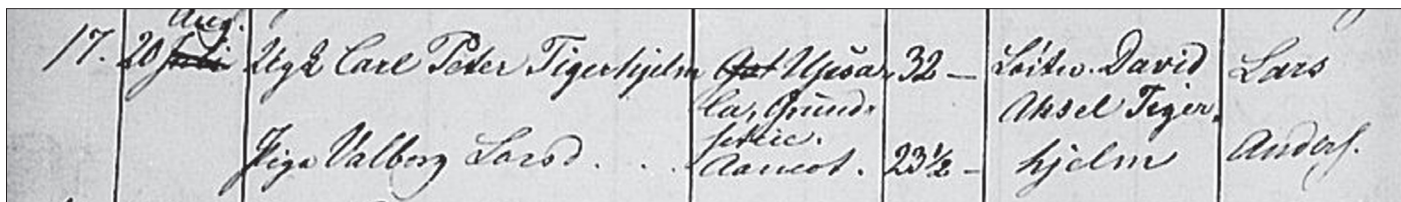
ried in Elverum, Norway, on 20 August 1860. In the marriage records Carl Petter names his father as the lieutenant David Axel Tigerhjelm.

Carl Petter and Valborg are also found in the moving-in records for Elverum, and he is listed as a “medico philosophie candidatus” which can be translated as a bachelor of medicine. He is listed as coming from Göteborg, and Valborg from some unreadable place.

Chris also found that Carl Petter

had an illegitimate daughter, *Julie*, born Nov. 1860 in Stange, in Hedmark *Fylke*.

In the history of the noble Tigerhjelm family there is a lieutenant *David Tigerhjelm*, who was born in 1805, and who in 1830 married Eleonora Elisabeth Nordengren. Their first child was born in 1831. So if this David is the father of Carl Petter, then he was born out of wedlock; his birth notice has not yet been found. The story continues.



Marriage records for Elverum parish, Norway, showing the marriage of Carl Petter and Valborg. (Picture from Digitalarkivet.no)

## Old Swedish news and much more is online – Filmarkivet.se

The Swedish Film Institute and *Kungliga Biblioteket* (National Library of Sweden) launched a new web site during the winter. On this you have the opportunity to see unique archival moving image materials that otherwise are rarely accessed: mainly shorts, non-fiction films, newsreels, and commercials; films that reflect the transformation of Swedish society over the last century. Some 300 films were available when the site was launched in February 2011, a figure that will double before the end of the year.

The first years of cinema was synonymous with the magic of projecting moving images; of rendering life to dead matter. The first Swedish film, *Konungens af Siam landstigning vid Logårdstrappan*, (The King of Siam landing at the *Logårdstrappan*) was shot in 1897 and ran for 20 seconds, depicting the arrival of the King of Siam at the Royal Palace in Stockholm. In the years that followed at the turn of the last century, films available for public viewing were a mixture of short nature films, footage from significant events,

and comedies; sometimes together with a somewhat longer fiction film. The actuality films – travelogues from exotic places as well as scenes of local events – continued to be a dominant part of film programs for years. Sport events, royalty, expositions, market scenes, and demonstrations were among the most frequent topics. Chronicles of work and leisure throughout Sweden were very popular subjects, and city after city were given a cinematic portrait depicting the street life, railway stations, schools, parks, and historical monuments.

Around 1911 staged fiction films started to be the main attraction in cinemas, but non-fiction films continued to be screened as accompanying pieces. A new phenomena, the weekly newsreel, started to appear and would continue to have a place in cinemas for more or less half a century without changing much in design or structure.

It is mainly these categories of films that are now made available at filmarkivet.se, along with other theatrically released films such as

informational films commissioned by corporations and public institutions, commercials, and films produced as part of election campaigns.

On filmarkivet.se you will also be able to access Swedish amateur films depicting everyday life as well as including footage of historically significant events.

The films are all in Swedish, but there are also many silent movies (*stumfilm*).



King Gustaf V and his daughter-in-law, crown princess Louise, arrive at the Stockholm exposition in 1930.

See link on page 30!





# SwedGen Tour is coming again!

For several years now a group of Swedish genealogists has toured the U.S. during the fall. They have met with Swedish-American local groups and given lectures on Swedish topics and also provided one-on-one help to find the ancestral places in Sweden.

Now the group is coming back to the U.S. in September. This time the group consists of *Anna-Lena Hultman*, of Hössna, *Anneli Andersson*, of Mellerud, *Charlotte Börjesson*, of Göteborg, and *Gunilla Didriksson*, of Lindesberg, and hopefully someone from the Swedish *Lantmäteriverket* (General Surveyors Office).

*Kathy Meade* of Chicago will also join the group.

They are all very experienced, both in Swedish and U.S. genealogy.

At every place the group will lead a Swedish genealogy research day that will include presentations and demonstrations on how to use the various resources for Swedish genealogical and historical research. There will be presentations on Swedish genealogical online resources, Swedish genealogical CDs and Swedish emigration.

More information is found at the web site, see page 30.

## Schedule of lectures

- \* Saturday, September 10, 2011 - Chicago, IL
- \* Sunday, September 11, 2011 - Rock Island, IL
- \* Saturday, September 17, 2011 - Denver, CO
- \* Tuesday, September 20, 2011 - Salt Lake City, UT
- \* Wednesday, September 21, 2011 - Salt Lake City, UT



*First table: Charlotte Börjesson and a patron, second table: Anna-Lena Hultman and a patron, third table: Anneli Andersson and a patron (not visible). Photo from the 2009 Fall Research Seminar at the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, in South St. Paul. (Photo by Ray Kleinow).*

# The solution of the Handwriting Example XXVII

## Transcription

### *First page:*

[Disregard the first line, it is just notes from the court officials].

### *Here comes the letter:*

Perth Amboy N. J.  
Mr. A. V. Berggren  
Besta Broder  
Broder P. E. Engberg  
var hos oss i dag och  
underrettade mig att min  
syster Kristina [född Krantz], gift med  
Johansson i Vestervik är död det viste vi  
ej. Var snell och låt oss veta

### *Second page:*

till vem vi skall vända  
oss för att utfå arvet,  
var snell och skriv till  
oss. vi vill så jerna  
skriva till eder igen.  
glad att få eder address  
teknar en Broder

Carl J. Nilson  
414 Washington Street  
Perth Amboy N. J.

## Translation

### *First page:*

Perth Amboy N. J.  
Mr. A. V. Berggren  
Dear Brother,  
Brother P. E. Engberg  
came to our house today  
and told me that my  
sister Kristina, born Krantz,  
married to Johansson in Västervik  
had died, which we did not know.  
Please let us know to whom

### *Second page:*

we should write to get  
our inheritance. Please  
write to us. We want so much  
to write to you again.  
Happy to get your address  
signed by a Brother

Carl J. Nilson  
414 Washington Street  
Perth Amboy N. J.

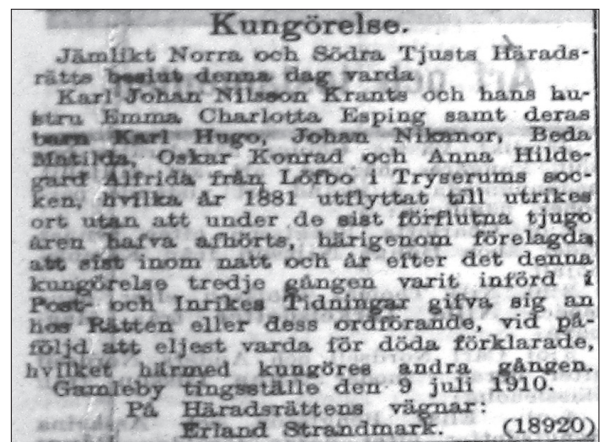
## Comments:

Carl addresses the man he is writing to as "Broder", but he is not a brother but in spirit, as Carl did not have brothers, and it is not a brother-in-law either. Maybe they belonged to the same fraternal order? The International Order of Good Templars, for instance had many lodges in Sweden.

The advertisement for the missing family of Carl Johan Nilsson Krantz was found in the official newspaper *Post och Inrikes tidningar* already in 1910, and it was stated that the missing persons should get in touch with the court "within night and day"

from when the advertisement was published for the third time, which happened in October 1911.

It not yet known how much money there was in the sister's estate, nor if Carl and his family got anything. But a genealogical research is never finished, so maybe another issue of SAG will tell what happened next.



Post- och Inrikes Tidningar 7 Sept. 1910. (Photo from microfilm, which explains the bad quality).

# Book Reviews



Here you will find information about interesting books on the immigration experience, genealogical manuals, books on Swedish customs, and much more. We welcome contacts with SAG readers, suggestions on books to review perhaps. If you want to review a book yourself, please contact the Book Review Editor, Dennis L. Johnson, at <1\_viking@verizon.net> or Dennis Johnson, 174 Stauffer Road, Bucktown Crossing, Pottstown, PA 19465, so he knows what you are working on.

## In the northern forests

*We Made It Through the Winter, A Memoir of Northern Minnesota Boyhood*, by Walter O'Meara, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1974, 128 pages, softcover, ill. Amazon.com, 1987, \$13.25 plus shipping.

This is a delightfully appealing memoir of a nine-year-old boy living in a small logging town in northern Minnesota in the year 1906. The town was Cloquet, about fifteen miles west of Duluth on the St. Louis River. This book was especially appealing to this reviewer since I, too, lived in Cloquet for a few years, 1938-1942. I was about his age, but lived there some 35 years later. The town was supposedly named after an earlier French-Canadian trapper who lived in the area long before 1906. The population at the time was about three thousand people and the largest ethnic group was Scandinavians, among whom nearly half were Swedish.

Cloquet was founded in the 1880's, incorporated as a village in 1884, and became a city in 1904. Located on the St. Louis River below where several tributaries joined, it was ideally situated to develop as a logging town, with good access to the pine forests of the region, and water to power several sawmills by the river. Pine was cut in the forests in the winter, pushed into the streams in the spring, and floated downriver to

Cloquet where it was sorted and cut into lumber to meet the enormous demand from growing Midwestern cities. Much of the lumber was shipped from the nearby port of Duluth to Chicago, Detroit, and many other cities on the Great Lakes.

The author's father was one of the many workers who came to Cloquet to work in the logging industry. He would spend most of the winters up in the woods, while his family stayed in Cloquet without him, then returned in the spring to work in the big mills, making lumber out of the logs cut in the winter. The O'Meara's were mostly Irish, but the loggers were from many other ethnic groups, many of them newly arrived immigrants. The lumber company owners and bosses were largely English and Scots-Irish, or German, having been in America longer and more ex-

perienced at the skills needed. The loggers were new and many did not yet speak English.

In vivid detail, the author sets the scene for his memoirs by describing the area, the logging business, and their life in Cloquet. The first chapters deal with getting through the winter without a father present. Their house, the big wood-burning stove, their kitchen, foods and food preservation, his chores, an icy cold outhouse, and all that was needed to survive the subzero temperatures of northern Minnesota, and the trials of deep winter portray the typical family's struggles to survive in this time period.

The coming of spring changes their life completely. His father returns home, school is out, and the fun times of summer for a young boy are described in rich, engaging prose. The day can begin going barefoot, fishing, hunting rabbits, exploring, and generally enjoying the outdoors; it will bring back many memories for older readers. Summer visits by relatives, a traveling circus, drifters, traveling salesmen, Fourth of July, picnics, summer sports, and even encounters with traveling Gypsies are all richly described, as are many of his boyhood friends from various ethnic backgrounds. But in 1919 the entire town burned to the ground and cost some 500 lives. The town was built entirely of wood, and only a school, a firehouse, and a few homes escaped.

The author left Cloquet a few years later to further his education. He graduated from Cloquet High School, and then studied at the University of Minnesota and the Univer-





# Book Reviews

sity of Wisconsin. After service in World War I as an artillery sergeant, he worked briefly in Duluth as a reporter, then returned to the University of Wisconsin to graduate in 1920. For some fifty years he combined a successful business career with writing about fifteen books, two of them best-sellers. He served again in World War II and then resumed his business career. After retirement, he and his wife lived in Arizona where he continued writing, including this memoir written in 1974. O'Meara died in Cohasset, Mass, in 1989.

My own memories of Cloquet were in many ways similar, but in many ways very different. By World War I the logging business had ended, and many of the workers moved on to the Pacific Northwest, while others found new jobs in iron mining on the Mesabi and Vermilion iron ranges further north. The town grew slowly but by my own years it approached some eight thousand people. Our home was better equipped, with a furnace, indoor bathrooms, and some electric appliances. We now had electricity, a telephone, and a radio, but television was still decades in the future. O'Meara had only seen a few early open horseless carriages; horses still dominated for work and travel. By 1938, my father had an enclosed Chevrolet, with a radio and a heater, as did many households in town. There were few horses, no Gypsies, and no log skirlers. But the St. Louis River was still the color of root beer.

The sawmills no longer ripped lumber from logs, but had turned to making other wood products from second growth softwood trees still

abundant in the area. The pine was gone. The "wood conversion plants" made hardboard, paper, cardboard, and other pulpwood products while casting a constant pungent odor over the town which never entirely disappeared. Other businesses and services had sprung up to serve the growing population. One of our summer activities when I lived there was counting the cars on the ore trains passing through Cloquet on their way to Duluth and the steel furnaces in Ohio and points east. I remember counting trains of over a hundred cars some days. That, too, has ended with the decline of iron mining.

The mix of people, however, had not changed much. The town still had a majority of Scandinavians, quite a few Germans, and lesser numbers of many other European nations represented. By 1940, most were second and third generation, socially assimilated, yet still largely keeping to their own churches. My family was there since my father had found work as a teacher and supervisor in one of the many CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camps in the area. (The CCC was created by President Roosevelt in 1934 as part of the "New Deal." Many young men unemployed by the Depression were sent to these

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# Book Reviews

camps to do conservation work, to learn a trade, and to further their education.) This camp was located in a State Park a little ways outside Cloquet. By 1942 the CCC camps were all closed down, the young men mostly were drafted to serve in World War II, and my father was out of a job. We moved then to Minneapolis, where he found other work.

This book about life in Cloquet in 1906 is yet another story of the lives of many immigrant and other workers in that period; a story of hardship, hard work, and hard winters. For the young, however, it was a life of pleasure and privation in strange surroundings. This account, told better than most, is the author's last published book, written "for his family" of four children and many grand- and great-grandchildren. It is an exceptionally entertaining memoir of growing up at that unique time and place in America, a personal story, yet shared in common with many Americans of his generation.

*Dennis L. Johnson*

## The entrance to America

*Castle Garden and Battery Park*, Images of America series, Barry Moreno, Arcadia Publishing, Chicago, 2007, 128 pages, softcover, illustrated, Amazon.com \$17.15 plus shipping.

Castle Garden in New York City offered the first views of America on land for the estimated eight to twelve million immigrants from Europe between 1855 and 1890. Nearly a million of these immigrants came from

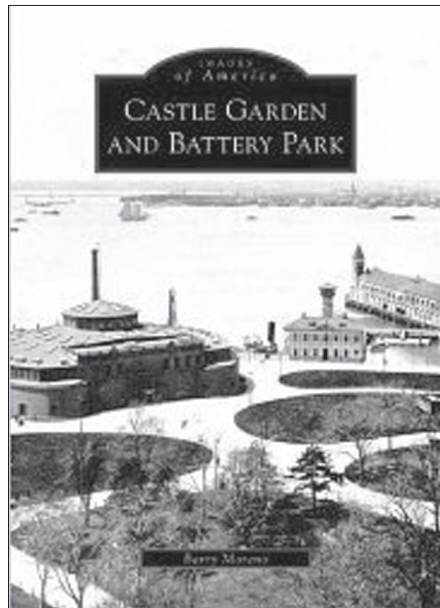
Sweden. The Garden served as the principal port of entry on the East Coast for immigrants arriving on sailing, and later, steamships, during this period. Another nearby building, the Barge Office, was used temporarily until the Ellis Island arrival center was completed and opened on January 1, 1892.

Castle Garden and Battery Park have had a long and varied history dating to the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam. The strategic position where the Hudson River is merged with the East River gave this location importance as the first view of river traffic arriving from the Atlantic Ocean. With the founding of the settlement of New Amsterdam in 1624, the location was the site for Fort Amsterdam, built to protect the new settlement from marauders and claim the land for the Dutch. By 1683, cannons were placed there thus giving the site the name Battery Park. After American independence, plans began for a fortification in the west battery designed by Architect John McComb. This fortification was completed in 1811; at the end of the war of 1812 with Great Britain, the fort was renamed Castle Clinton, after the then Governor of New York DeWitt Clinton.

Until 1822, Castle Clinton served as headquarters of the U.S. Third Military District, which was then removed to Governor's Island. Castle Clinton was demilitarized and ceded to New York City. During this period the fort was renamed Castle Garden and was roofed over and improved, serving as a promenade, beer garden, exhibit hall, opera house, and theater. A domed rotunda was added in 1844-45. Castle Garden was a major venue for popular concerts and appearances including one by Swedish soprano Jenny Lind in 1850 to open her American tour. As other, larger venues were added in the city, Castle Garden became the immigrant landing station for New York City and New York State, opening in 1855. Originally surrounded on all sides by water with only a connecting drawbridge, additional land fill in the area enlarged Battery Park to completely surround the old structure by land.

In 1886, just four years before the closing of Castle Garden in 1890, the Statue of Liberty was completed and dedicated nearby in New York Harbor. With the opening in 1892 of Ellis Island as a larger and more suitable immigration landing station, Castle Garden became a public aquarium, one of New York's most popular attractions. The aquarium was eventually closed in 1941, and the building was dedicated as a historic site and renamed the Castle Clinton National Monument, rededicated in 1946. It contains a museum, and serves as the departure point for visitors taking ferries to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

The author of *Castle Garden and Battery Park*, Barry Moreno, works in the Museum Services division of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. He has written other articles on Castle Garden and is the author of several other books in this series about Ellis Island, The Statue of Liberty, Children of Ellis Island, and Manhattan Street Scenes. The story





# Book Reviews

of Castle Garden and its environs is told through a massive collection of images collected by Moreno.

From colonial origins to the Civil War, the story is told through drawings, paintings, and etchings by artists of the day. Most of the later images are photographs, the camera being available after the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The images are all accompanied by extensive captions, helping to tell the story of Castle Garden and the people who passed through this immigration center. The reader can easily imagine an ancestor passing through this building and the jumble of confusion, waiting, and anxiety as thousands of immigrants and their families were processed almost daily.

For most of the period of this use of Castle Garden, immigrants arrived by barge from the piers or anchorages of the ships on which they endured the long voyage from Europe. They entered the building to encounter a number of checkpoints where their identities, origins, and other information were recorded, then on to a physical examination, money exchanging, and other steps. Nearby was a labor exchange, hiring hall, recruiting stations for the military, and missionaries passing out religious tracts in various languages. Railroads and Hudson River boats sold tickets to those traveling to the west, and all sorts of swindlers and confidence men lurked outside the building to try and take advantage of the new arrivals.

The format of the book, using numerous images with captions rather than the usual descriptive text, is very effective in conveying the experience of immigrants during the

period of Castle Garden. (A picture is worth a thousand words). For those having an ancestor with the immigrant experience of passing through Castle Garden, this book would be an important addition to the family library. (Since 2005, researchers seeking ancestor arrivals may search the Castle Garden immigration records on [www.CastleGarden.org](http://www.CastleGarden.org)).

I think your descendants and especially young children would find the images in this book fascinating and highly educational. Even if your ancestors arrived at another time or another place, the book is an essential portrayal of these immigrants' first encounter with their new land.

*Dennis L. Johnson*

## Maybe a tall story?

*America's Back Door*, by Vernon Alfred Holmes, Ivy House Publishing Group, Raleigh, NC, 2003, 191 pages, illustrated, hardcover, [allbookstores.com](http://allbookstores.com), \$21.95 + shipping.

This is an interesting but unusual story about the author's family and their emigration from Lotorp, Risinge, Östergötland, to Chicago in 1886.

The first part is about an adventure of the author's grandfather, Erick, at age 7 in the woods in Sweden. The second part describes the family's arriving at the decision to immigrate to America, and the last part is about their perilous voyage across the Atlantic from Göteborg to Chicago, through the Great Lakes. The final part includes family photographs and a family tree of the family in Chicago. The book keeps the reader turning the pages, but leaves one

at the end with certain unease about the accuracy of the information that is related in the story.

In the tale, the reader is expected to believe that Erick, a seven-year-old (going on eight), is sent alone into the woods for a week on a hunting and trapping expedition to feed his desperate family. His father is bed-ridden, injured in an accident, and unable to provide for the family that includes his mother and younger brother Carl, and a sister, Elisabeth. On this trip, he is equipped with a .50 caliber (?) rifle given him by his grandfather. He has a sled with forty beaver traps, some rabbit traps, and other gear. In the course of this trip he encounters wolves, a cougar, badgers, elk, a moose, deer, and two bears, and barely rescues himself from a fall through the ice. The badger has mutilated his six trapped beavers so the pelts are unusable, but the meat will be taken home. He also shoots a wolf, and brings that home for the skin as well. At the end, he shoots a bear at the last minute, only to find a second bear just behind the one he has shot. Another shot rings out, and the second bear has been shot by his grandfather who has just arrived to find him. Between them the grandson and grandfather drag home their entire haul on two sleds.

On their return, all are welcomed joyfully but the episode confirms the futility of continuing to try and farm in Sweden against formidable odds of famine and poverty. Erick's father, Johan, regretfully decides that the family must immigrate to America despite the tears of their grandparents. In 1886, they sell most of their possessions and leave in their ox-drawn wagon with a few supplies and possessions. In Göteborg they seek the first departing ship they can in order not to use up their money on food and lodging. The ship turns out to be an American ship, the *Enrica*, a former man-of-war built for the U.S. Civil War. The captain is

# Book Reviews



one John Warden, said by the author to be the one-time captain of the famous *Monitor* and a Civil War hero.

The family sells their team and wagon, pay their passage, and they soon embark on a voyage in steerage, filled with fellow emigrants. The privations of the trip are described in detail: seasickness, disease, deaths, icy cold with ice storms coating the decks above with heavy ice, and many other hazards. The author includes a few stories related by captain Warden along the way, and problems with the irregular and often drunken crew. The voyage takes sixteen weeks and the ship finally arrives in Chicago to let the immigrants debark offshore on ship's boats, due to the shallow lake water. They find their way to "Swedetown" to be taken in by friendly countrymen until they could get settled and find work. It turns out that the ship was filled with "undocumented workers" or, illegal immigrants, since they had bypassed the usual ports of entry.

The family settled in Chicago, where Johan and his wife, Anna Charlotta Boström, had another son, David, and a daughter, Esther, to add to the family. Erick finished growing up in Chicago, worked as a tailor to wealthy Chicagoans, and struck up a friendship with the famous architect, Daniel Burnham. Their name was now Holmes, not Holm, because that is what everyone called them. Erick married Mattie Seidel and had eight children. Erick died suddenly at age 47 of a heart attack. The author, Vernon Alfred, is the son of Erick's third son Raymond. After a long career in packaging, Vernon is now retired and lives with his wife in Spooner, Wisconsin.

With my interest aroused by my unease, I decided to do a little fact-checking on the Holm family and their travels. The family was found in Swedish records. The family record indicated Johan emigrated with his family from Ankarstrums *Bruk*, Hallingeberg, Kalmar *län*. His wife was born in Skedevi, Östergötlands *län*. The Swedish household records note May 18, 1886, as their date of departure from Hallingeberg. *Emigranten* lists the family as emigrating June 18, 1886, from Göteborg, destination New York.

In checking the biography of John Warden, captain of the *Monitor*, I found that he commanded the U.S. Naval Academy 1869-1874 where he was promoted to rear admiral. He then commanded the U.S. European squadron 1875-77, had shore duty 1877-86, and retired from active duty in October, 1887. I think this rules out his having been captain of the *Enrico* in 1886. Would this national hero be reduced to captaining a leaky, old sailing ship (with steam auxiliary propulsion) ferrying poor immigrants from Sweden to Chicago? This is, at best, a case of mistaken identity.

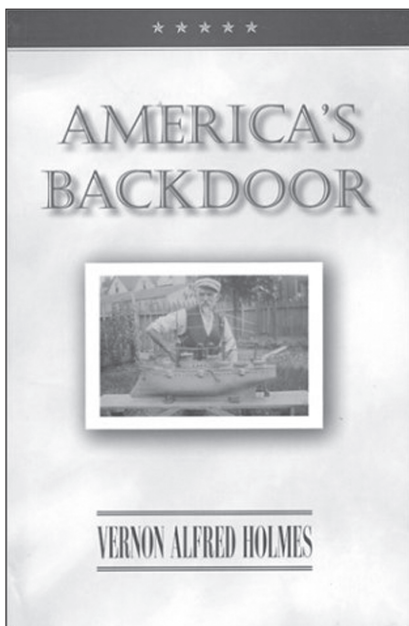
All the ice encountered on the voyage also raises questions, since they embarked in the month of June

(18<sup>th</sup>) with several weeks on the Atlantic in June and July. The ship had passed through the Gulf of St. Lawrence and then through the Great Lakes to Chicago. Locks were completed in 1871 for ships up to 187 ft. long and 44 ½ feet wide, but not enlarged until after World War II. Could their ship have made this passage? I doubt it. More likely they traveled via New York and the Hudson River to the Erie Canal and thence to the Great Lakes by another smaller ship, or overland by train to Chicago. According to the author, Chicago had no immigration station and the immigrants arriving there by ship were undocumented, hence the title of the book, *America's Back Door*.

In an afterword, the author includes a family tree showing his immediate ancestors, and some photographs from his collection. Some historical notes add general information on immigration from Scandinavia, Chicago in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and other notes. He lists some famous Swedes, and adds information about Ellis Island. There is a list of source books he used, mostly general about immigration, history, and Sweden. No footnotes occur citing sources for particular facts given in the book, however.

It appears to this reviewer that the author relied more on family legends than he did on careful research and actual facts in composing this book.

But it was a real family and they did make a real pilgrimage in the 1880's to new lives in the American Midwest. Enjoyable to read, *America's Back Door* is another chronicle of a Swedish immigrant family, one which may stimulate other descendants to research and record the sagas of their own families who came to America from Sweden during the great migration. I am not inclined to be too critical of the possible exaggerations or inaccuracies of the story but encourage all who undertake writing about their family his-





# Book Reviews

## Emigrants from Göteborg

grants that were local and not just passing through. As a result of this work the project now tries to identify immigrants coming into the city, and find out if they originated in Göteborg, as is described by *Lennart Limberg*. The resulting information is found on the CD. *Dr Limberg* has also studied the Swedish emigrants through the German ports, which is the main essay in this volume. *Mathias Nilsson* tells the story behind EmiWeb, which is slowly growing to have more content and becoming more and more useful for emigrant researchers. *Gunvor Flodell* tells much about the little known emigration to Brazil and Argentina in the late 1800s and early 1900s, where there still remain descendants of the Swedes. Her list of these emigrants is also found on the CD. *Ulf Beijbom* writes about Sillgatan, the main street of the emigrant neighborhood in Göteborg, and finally *Per Clemensson* mentions an early emigration booklet from 1867, which is also found on the CD. This is a very useful book.

tory to take the time to do their homework thoroughly. Except in unusual circumstances, the facts are mostly available thanks to the abundance of Swedish and U.S. records available online, in archives, and prepared by the genealogical societies in Sweden.

*Dennis L. Johnson*

**Editor's note:** In 1886 it was possible to take a train to a port of departure. The voyage usually lasted less than two weeks. Lotorp village, where the Holms did not live, had a big ironworks; there were no wolves, bears, or cougars in the area. Now there are, in the Kolmården Zoo. Please disregard the part about life in Sweden in the 1880s!

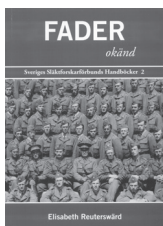
*Göteborgs-Emigranten 7*, editors: Per Clemensson and Lennart Limberg, published by the Göteborgs-Emigranten Project. 231 pages, ill., softcover, 2010. ISBN 978-91-633-6365-8. Price 100 SEK + postage. More information from <per@clemensson.net>

This new book in the *Göteborgs-Emigranten* series is in **Swedish**, but can probably be of interest to many that read some Swedish. *Lennart Limberg* has written an article about the early emigration, before 1870, from Scandinavia, which gives information on how and why it started earlier in Norway than in the other Nordic countries. Next *John Persson* writes about Swedish-born sea captains in California, and his list of these men is to be found on a CD that comes with the book. A big part of the *Göteborgs-Emigranten Project* has been to identify and register emi-

*Elisabeth Thorsell*

## New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)



The Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*) has recently published a book about the eternal problem "Father unknown" (*Fader okänd*), in **Swedish**, and written by the former archivist Elisabeth Reuterswärd of Lund. The book offers various suggestions on how to solve this problem. The book costs about 200 SEK + postage at Rötterbokhandeln, see p. 30.

The May 2011 issue of the *Family Tree Magazine* (which arrived in March) is a special issue with many articles on how to find information about Civil War soldiers, both Union and Confederate, and tells what is available on-line, and what is still to be found on microfilms and in the archives. They even tell you how to get a tombstone for your soldier who never got one. There are also city guides on how to do research in St. Louis, MO, and Richmond, VA.

Someone might be interested to know that the Genealogical Society of Finland (*Genealogiska Samfundet i Finland*) publishes a journal, called *Genos*, which is now in its 82<sup>nd</sup> volume. *Genos* has usually one or two articles in Swedish, but most of the contents are in Finnish. Since a year back they now have little summaries in English, but not any longer in Swedish.

The journal *Sweden & America* (formerly *The Bridge*) is published by the Sweden America Center in Karlstad, Sweden, now in cooperation with Swedish Council of America. The issue 1/2011 has a column by Lars Nordström, a long article on Birger Sandzén, with many nice pictures, by Ron Michael, and on Nils Peter Persson a.k.a. William H. Parsons, who ended up in jail for fraud, by Jeanne Rollberg.



# Interesting Web Sites

All links tested in  
March 2011 and  
should work

*The Brogårdh collections of folklife pictures from Southern Sweden:*

<http://www.bgsamlingen.se/search.php>

*Illinois Ancestors Tombstone Project:* <http://www.illinoisancestors.org/cemphotos/main.php>

*Copenhagen police records:* <http://www.politietsregisterblade.dk/index.php?lang=en>

*American people of Swedish descent:*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:American\\_people\\_of\\_Swedish\\_descent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Swedish_descent)

*Familysearch on Youtube:* <http://www.youtube.com/familysearch>

*Pictures of churches all over Sweden (in Swedish):* <http://www.kyrkokartan.se/>

*Swedish Cultural Center (of the Pacific Northwest):* <http://www.swedishculturalcenter.org/>

*Flags of every country:* <http://chartsbin.com/view/554>

*Genealogy in Top Chef (cooking program):*

<http://rootsandrables.blogspot.com/2011/03/top-chef-genealogist-megan-smolenyak.html>

*New projects on FamilySearch:* [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/FamilySearch\\_Indexing\\_Updates](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/FamilySearch_Indexing_Updates)

*National Genealogical Society Videos:* <http://www.youtube.com/user/NGSGenealogy>

*All along the Småland coast:* <http://www.sjofararkusten.se/inenglish/index.html>

*Minnesota Discovery Center (Iron Range History):* <http://www.mndiscoverycenter.com/>

*Historical Statistics:* <http://www.historicalstatistics.org/>

*The SwedGen Tour 2011:* <http://www.lilleskogen.se/>

*American Civil War Homepage:* <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/>

*Civil War Trust (battlefields etc.):* <http://www.civilwar.org/>

*National Index of Swedish Photographers (in Swedish):* <http://nfr.nordiskamuseet.se/search.aspx>

*Information on the expansion of the ASI in Minneapolis:*

[http://www.americanswedishinst.org/ASI/Campus\\_Expansion.html](http://www.americanswedishinst.org/ASI/Campus_Expansion.html)

*Gammelgården in Scandia, MN:* <http://www.gammelgardenmuseum.org/>

*The Swedish film archive:* <http://www.filmarkivet.se/sv/English/>

*The Hunt Hill Swedish summer camp:*

<http://hunthill.org/experience-hunt-hill/swedish-immersion-camp/>

*Swedish tourist information:* <http://www.smorgasbord.se/>

*Swedish regional archives:* <http://www.riksarkivet.se>

*Rötterbokhandeln:* <http://shop.genealogi.se/shop/default.aspx?lng=ENG&cur=SEK>

**All the above web links will be found as clickable links on  
[www.etgenealogy.se/sag.htm](http://www.etgenealogy.se/sag.htm)**

# 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.



## Nameless couple from Arvika

This picture of a young couple was found in a flea market in the Minneapolis area, and the only clue to their identity is that the photo was taken in Arvika (Värml.).

The photographer Amelie Rydberg has been identified as Amalia Rydberg, born in 1862 in Arvika, and she started her studio in 1892, so this photo must have been taken at the earliest that year.

Looking at their dress, it might be more of an engagement picture and not a wedding picture.

Any information is most welcome!

Mariann Tibblin, 2615 Park Ave., Apt #508, Minneapolis, MN 55407-1046.

E-mail <m-tibl@umn.edu>

Or the SAG editor at <sag@etgenealogy.se>

1301

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## Send queries to SAG! Everything is not online!

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### An unusual name



The above death notice was found in a collection of old newspaper clippings, called the *Kugelberg Collection*. It is a DVD, produced by the *Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*.

The deceased is a little girl who died at the age of 1 year 4 months and 18 days in the year 1896. She had three given names, *Irma Helena Ant-*

*verpia*, and it is the last name which is most unusual.

The solution was found in the death notice for her father, Sven Olof Strömbom, who died in 1901 Feb. 20. It turned out that he was a sea captain, and that his ship was the steamer *Saga*, which sailed regularly on the trade route from Gävle, Sweden, to Antwerp, Belgium. It seems like he enjoyed being in Antwerp, so he made up the name for his new little daughter.

It is not found in the 1900 Swedish Census, so this little girl was probably the only one with that name.

### A Swedish camp

There is a small nonprofit nature center, Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, in Northern Wisconsin.

They have many programs open to the public, and among those there is one called “På svenska: Adult Swedish Language and Culture Immersion” during the period of Sunday, June 12 – Friday, June 17.

You will receive instruction in how to cook a number of popular Swedish foods. You will be exposed to modern and not so modern Swedish culture, history, and politics. And of course, you will be challenged to learn all you can about the culture you love.

See link on p. 30

# The Last Page

## Dear friends,

At last! The Spring is definitely on its way even to Sweden, after a long and boring winter.

It has been a perfect time to stay indoors and do genealogy, and now with online resources like *Arkiv Digital* and *SVAR*, it has felt like it is less necessary to go to the archives. But that is wrong, at a *landsarkiv* (regional archive) only about 6% are church records, which means that there are about 94% of its contents that are of potential interest to genealogists.

Those archives can be tax records, military rolls, court minutes, probates, diocesan chapter (*domkapitel*) records, county government records (*länsstyrelsen*), and much, more that probably never will be digitized. So

to put flesh on the ancestral skeleton, you might have to go to the archives. You can find information on the Swedish archives on the *Riksarkivet* web site, see p. 30.

Summer is not that far off, and for your trip to Sweden, there is a good web site that you can study. Not surprisingly it is called *Smörgåsbord!* See page 30.

Here you can search for a specific place or event or many variations. For instance most communities have their own musical festival or some special week that has many events of various kinds.

This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War. We have already in this issue an article about a Swedish

young man who took part in the war on the Union side. If you have a story about other Swedes affected by the war, send your stories to SAG, and in this way preserve your part of the history of the war.



Here is the beloved bright blue Blåsippa, an early spring flower.

Till next time!  
Elisabeth Thorsell

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SAG  
Workshop  
*Salt Lake City*  
18 – 24 Sept.  
2011 !



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 knowledgeable 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>. Don't be late to sign up! The 2010 workshop was full in May.

# 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]).

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

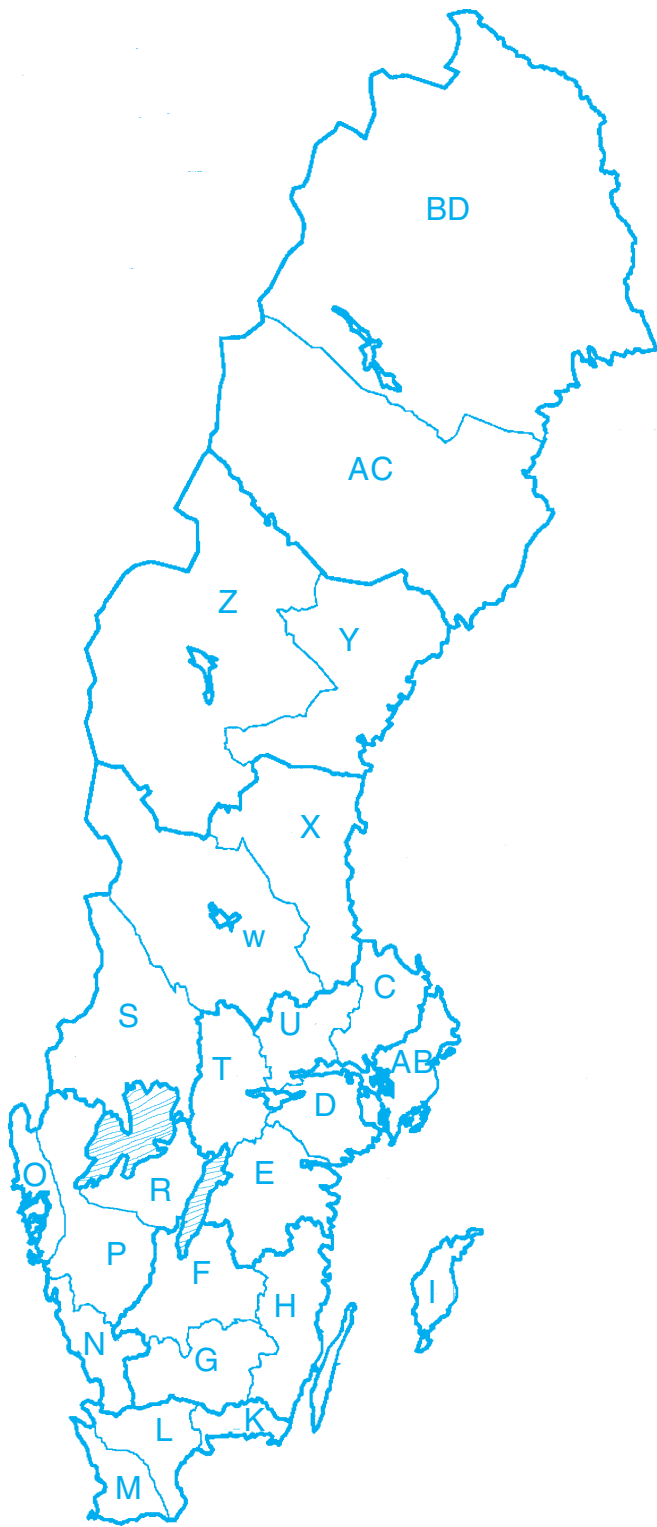
**Table 2.** Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

Län ( <i>County</i> )	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>	Län ( <i>County</i> )	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Blek.	K	Stockholm	Stock.	Sthm.	AB
Dalarna <sup>a</sup>		Dlrn.	W	Södermanland	Söd.	Södm.	D
Gotland	Gotl.	Gotl.	I	Uppsala	Upps.	Upps.	C
Gävleborg	Gävl.	Gävl.	X	Värmland	Värm.	Vrml.	S
Halland	Hall.	Hall.	N	Västerbotten	Vbn.	Vbtn.	AC
Jämtland	Jämt.	Jmtl.	Z	Västernorrland	Vn.	Vnrl.	Y
Jönköping	Jön.	Jkpg.	F	Västmanland	Väst.	Vstm.	U
Kalmar	Kalm.	Kalm.	H	Västra Götaland <sup>c</sup>		Vgöt.	O
Kronoberg	Kron.	Kron.	G	Örebro	Öre.	Öreb.	T
Norrbottn	Norr.	Nbtn.	BD	Östergötland	Ög.	Östg.	E
Skåne <sup>b</sup>		Skån.	M				

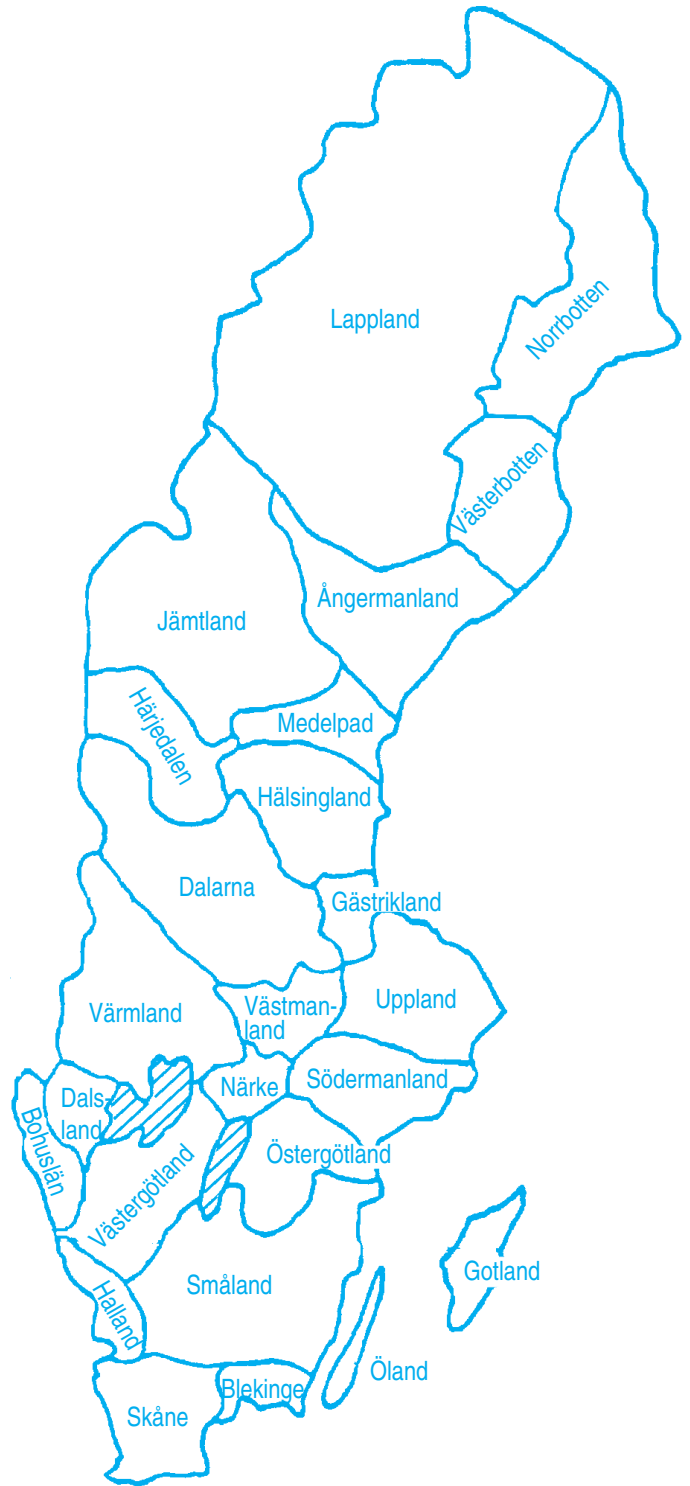
**a** formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

**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*).