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Cover picture:
This picture shows the new premises of the Swedish Foundation’s Swedish Immigrant Museum in Stratford, Iowa. See article on page 16.

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A gigantic archival project is finished
– a unique treasure trove of old maps is online

BY BENGT OLOF KÄCK

The archives of the Lantmäteriet – the Swedish mapping, cadastral, and land registration authority, are now online. They contain about three million maps and some 70 million descriptive texts. The time frame for the archives is from 1630 until today.

After almost ten years of development of programs and a massive scanning of documents, the project is now finished, one of the largest digitization projects ever done in Sweden.

The digital version of Lantmäteriet archives has been entered into a database which is accessible online. Everything in the database is open to the public, from the 1600s up to 1928, in the search service Historiska Kartor (historical maps) on the web site of the Lantmäteriet.

The digitization, besides facilitating the surveyor’s work also in a considerable way, has also made local historical and genealogical research possible to do from the office or from home. The archives of the Lantmäteriet are special in that they focus on local history. They give information on the history of the parishes and the villages, and even on individual farms. The online version of the archives of the Lantmäteriet is a fantastic asset for everyone that wishes to research their home and their family.

Historical background – archives from the 1600s

The operations of the Lantmäteriet during the centuries have produced several different archives. The oldest is the archive of the Board of the Surveyor’s Office (Lantmäteristyrelsen). It was started in 1628 when King Gustavus Adolphus appointed the cartographer Anders Bure to make a systematic survey and mapping of all Swedish villages. This work went on during the entire 17th century and into the 18th, and is considered the start of the Swedish Lantmäteriet.

The result of this first geometric mapping, the Geometric Ground-rent book (geometriska jordeboken), became a national treasure of maps that in the beginning was kept in the royal palace in Stockholm. When a special building of the Lantmäteriet located by Kungsträdgården was finished in the late 1600s, the maps were moved there and thus were spared from damage during the big fire at the Stockholm royal palace in 1697.

In this archive are also kept the renovations, that is, the copies of the most important operations of the Lantmäteriet in the country. In this archive one can find copies of the redistribution of land maps, the stor-skifte (the division of common grounds into distinct lots), the laga skifte (a later form of redistribution), and other larger operations.

In a class of its own are the archives of the local departments of the Lantmäteriet (Lantmäterimynäigheternas arkiv). These archives were normally kept in the residential cities of the county (län), cities like Linköping, Falun, or Karlstad. These archives contains maps and minutes.

The old house of the Lantmäteristyrelsen, close to Kungsträdgården in Stockholm.
from all the surveying operations from the end of the 1600s until today.

These archives have a special interest for family and local history researchers as they contain the full records from the era of the huge redistributions of land in Sweden that started in the 1700s and lasted into the 1900s.

This is where we find the original maps from all storskiften and laga skiften. These skiften changed the look of the landscape in a major way, and the maps and minutes give very important information about the local history of Sweden. The maps were drawn in ink and then colored in various colors to show the nature of the various fields and forests. They could be very different in size, from a couple of square feet to small letter-sized maps.

These archives have documentation that is still valid in court today when it comes to disputes concerning real estate. Other documents are informative about historical and cultural aspects regarding the cultivation, building, and development in general in the local history of Sweden.

Besides the copy of the important surveying operations that were sent to the King or rather to the archives in Stockholm, another copy was also made that was given to the landowners or the village. Many of these documents have been destroyed over the years, but many are still to be found in byakistor (village chests) around the country.

The general mapping of the country that has been done since the 1900s is kept in the archives of the Rikets allmänna kartverk (General Mapping Office of the Realm). The best-known maps are the Haradskartorna (economic maps from the late 1800s), Generalstabskartan (maps from the office of the military chief of staff), the modern Ekonomiska kartan (large scale maps), and Topografiska kartan (the topographical maps).

Digitization

The reasons for digitizing the archives are mainly three: to make the daily work for the surveyors more effective, to lessen the wearing out of the old originals, and to make the material more accessible. After several trial processes, technics and methods for scanning have been developed that yield a good result.

The experiences of using the maps online have been very satisfactory. The readability of the maps and documents on screen has been very good, and the search time for maps is very short.
This is a map of the fields of the village Baggården in Nordmaling parish, in northern Ångermanland, Västernorrland län, made in 1775. Each farmer has a letter to his farm, and the same letter is seen on his different pieces of land. To the left is the lake Baggårdsjön, and to the north is the common grounds of the village (utmark), and to the south the next village starts.

This map was made for the first big redistribution of land (stor-skiftet) and there is also a description of the properties, and how the various fields were evaluated. This will be found on p. 8. BUT no transcription or translation in this issue of SAG! It will appear in the next one.
After digitizing, the original maps were moved. All the archives of the Lantmäterimyndigheterna are now kept in the regional archive (landsarkivet) in Härnösand. The archives of the Lantmäteristyrelsen and Rikets Allmänna Kartverk were moved in 2008 to the Riksarkivet (National Archives). Left in the hands of the Lantmäteriet are now just the digital versions of everything.

**Increased access to the archives**

The archives of the Lantmäteriet have great value as a source of historical knowledge. Of special interest is the fact that the archives contains large scale records, village by village, or farm by farm, which show how the land was divided, how it was used, and what buildings there were.

The records of the Lantmäteriet tell in detail where the ancestors lived and what land they farmed. From notes in the minutes there can often be found little details about the life of the common farmer during various epochs of our history.

The archives were accessible also in the old days, but required a trip to the right office and that someone had the knowledge to find the maps that interested the researcher. In reality this made it difficult for the lay researchers to use them for local historical research, and they were also seldom used by academic researchers.

The digitization is a revolution in the ease of accessing the records. Online, on the Lantmäteriet web site, there are two versions. One, called ArkivSök, is the full version that is geared towards professional researchers that have a subscription. ArkivSök can be found at many companies, institutions, and authorities all over the country.

The other version is called Historiska Kartor and is open free to the public. Anybody can look at maps and documents archived in 1929 and before. Through an e-shop it is possible to buy copies of interesting maps and documents for a low fee.

The new free accessibility has already shown good results. The Historiska Kartor has already had almost 40,000 visitors per month, even though it was opened not long ago. That is more than ten times the number of visitors to the actual archives. The number of items that are opened during a year will be around 2 million as compared to about 200,000 at the start of the digitization.

The possibility of using old maps and documents via the internet leads to a huge increase in the use of the archives. It means both an effective help to people working with real estate, and also makes it much easier for people in Sweden and abroad to find information and obtain knowledge about the local Swedish history, and a better understanding of life in past generations. This archival project has become an important part of the Swedish cultural heritage. The map in the computer tells the story of the local heritage area.
“Historical Maps” on www.lantmateriet.se for Swedish-American genealogy

- The archives of Lantmäteriet contain maps and documents from 1630 onwards.
- The archives show – village by village – for which purpose land was used, how it was split up into properties, where buildings were located, and who owned and lived in these properties at that moment. They are therefore of great importance for Swedish-American genealogists searching for their Swedish roots.
- Local history societies and genealogists in Sweden have found great joy and benefits of the service “Historical Maps.” Now this possibility exists also for Swedish-Americans.
- In order to view the maps, the “DjVu” browser plugin must be installed on your computer – it’s an open source software.
- The online service is in English, but the documents are in Swedish.
- Tips on how you can search: look at “About Historical Maps – Search Tips.”
- Through the e-service you can download maps and documents for SEK150 for a digital dossier, all pages including map(s).
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!

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
The 2011 Nils William and Dagmar Olsson scholars

1. Adam Hjorthén, Stockholm
who writes in his application “My research project has the working title Commemorating Presence: Swedish-American Jubilees in Transnational Perspective, 1938–1996. Several of the Swedish-American jubilees that constitute the focus of the study have had their center in the Midwest, and in particular Illinois. In order to enable the vital research that needs to be done at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, as well as numerous other archives in the Quad-Cities area, I hereby submit my application for the Dagmar and Nils William Olsson Research Fellowship.

“During the twentieth century, Sweden and the United States mutually celebrated a number of jubilees. These commemorations were bilaterally organized, performed on both sides of the Atlantic, with participating groups and organizations from national, regional, and local levels.

“The commemorations celebrated the seventeen-century New Sweden colony and the 19th century Swedish mass migration to America. These historical events have been the most frequently recounted in Swedish and American cultural relations. By producing historical collective memories, the jubilees have manifested good relations between Sweden, the Swedish-American diaspora, and the United States of America.

“The main purpose of this research project is to analyze how transnational collective memories have been produced and constructed in bilateral Swedish-American jubilees. Memories of New Sweden and the Great Migration have united a cluster of actors. The dissertation will therefore discuss the negotiations surrounding the common history, how and why different actors found the historical events relevant, how the narrative about New Sweden and the Great Migration were related to, and interpreted in the light of, each other, and which consequences this had for the topography of the collective memories. An important dimension of the analysis regards how the narratives about Swedish colonialists and immigrants have been constructed in relation to explicit narratives and implicit assumptions about Native Americans.

“More specifically, this research project will focus on four commemorations: the 1938 Delaware Tercentenary, the 1948 Swedish Pioneer Centennial, the 1988 “New Sweden ’88” and the 1996 Swedish Immigration Jubilee. These have been the most large-scaled and widely observed commemorations.”

2. Katrin Leineweber, Kiel, Germany
Ms. Leineweber writes in her application: “The title of my PhD thesis will be “The integration of Swedish immigrants in Seattle / King County since 1850.” Its main focus will be on the political, cultural, and social history of a Swedish community. In particular, it will concentrate on the issue of socio-cultural change among Swedish immigrants in an American city on the U.S. Pacific coast from the end of the 19th century to the end of the Second World War.

“Since the U.S.A. has always been a land of immigration, it is no wonder, that the international research has extensively covered that topic over the last century. In the last 60 years intensive research has been undertaken in Sweden as well as in the U.S.A., but with a quite narrow approach. These studies deal with the period of mass immigration and the states in the Midwest (Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota), notably its agrarian sector and some cities like Chicago, Bishop Hill, and Minneapolis. Parts of the history of Swedish immigrants in the U.S.A. have already been well-documented, but many areas are still lacking research.

“One of them is covered by this PhD thesis. My research topic on the integration of Swedish immigrants into both American society in general and the urban environment has been more or less neglected, especially regarding coastal areas. Harald Runblom, for instant, has published an article in The Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly (Runblom 1979) where he suggested that the U.S. coasts and the industrial areas would constitute excellent fields of research.

“However, not much has changed in the last three decades. This seems to be strange given that the Swedish immigrants were among the pioneers of Washington territory. Seattle is a young city (founded in 1869) where Swedes settled from the beginning, and as such it is an excellent example to determine the structural models of integration and the urban life of Swedish immigrants.”
Handwriting Example XXVIII

There will be no transcription or translation of this text in this issue; it will be found in the next one.

This text describes the redistribution of land as shown on the map on p. 3.
Update on the ongoing work at the American Swedish Institute (ASI)

The major building work at the ASI started in April 2011, and has shown progress.

To cite the special “Campus Expansion Newsletter” (to which you can subscribe on the ASI web site):

“The month of May brought many changes to the ASI campus. With the museum closed to visitors since May 2, the hustle and bustle around here has changed from crowds of visitors enjoying exhibits and programs to Adolphson & Peterson’s construction crew busily readying the campus for work on the Nelson Cultural Center and Mansion renovations. Late last week, work began in earnest as the heavy machinery moved in.

“Although from the start of the project our goal was to relocate the white duplex that stood at 2620 Park Avenue, it ended up not being feasible. Instead of a standard wrecking ball demolition, however, the house was deconstructed in a way that salvages for reuse or recycling between 85% and 90% of the structure. The majority of those reclaimed materials were brought to the Reuse Center and are already finding new uses in other homes and buildings. This method is more common on the East and West coasts of the U.S. where landfill costs are significantly higher than in the Midwest.

“Work is happening inside the Turnblad Mansion as well - and not just in the spaces on the lower level that are being renovated. After the “Swedish Life in the Twin Cities” exhibit closed in April, everything was removed from the third floor ballroom, which now appears almost as it did originally – for the first time in 15 years. In the future, plans are to use this space as a venue for programs and events.”

Timeline for 2011

**July 2011**
* Drilling of geothermal wells begins
* Structural steel erection
* Masonry at elevator and stair tower

**August 2011**
* Exterior framing and curtain walls

**September 2011**
* Exterior wall work
* Begin interior finishes in Mansion

**October 2011**
* Link between Mansion and Nelson Cultural Center in place
* Mansion renovation interior finishes complete

**November 2011**
* Turnblad Mansion re-opens
* Exterior of Nelson Cultural Center is enclosed

**December 2011**
* Elevator installation
The Disastrous Red River Campaign

The Red River Campaign is a little known Union defeat that is best described as a fiasco. The object of the campaign was to capture Shreveport, Louisiana, and gain control of the Red River which would lead to the capture of east Texas. The plan called for Union General Banks to lead an army up the Red River, accompanied by the Union Navy. General Steele would march south from Little Rock and both forces would converge on Shreveport. However, it didn’t quite work out that way. Banks was defeated by a much smaller Confederate force in two separate battles and retreated back down the Red River. General Steele’s force had an even more difficult time.

The 43rd Illinois departed Little Rock on March 23rd as part of General Steele’s forces. From the very beginning things did not portend well. The Arkansas countryside that they marched through was sparsely populated with rugged hills alternating with pine barrens and swamps. It was described as a howling wilderness. What few roads there were became quagmires with a small amount of rain. Because of his concern about supplying his troops, Steele immediately put his men on half rations.

On April 2nd the 43rd Illinois skirmished with Confederate cavalry at Okolona, Arkansas. From now on, Steele’s column was under continual harassment by Confederate cavalry. On April 10th, as part of the battle of Prairie d’Ane, the 43rd Illinois and 40th Iowa, supported by artillery, attacked a Confederate fortified position and drove them from the field. While on the march to Camden, Arkansas, April 12th through the 14th, the 43rd Illinois was involved in several skirmishes with Confederate troops.

Confederate harassment drove Steele to entrench his troops at Camden. He was now desperately short of supplies and his men were half-starved. Steele sent out a large wagon train to forage the countryside. Confederate forces destroyed this wagon train. Over 400 men and 198 wagons were lost. Another wagon train bringing supplies from Pine Bluffs did get through to Steele’s position. However, on April 18th during the return trip to Pine Bluffs, this wagon train was also attacked by the Confederates who defeated and captured the three regiments of Union troops guarding the wagon train. Over 1,300 men were lost.

Retreat

General Steele was now in an untenable position. He still had inadequate supplies and no way of obtaining any. After dark on April 26th the 43rd Illinois, along with all Steele’s troops, quietly abandoned Camden and began the long retreat back to Little Rock. The 43rd Illinois had the unenviable position of being part of the rear guard of the army. On April 29th the 43rd Illinois repulsed three separate advances by the Confederates. On April 30th the Confederates attacked in force while Steele was crossing his forces at the Saline River which became known as the Battle of Jenkin’s Ferry. The 43rd Illinois, as part of the rear guard, was in the thick of it. Fortunately, the Union forces had a strong defensive position and the Confederate attack was disjointed. The Confederates were repulsed with heavy losses.

Parenthetically, there is a family story in which Andrew witnessed a Union artillery unit targeting a Confederate officer. Allegedly, this targeting resulted in the decapitation of the officer. If this story is not apocryphal, it is possible that it occurred at Jenkin’s Ferry, since the 43rd Illinois was brigaded with an artillery unit and fought a defensive battle. However, it could also have occurred on many other occasions.

In the aftermath of this battle the
Union forces continued their retreat. The retreat was ignominious. The half-starved Union troops left much of their equipment strewn behind them as they struggled to gain the safety of the Little Rock fortifications which they finally reached on May 3rd.

Amazingly, it appears that not one of the Swedish boys was killed or wounded during the Red River Campaign. Although it is clear that they were forced to endure great hardship during this expedition.

Detailed to the Pioneer Corps and the End of the War
For the remainder of the war the 43rd Illinois and Andrew Engstrom were garrisoned at Little Rock. On July 1, 1864, Andrew was detailed to the Pioneer Corps.

The Pioneer Corps was essentially an engineering unit. It was utilized by the army to build roads, bridges, and fortifications. Although Andrew never fought again in a pitched battle, he and the other Swedish soldiers faced constant danger. Arkansas was a center of guerilla activity. Acts of sabotage and ambushes were routinely conducted by Rebel guerillas. However, there is no record indicating that any of the Swedes became casualties resulting from Rebel guerilla activity.

On March 7, 1865, Andrew returned to Company A of the 43rd Illinois where he remained until he was mustered out of the army. After the war was over the regiment remained on duty at Little Rock. Andrew was admitted into the Little Rock General Hospital, which was located at St. John’s College, on August 12, 1865. He had previously been in the regimental hospital. Andrew’s pension application indicates that he had become sick in July. The records indicate he was admitted for “remit fever.” On September 20th he was returned to duty.5

On November 30, 1865, Andrew and all the remaining Swedes in Company A were mustered out of the service at Little Rock. They were transported to Springfield, Illinois. There they received their final pay on December 14th and returned home. Of the original 99 men in the Galesburg Light Guards, one had deserted, 26 were discharged for disability, and 20 had died.6

Aftermath of the War
In the 1870 Illinois federal census, Andrew and his brother Peter, who had also served in the war with the 148th Illinois Regiment, were again residing with their parents in Henry County, Illinois.

In Andrew’s military pension records it indicates that he married Christina Lenstrom (also shown as Lendstrom) the same year. Andrew’s pension records reflect that he moved to Republic County, Kansas, in 1879. The 1880 Kansas federal census has Andrew and Christina with two children residing and farming in Republic County. The pension records reveal that Andrew subsequently lived in various locations in Kansas as well as Nance County, Nebraska. The pension records reflect that any of the Swedes became casualties resulting from Rebel guerilla activity.

Andrew’s pension was based on the illness he was hospitalized for in 1865 at Little Rock. According to his declaration he was hospitalized for three months. He had originally contracted cholera which was followed by typhoid fever. Andrew further claimed that although he had recovered from these diseases, his lungs had been permanently damaged which left him unable to perform manual labor without great difficulty. There were affidavits filed on behalf of Andrew supporting his claim.7 However, it should be noted that a significant number of Civil War veterans applied for a disability pensions and not all were valid.

Piecing together the remainder of Andrew’s life has been difficult. I was unable to locate any of his direct descendants. Perhaps this article will cause one to come forward.

However, I was able to locate descendants of his brother Olof, who had knowledge of Andrew. At some point Andrew became estranged from his wife. At the time of his death he was residing by himself in Genoa, Nebraska. His wife, as well as his three adult children, were living in Kansas.8

Edwin Engstrom, a descendant of Olof, related that Andrew had become an alcoholic and led a dysfunctional life. Andrew, who had been living near his brother Olof in Nebraska, had become a concern for the family. Consequently, they placed him in a Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home. Unfortunately, Andrew did not like it there and returned to Genoa, Nebraska.

It was there that he died on January 27, 1915, resulting from a fire which his obituary opined was caused by Andrew’s pipe igniting his bedclothes.9

The end
Andrew, a Swedish immigrant farm boy, had left his home in 1861 to fight for his adopted homeland. During the four years that he served in the army he had endured horrendous combat as well as almost constant exposure to the elements and disease. At the
end of his service he contracted two of these diseases which appear to have had an adverse effect on his life. Did the war destroy his health? Did he become a dysfunctional alcoholic due to what is now called posttraumatic stress disorder? Perhaps his life was not shaped by his war experiences, but it seems unlikely. What we do know is that Andrew’s sacrifices, along with the sacrifices of thousands of other young Swedes, helped to preserve the Union and end slavery in America.

Notes:
2 Joiner, Gary, Through the Howling Wilderness; The 1864 Red River Campaign and Union Failure in the West, Knoxville, 2006.
3 Ibid.
5 Andrew Engstrom’s Compiled Military Service Record, National Archives and Records Administration.
7 Andrew Engstrom’s Compiled Military Pension Record, National Archives and Records Administration.
8 Ibid.
9 Unknown Nebraska newspaper, 1915.

Andrew’s sons at their father’s gravesite in October 1924. (Paul D. Sward collection)

Headstone for Andrew Engstrom in Valley View Cemetery, Genoa, NE. (Findagrave)

The author: Paul D. Sward
E-mail <wikblom@yahoo.com>
Bits & Pieces

Last soldier from WWI has died
As mentioned in SAG 1/2011, p. 20, the last U.S. soldier from WWI, Frank Buckley, died 27 February 2011. Now he has been followed in death by the last WWI combat veteran, Claude Choules, who died 5 May 2011, at the ripe old age of 110. Mr. Choules served in the Royal Navy and immigrated to Australia in the 1920s. (BBC News 5 May 2011)

The John Ericsson Day in Värmland
The inventor John Ericsson is celebrated in his hometown of Filipstad on July 30. There will be a ceremony at his mausoleum, and shortly afterwards a re-enactment of the Battle of Hampton Roads, which goes with a big bang! (The Bridge 2/11)

The 2nd Bridge Conference in Karlstad 2012
In 2006 there was a successful conference, The Bridge Conference, in Karlstad, Sweden, organized by the Sweden America Center and Swedish Council of America. Now plans are underway for a follow-up conference in Karlstad to be held next year, 12-15 September 2012. This is now in the planning stage, but as soon as more definite plans are made, SAG will write about it. (The Bridge, 2/11)

New Swedish Council Awards of Merit
At the meeting of Swedish Council in Portland, OR, in April 2011, the following deserving Swedish-Americans received the SCA Award of Merit: Judy Rust, Leif Rosqvist, Sandra Nelson Miller, Elisabeth Mendenhall, Lillian Johnson, Kristi Johnson-James, Jeff Klein, Ellen Jacobson, Alice Iverson, Lars Nordström, and Denver James. (SCA E-Update April 2011)

Kerstin Lane is the Swedish-American of the Year
Kerstin Lane of Chicago has been chosen by the Vasa Order of America as the Swedish-American of the Year for 2011. She is well-known for her involvement ever since 1977 with the Swedish American Museum Center in Chicago – for many years as the head of the museum. After retirement she continues to be active in many Swedish-American organizations. SAG adds its congratulations to the many that have already arrived!

The site of the Minnesota Day is changed
Minnesota Day has been celebrated in Växjö, Sweden, for many years, but now it is moving to a historical place in the vicinity. This year Minnesota Day will be held in Ljuder, the parish from which the fictional hero Karl Oskar Nilsson and his family and friends emigrated in Moberg’s novel “The Emigrants.” On Sunday August 14th the program starts with a church service in the Hembygdsparken, near the church, followed by a speech by photographer and poet Anders Johansson from Kalmar. The many little houses in the Hembygdsparken are reminders of the emigration period. (Emigranten 1/2011)

The Swedish National Archives and the Sweden America Center will cooperate
On 21 June 2011 an agreement was signed by the Swedish National Archives (Riksarkivet) and the Sweden America Center in Karlstad to cooperate on placing more documents concerning migration online on the Emiweb site, which will be a big help for all researchers. Link on p. 30

SAG on Facebook
SAG has now, at the end of June, 227 friends, and more are welcome! This is the easiest way to know how the work with the next SAG is going, or if the editor is just lying in her hammock.
Svenska Smedsläkter

We also publish the booklet series **Svenska Smedsläkter**, of which the first 20 booklets have been collected in two books with additions and corrections.


Normally we publish two **Svenska Smedsläkter** booklets each year and four issues of the member magazine **Smedsforskaren**, with articles, news, and advice for blacksmith research. Members also get price reductions on our other publications, i.e., CD:s/DVD:s and booklets that are published less regularly, containing articles about blacksmiths or blacksmith registers, all in Swedish.

Recently a CD was released with the title **Svenska Järnstämplar** (Swedish Iron Stamps). This CD has more than 2,700 pictures of the stamps that each forge or iron works (bruk) marked their produce with. There is also an index where one can find which bruk used which marks.

Together with the Walloon Society we have a free internet forum for questions, **Vallon- och smedsläktsforum**, and also a wikipedia containing mostly information about iron forges.

**Smedskivan**

(The Blacksmiths’ DVD)

**Smedskivan** is our best known publication, a DVD with the contents from our blacksmith database. The DVD needs no installation, you can open it with a web browser, Firefox for instance.

The seventh edition will be published this summer and contains about 210,000 persons, blacksmiths, and their families. Members will pay only 195 SEK for it, others 285.

**Membership information**

The membership fee is 100 SEK. Members abroad pay 160 SEK if they want **Smedsforskaren** on paper. Otherwise they get it e-mailed in PDF format, and only **Svenska Smedsläkter** on paper.

At our web site, [www.genealogi.se/smed](http://www.genealogi.se/smed) there is more information, also in English.
An example from the Smedskivan. The person at the top of the page is the great-great-grandfather of Edwin Eugene “Buzz” Aldrin, the second man on the moon. The line reads: Johan (Jan) Henrik, b. 1776 > Johan (Jan) Henrik, b. 1817 > Karl Johan, b. 1866 [immigrated in 1892 to the U.S.] > Edwin Eugene, b. 1896 > Edwin Eugene “Buzz,” b. 1930.

Blacksmiths from the Domnarvet ironworks in Dalarna. Photo from 1879 in the Jernkontoret Collection.
A trip to Swede Bend, Iowa
– a very Swedish area

BY DENNIS JOHNSON

It was a spur of the moment decision when my wife, LaVonne, and I decided to make the trip to Swede Bend, Iowa. We were enjoying our spring at Deer Lake in Northern Minnesota, and Swede Bend was about four hundred miles to the south. A chain of coincidences had led us to this decision to satisfy our curiosity about Swede Bend, including an opportunity to visit a cousin in nearby Fort Dodge, a visit to a brother in Minneapolis, and a chance to stop at IKEA in Minneapolis to replenish our supplies of flatbread, lingon preserves, coffee, and herring.

A Stenfelt pioneer
I had recently been sent a book about Swede Bend for review (see accompanying review in this issue) at the suggestion of Elisabeth Thorsell, SAG editor. In the course of giving the book a quick look before completing another book review, I noted in the lengthy list of names of pioneer settlers in Swede Bend two familiar names. The names that stood out among all the Andersons, Petersons, Johnsons, etc., were Adolf Steinfelt, born in 1839 in Fliseryd, Småland, and his wife Emily (or Emilia,) born nearby in Döderhult, in 1842. I called the names to the attention of my wife since her family name from Sweden is Stenfelt. (There are several spellings, including Steinfeldt, Stonefelt, Stonefeldt and Stonefelt).

The family is descended from soldier Georg Stenfelt, who fought in all the campaigns of King Karl XII and was later ennobled in 1719. Most of Georg’s children lived in Småland and the family continues to hold a reunion in Sweden every third year. Finding Adolf and Emily in our family records, we were able to confirm them as members of the Stenfelt family, descended from another son of Georg Stenfelt than was my wife. As far as is known, Adolf was the first Stenfelt to come to the U.S. from Sweden. Adolf and Emily arrived in Swede Bend in 1863 and had twelve children.

Family records indicate that they had first lived for three years in Henderson Grove, IL, and their first three children were born there.

The Swedish Museum in Iowa
When I wrote to Ruby Erickson Hendrickson, chairman and a co-founder of the Swedish Foundation of Iowa’s ‘Swede Bend’ Settlement, Inc., in Stratford, IA, to thank her for sending me the book, I noted what we had discovered. She was energized by this to send us more information about the Swedish Foundation’s Swedish Immigrant Museum and news of an open house scheduled for the weekend of May 27-29, thus prompting our trip to Iowa to see the museum and learn more about the Swede Bend settlement. (Ruby lives in California, but returns to Stratford several times a year for special events and to continue to build the collection, with the aid of several local volunteers.)

Sunday was the day of our visit to the museum in Stratford. We met Ruby there at about 1:00 and she gave us a personal tour of their unique collection and building. The Swedish Foundation was founded in 1999, and the Swedish Immigrant Museum was opened in 2003, housed in a former gas station. The rent proved costly, however, and the museum was recently moved to its own building at 819 Goldsmith St., just off Main Street, in Stratford. This early 1890s building had originally served as a bank, then the post office, until it was moved to its present location. It has less than 1,000 sq. ft. but does manage to house a sizable collection, mostly dedicated to recording the history of the settlement of the Swede Bend area and the settlers who pioneered the area. It does also have materials about migration from Sweden and about the old country, plus a number of objects which date to the 1845-85 mass emigration and settlement days. The museum’s theme is “Iowa Swedes, 1845-1945,” with the purpose of preserving the history and telling the story of Iowa’s Swedish immigrants, along with the historical events and innovations that impacted their lives—directly and indirectly—during this fascinating one-hundred-year period. Once the museum began, it quickly became the focus of the local history and many descendants of the original settlers donated records and objects for the collection.

A small town
Stratford is one of hundreds of small towns in Iowa which grew to serve the needs of the early farmers in the area. Founded in 1881, it is now off the beaten track, not on the main roads, but easily accessible. The population was about 750 people in 2000. There is a two-block-long main street of small shops and businesses which
is little changed from the original, and there are several large grain storage bins, a few churches, and many houses of various ages. It is a very quiet town, most newer businesses having gravitated to the larger towns some 20-30 miles away, among them Webster City, Fort Dodge, and Boone.

Stratford is central to the Swede Bend settlement, in a big bend of the Des Moines river, nearby. Most of the street names are traced to the railroad surveyors, who were English. The main street is Shakespeare Ave., and many local streets are named after English writers: Milton, Tennyson, Goldsmith running east-west, and Avon, Byron, Burns, and Moore running north-south, as does Shakespeare Street. The town itself was named after Stratford, PA, which in turn was named after Stratford-upon-Avon in England.

A tour of the area
After visiting the museum, we took a little driving tour around the Swede Bend area, and were able to locate the farm once owned by Adolf and Emily Steinfeldt just south of Stratford. The original house is no longer there, it was destroyed by a tornado some years ago. We also found in Stratford a home once owned by one of Adolf and Emily's children. In the small township cemetery near their farm, we found the gravestones of Adolf and Emily and two of their children. On recommendation of Ruby, we visited the home of local resident Carol Sachrissin Larson, who operates a bed-and-breakfast at the rear of her home where she has restored the original Swedish settlers' farmhouse with period furnishings and equipment. Guests can stay in this farmhouse if they wish. Carol is a museum supporter and hosts other related events in her home.

The farmland in the area is among the best in the U.S., and its farms produce record crops of corn, soybeans, and a few other crops. It is level and generally well-drained and the fields are interrupted only by the valley of the Des Moines River and its smaller tributaries. The first settlers kept to the tree lines and wooded areas, but the open prairies proved to be even better for cropland, once the pioneers had the means to plow the tall grass of the prairies. The original farms of from 80 to 200 acres are often marked by one or two acre woodlots, sometimes with an old farmhouse or barn still standing. Today the farms are much larger due to mechanization and range upwards of 1,000 acres or more.

Newer, prosperous-looking homes and storage buildings line the local roads. Before electrification, farm windmills pumped water from wells for each farm, but these are now gone. Most roads are now paved, with gravel roads occurring mainly on section lines for access to individual farms. The farm population is greatly reduced from the 19th century due both to many fewer households and to today's much smaller families.

Thanks to the initiatives of local residents, most of whom are descendants of the original settlers, Stratford and its museum has joined the many other towns who now celebrate their Swedish heritage and the history of their community. Although people of many other nationalities settled Iowa in the 19th century, the people pioneering the townships in Swede Bend were predominately Swedish, and their descendants today continue to make up a large majority of the local population.

Dennis and LaVonne (Stenfelt) Johnson.

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Dennis is, of course, the indefatigable book review editor for SAG. He and LaVonne also work hard for the Genealogy Club of the American-Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia. Thank you both!
An American baseball team with roots in Västergötland

BY BRITA BUTLER-WALL

In the 1910's a baseball team made history in the state of Washington. Not only because of their scoring record, but because they were all brothers.

According to a local newspaper, “The nine Wall brothers developed into one of the champion baseball teams of the Northwest. So unusual a spectacle was this family in its baseball career that they were soon touring the larger centers of the country and beating their opponents with regularity.”

And the Wall boys were 100% Swedish. Their grandparents, Hedvig Helgesson and Niclas Wall emigrated from Sweden to a homestead in Wisconsin, where their mother Emily was born. Emily married her first cousin, Swedish immigrant John Wall, and the family continued west to South Dakota and then on to the Pacific Northwest, where the nine sons formed a baseball team.

**Johannes Helgesson and Anna Olofspotter from Östad**

The boys’ great-great-grandfather was Johannes Helgesson, (born 25 July 1807 in Östad, Vägö), a tenant farmer (arrendator) from Östad parish, not far from Alingsås. This parish lies on the west side of Lake Mjörn, at the edge of the wilderness area of Risveden. Johannes Helgeson was one of the farmers who worked for Östad Säteri, a manor first mentioned in the year 1400, when such land was awarded to the minor nobility of Västergötland. In 1774 Niclas Sahlgren, a director of the East India Company in Göteborg, established the Östad Foundation, which operated Östad Orphanage (barnhus) from 1774 to 1945. Its mission was to “save the children of poor parents from misery and ruin, and through a suitable upbringing turn them into faithful workers in agriculture.”

On 19 June 1831, Johannes married Anna Olofspotter, (born 27 July 1809 in Östad) from the nearby village of Tån and brought her to his farm at Östad Säteri; there they had five children. In May of 1844, Johannes and Anna left for the nearby parish of Lena, where they owned a farm called Stommen. Most of his siblings also left the farm and became...
either servants or landless cottagers (backstugusittare).

In April of 1852 Johannes and Anna immigrated with their children to America, departing from Göteborg. With them went their farmhand Anders Thoresson, b. 1830 in Östad. The Helgesson household arrived in La Crosse County, Wisconsin, in 1852 and homesteaded at Sweden Coulee east of Holmen in 1853.

Hattie and Nicholas

Two years later, on July 12, 1855, their eldest daughter, Hedvig ‘Hattie’ Helgeson, married Nicholas Wall, in Sweden known as Niclas Eriksson Wall. He was born 13 April 1827 at Bögared Lillegård in Norska Skogsbygden parish, Kullings härad, Älvsborgs län, a son to the drummer Eric Wall, born 1788 Dec. 10 in Ör, Älvsborgs län, province of Dalsland, and his wife Cajsa Svensdotter, born 1795 March 16 in Färgelanda, Älvsborg län, province of Dalsland.

Although family lore says Nicholas was an apprentice to Johannes Helgesson, there is no such documentation in the Swedish church records. It is possible that Niclas met the Helgesson family on the journey to America.

When Niclas arrived in America, his name became Nicholas. He homesteaded 40 acres adjoining the Helgesson homestead and set up a blacksmith business. Nicholas and Hattie’s first house – two rooms and a loft – was made of logs, later enclosed in clapboard siding. Within a few years Nicholas bought a neighboring property and increased his holdings. Nicholas and Hattie had ten children – their eldest daughter was Emily Amanda, born in 1856.

Nicholas goes to war

In 1865, Nicholas Wall enlisted in the Union Army as a Wisconsin volunteer. At the age of 37 he served as a private in I Company, 44th Infantry regiment. His service record gives his coloring and height: “blue eyes, brown hair, sandy complexion, 5’9”. In a letter home to Hattie sent from Paducah, Kentucky on April 12, 1865, he tells his wife how the soldiers reacted at hearing that the Civil War had ended three days earlier:

“Now there was great joy here when we got the message for the second time that Lee and his army were captured. They all cheered, and shot a salute with the cannons so that the earth shook.”

An Indian scare

When Johannes was 58 or 59 years old, the family had an ‘Indian scare,’ according to a letter from Hattie’s brother:

“Can you remember when Swede Coulie [sic] had an Indian scare? It must have been in ’65 or ’66. I was not at home. They carried your grandfather [Johannes Helgeson] out of the house, and put him in a hole dug in the bluff north of the garden that had been used for a cellar, and the Bergs and the Sam Andisons loaded their chickens and pigs into wagons and headed for La Crosse. I never heard what your family done, but suppose you were scared stiff like all the rest.”

Life goes on

Johannes’s wife Anna Olofsdotter had died in 1862, and when Johannes died in 1878, Hattie inherited some of the Helgeson homestead. The property included a limestone quarry and stone crusher, sawmill, and blacksmith shop. By 1881 Nicholas and Hattie owned 360 acres at Half-Way Creek. They attended the Half-Way Creek Lutheran Church, and Nicholas served as school clerk and director, supervisor, and justice of the peace.

In 1882 Nicholas Wall died, at the age of 55, in an accident with runaway horses, and Hattie Helgeson died in 1916. They are buried near her parents at Helgeson cemetery,
Sweden Coulee, Holmen, Wisconsin, on land homesteaded by Johannes and Anna in 1853.

Most of their children stayed in Wisconsin, except two daughters who married and moved to Canada, and their oldest daughter Emily, who married immigrant John Wall.

**Johan August Wall from Horla**

Johan August Olausson Wall, or John Wall, as he was known in America, was born in Horla, Vägö, 1 June 1852 and came to the United States in 1871.\(^1\) His father was Olaus Eriksson, born 18 August 1818 in Nårunga and his wife Johanna Svensdotter, born 7 January 1826 in Horla. When checking this family closer, it turned out that Olaus was the older brother of Niklas Eriksson Wall.\(^1\) Olaus went to America in 1870 without telling anyone, and his wife and other children seems to have followed him in 1873.

In 1871, John settled in Onalaska, Wisconsin, near his relatives. In 1879 he married his first cousin, Emily Amanda Wall.

**Emily Amanda Wall, 1856–1920. Photo ca 1879.**

**John Wall, 1852–1910. Photo ca 1900.**

where they could homestead 160 acres. In Volga, in what is now South Dakota, they lived in a sod house (as late as the 1950s, a trace of that house was visible in the field). Between 1879 and 1896 Emily gave birth to nine boys – Jess, Alvin, Philip, Ted, Ansel, Oris, Ernest, Edgar, and Ray. Three years later, she gave birth to her last child — a girl, Alice.

In Dakota territory, the Wall family raised wheat and cattle, but the Panic of 1893 led to the Bank Crash of 1894. With drought and a bad eco-

**Map of Kullings and Ale härad in western Västergötland.**

**The Wall family in the Pacific Northwest**

John and the older boys took the train out west to Portland, Oregon – almost 2,000 miles — and later sent for Emily and the rest of the children. First, the family settled near Scappoose, Oregon, and made their living from fishing.

Soon they moved to southern Washington and settled on a homestead at Mt. Norway, near the town of Washougal on the Columbia River. According to descendant Bernard Wall, who farmed on Mt. Norway until the 1990s, the Wall Ranch was “160 acres of darn poor ground.”\(^12\)

With so many mouths to feed, times were tough for John and Emily Wall. At age 11 or 12, son Oris worked for room and board for a Danish-born farmer Jacob Jorgensen, whose farm was near a sawmill. In that job, Oris “chased a lot of cows on the sidehill toward the river.”\(^13\)

Like many Swedish immigrants, John Wall was both a farmer and carpenter. With the help of his older sons, he built a large farm house and barns. Above the woodshed they built a gymnasium, which attracted neighbors and friends to the Wall Ranch for frequent entertainment such as roller skating, basketball, and lively debates on the topics of the day.

**John and Emily Wall in the Dakota territory**

Soon after their marriage in March of 1879, John Wall and his pregnant wife Emily headed 300 miles west via horse and wagon for Dakota territory, where they could homestead 160 acres. In Volga, in what is now South Dakota, they lived in a sod house (as late as the 1950s, a trace of that house was visible in the field). Between 1879 and 1896 Emily gave birth to nine boys – Jess, Alvin, Philip, Ted, Ansel, Oris, Ernest, Edgar, and Ray. Three years later, she gave birth to her last child — a girl, Alice.

In Dakota territory, the Wall family raised wheat and cattle, but the Panic of 1893 led to the Bank Crash of 1894. With drought and a bad eco-

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In 1908 John Wall built a two-room schoolhouse on Mt. Norway which was used as a school at least five months of the year - from late fall to early spring. Students walked as far as two miles each way to attend. When the school was consolidated with another district in 1929, the building became a center for community picnics, dances, parties, and a literary society. According to family lore, the Wall brothers were energetic, progressive gentlemen and natty dressers, even wearing suits and hats to the Fourth of July picnics.

As young men, all nine Wall boys became loggers. They felled and hauled old growth timber in Lewis River country, sometimes working for Du Bois sawmill, a company operating out of Vancouver, Washington, that “set up dams along the Washougal River to catch logs which were sent downriver.” The work was dangerous – constructing trestles of logs to span ravines for the logging railroads, topping trees, climbing spar poles, riding 200-year-old logs in the mill pond or at the log boom near Woodland, Washington.

By 1905, Washington had become the leading state in lumber production, and in Clark County logging was an important industry, with 200,000 acres of timberland. Most of the timber was red and yellow fir, cedar, and hemlock. Many of the Wall boys were also engineers on logging railroads and “donkey engineers,” operating a steam-powered winch.

Besides logging, the Wall brothers seined salmon near Stevenson on the Columbia River. They took the nets out in boats and dragged them out of the water with horses. Once Oris helped land a sturgeon at Skamania that weighed 400-500 pounds. They sold the King salmon and other fish to canneries all along the river, canneries which shipped all over the world.

John Wall died in 1910 and Emily in 1920, both in Washougal. The Wall brothers competed as a team until 1922 when Phil died in a logging accident at age 38. All the boys stayed in Washington state, except Al and Ernest, who retired to Arizona and California, respectively.

After Oris died in 1952, his son Bernard continued to farm on Mt. Norway.
In 1994, Bernard and Florence Wall took their son David and his family to visit Östad säteri, and our daughters got to see where their great-great-great-great-grandparents had lived when they made the eventful decision to immigrate to America.

That ‘country’ does not mean nation, but probably Western Washington.

Source: Östad marriage records, volume C:4, picture 136. AD Online.

Moving-out records for Lena parish. Volume B:4, picture 159.

In America they spelled the name Helgeson.


Letter from Nicholas Wall to Hattie Wall, dated Paducah, Kentucky, April 12, 1865. Translated by B. Butler-Wall.

Letter from Theodore Helgesen to Hilma Wall, Denver, Colorado, May 6, 1929.


Thanks to Florence and Bernard Wall for sharing family photographs, documents, and stories, and for the family trip to Östad Säteri. Thanks also to earlier family history research done by Elvah Bratberg Ristinen, Dorothy Skogen Leon, and Viola Bratberg Bolton and special thanks to Elisabeth Thorsell for locating Niclas Wall and John Wall in Sweden.

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SwedGen Tour will soon be underway

Lantmäteriet (see page 1). This group of Swedes will be joined by Kathy Meade of Chicago, who used to work for Genline, and now volunteers at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago and the Arlington Heights Memorial Library in Arlington Heights and assists patrons in researching their Swedish heritage.

The official web site is:
<http://www.lilleskogen.se/>

Look up the website for exact lecture times, and addresses.

Tour schedule:
* 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
Organization of the Peter Craig Collection of New Sweden materials

“The collection is immense, covering about 100 feet of shelving. A great deal of organization and inventorying has been done by Ron Beatty and Cynthia Forde-Beatty who paged through every paper in 26 boxes to expand the descriptions of materials relating to each Forefather surname. During this process it was discovered that Dr. Craig’s response to Forefather applications often presented extensive research documented nowhere else. These responses were typically in the form of research papers or printed copies of e-mails. In either event, locating these materials on the computer used by Dr. Craig is undoubt the most important “next step” for the Society. There are numerous files on Peter Craig’s computer containing research data to prove Forefather applicants that do need to be entered into the database. It was noted that with new information or new research data, Dr. Craig was able to make corrections to Forefather applications. This is critical data for the Forefather database.

“Ron Beatty and Cynthia Forde-Beatty have been invited to be the genealogists for the SCS with Ron managing the database and being responsible for maintaining the database, doing data entry, file merging, citations, etc., for the present time until we have four generations listed for each Forefather”.

Correction and additions to the ancestors of Nobel Laureate Glenn Seaborg

Glenn Seaborg’s ancestors were published in the 1996 publication “24 Famous Swedish Americans and their Ancestors,” published by the Sveriges Släktforskarförbund (Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies). The book is now out of print, but the following information might still be of interest.

Researchers Donald Freij and Lars Hasselblad have found out the following:

Generation V

# 40 Jan (Johan) Andersson, born 1761 in Guldsmedhyttan, Lindeberg parish. Farmer and part mine owner (bergsman) in Pjättaboda, Linde Bergsförsamling. Married in 1790 to
# 41 Maria Andersdotter, born 1763 in Aspa, Linde Bergsförsamling.

Generation VI

# 80 Anders Persson (Piett), born 1729 in Pjättaboda, Linde Bergsförsamling. He used his paternal grandfather’s surname.
# 82 Anders Eriksson, born ca 1708, died Jan. 22 1788 in Aspa, Linde Bergsförsamling. Part mine owner (bergsman) in Aspa. Married to
# 83 Ingeborg Andersdotter, born 17(20) in Vasselhyttan, Linde Bergsförsamling, died in Aspa, Linde Bergsförsamling 1802.

Generation VII

#160 Per Andersson, born 1708.
#161 Margareta Johansdotter Piett, born 1707.

Generation VIII

# 322 Johan Piett, born 16(83), died 1747 in Guldsmedshyttan, Linde Bergsförsamling. Married to
# 323 Margareta Carlsdotter, born ca 1675.

Generation IX

# 646 Daniel Piett, born ca 1630, died 1692 in Guldsmedshyttan, Linde Bergsförsamling. Iron works overseer (bruksförvaltare). Married to
# 647 Maria Fransdotter Fassing, born ca 1644, died 1730 in Linde Bergsförsamling.

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First published on the web site Anbytarforum 2011 July 2.
Vikings still around?


What changes have occurred in people from a traditional European culture three to four or more generations after the 19th century upheaval of immigration to an entirely new and different land? Which cultural traditions remain, which have been lost, and how have these cultural traditions changed? These are among the questions addressed by Eric Dregni in this new book mainly about Scandinavians in the Upper Midwest. The book does not burden the reader with an intense scholarly inquiry, but maintains a lighthearted, humorous approach throughout. A thorough index of sources does satisfy the needs of the scholar, however, while the reader is both entertained and enlightened.

The focus of the book includes all Scandinavians: Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Finns, and even a few Icelanders, yet inevitably many of the anecdotes and illustrations come from the Swedish heritage simply because this was the largest population group of immigrants to the Midwest among the many Scandinavians to settle there. The “Upper Midwest” includes Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, the Dakotas, and an occasional reference to Illinois or Michigan. The author identifies his own heritage as having “one set each of Swedish and Norwegian grandparents, with a little Danish thrown in.”

There is a brief reference to the colonial Swedes of the Delaware Valley, but the rest of the country is largely ignored.

Only in the Upper Midwest did the Scandinavians make up such a large part of the population that the presence of these immigrants over the years has given these states a flavor unlike other areas of the nation, where smaller settlements of Scandinavians were more quickly and completely assimilated. This Midwestern influence, especially in Minnesota, has been identified by the author as affecting the culture, the politics, and the social atmosphere of most of the communities in these U.S. states. Many smaller settlements continue to be identified as “Danish,” or “Norwegian,” “Swedish,” or “Finnish” to this day and continue with annual ethnic celebrations both traditional and newly invented.

After an introduction which describes the difficult conditions encountered by the newly arrived immigrants on their travels, Dregni devotes a chapter to that one universal tag of all cultures: food. Eating habits of the immigrants from the old country are described, and how they varied among the various Scandinavians. Adaptations to the conditions in the new land resulted in changes and newly invented foods which evolved into many characteristic eating habits now well-known in the Midwest including: potatoes, cold fish, sausages, the ubiquitous “hot dish,” lutefisk, “Lutheran Latte” (Swedish egg coffee), Jell-O, and other foods are described. Drinking habits among the various Scandinavians are also given their due.

After this appetizer, the author devotes a chapter to the attention the Midwest Scandinavians give to their Viking heritage, including statues of various kinds in many communities, their pro football team, runestones, and blue-eyed Indians in the Dakotas. The Norwegians seem to lead in this quest for recognition of Viking presence in the Midwest long before Columbus, with the Swedes running a close second. Then a full chapter is devoted to notable Nordics and their contributions. Given a place are Gutzon Borglum, the Danish-born sculptor of the Mt. Rushmore monument, Ole Bull, the Norwegian fiddler, Vilhelm Moberg, chronicler of the migrants epic in Minnesota, Carl Milles, sculptor, Thorstein Veblen, controversial economist, Sonja Henie,
Olympic ice skater, Joel Hägglund (Joe Hill), Ole Rolvaag, Carl Sandburg, Charles Lindbergh, Jr. (and his politician father), and other well-known Scandinavian icons of the Midwest.

Perhaps the meatiest chapter in the book is entitled “Politics, Scandinavian Style.” The author traces the roots of what is now known as the strong liberal streak in the states of the Upper Midwest, mainly Minnesota and Wisconsin. Early settlers (1850-90) wanted land and usually were Republicans due to anti-slavery and pro-Lincoln attitudes. By the turn of the century (1900) many new arrivals had been steeped in socialism in their native countries and arrived to work mainly in mills, mines, and factories as laborers. Labor organizers emerged to lead protests and strikes for better working conditions and wages, and a strong socialist movement resulted, with the Finns in the vanguard.

World War I in Europe and patriotism at home became a counterforce by 1914. Scandinavians were strongly anti-war, leading to much suspicion of their loyalty. (Many had immigrated to the U.S. to avoid mandatory military service at home, and did not want to be drafted to return to Europe for another war they had hoped to escape.) This anti-war sentiment, plus their socialist activism, caused these Scandinavians to be watched closely by the government as German sympathizers. Even their language (except Finnish) sounded much like German to others. The result was suppression of their native languages and even first names were avoided which sounded too ethnic or Germanic, to avoid discrimination. This anti-German attitude continued for several decades.

Meanwhile, the farmers and laboring classes found common cause in creating a political party, the Farmer-Labor Party which continued until the 1940’s, when it merged into the Democrat Party and became the still-existing DFL (Democratic Farmer-Labor Party) which pretty much ruled politics in Minnesota through the 20th century. Some Scandinavian leaders in this movement included Gov. Knute Nelson, John Lind, politician Charles Lindbergh Sr., Floyd B. Olson, Carl Skoglund, and many others. Closely related to these political trends was the cooperative movement, conceived in Denmark and still a presence in many rural communities in the Upper Midwest.

Following this political chapter are several chapters about the various ways in which Scandinavian communities exhibit their pride in their ethnic heritage, seen both as a celebration of their origins and publicity to attract visitors and tourism. The “world’s largest Dala horse” is found in Mora, MN. And a replica of Copenhagen’s “The Little Mermaid” sits on a stone both in Albert Lea, MN, and
in Kimballtown, IA. Lindstrom, MN, boasts a water tower in the shape of a coffee pot, as does Stanton, IA. Saunas abound in many cities, and various festivals, some tongue-in-cheek, occur throughout the many smaller towns in these states. Other subjects mentioned in these latter chapters include Lucia fests, potato lefse, hospitals, churches, stave-church replicas in Moorhead, MN, and in Minot, ND, lusekofte sweaters ("lice-jackets"), immigrant newspapers, and many more cultural traditions unique to this part of the U.S.

As a grandson of Swedish farmer immigrants, and growing up in the Midwest, many of the subjects covered in the book are familiar to me, yet I still learned many facts and events which were new. Both humorous and factual, Dregni's book illustrates how all the Scandinavian immigrants to the Upper Midwest, and their descendants, have created an uniquely new culture in those states which is different from their original culture yet also different from most of the rest of the U.S. in significant ways. To describe this new culture completely, with all its nuances and complexities, would require many volumes, but this author has created an excellent and most readable survey of his subject in one single volume, which should appeal to all readers and lead them to further exploration for Vikings in their own attics.

Dennis L. Johnson
Book Reviews

several of these settlers in the Swede Bend party and in the New Sweden party of the same year, one of the best and most detailed accounts of the early route of travel I have yet encountered. This route was up the Hudson by steamer to Albany, NY, then west to Buffalo via the Erie Canal, then to Chicago over the Great Lakes, down the Illinois River to St. Louis, MO, up the Mississippi to Keokuk, IA, and finally up the Des Moines River to Swede Bend on foot or horse-drawn wagon. Conditions along the route are described in detail, the greatest hazard being the risk of cholera. Nearly a third of these early travelers died of cholera along the way, and many others suffered from this disease. At the time, the cause was unknown and cholera was thought to be spread from person to person. Later, it was discovered that this disease is caused by bacteria from contaminated water or food which had been in contact with human waste. Water supplies were primitive at the time and river sources were badly contaminated. Cholera is now rare, readily prevented, and treatment is almost always effective. Millions of people died of this disease in the 19th century in Europe and the U.S.

In later chapters, authors Lundgren and Blomqvist describe the growth and settlement of Swede Bend between 1850 and 1885. The local townships, mainly Hardin, Boone, and Dayton, and much of the surrounding area became predominantly Swedish during these decades and remain so today. Descriptions and names of the earliest settlers are given, and many of the earliest families are profiled. Swede Bend never became a town by that name, but several communities sprang up to serve the needs of the many farmers in the area, including Stratford, Homer, LeHigh, and Dayton at about ten mile intervals to serve the needs of horse-drawn travel in the 19th century. These nearby towns have remained small and, with 20th century auto travel, were largely displaced as business centers by the towns now at 25 to 40 mile intervals such as Fort Dodge, Webster City, Boone, and Ames.

For the serious researcher of his own roots, the authors have also included a section listing over 1,200 individuals who were Swedish-born and settled in the Swede Bend area of Iowa. For a person with an ancestor in this area, this book may provide the missing link to the given home location or parish in Sweden, often the most difficult step in finding one’s family’s ancestors in Sweden. The book is also a very good and accurate description of the conditions of travel and pioneer settlement in this part of the country in the middle of the 19th century. For those who wish to visit the area in person, there is a Swedish Immigrant Museum in Stratford, IA, which was founded in 1999 by several local Swedish-American descendants of area pioneers. For more information about the museum and its records, contact Ruby Erickson Hendrickson, Chair. (See links page, p. 30)

Providing another example of the rich and varied Swedish immigrant experience in America, the authors’ work has been a valuable contribution to one particular community in Iowa and its history since its initial settlement. Vast changes have occurred in the area since the time of settlement. Paved highways and freeways connect Swede Bend to nearby towns and larger cities in the Midwest. Almost all the land is used for farming to serve the world market, mainly in growing corn and soybeans. Farm mechanization over the past century and a half has caused the merger of these original claims into farms twenty times their original size, operated by very few people in small families. Nearby larger cities have hospitals, industry, colleges, and other businesses beyond farming. Grain elevators, water towers, church steeples, and even power-generating windmills dot the skyline and the people live a much easier, more comfortable life. But Swede Bend as it was lingers as writers such as Lundgren and Blomqvist, and local historical societies, such as the Swedish Foundation of Swede Bend, work to preserve these memories.

Dennis L. Johnson

A Swedish pioneer pastor


One of the more amazing stories to come out of the settlement of the American Northwest by the mass immigrations of the 19th century, this memoir, while not so much great literature, ranks along with Moberg’s The Emigrants, and Rolvaag’s Giants in the Earth as a vivid description of what life was like on the American frontier at that time. This memoir was written in 1905 by the frontier pastor, S.J. Kronberg, who lived this life, and wrote this memoir in Swedish. It was first published in 1906 under the name Banbrytaren, in Swedish, by the Augustana Book Concern, but received little notice here until 1984. At that time,
Evangeline Chell as editor assembled and coordinated a team of nearly forty volunteer translators to translate the memoir into English. Donations from many people enabled her to get the translation published in 1984, in Minnesota. A limited number of copies are available, mostly used.

Kronberg was born in Knäred, Halland, Sweden, in 1840. He grew up in poverty on a farm, and lost his mother at age 2½. A good student, he read all he could, and studied the Bible, but had no formal education. His father strongly opposed his becoming a minister. Kronberg immigrated to America in 1868 and did manual labor in several locations in Illinois and Iowa. He soon entered the seminary later in 1868 despite no formal education and his being 28 years old at the time. He was accepted to “give it a try,” and was ordained at Augustana Seminary in Rock Island, IL, in 1874. In his foreword, translated by Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, he modestly explains that he simply wishes to tell the story of the development of the Northwest “with honesty, truth, and a noble purpose” and apologizes for making it so much about his own life, not seeking fame but only because “I was along during those years and participated in much of what is here described.”

Pastor Kronberg upon graduation and ordination was called to his first pastorate in the sparsely settled lands of the Red River Valley in northwestern Minnesota, in a town called Melby, near Christina Lake, which is about 25 miles northwest of Alexandria, MN. When he arrived in 1874, the small congregation had no church building but met in other locations or in private homes. Kronberg served not only this congregation, but was also asked to serve other nearby settlements in the area, including Christina Lake, Eagle Lake, Fergus Falls, Elizabeth, Pelican Rapids, and several others.

Since travel at the time was on foot, horseback, or buggy, the new pastor spent much of his time just traveling between these small settlements to hold services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. He writes little of his wife and family in his memoir, but apparently married soon after ordination and, as shown in a family photograph, raised nine children in Melby. He retired from the Christina Lake parish in 1904 after thirty years as pastor but continued serving this and other churches during vacancies for many years. He died in 1925 at the age of 84 years and seven months.

The book begins by describing the raw territory in northwestern Minnesota in some detail and the primitive conditions under which these early settlers were living at the time of his arrival. The foods, clothing, homes, and domestic animals are described in some detail, as are many of his early experiences and dangers. He writes of his early mission meetings as a young and inexperienced pastor, how he goes about organizing the congregation, and dealing with lay pastors teaching false doctrine.

The years of 1876-77 especially were years of dire need, with plagues of grasshoppers causing great suffering. Kronberg writes about building his parsonage and a church, his relations with his congregation, and his traveling experiences serving his outlying “preaching points.” He deals with the challenges facing pastors such as how long to stay in one congregation, establishing his salary, and how to go about resigning if that becomes necessary, and his own feelings about eventual retirement.

Among other accomplishments of Pastor Kronberg while in Melby includes the organization in his Lake Christina parish of a school called Lund Academy in 1898, which grew into becoming the Northwestern College and Academy in Fergus Falls, MN, which survived for some thirty years after the writing of his memoir. He was regarded as an outstanding preacher by his peers. Included in the memoir are many anecdotes which illustrate the people he served, mostly Swedes, and the conditions under which he lived and served in the time before automobiles, electricity, and comfortable homes. Numerous photographs also illustrate many of the people, homes, farm equipment, and other buildings of that period before the arrival of the 20th century.

This book gives a revealing view of the time period from 1860 to 1900 as seen through the eyes of a frontier pastor trying to serve people struggling to confront and survive the difficult conditions of settling and farming on the prairie of the Red River Valley in northwest Minnesota. More importantly, it is a glimpse into the mind and faith of an active Swedish Lutheran pastor during that pe-
Book Reviews

New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)

The Sweden & America magazine 2/2011 (publication of the Sweden America Center in Karlstad) has an interesting article about Kingsburg, California, and its Swedish heritage, which the people there take very seriously. There is also an article about the architect Gustav Albin Pehrson, born in Sweden in 1882, who in 1943 was asked to design a new town in Richland, Washington State. This town was aimed at housing the people that were going to work on the Manhattan Project (the production of the first atom bomb).

The April 2011 issue of The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly has a very scholarly article by Adam Hjorthén, one of the new Olsson scholars, about how the Kensington Stone was presented in five different exhibitions, and by being a part of those became a historical object in itself, independent of the question if it is a real runestone or not.

The Finnsam organization of Sweden, mostly made up of Swedes, but with members in Norway and Finland, is working with research the Forest Finns (skogsfinnar) that came from Finland to Sweden in the 1500s and the first half of the 1600s. They have recently re-printed their informative booklet Forest Finns of Scandinavia. This booklet can be ordered from Maud Wedin at <maud@finnbygden.se> the cost is ca $10 + postage. (By the way, the signer of the Declaration of Independence John Morton was a descendant of the Forest Finns that came over to New Sweden!)
Interesting Web Sites

About Lilly Setterdahl and her books: http://www.authorlillysetterdahl.net/
Web camera of the ASI construction site: http://www.americanswedishinst.org/ASI/Home.html
Cyndi’s List for Sweden: http://www.cyndislist.com/sweden/
FamilySearch TechTips: https://www.familysearch.org/techtips/
Explanations of U.S. copyright rules: http://copyright.cornell.edu/resources/publicdomain.cfm
Date calculator: http://www.timeanddate.com/date/dateadd.html
Swede Bend, Iowa, web site: http://www.swedebediowa.com/
The Swedish America Heritage Online blog: http://sweame.blogspot.com/
Emiweb (Sweden America Center): http://www.emiweb.eu/
Another grave location site: http://billiongraves.com/index.php
Sällskapet Vallonättingar (Walloons): http://www.vallon.se/
Canadian Museum of Immigration, Pier 21: http://www.pier21.ca/home
A Canadian page with lots of information: http://www.ourroots.ca/
The Finnsam organization (Forest Finns): http://www.finnsam.org/english.htm
Using old Swedish court records:
Swedish nobility: http://www.riddarhuset.se/jsp/index.jsp?id=2663
The S/S Atlantic, disaster of 1873:
Minnesota Discovery Center, Genealogy (mostly on The Iron Range):
   http://www.mndiscoverycenter.com/research-center/genealogy
A search engine for surnames: http://www.geneaservice.nl/navigator/index.html
An old jukebox (sound clips from Library of Congress): http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/

All the above web links will be found as clickable links on 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.

**Jonsdotter, Jonsson, Johnston**

We are trying to trace descendants of *Lars Jonsson* (brother) and *Katrina Jonsdotter* (sister) who lived at Västra Berga, Lysvik, Värmland, and immigrated to the U.S.

Katrina was born 29 January 1865 in Västra Berga, Lysvik, daughter to Jon Larsson, born 1819 in Västra Berga, and his wife Karin Persdotter, born 1822, also in Västra Berga. Their son Lars was born 3 October 1853 at the same place.

Lars left his home in Lysvik 29 April 1881, but it is not known how he travelled to the U.S. He married Christina /Christine, born April 1853 in Sweden, and they lived first in Mankato, Blue Earth County in Minnesota, and later in Minneapolis. His profession was a stone mason. He might have changed his name Lars to Lewis/Louis. He and his wife had four daughters, Esther Josephine, born Sep. 1884; Anna, born Sep. 1886; Mabel, born Aug. 1890; and Lilly, born Aug. 1895. In the 1900 U.S. census, they are still in Mankato [Lars/Lewis is mis-indexed as Garris].

On 24 July 1915 daughter Mabel married Harry Johnson in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Harry was a painter/decorator with parents from Sweden and Denmark. Mabel and Harry had a daughter Bernice born in 1918.

Katrina left Göteborg on 16 May 1884, with a ticket for New York. She travelled by *S/S Orlando* to Hull, and then on the *S/S The Queen* to New York, where she landed 3 June 1884. She later (around 1885) married Johan Johnston, born May 1860 in Sweden, and lived with him and their children at Moro Precinct in Sherman County, OR, in 1900. Their children (all born in Oregon) were John, born July 1887; Emma, born March 1890; Rosa, born May 1893; and Fred O., born February 1895.

This is all we know, and we hope that someone has more information for us!


<mrnorntonback@bredband.net>
Dear friends,

Summer is here, and everything is green and fresh! Strawberries are here at a good price, and most events are celebrated with a jordgubbstårta (a sponge cake decorated with lots of whipped cream and lots of strawberries). And that is just the start. Then comes raspberries, currants in a couple of colors, forest blueberries (smaller than the American varieties), and at last the lingonberries.

A trip to southern France in May showed us many beautiful sights and historic places, but Sweden is also full of them. The other day I visited Skokloster, some 30 kilometers northeast of Stockholm, an impressive castle. For me it has two family connections, my oldest son lived nearby with his family for a couple of years, and 9 generations back I am descended from the field marshal Herman Wrangel, who is riding into eternity since 1643.

At the end of July I will be going to Kisa in southern Östergötland to celebrate the bi-annual Peter Cassel Days, in memory of the brave group who left their homes in 1845 and ended up in Jefferson County, Iowa.

Then there will be visits to Värmland, and in late August, 27th to 28th, the annual Genealogy Days in Norrköping. This year it is also the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Sveriges Släktforskarförbund (Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies), which I helped found in 1986, such a long time ago!

I wish you all a very happy and enjoyable summer, and many unexpected genealogy finds!

Till next time!
Elisabeth Thorsell

You can buy back issues of SAG from Jill Seaholm at the Swenson Center.

Just send an e-mail to <sag@augustana.edu> and tell her what you want!

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

We look forward to seeing old and new friends in our happy group of researchers!

The SAG Workshop is the highlight of the year – a fun learning experience and a chance to do your Swedish genealogy with hands-on help from experienced Swedish and American genealogists.

The social side includes both welcome and farewell receptions, a buffet dinner & entertainment.

Contact Jill Seaholm at 309-794-7204, or e-mail: <sag@augustana.edu>. The workshop is now full, but you can ask to be put on the waiting list for next year.
Abbreviations

**Table 1.** Abbreviations for Swedish provinces (landskap) used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (as of March 2000) and *Sveriges Släktforskarförbund* (the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, Stockholm [SSF]).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landskap (Province)</th>
<th>SAG &amp; SSF Abbr.</th>
<th>Landskap (Province)</th>
<th>SAG &amp; SSF Abbr.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blekinge</td>
<td>Blek.</td>
<td>Närke</td>
<td>Närk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohuslän</td>
<td>Bohu.</td>
<td>Skåne</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalarna</td>
<td>Dala.</td>
<td>Småländ</td>
<td>Smål.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalsland</td>
<td>Dals.</td>
<td>Södermanland</td>
<td>Södm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotland</td>
<td>Gotl.</td>
<td>Uppland</td>
<td>Uppl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gästrikland</td>
<td>Gäst.</td>
<td>Värmland</td>
<td>Vär.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halland</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Väbo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hälsingland</td>
<td>Häls.</td>
<td>Västergötland</td>
<td>Vägö.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Härjedalen</td>
<td>Härj.</td>
<td>Västmanland</td>
<td>Väsm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jämtland</td>
<td>Jämt.</td>
<td>Ångermanland</td>
<td>Ånge.</td>
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<td>Lapp.</td>
<td>Öland</td>
<td>Öland</td>
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<td>Medelpad</td>
<td>Mede.</td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>Östg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norrbottnen</td>
<td>Nobo.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Län (County)</th>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
<th>Län (County)</th>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gotland</td>
<td>Gäv.</td>
<td>Gäv.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Värmland</td>
<td>Värml.</td>
<td>Vbnt.</td>
<td>AC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gävleborg</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Vn.</td>
<td>Vnrl.</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **a** formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) län.
- **b** includes the former counties (län) of Malmöhus (Malm.; M) and Kristianstad (Krist.; L).
- **c** includes the former counties (län) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Ålvs.; P).
The counties (län) as they were before 1991.

The provinces (landskap).