#### **Swedish American Genealogist**

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## Swedish American Genealogist

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



# Swedish American Genealogist

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Swedish American Genealogist

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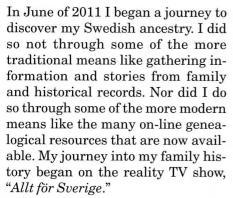
#### Cover picture:

The Newberry Library in Chicago, see article on p. 19. (Photo by E. Thorsell).

## My Swedish adventure

#### The winner of the TV show tells his story

By BRIAN GERARD



The premise of the program is to bring ten Americans of Swedish ancestry back to their homeland to discover its history, culture, and traditions. But the heart of the adventure was the discovery of family. A genealogist had done extensive research for each cast member that included detailed family histories, family trees, and even trips to locations where our families had lived in Sweden.

There was also a competition. The prize did not include a cash reward of any kind, but something far more valuable — a reunion with living Swedish relatives. Having won the competition, and thus the grand prize, I can say without reservation that it was truly a grand prize worth winning.

I did not know anything about the family I met other than the story which divided us, leaving one side of the family in Sweden and the other in America. In the late 1800's my great-grandfather (Gustaf Wilhelm Lejon) and his brother were courting

the same girl near Åtvidaberg, Östergötland. She chose my great-grand-father's brother, leaving him so brokenhearted that he left Sweden to escape the pain he felt. A blacksmith, he eventually settled in Kansas where he started his own family.

But that is just one side of my Swedish story. My other great-grandfather (Carl Johan Algott (Johansson)) also emigrated from Sweden in the early 1900's. His family's story was of hardship similar to many Swedes' of the time. Living as workers on the land of a wealthy family in Småland, they reached a point of struggle great enough to drive them toward the promise of a new beginning across the Atlantic. They began that journey in Chicago, but my great-grandfather, who was a watchmaker and minister in the Swedish Covenant Church, began serving a church in Kansas.

As part of my journey, I not only met my family but also traveled to many places where they lived. I went to the small village of Söderö near Åtvidaberg and saw the tiny house in which my great-grandfather and his 13 siblings lived as well as the blacksmith shop where he was apprenticed.

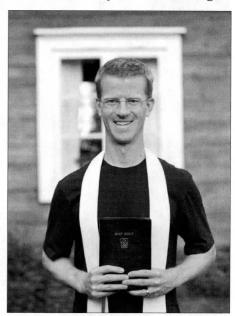
I even had the chance to tour the home of the largest landowner there – a home that existed when my greatgrandfather was a boy and is still furnished today as it was then. I visited the church in Båraryd, Småland, where my great-grandfather



(Carl Johan Algott (Johansson)) was confirmed in 1893. I walked the land which he and his family worked, and ate *ostkaka*, one of the traditional dishes my family still enjoys.

The power of these visits can not be described, but I wish it for everyone who can trace their ancestry to a particular place and time.

But more than just visiting the specific locales of my family origin, I got to journey much of the height and breadth of Sweden. We traveled from Torekov in the southwest to the historic site of Duvemåla in the southeast; from the Island of Öland in the Baltic to the magnificent city of Stockholm; from the Viking village of Birka all the way to a Sami village



Brian Gerard.

in the Arctic; we spent midsummer in Järvsö and ended our journey on Utö, an island in the Stockholm Archipelago.

It seemed to me that each place we went was more beautiful then the last, as were the people.

What began as the trip of a lifetime, ended up becoming a lifechanging trip. I never thought I'd have the chance to discover my heritage in such a powerful way. I'll never be the same having done so.

Wherever you are on the journey of discovering your Swedish ancestry, I encourage your every continuing effort. What you will find are more than just names on a timeline or in a tree, you will find stories, locations, and in many ways you will find yourself. If travel can be part of that journey, your trip will richly reward you and Sweden is an easy and wonderful place to travel. I hope to see you there!

#### More on Brian

I was born in 1971, and am an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) serving on staff at First Christian Church of Louisville, KY.

(www.fcclouisville.org).

Biggest loves in life are family, connecting others to God, college baseball, Dallas Cowboy football, Yale University, good bourbon, dark chocolate, and all things Swedish!

 $(Borrowed\ from\ Brian's\ Facebook\ page).$ 



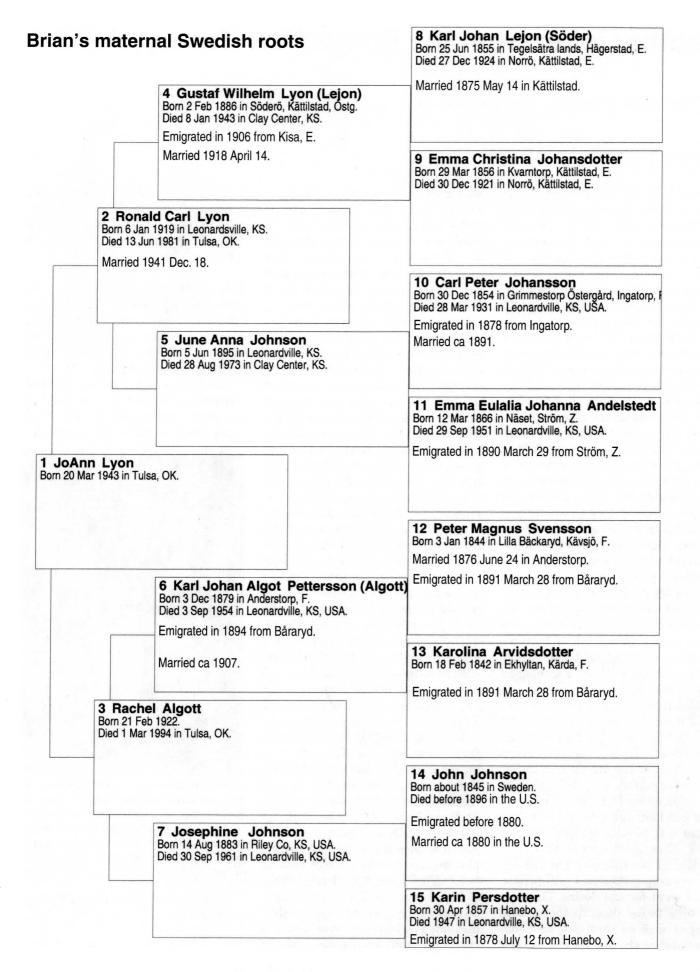
Brian Gerard and his wife Carrie, and sons Ethan (11) and Graham (7).

## https://www.facebook.com/pages/Allt-F%C3%B6r-Sverige/198932940175752?sk=wall

Information from Brian Gerard, Jill Seaholm, and Elisabeth Thorsell.



Brian (in the middle of the back row) and his family at their family reunion in Sweden.



### Another letter from the Emigration Survey, # 173

By Samuel Magnus Hill, from Östergötland

TRANSLATION BY ELISABETH THORSELL AND CHRIS OLSSON

(I) was born 10 Jan. 1851 in Östergötland county. Father was a worker and later a dugout dweller. At the age of eleven and a half I was apprenticed to learn shoemaking, where I was for almost three years; later I learnt to be a saddler. A farmer in the neighborhood intended to go to America in 1868, and two uncles I had there promised to go surety for us, so he lent us the money to go too. When we had sold what little we had, and the farm owner had paid my parents for the building and farming they had done at the place, we had just enough to pay to go to Göteborg. We left our home on the 1st of May and left from Göteborg on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1868. I thought that in 10 years time I would be back, as I never could imagine that I was to spend my entire life in America.

Upon arrival we lived with an uncle, and I worked for him as a painter. After two years I had paid for our journey. My father was in poor health and was very unhappy with his surroundings, as he could not earn much money. In the fall of 1870 we moved from Illinois to Iowa. Father and I travelled with horse and buggy and mother and my sister took the railroad. We settled in Chariton, Iowa, where we were to buy ten acres outside the town. We built a small house, only 12 feet square, dug a small well in the valley, and father started to cultivate the land and get things in order. But the water in our well was bad, and after a few weeks father was ill with typhoid fever. A week later mother was also ill. I worked at the railroad, but one friday evening father was unconcious, and I went for the doctor. The next morning father died. At the funeral mother was so confused and distraught that she did not know about father until about two weeks later. At that time I was ill, and my little sister had to take care of us. After a week she also fell ill, and then the neighbors had to care for us. They moved us to town, where we got poor relief for six months. I fell ill in October and could start working after the new year. I worked both in a shoemaker's shop and in a saddler's shop. The next spring I bought a plot of land in town, the neighbors helped dismantle our little shed, and put it up again in our yard, where I put things in order during the evenings, such as digging a basement, etc.

When I had worked there for three years, I got an opportunity to enter a school, and after the new year I travelled to Augustana College in Paxton, IL. We had stayed there with my uncle, so they knew me in the area. I had \$65 saved when I left, and still had to care for my mother and sister in our home in Iowa. But she was busy taking care of the sick people and being the midwife in the little Swedish community there, without any schooling, just her practical skills and her familiarity with sick care under the guidance of a doctor. Thus my mother and sister had their upkeep almost without my help.

In the spring of 1879 I graduated from the college, which by now had moved to Rock Island, and the following spring I was hired by the college of the Minnesota Conference in St. Peter, Minnesota, as an assistant teacher. I stayed there for three years, fetched my mother and sister, and my mother died there shortly before Christmas 1881. In the spring of 1882 I accepted the Synod's call to be a missionary among the Swedish Mormons in Utah, got married, and travelled there during the summer.

We stayed there for two years. In the spring of 1884 we moved to a Swedish college, Luther Academy, in Wahoo, Nebraska, where I have been a teacher ever since, and still am.

**Ed:s note:** while working on this text, it dawned on me that the writer, who was only identified as S. M. H, was a quite famous person, Samuel Magnus Hill. That he mentioned his birth date was a big help.

His uncles, who had immigrated earlier, had started to use the Hill surname, and so did Samuel Magnus's family too after their arrival.



Picture of the Samuel Hill family, probably taken after their immigration in 1868. From left: wife Maja Stina Andersdotter, daughter Augusta, Samuel Samuelsson Hill, and son Samuel Magnus. Son August, born in 1859, died shortly after immigration and is not in the picture.

(Picture from Brand Family Tree on Ancestry.com)

#### Some information on Samuel Magnus Hill



Photo from the SSIRC collection.

Samuel Magnus Samuelsson was born in Helgesfall, Västra Ryd, Östergötland, Sweden on January 10, 1851, to Samuel Samuelsson (b. 1824 Aug.19 in Västra Ryd) and Maria Stina Andersdotter (b. 1819 Jan. 4 in Sund [Östg.]). The parents were not yet married, but Samuel had agreed to pay child support, and confessed to being the father of the boy. Samuel and Maria (Maja) Stina married 1855 Dec. 28 in Västra Ryd.

The family emigrated from the dugout Källstorp on Helgesfall Södergård lands in Västra Ryd, Östergötland on 1868 Apr. 29 to Altona, IL, in 1868.

Shortly after arriving in the U.S. the family changed their surname to Hill. The family eventually moved to Paxton, Illinois, and finally settled in Chariton, Iowa. There his father died in 1870, and the remaining family was very poor.

Samuel enrolled at Augustana College in 1875 at the age of 24 and graduated in 1879. He worked during his college years to support himself and pay the tuition. His mother was poor and unable to provide any



Birth of Samuel Magnus. (Västra Ryd C:4 (1821-1860) Bild 102 / sid 195, AD Online).

financial assistance.

After graduation, Samuel went to Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, to teach music and other subjects. Shortly after his arrival at Gustavus, the College decided to change to co-education and in the first class of girls, he met Julia Johnson whom he married in 1882.

In 1882, Hill was called by the Illinois Conference to go to Utah and serve as a missionary among the Swedes in the Mormon Church. He remained in Utah until 1884, when he accepted a teaching position at Luther Academy in Wahoo, Nebraska. Hill taught a wide variety of subject at the Academy, but history, the Swedish language, and literature were his main subjects. After the president resigned, Hill agreed to take over the administration of the Academy as acting president, a position he held for 15 years. Hill served the Luther Academy for 31 years.

Hill was ordained in 1917, and upon his resignation from teaching he accepted a call from the Swedish Lutheran church in Colton, Oregon. During his years as a pastor, he also spent time writing poetry and contributing articles to the Swedish-American press. During World War I, he published a collection of poetry, *Uggletoner i Vargatider* (Portland, 1916). He also served as contributing editor to the journal *Ungdomsvännen*.

Samuel Magnus Hill passed away on June 5, 1920, in Elgaros, Oregon.

#### SM Hill manuscripts

Most of his manuscript collection is kept in the archives of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Reserch Center, and another collection is in the archives of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN.

### Other emigrants in the family

Samuel Magnus mentions in his letters that he had relatives already in the U.S.

They were his father's siblings: Johannes Samuelsson, b. 1822 Mar. 25 in Västra Ryd, emigrated 1868 May 3 from Hult (Jönk.).

Anders Samuelsson, b. 1827 Jul. 27 in Västra Ryd, emigrated 1856 from Västra Ryd.

Johanna Samuelsdotter, b. 1841 Sep. 1 in Västra Ryd, emigrated from Asby (Östg.) 1865 Jul. 14.

Gustaf Samuelsson, b. 1833 Mar. 27 in Västra Ryd, moved to Torpa (Östg.) from where he moved to Göteborg in 1856, and presumably went on to the U.S. as Samuel Magnus mentions his uncle Gustaf Hill in Illinois.

## Samuel Magnus's own family

Before travelling to Utah, Samuel Magnus married in 1882 June 4 in Grant County, MN, to Julia (Gölin) Johnson, born 1859 Oct. 12 in Linsell (Jämtl), daughter of Johan Jonsson, b. 1812, who died there in 1866 May 5, and his wife Gölin Kjellsdotter, b. 1813 in Linsell. Mother and daughter immigrated in 1870 to the U.S.

Samuel Magnus and Julia had 9 children, most of them born in Wahoo, Nebraska.

For information on the Emigration Survey, see SAG 2011/3.

## Your link to your history!



#### NEW!

The Swedish Census database (Folk-räkning) for 1910 has now 2 million individuals. 105 110 posts were just added.



## 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.



#### Stockholm Tax Rolls

Mantalslängder and Kronotaxeringslängder from 1652 to 1915. Indexes too for some of them.

One of the released prisoners in the SVAR prison records.



www.riksarkivet.se/svar



SVAR

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

## News from the Swenson Center

#### Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) – Swedish Track January 2012

By JILL SEAHOLM

I was offered the opportunity to attend the Swedish Track at SLIG in January. I knew the instructors and they urged me to go. I was unsure of what SLIG was, but the more I looked into it and thought about it, I realized that it was exactly right for me and that it would be important for me to go.

It was an invaluable experience for me and it was especially good that I went this year because it may not be offered again for 4-5 years.

SLIG is an annual event, organized by the Utah Genealogical Association, but only every few years would there be a Scandinavian research track. This was the first year that a specific Swedish course track was offered, to test the waters for future individual Scandinavian country tracks.

Geoffrey Fröberg Morris, Swedish Track coordinator and instructor, along with instructors Wilma Svedin Larson and Paola Manfredi, kept us busy yet enthralled the whole week.

Of the 21 people in my class, 10 of us already knew the *SAG* journal and the Swenson Center, and seven of us go to the *SAG* Workshop in Salt Lake City most every year, so I was among friends.

Thanks to Geoff for allowing me the limelight for a few minutes to introduce the rest of the class to the Swenson Center, the *SAG* journal, and the annual *SAG* Genealogy Workshop in Salt Lake City.

#### The program

We received a total of 20 hours of instruction over five days, most in the Downtown Radisson, where most SLIG participants also stayed. It was intensive instruction with mountains of course handouts and even some

daily homework (not graded, thankfully). The instructors began with lessons in reading and pronouncing simple Swedish words before slamming us with more advanced vocabulary and handwriting in records we had not imagined existed.

It seemed the instructors' most important objective was to teach us that the most-used record types (birth, marriage, death, household examinations, and in- and out-migration) only make up 6% of available records, though many are not yet scanned or even microfilmed. The instructors covered a lot of Swedish history so we could understand how different record types came about. We studied examples in different types of court and military records, migration records within Sweden, government records, parish records outside the top five types, and many other useful things. My brain overflow valve kicked-in toward the end of the week. Now I hope I can retrieve the information I took in and apply it when I need it, and thankfully we all walked away with a good, thorough syllabus binder as a permanent reference tool.

#### Other experiences

There were vendor lunches with representatives from RootsMagic and Ancestry.com, as well as optional evening classes, a welcome breakfast the first morning, and a farewell banquet the last night. The banquet's guest speaker was "Lou Szucs," whom I knew of as Loretto Dennis Szucs, author of the 1996 Chicago and Cook County: A Guide to Research. I have reached for that book in Chicago research many times over the years, so I was thrilled that she was the speaker. "Lou" spoke about her own family

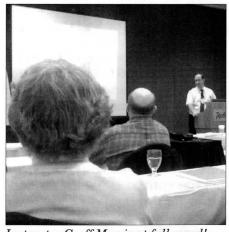


background and how she became interested in genealogy. She was very open and humorous.

#### In SLC again

I felt prepared for the dryness in Salt Lake City with eye drops and saline nasal spray, but wintertime is even drier than when we visit in the fall and my poor eyes and nose suffered for a day or two. But what a beautiful sight Salt Lake City is in winter. The surrounding mountains and buildings were snow-covered most of the week.

I feel privileged to have attended SLIG and am extremely grateful for the opportunity. Kudos to the Swedish instructors and SLIG organizers!



Instructor Geoff Morris at full speed!

## **Handwriting Example 30**

The	d	rag of Journalen of ver utfardade Tap fran Carlfood
Za	no	Samuellie uti fanuarii Manad Qx 1814.
ar, mana	ad Jo	Safinnehadvarens Rama, alder, utfeen Hvilka Orter den Refando
Safet ut	far	Pafinnehavorens Ramn, alder, utfeen Hvilka Orter den Refando de och hemvift, Embete tjenft eller bor genomfara, stallet dan han syrke, famt stället hvarifran den amnar sig uppehalle eller guar. Resande hommers hanna, semte tiden huru lange nasset gällen.
1614.	2	Enhe Dru Chman, Mamselle a.S. Gill Southolm of gil
1		Enke Dru Chman, Mamselle a.S. Cill Stockholm of gill Spake wind draing fran Carlfood. at an.
,	5,	Inspector Hefselius fran Deye Tirom Intte of Takle
,		Capitaine Morrman und drang Vill Hockholm
,	4	60 100 506.16
,,		Auditew a. G. Salmenius — From Intta, Elfsborgs, Sharaborgs of Bohuslan
,	7	Tob gallarnie 13. Bransell fill Elfsborgs Law gal wasend

#### What is this?

This is part of a list of people who obtained domestic passports (*inrikes pass*) to travel outside of their home area.

Ever since the age of Gustaf I (Vasa) in the 1500s the authorities made it important to have a domestic passport if you wanted to travel. The initial reason was to furnish travellers with passports to show to the farmers that they (the travellers) were travelling on official business and was entitled to use the farmers' horses for a certain distance. Later on the reasons were changed. Now the authorities wanted to be able to

control trade and also to keep vagrants and other undesirables from travelling. In 1812 stricter rules were enforced, that were not abolished until 1860. The same concerned passport for travelling abroad. By that time the advent of canal boats and the railroads had made it impossible for the government to keep track of everybody who left their homeplace.

Passports for foreign travel were again instituted during WWI, and are still in use. Inside the European Union you don't have to show them when you cross borders, but it is good to have it with you just in case you need to prove your identity for some reason.

From 1812 people could obtain their domestic passports at the county seat or at their local magistrates court. The government agencies made lists of all passports they had issued. Copies of these lists then had to be sent in to the Chancellor of Justice in Stockholm, and are still kept in their archives. The original lists are kept in the regional archives (landsarkiven).

A huge project is now underway by the Swedish Genealogical Society (GF) to digitize these lists and later index them and make them available online for their members.

### How to find documents on SVAR. Part 1

By Elisabeth Thorsell

SVAR, which stands for *Svensk Arkivinformation i Ramsele*, is the website of the Swedish *Riksarkivet* (National Archives), and it has a great deal of very interesting documents. Most things are only available if you have a subscription. (See ad on p. 6)

The first article in a series will tell you how to find one of these interesting items. The web site has an English version, which you can find in the upper right corner of the first page. But often the English version does not go more than one level deep, and you end up with having to read a Swedish text to go further.

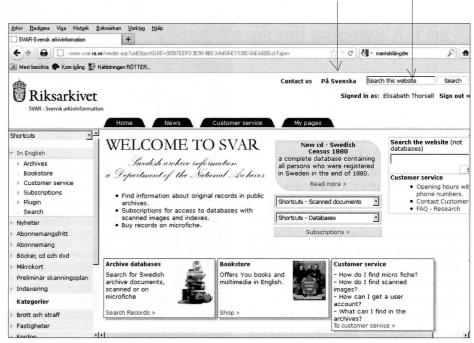
#### To find the Göteborg Passenger lists from 1869-1950

First find your emigrant in the database *Emihamn* (on the CD *Emigranten Populär* or at *Ancestry.com*) and make a note of the *Källkod* (source code). Next login at SVAR, and write *Utvandrare* in the search window on the upper right corner. This will take you to a link like this: 1. *Utvandrare*. Click on that and you will see a lot of text in Swedish and a picture of a steamer.

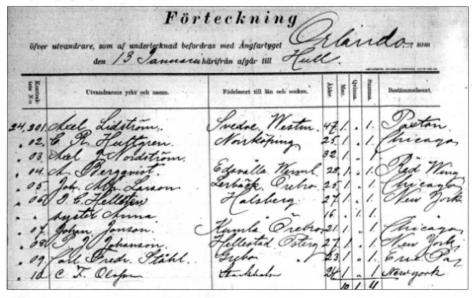
At the bottom of this page is another link that just says *Till materialet* (to the documents). Following this link will take you to the yearly collections of passenger lists.

For some obscure reason the catalog starts with the volume for 1914, but if you use the back-button on top of the catalog, you will go back to the first volume from 1869. Now find the year you want and click on *Bild* (picture), the volume opens and now you can go page by page, and look for the date of departure and the number in the left hand margin.

Look at the number at the left of the list for the first person in the picture, and you will see that it is the



The first page of the SVAR website.



same as the last part of the *källkod* for Axel Lidström in the *Emihamn*, just the volume number is lacking.

The information on this list corresponds with the information from *Emihamn*, but also shows the name of the ship that took these passengers to Hull in England. Swedish records do *not* show the name of the ship from England to America.

These lists are the foundation for the *Emihamn* database.

Efternamn: LIDSTRÖM
Förnamn: AXEL
Ålder: 47 Kön: M
Född: 1834/1835
Församling: SVEDVE Län: U
Titel/Anm:
Utresehamn: GÖTEBORG
Utvandrdag: 1882 01 13
Destination: PAXTON
Medåkande: NEJ
Källkod: 19:21:24201

Search

window

Chose

language

Information from Emihamn.

## The Johnsons of Moline, Illinois

#### Part I: A Swedish immigrant family

By Curtis C. Roseman

Swedish immigrants Gustaf [Gust.] Adolph Reinhold Johnson (b. Sep. 25, 1880 in Alseda, Jönk. – 1947) and Selma Anna Sofia Carlson (Johnson) (b. Oct. 26, 1879 in Alseda, Jönk. – 1937) built a family in Moline. Selma worked as a domestic for ten years before she and Gust were married in 1908. Gust became a prolific carpenter and contractor, building some eighty houses in the area.

This is the first of two articles drawn from a new book, *Building the American Dream* (1). The book chronicles the family story using diaries, letters, and other written documents, in addition to family lore. It describes everyday family life: at home and in the neighborhood; in church, social, and family activities; and in travels to nearby as well as distant places.

#### Selma Carlson

Selma was the first child born to Carl Johan August Carlson (b. Oct. 17, 1854, in Vetlanda, Jönk.) and his first wife Clara Sofia Samuelsdotter (b. Nov. 10, 1856, in Alseda parish, Jönk.). The family of three left Huskvarn in Alseda, Sweden, on August 27, 1881, when Selma was almost two years old, and sailed from Liverpool to New York on the steamer *Republic*.

After living for a year in nearby Altona, Illinois, they settled in Moline, where Carl J.A. would spend over thirty years working as a blacksmith at the Moline Plow Company. After having two more children, one of whom died as an infant, Selma's mother Clara passed away in 1885 at age 27. Two years later Carl J.A. married Mathilda Asplund (b. May 25, 1856, in Eksjö, Jönk.), a widow

who had just arrived from Sweden. This couple went on to produce four additional Carlson children, all female.

Beginning 1898, at age nineteen, Selma worked for ten years as a domestic for a prominent Moline family, Minnie Stephens Allen and her husband Frank G. Allen. Minnie's father, George W. Stephens, was a major investor in Moline Plow Company, with which Frank became associated after marrying Minnie.

As part of her job, Selma spent some time at the Allen summer home in Michillinda, Michigan. One summer she brought along her younger half-sister Hilda whose health was failing, hoping that the fresh air on the shores of Lake Michigan would help Hilda. It was not to be; Hilda died at the age of twelve.



Selma Carlson, right, and Ellen Kalkenberg working as domestic servants for the Allen family, 1904.

#### The Johnson family

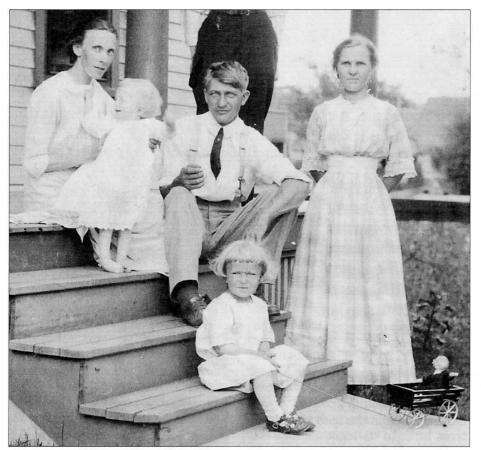
Gust arrived in Moline in late 1899 and began working as a carpenter. Soon thereafter he met Selma, probably at the Mission Tabernacle Church, their lifelong church home that was affiliated with the Evangelical Mission Covenant Church.

Selma and Gust were married on May 21, 1908, at the Carlson home. The composition of the invitation list provides strong evidence of Selma and Gust's deep entrenchment in a Swedish-heritage social circle. Of some 115 families, couples, or individuals invited to the Carlson-Johnson wedding, at least 105 had surnames of Swedish origin.

About a year after the marriage, the couple moved into their new home - the first house constructed by Gust – and proceeded to raise two daughters, Dorothy Marjorie Johnson born in 1910 and Elinor Esther Johnson in 1912. By 1914 Gust had earned enough money to allow the family of four to spend a long summer in Sweden visiting friends and relatives. Gust had grown up in Sweden, but Selma had no memories of Sweden, having left as a two-yearold. As their boat approached Malmö, while crossing the Öresund Strait, Selma observed in her diary:

I was the only one that could sing 'Du Gamla Du Fria' [the Swedish national anthem, "Thou Ancient, Thou Free"], others were too full of tears when they saw their native land, but as I only think of America as my own, I guess I couldn't have the same feeling as if I had known it to be my birth place, or rather remembered it to be.

Dorothy and Elinor were grad-



The Johnson family, July 4, 1913. Gust is flanked by Selma on his right and Selma's sister-in-law Iduna Carlson on his left. In front are the Johnson's daughters Elinor and Dorothy.

uated from Moline High School and Augustana College in neighboring Rock Island, Illinois. Although their mother Selma did not reach that level of formal education, she clearly had intellectual qualities and instincts. As a young adult she wrote essays on such topics as women's suffrage and gave numerous oral presentations. Family lore has it that Gust had opposed sending the girls to college while Selma strongly supported the idea. After her freshman year at Augustana, Dorothy worked for a year at a John Deere factory and paid rent for the privilege of living at home. Selma saved Dorothy's rent money to be used for tuition in subsequent years.

When the girls were in college in 1930, the family took another trip to Sweden, this time coupled with a tour of the European continent. This was the last time Gust saw his mother, Johanna Kristina Johansdotter (b. Oct. 26, 1848, in Alseda) who would pass away in April 22, 1934,



Dorothy and Elinor Johnson, February 1930, when they both were students at Augustana College.

in Alseda. His father, Jonas Peter Danielsson (b. July 24 1839, in Alseda), had already passed away on Sep. 5, 1922.

Then in 1933, having successfully raised two daughters, the Johnson couple celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at their home in Moline.

### Family transitions and tragedies

While attending college in the early 1930s, Elinor met Martin Olson (b. May 23, 1905, in Winburne, Penn.), who was studying at Augustana Theological Seminary. In 1933, Olson became the pastor at the First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, Minnesota, and then in 1936 he accepted a call to do missionary work in Africa at Iambi in Tanganyika Territory. Soon after the call, Marty and Elinor were married. On January 5, 1937, they left for Tanganyika, where they became fully immersed in missionary work as evidenced by detailed letters written by Elinor.

Back in Moline, Selma was heartbroken by the loss of her daughter to the other side of the world. Selma had a history of illness and in 1919 and 1920 had spent several weeks in the hospital. She again became ill after Elinor left and then passed away in June, 1937, at the age of 58.

In late 1940, some three and a half years after arriving in Africa, it was nearing time for Elinor and Marty Olson to come home on furlough. Unfortunately Elinor would never return to Moline. Her unborn baby perished on December 1 of that year due to an ectopic pregnancy. Elinor died the next day, at the age of 28, from a pulmonary embolism. She is buried at Iambi Station, in what is now Tanzania.

Dorothy had married Clifford Roseman in 1934. After working as a carpenter for Gust for five years, Cliff operated the College Pharmacy on the Augustana College campus. After the college razed the building in 1962, the couple opened a downsized business, the College Sundries. Dorothy worked full-time at the stores from the mid-1950s until 1976. In her role as storekeeper, she was a valued friend and counselor to Augustana students, faculty, and staff, as well as countless nearby community members.

In spite of some tragic events that struck their lives, the Johnsons did achieve the American Dream by hard work, and having a rich family life, interesting travel experiences, and productive work.

#### **Endnote:**

1) The book, Building the American Dream: Swedish Immigrant Carpenter, Contractor, and Family in Moline, Illinois, by Curtis C. Roseman, was published in 2012 by Heritage Documentaries, Inc.

More details and ordering information can be found at

www.heritagedocumentaries.org

The author is Curtis Roseman, Professor Em. of Geography, University of Southern California. 2120 12th Street, Moline, IL 61265 and his e-mail is: <croseman@usc.edu>



A farm in Alseda during the wintertime.

#### **Carl-Werner Pettersson in Memoriam**

Airline Captain Carl-Werner Pettersson of Brinkelid, Åseda, Sweden, born in 1933, has passed away on March 1, 2012. His closest relatives are his children Nicke and Emelie.

Carl-Werner Pettersson was the foremost guardian of the contacts from the Great Immigration. He was unequaled in knowledge of persons and as a travel guide who has for decades re-connected thousands of Swedes with their "unknown family." He was a friend of Vilhelm Moberg and organized, among other things, the last meeting of Moberg and his pathfinder in Moberg Land, Ted Norelius of Lindstrom in Chisago County, Minn.

Why he did not take over the family farm in Brinkelid, Carl-Werner has told many times. The airline from Stockholm to Malmö passed over his home, and in the attic there was a chest with America-letters and photos. The experience of digging among the old memories from his family at the same time as his ears were filled by the exotic sound from the airplanes was what showed him his path in life. Carl-Werner was educated as an engineer and got his flying certificate in Linköping, was hired by Linjeflyg, and advanced to become an airline captain. Now and then he pondered that chest of America memories at home.

His search in the land of the relatives brought us together. One day in the early 1970s I was visited by an eager pilot who covered my desk with his papers. Could the Emigrant Institute help him? Carl-Werner started to unravel the threads

 soon American relatives could be counted in the hundreds and the Emigrant Institute had found its flying ambassador.

His first assignment was to introduce the Antipodian research project concerning Australia and New Zealand. In Chicago he found his base in the offices of the travel agent Donald Ahlm on North Michigan Avenue. In Minnesota he was seen so often that people started to mix up Karl Oskar and Carl-Werner. Naturally this symbol of "Hälsa dem därhemma" was elected the first president of the newly founded "Emigrantinstitutets Vänner" (Friends of the Emigrant Institute) when it was founded in 1984.

The happy combination of a talent for storytelling and a well-modulated voice got Radio Kronoberg interested in having him on air, whether he told about transatlantic relations, events in Åseda, or just plain talks accompanied by music. Request from radio stations in Minnesota made him the "Voice of Småland" in America. Possibly it was his radio engage-



ments that made Carl-Werner take out his guitar and become the lead singer of *Sösdala Brothers* which he toured with for several years. He became even more well-known as a lecturer, especially on Swedish aviation history. He never forgot his flying colleagues, and it was not by chance that the last of Carl-Werner's flights as a charter pilot was filled with veterans from Linjeflyg and SAS.

Mourning cannot be connected with such a person. No, it is sunshine and happiness that counts! Like the time when we together hurried between the hotels in Chicago, just because Carl-Werner wanted to shake hands with all the porters and receptionists that he knew. Or the "Nice to see you, Carl" we heard all the time while we walked down Main Street in Lindstrom.

By Ulf Beijbom Professor, former director of the Swedish Emigrant Institute

#### **Bits & Pieces**







### A sign of changing times

MINNEAPOLIS HUGE SALE
Augustana Lutheran Church 704
11th Ave. S. Fri., April 13, 9-5; #'s at
8 am. Sat., April 14, 9-3. Contents of
offices, lounges, library, fellowship,
Sun. Sch. & child care spaces. Exec.
ofc suites, workstations, electr., uphol.
furn, tbls, chrs, lamps, wall art, youth
furn, toys, BOOKS, bkcases, pianos,
choir music, sew mach's, fabrics, nice
silver plate, vint. bowls, kit., ping
pong & pool tbls, shop & yard equip,
MUCH misc. No pews. AUGSBURG
COLLEGE ASSOCIATES

Dee Kleinow of Burnsville, MN, tells that the building has been bought by a nearby congregation and the archives have been moved to Luther Seminary. The congregation will continue to meet in a nearby building. The church will celebrate its 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 29<sup>th</sup> before closing.

(StarTribune 2012 Apr.11)



This festival will be held in Moorhead, MN.

Link on the links page.

### Glen Brolander and Eva Eriksson honored

Dr Glen Brolander, Stillwater, MN, and Mrs. Eva Eriksson, governor of Värmland, Sweden, each received the Swedish Council of America's Great Achievement Award on April 13, in conjunction with SCA's 40th anniversary celebration at the MN Valley Country Club in Bloomington. One of Brolander's most important contributions to the Swedish-American community was securing gifts, in both the U.S. and Sweden, for the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College. Glen chaired the Swenson Center Advisory Committee until 2004.





Glen Brolander

Eva Eriksson

Mrs. Eriksson has been the chairperson of the Sweden America Center in Karlstad since 2004, and has spent time and energy on modernizing the work with subjects concerning emigration and immigration to Sweden. She says that the "Great Emigration is an important part of the Swedish cultural heritage."

SAG congratulates the awardees! (Stillwater Gazette 2012 Mar. 30; Information from the Länsstyrelsen i Värmland 2012 Apr. 18).

## Genealogy Days in Gävle Aug. 25–26, 2012

Link on the links page.

#### Royal visit in October

Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden will visit the American Swedish Institute and Gustavus Adolphus College in October 2012.

The royal visit is in honor of the dedication of ASI's new Nelson Cultural Center and other recent campus enhancements, and in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Gustavus Adolphus College by Swedish immigrants in 1862.

(SCA Website 2012 Apr. 21).

### The 1940 U.S. Federal Census is here!

On Monday 2012 Apr. 2 the National Archives released the images of the U.S. 1940 Census to the eagerly waiting public. The interest was even bigger than anticipated so the servers crashed, but are now in order again.

Some links to good 1940 sites are found on the links page.

#### Civil War exhibit in Iowa

An exhibition called "The Fiery Trial: Iowa and the Civil War" will be in Stratford, Iowa, on May 31st.

For more information, send an e-mail to <SwedeBndIA@aol.com>

### Swedish-American of the Year 2012



Ingvar Wikström (b. 1928 in Sweden) of Chicago, an Augustana alumnus and well-known former owner of Wikstrom's Deli in Andersonville, has

been elected to this honor for 2012. These days he sells Swedish delicacies online, and spends much time on preserving Swedish traditions. He has also received a Swedish Award for Gastronomy.

### Johanna Ogden - a pioneering woman in the West

#### A forgotten obituary tells about an amazing woman

Among the deaths during the year since the 1904 issue of Prärieblomman is Mrs. Johanna Sofia Ogden, one of the more remarkable women of our early Swedish American history. She came to America in one of the first Erik Janssonist parties, became the first Swedish woman in the Swedish settlement of Andover, Illinois, and participated in one of the earliest Gold Rush trips to California. She was thus a living witness to much that happened during Swedish pioneer life in the American West, and one may hope that she leaves a few notes concerning her life full of change.

Here are some details of her background, family situation, and the conditions that brought her to America.

Among the many drawn into the Erik Janssonist religious movement was the owner of Lund's paper mill in Forsa parish, Helsingland, J.E. Lundqvist, who had moved to the above-named parish from Nyköping. However, his wife Brita, born Flodin, seems to have been a more eager Erik Janssonist than her husband, judging from her having been one of the 15 persons who on 7 December 1844, on a point in Långasjö lake at Stenbo in the mentioned parish, participated in a book burning, as had happened earlier at Tranberg in Alfta, and Lynäs in Söderala, where a quantity of Lutheran devotional books was set on fire. For that the 15 were brought to trial, and on 24 February 1845 fined 16 Riksdalers 32 Skillings each by the Forsa district court. The results of that case certainly contributed to Lundqvist's decision to go to America along with the Erik Janssonists. The paper mill was sold, and Lundqvist, along with his wife and their oldest daughter Johanna

Sofia – born in Nyköping on 15 January 1824 – joined one of the first Erik Janssonist groups that emigrated in 1846. Their younger daughter Mathilda Gustafva however remained in Sweden to collect debts owed the family.

As the parents settled in the Erik Janssonist colony of Bishop Hill, Illinois, the oldest daughter took a job in the beginning of 1847, serving an American, Mr. Townsend, at Andover in the same state. There had been no other Swedish woman before her at that place, and only one Swedish (p. 235) man, former seaman Sven Nelson, who had come in 1840.

The same year Johanna arrived at Andover, she became acquainted with a Swedish sea captain named P.W. Wirström, and it was not long before the two became one. They were the first Swedish couple married in Andover. Capt. Wirström, born in Vaxholm in 1816, appears to have come to America very early. The year of his arrival is not known, but we know with certainty that he was here in 1846, sailing on the Great Lakes. In the fall of that year he learned of a party of countrymen who had arrived in Buffalo, NY. He went there, and found that the party consisted of Erik Janssonists under the leadership and care of Nils Hedin. At the request of the immigrants, he accompanied them as translator to Bishop Hill, where he became as valuable as a physician-he had some knowledge of that profession— as he had been as interpreter. He stayed there until July of 1847. He then moved to Andover, where he found Johanna Sofia Lundqvist already there, having arrived the same year as her husband.

They lived for a time in a little log cabin, but left in the fall of that year for New Orleans, from which they returned in the spring of 1848, travelling (p. 236) again the next fall to New Orleans, and returned to Andover in the spring of 1849. That year, gold was discovered in California, and among those who went out to try their luck were Capt. Wirström and his young wife. This took place in 1850, after the long trip across the "great American desert." The trip was made largely on foot, and they had to endure much suffering. There was also heavy work for Mrs. Wirström. During the latter part of the trip, she had to cook and care for eight men in their party. She endured all the difficulties and arrived successfully in the gold fields with her husband.

As a result of poor health, Capt. W. returned in 1854 to Illinois, and died in Bishop Hill 25 February 1855. His wife had to continue the struggle for existence alone in the gold country, which she did so successfully that in the same year her husband died she could return to Bishop Hill with \$3,000, earned honorably by cooking for the gold miners.

On 4 November 1856 widow Wirström married an American named M.B. Ogden, and settled down with him in Victoria, Knox County, IL. In 1881 they moved to Riverside, CA, where she finished her rich, eventful life on 10 June 1904<sup>1</sup>.

As for the fate of her younger sister, it may be added that she came to America in 1850 and married a Mr. J.W. Florine, and moved with him in 1855 to Andover, where he became its first Swedish apothecary, physician, and photographer. Mr. Florine served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in Company H, Illinois 43<sup>rd</sup> Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the early part of the Civil War, but mustered out on 4 Feb. 1862 and died the same year. His wife, born in Nyköping in 1829, was still living in 1898².

The Lundqvist couple, after the division of the Bishop Hill Colony, moved to their younger daughter in Andover, dying before 1880.

A large number of Erik Janssonists later joined other religious groups. The sisters Johanna Sofia Ogden and Mathilda Gustafva Florine became very enthusiastic Swedenborgians. Both have tried as best they could to spread Swedenborg's teachings in their area.

A true and correct translation of the biography, of Johanna Sofia Ogden, *Prärieblomman 1905*, Rock Island, IL, pp. 234-237, by

John E. Norton 4015 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ct. Moline, IL 61265 E-mail: jnorton3614@gmail.com

1) The Ogden couple was found in the 1900 U.S. Census for California, then living in Riverside precinct #7, in Riverside county. Mr. Matthew B. Ogden was born in November 1826 in Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Johanna Ogden was born in January 1824 in Sweden, and immigrated in 1846. She had been married for 43 years and never had children. Matthew B. Ogden died in 1910, and the couple is buried in Olivewood Cemetery in Riverside (www.findagrave.com).

2) Mrs. Florine is mentioned in *Svenskarne i Illinois*, by Eric Johnson and C.F. Peterson. Printed in Chicago 1880.

On p. 323 it is told that "Mrs. M.G. Florine in Andover has an excellent home, surrounded by beautiful fruit trees and shade trees, and also 100 acres of good land. She adhers to the new church opinions."

### A little family fun:

#### The van Gogh Family Tree

His dizzy aunt	Verti Gogh
The brother who ate prunes	Gotta Gogh
The brother who worked at a convenience store	Stop N Gogh
The grandfather from Yugoslavia	U Gogh
His magician uncle	Where-diddy Gogh
His Mexican cousin	A Mee Gogh
The Mexican cousin's American half-brother	Gring Gogh
The nephew who drove a stage coach	Wells-far Gogh
The constipated uncle	Can't Gogh
The ballroom dancing aunt	Tang Gogh
The bird lover uncle	Flamin Gogh
The fruit-loving cousin	Man Gogh
An aunt who taught positive thinking	Way-to-Gogh
The little bouncy nephew	Poe Gogh
A sister who loved disco	Go Gogh
And his niece who travels the country in an RV	Winnie Bay Gogh
Smiling ??	there ya Gogh

#### The new princess



H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria and H.R.H. Princess Estelle. Photo: Kate Gabor/royalcourt.se

Little Estelle Silvia (for mormor) Ewa (for farmor) Mary was born in Stockholm on 23 February 2012, the first child of H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria and H.R.H. Prince Daniel.

Estelle has also been appointed Duchess of Östergötland, a purely ceremonial title.

In the above picture Estelle is about 7 weeks old.

To read more about the royal family, see a link on the links page.

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### The Stockholm population 1878–1926

This is a PC DVD, and runs on XP or higher.

#### The Rotemannen database is now available on a DVD

During the latter half of the 1800s Stockholm had a very big increase in population, which made the usual system for the parishes to keep track of people break down.

Instead the city government started a system where there was appointed a certain civil servant, the *rotemannen*, who had his job to keep track of people in his area. The city was divided into 16 *rotar* (sing.: *rote*), based on the parishes. By the end of the system in 1926 the number of *rotar* had grown to 36.

The *rotemannen* had to keep track of when and where people moved in or out of the *rote*, and also keep books of births, marriages, and deaths. The foundation of the system was the various buildings and the people in them.

All this information was recorded in huge books that were preserved, and are now kept in the Stockholm City Archives (*Stockholms Stadsar-kiv*, *SSA*).

The record-keeping system was however very difficult to understand, and there were thousands of books to search in, so the *Rotemannarkivet* was not user-friendly, and was indeed not open to the public.

But when computer became more available, many archives started huge indexing projects, and so did the SSA. A project to index the almost 7 million posts started in 1977, and the project will be completed in 2017.

The first CD based on the *Rote-mannaarkivet* was released in 1998, and contained information from the parishes of *Söder* (the island south of the Old Town). This CD was a huge success, and was then followed by a number of others: *Klara*, *Gamla Stan* and *Kungsholmen*. They contained the same type of information for their areas, but the search systems were different and sometimes hard to use.

So there was a demand for a new disc, a DVD, that had in one database all the information from the old CDs + the newly indexed *rotar* that had not made it to a CD.

In early February the long awaited DVD was released, and it has been another huge success, that makes it so much easier to do Stockholm research.

The search system is now on the same model as in the Swedish Death Index, and easy to navigate.

The DVD has almost 5 million posts. On the DVD there are also some maps of the city from various time periods, so you can find the street where your people lived. For some ares there are links to information from the death records, which can see of there is a cross in the search result. For other areas there is a direct link to the books that have the original information. This requires an internet connection.



#### Warning

This DVD does *not* speak English, but is easy to navigate anyway. This is also

a secondary source, so be careful, and check as much as possible in primary records.

It does not cover the whole city, parishes as Adolf Fredrik, Engelbrekt, Johannes, Gustav Vasa, Matteus, Bromma are still missing. Brännkyrka is partly missing.

#### **Using the DVD**

When you begin the DVD you will see a start page with various choices. Select the one that says: SÖK, and you will come to the search window.

The example below shows a search for author August Strindberg, who was born in Stockholm, and sometimes lived abroad and sometimes came back to his city of

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🕏 Sök				7
Esternamn		Förnamn		
strindberg		august		EI
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1849	Kvinna	☐ Gift ☐ Ānka/ān	kling Barn Anstäl	ld   Inneboende
Födelseort	Län Församling Övriga	Yrke/titel		
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Aflyttningsår	Ulflyttningsort		Län Försar	
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	Rote Häftesnummer	Littera för häfte ID i	databasen	
Bokföringsuppgi	fter			
₩SÖK!	RENSA			
2 30K.				

birth, with or whitout his family.

As always, fill out as few fields as possible, to eliminate spelling variations and other problems. It usually enough to fill in *Efternamn* (surname), *Förnamn* (given name) and *Födelsedatum* (date of birth). The birthdate should be written as YYYYMMDD (18850614), but just the year can work as well. Then click on SÖK, and you get your search result. [RENSA means clear!]

In the result window 1 you will find all the various hits for August Strindberg, 15 of them, and you can also see the time periods each hit covers.

In result window 2 you will find the household during a specific period, with children and maids. Here you can click on any person, and his/ her information at that time will appear in result window 3.

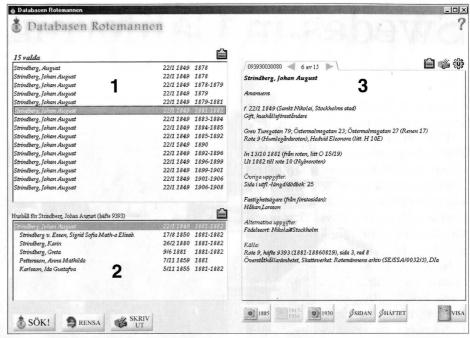
In this window you will also find the most detailed information about the person, date and place of birth, marital status, address with name of the block, and streets around it, when he moved in and from where. In Stockholm it shows which *rote*, and from other places the name of the parish or country, and where he moved next. There are also page numbers in the moving-in and -outbook, who owned the building, and the full source citation.

At the bottom of window 3 there are a couple of buttons. The first three ones shows a map from 1885 and the next one from 1930. The middle button does work yet. The button "sidan" shows the people on the same page, and the button "häftet" shows people in the same book. The last button "visa" is the internet connection where you can see the actual scanned pages.

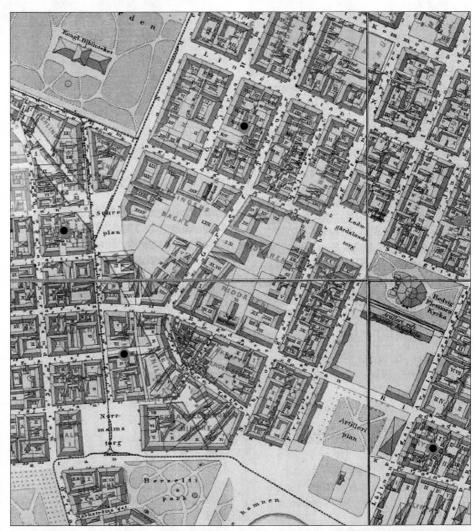
While using this database and looking for other people, you may see "social" notes, about people being in hospital or jail, of children given new shoes by the *rote*, or poor relief, and much more. There is much more to say, but this is a fantastic tool for life in Stockholm during this period.

The DVD can be bought from http://shop.genealogi.se/shop/

The price is roughly \$100, and you can pay with a credit card.



The search results.



This map is from 1885, and is connected with August Strindberg. The black dots shows where he lived in the area. He moved a lot, but mostly stayed in this area, to be close to his work at the Kungliga Biblioteket (Royal Library) in upper left corner.

### Swedes in California in 1852

There is a California state census that was taken in 1852.

The reason for this was that the first federal census of California was taken in 1850. However, many of the residents had come to California because of the Gold Rush and were continually on the move. This made the accuracy of the 1850 census questionable.

In addition, the records for the counties of Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Santa Clara were lost or destroyed. As a result, the state of California conducted its own census in 1852. This is the only state census for California.

It is possible to search the census by place of birth, and when searching for Sweden about 550 hits appeared.

Here are a few of the Swedes that were in California in 1852, presumably mostly trying their luck in the gold fields.

The information given is their name, year of birth, and county of residence:

Johan Kjellander, b. 1824, Sonoma.
Jacob Green, b. 1816, San Francisco.
NN Flink, b. 1823, Placer.
R. Fleetwart, b. 1825, Sonoma, (nobility family, in SPAUS p. 224).
Joseph Korn, b. 1827, San Francisco.
Matthew Norr, b. 1817, El Dorado.
Chas L. Bloom, b. 1822, Sierra.
A Duben, b. 1827, Nevada.
J. Norbo, b. 1826, Placer.
P. Sundin, b. 1820, Placer.
Chas Samuelson, b. 1821, Sacramento.

G. Hellberg, b. 1828, Trinity. (possibly in SPAUS, p. 345).

J. Brobeck, b. 1821, Sacramento.
David Nunborn, b. 1816, El Dorado.
Emil Lubeck, b. 1837, Sonoma.
Anthony Westrim, b. 1811, Solano.
Thos Andson, b. 1815, Tuolumne.
Martin Anderson, b. 1826, Tuolumne.
NN Bahlin, b. 1808, Santa Clara.
Edward L. Funell, b. 1825, San
Joaquin.



Digging for gold in California.

A[lbin] Gegerfelt, b. 1823, San Francisco. [Nobility family, tab. 18].
Sven Wiggoust, b. 1824, Sacramento.
A D Kingstrom, b. 1825, Sonoma.
Gloff Swendenston, b. 1816, Santa Cruz.

Aslof Swendenster, b. 1807, San Francisco.

John Tengrene, b. 1832, San Joaquin. J Svenberg, b. 1821, Tuolumne. J Ecklin, b. 1809, Placer. Edwd Bermaram, b. 1822, San Francisco.

C Westfield, b. 1829, Siskiyou. C Osbeck, b. 1815, Sacramento. Auguste Gitigren, b. 1818, San Francisco.

Roland Bergin, b. 1832, San Francisco.

Gustavus Bergwall, b. 1812, Sonoma, (probably SPAUS #855).

Laura Bergwall, b. 1822, Sonoma. Chas Frind, b. 1799, Placer. C. Segin, b. 1794, San Francisco.

And. Williams, b. 1795, San Francisco.

F. E. Ritter, b. 1800, San Franscisco.
A.C. Knonell, b. 1815, Placer.
Thos Andson, b. 1815, Tuolumne.
John Steinbeck, b. 1814, San Francisco.

David Nunborn, b. 1816, El Dorado.
Fred Swanson, b. 1816, Tuolumne.
L. E. Hickand, b. 1816, San Joaquin.
Chas Spaulding, b. 1817, Sacramento.

Jacob Charlston, b. 1817, Siskiyou. I Witineagles, b. 1813, Trinity.

Mich Gorloch, b. 1817, San Francisco.

Theodore Petigrue, b. 1817, Yuba.

Chas Quilfald, b. 1817, Calaveras.

A. Skagh, b. 1812, San Joaquin.

C. H. Lungren, b. 1812, San Francisco.

I. W. Norton, b. 1818, Yuba.

Carlo Applebee, b. 1818, Placer.

John Sivergenhan, b. 1818, Tuolumne.

Al Peters, b. 1818, El Dorado. Frederick Longert, b. 1830, Tuolumne.

Andrew P. Lafflord, b. 1830, Sacramento.

P. Anglin, b. 1828, Placer.

**Source:** California State Census, 1852. California State Archives, Sacramento. FHL Microfilm, 6 rolls. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Accessed on April 20, 2012 at www.familysearch.org

Elisabeth Thorsell

# Chicago, Chicago!

By Elisabeth Thorsell

Last year, in September of 2011, my friend and collegue, Ingrid Nilsson from Trelleborg, and I travelled together in the U.S.

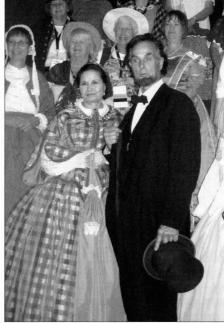
We started by flying into Springfield, IL, to take part of the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, which was very interesting. In the fine early fall weather we walked around and saw many sights, and it felt good to be back in the U.S. again.

Among other things we went on a tour of the *Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (ALPL)*, which seems to be a very good place for Illinois research. They even told us that they had old Swedish language newspapers.



The ALPL in Springfield.

One of the benefits of going to these conferences is all the people you meet, and the interesting items in the exhibition hall. In the evenings there were all kinds of social events that did not remind us of Sweden at all.



One evening we had the opportunity to see Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, but we could not hear his speech, because of the "genealogical noise" in the room.

#### To Chicago

Some of our Chicago friends that come to Salt Lake City thought we needed to be updated on our knowledge of the "Windy City," where so many Swedes made their homes (several visits to O'Hare Airport did not count), and arranged many inter-

esting things for us to see during a couple of days.

The first day we spent in the company of *Julie Benson*, who had made the plans.



Julie and Ingrid.

Julie took us on a walk along Michigan Avenue, which ended at the Architectural Cruise on the Chicago River. The boat and the guide took us to see many of the skyscrapers. Many of them were designed by famous architects, but probably built by Swedes. Next we walked around the Millenium Park and saw many modern sculptures and old fountains, a perfect walk on a sunny day. Then a bus down to the Hancock Building, with its 94 floors one of the tallest buildings in Chicago. An incredible

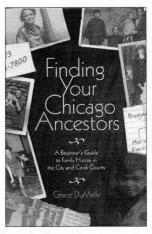


Part of the Chicago shore.

view from up there! By now we were tired, so a horse-and-buggy ride back to the hotel was just perfect.

Next day (Monday) was a day of rest; we just explored the area of the hotel just a block off Michigan Avenue.

Tuesday our friend Wayne Nelson picked us up and drove us to the Newberry Library, where a librarian told of their resources for Chicago research, which were extensive, even some Swedish church records. We also met with Grace DuMelle, whom we talked to in Springfield, and who has written an informative book, Finding Your Chicago Ancestors.



The next stop was North Park University, where the Archives and Special Collections are located in the lower level of Brandel Library. Researchers will find records of historical value and significance regarding North Park University, the Evangelical Covenant Church, and Swedish-Americans in the Chicago area.

We met with archivist *Anne Jenner*; who used to work at the Swenson Center, and who showed us lots of interesting archives that are very valuable for all serious scholars on



Ingrid and Anne Jenner in the stacks..

the Swedes in Chicago.

Lunch at the Tre Kronor restaurant was also a treat.

Wednesday Wayne again picked us up and took us to the Swedish American Museum on 5211 North Clark Street in the old Swedish area, where a nice young curator showed us several interiors that also gave an insight into the life of the immigrants, or at least those that succeeded.



Waiting was a big part of the immigrants life. The plaques on the wall are inscribed with immigrant names.

This was a rainy day, so we could not walk around in the area, which would otherwise have been fun.

In the evening Wayne took us to *Sue Jackson*'s house way north of Chicago, where she had invited us and some other friends for a meal, and a nice social evening.



Gene Anderson, Wayne Nelson, Sue Jackson. Louise Anderson was also there.

Thursday *Shirley Koelling* came and took us south of the city. First we saw the statue of Carl von Linné (Linnaeus) on a high pedestal in the garden of University of Chicago. We had seen the day before in the North Park Archives the boxes of records of making the statue and then the records from when it had to be moved in 1976.

#### **Pullman next**

The rest of the day was mostly spent in visiting the town of Pullman.

"Historic Pullman was built in the 1880s by George Pullman for his eponymous railroad car company, the Pullman Palace Car Company. Pullman's architect Solon Spencer Beman was said to be so proud of his creation that he asked George Pullman if the neighborhood could be named for himself. Pullman responded to the effect, "Sure, we'll take the first half of my name, and the second half of yours."

"In a day when most workers lived in shabby tenements near their factories, Pullman seemed a dream, being voted "the world's most perfect town" by the jury of the second International Hygienic and Pharmaceutical Exposition in 1896. Everything, from stores to townhouses, were owned by the company. "The design was pleasing, and all of the workers' needs were met within the neighborhood. The houses were comfortable by standards of the day, and contained such amenities as indoor plumbing, gas, and sewers.

"Pullman's misfortune came during the depression which followed the Panic of 1893. When demand for Pullman cars slackened, the Pullman company laid off hundreds of workers, and switched many more to payper-piece work. This work, while paying more per hour, reduced total worker income. Despite these cutbacks, the company did not reduce rents for those that lived in the town of Pullman. The Pullman strike began in 1894 and lasted for 2 months, eventually leading to intervention by the U.S. government. The Strike Commission set up in 1894 thought that the aesthetic features admired by visitors had little monetary value for employees.

"George Pullman himself died in 1897. The Illinois Supreme Court required the company to sell off the town because the running of the town was outside the company's charter. It was then annexed by the city of Chicago. Within ten years, all non-manufacturing property – the houses, the public buildings – were sold off to the individual occupants.

"Pullman Car Works manufactured its last car in early 1981. In 1991 the state of Illinois purchased a section of the plant intending to create a museum of the history of the company and the Pullman community. This plan was called into question as the result of a fire in December 1998.

"In 1960 the original town of Pullman, approximately between 111th and 115th Streets, was threatened with total demolition for an industrial park.

"By 1972 the Pullman Historic District had obtained national, state, and city landmark status to protect the original 900 rowhouses and public buildings built by George Pullman." (Wikipedia, accessed 23 Apr. 2012)

We went to the Visitors' Center, which was full of tools, pictures, plans, and many other things.

Pullman was a place that attracted many Swedish carpenters, and some 1,100 Swedes were employed by the company in the late 1800s. They were the second largest foreign ethnic group in Pullman; only the Germans were a larger group.

Swedish ethnologist *Allan T. Nils*son has written a book about those of the Pullman Swedes that came from a special area in Västergötland, Ryfors in Mullsjö community. Mr.



Among this group of company officials from 1908 one can find names like Berg, Pearson, and Swanson.



Some of the restored rowhouses in Pullman.

Nilsson's book is called *De byggde* järnvägsvagnar-Emigranterna från Ryfors hos Pullmans i Chicago (1999).

After having spent most of the afternoon in Pullman we went on to the South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society (SSGHS) in Hazel Crest, Illinois, where we visited their library. Our friend Shirley is the 1st vice president, and another friend, Judy O. Baouab, is the 2nd vice president. The society has a large library and seems to be quite active. They have published several volumes of clippings of interest from local newspapers, and even translated two chapters from the above-mentioned book by Allan T. Nilsson. They have also published "The Greater Roseland Area of Chicago - Svenska Evangelical Lutheran Elims Församlingen (Elim Lutheran Church) 1885 - 1900." which has extracted records for this period.

Perhaps the most valuable documents in the possession of the SSGHS are the *Pullman Car Works* records. The collection holds records for about 200,000 individuals. A record might be just a card with a name on it, or an entire employee file, including birth certificate, military records, pictures, family relationships, work history, education, and cause of death. The collection is not open to the public. Research can be requested by the web site.

#### **Contact information:**

South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society 3000 West 170th Place, Hazel Crest, IL. 60429 - 1174, USA. E-mail to: ssghs@usa.net Web: http://www.ssghs.org/

## An example of an employee record:

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This is for Johan Valentin Olsson, born 2 Dec. 1862 in Hycklinge (Östg.).

Next day we flew to SLC!

### The solution of the Handwriting Example 30

**Transcription:** 

Utdrag af Journalen öfver utfärdade Pass ifrån Carlstads Lands Cancellie uti Januari Månad År 1814:

År, Månad och Dag då passet utfä dades	ı	Passinnehafvarens Namn, Ålder, ut- seende och hemvist, Embete Tjenst eller Yrke, samt ställe hvarifrån den Resande kommer.	Hvilka Orter den Resande bör genomfara, stället der han ämnar sig uppehålla eller qvar- stanna, jemte tiden huru länge passet gäller.
1814 Januari	2	Enkefru Ekman, Mamsell A. L. Spak med dräng från Carlstad	Till Stockholm och hit åter
	5	Inspektor Hesselius från Deije	Inom detta och Fahlu Län på 3 månader
	"	Capitaine Norrman med dräng	Till Stockholm
	"	Ombudsman Lidback	Dito
	"	Auditeur A. G. Salmenius	Inom detta, Elfsborgs, Skaraborgs och Bohuslän på 1 år
	7	Bokhållaren B. Branzell	Till Elfsborgs Län på 1 månad

#### **Translation:**

Extracts of the list of Journals of Passports issued at the Carlstad County Office in the month of January in the year 1814:

Year, Month and Day, when the Passport was issued		Name of holder of Passport, age, appearance and domicile, office, profession or service, and the place the traveller comes from.	Through the higher which is his destin		
1814					
January	2	Widow Mrs. Ekman, Miss A. L. Spak with a groom from Carlstad	To Stockholm and back again		
	5	Inspector Hesselius from Deije	Within this county and to Fahlu county for 3 months		
	"	Captain Norrman and his groom	To Stockholm		
	"	The Ombudsman Lidback	Ditto		
	<b>دد</b>	The judicial adviser $(audit\"{o}r)$ A. G. Salmenius	Within this county, Älvsborg, Skaraborg and Bohuslän for 1 year		
	7	The bookkeeper B. Branzell	To Älvsborg county for 1 month		

## EmiWeb?

Maybe you have heard of EmiWeb, but what is it?

EmiWeb is the first web-based archive of its kind covering migration to and from Scandinavia. It is a profit organization within non-profit organizations. The purpose is to get archives online and contribute to non-profit organizations's research and development.

#### **Archives in EmiWeb**

- Minnesota State Census (External archive)
- The Swedish American emigrant photo collection
- Dalsland descendants born in America
- Swedish American association members
- Swedes leaving from Kristiania
- Swenson Center photo collection
- Swedish American book index
- · The Danish emigration database
- Swedish emigration
- Swedish immigration (Gävleborg, Västernorrland, Örebro and Värmland counties)
- Obituaries from Swedish-American newspapers
- Obituaries from Värmland newspapers

## Some of the non-profit organizations that own EmiWeb:

Swedish American Center, Karlstad. Göteborgs-Emigranten, Göteborg. The Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö.

The City Archives of Örebro/ Örebro genealogists, Örebro.

The Norwegian Emigrant Museum, Hamar, Norway.

The Danish Emigration Archives, Aalborg, Denmark.

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Rock Island, IL, USA.

The Åland Islands' Emigrant Institute, Mariehamn, Finland.

Mellerud Museum and Genealogy Archive, Mellerud.

#### Some of the databases:

#### **Association members**

This database, compiled by Bertil Grundström, lists some 31,000 members of the Svithiod and Viking societies of Chicago, and members of the Swedish Brothers of Minneapolis, and the Västgötaförbundet. It can be the clue to finding where an immigrant settled.

#### The Swedish American book index

This is an index to several old books like *Svenskarne i Illinois*, *The Swed-*

ish Texans, Washington och dess svenska befolkning. The index is searchable by names, and shows the exact page for the person you are looking for.

These are just a few of the valuable databases in EmiWeb.

#### **Contact information:**

EmiWeb, Box 331, SE-65108 Karlstad, Sweden E-mail: info@emiweb.se Web: http://www.emiweb.eu Subscription: 500 SEK/year

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Friends and Neighbors

#### For more information, write

Swedish-American Historical Society 3225 W. Foster, Box 48 Chicago IL, 60625

#### or see www.swedishamericanhist.org

Mention the Genealogist when you join or order books





## **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.

### Swedes in Bishop Hill

De lydiga kreaturen i Bishop Hill. En religiös fanatikers uppgång och fall, by Björn Fontander, 2011, Carlssons Bokförlag, Stockholm. ISBN 978 91 7331 426 8, in Swedish. 34 illustrations. 318 p., hardcover. Person index.

In the early 19th century, confronting the powerful State Church of Sweden was a feat of moral and physical courage. Enduring a 4,000-mile journey and facing the hardscrabble American frontier was not for the faint-hearted. From the outset, the separatist Swedish movement led by lay preacher Erik Jansson was a social experiment filled with controversy, befuddling the Swedish mainstream.

In this volume of popular history, Swedish journalist Björn Fontander "aims to give part of the history of Erik Jansson and his fight against the Swedish church, and the rise and fall of a religious movement." Fontander takes his title from disgruntled 19<sup>th</sup> century Swedish sheriff Johan Ekblom from his ancestral parish who referred to the Janssonists as "the obedient cattle."

A longtime producer for Swedish Radio and Television, Björn Fontander is the author of seven books, most focusing on WWII as it relates to Scandinavia. He has roots in Torstuna, the home parish of Erik Jansson's parents, and when he visited Bishop Hill on assignment for Swedish Television, he became fascinated.

Although Swedish scholars have published analyses of this unique Swedish-American social experiment (for example, Cecilia Weirvd's impressive dissertation), nonfiction books for the general reader are rare: the sympathetic portrayal by professor Olov Isaksson of the National Museum of Antiquities, Utopia on the *Prairie*; the well-researched pastiche by local historian George Swank, Bishop Hill: Showcase of Swedish *History*; and the lively if not totally accurate biography of Jansson written by theology professor Paul Elmén in 1976, Wheat Flour Messiah.

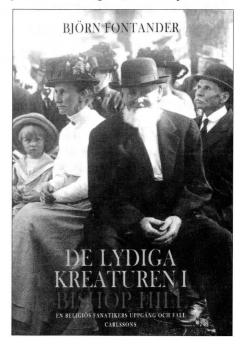
De lydiga kreaturen is an ambitious book, divided into five sections spanning 150 years. The history is told through vivid scenes, flashbacks, and lengthy asides. The point of view shifts between the author's visit to Bishop Hill in the 1980s, and a third-person focus on Jansson. Two framing devices are used: a painting by Olof Krans and the notion of Jansson sitting at a desk writing his memoir.

Following a brief introduction, part one is an imaginative retelling of the sect's early years in Sweden, apparently primarily based on Jansson's memoir and the 1900 Herlenius dissertation. Part two is a brief account of Jansson's flight to America. Part three relates the Janssonist emigration and first years of the Colony. culminating in Jansson's murder in 1850. Part four brings us to the 1861 dissolution of the Colony, but also touches on the 1896 Colony reunion, a 1993 auction of Colony items, and the 1989 funeral of a Colony descendant. Part five describes a sect which

formed the basis for Selma Lagerlöf's 1901 novel, *Jerusalem*.

Fontander maintains a good pace, sprinkling the tale with quotations from Jansson, hostile clergy in Sweden, and loyal Janssonists. He brings to light passages from Jansson's own diary and the letters of his former servant, Anna-Maria Stråle — sources sometimes overlooked in treatments of the Colony. He is skilled at providing a summary and analysis of complex issues including Jansson's moral code (p. 29) and farewell letter (p. 112).

Not surprising for an awardwinning television producer, Fontander does visuals best. His scenesetting and character sketches are vivid. He is an engaging narrator with a flair for clever phrases. He characterizes Jansson as going from jordbrukare (p.35, literally "earth-





## **Book Reviews**

user," i.e. "farmer") to ordbrukare ("word-user") or 'Satan hit och djävlar dit' (p. 81, "Satan here and devils there"). One parish was "profetfritt." ("prophet-free" p. 60). We encounter provocative chapter titles, such as "Flykten från Djävlalandet" ("The Flight from the Land of Satan") and "Bos Karin och horkarlen" ("Bos Karin and the Whoremaster").

There are a number of unfortunate errors in the book. Some are understandable, given a lack of background in American culture. Fontander characterizes a burial he happened to witness in the Bishop Hill cemetery as "short, efficient, American" (p.149), perhaps not aware that Bishop Hill burials are preceded by lengthier funeral services in the nearby church. Misunderstanding the nature of district court hearings in the 1800s, he wonders how the courtroom accommodated everyone. According to him, Jansonists took horse-drawn boats from New York City to Albany (p.141), although the Hudson River had no tow-paths.

Unfortunately, the book was published without sufficient fact-checking or editing. Here, Erik Jansson looked at the Steeple Building built three years after his death (p.208), thousands of Swedes arrived in New York before 1845, newlywed Colonists after the mass marriage in 1848 stayed in the Big Brick, built 1850 (p.157) — none of which is correct. While the layout of the book is attractive, I found the inconsistency in citations, punctuation, chapter datelines, and captions distracting.

Creative nonfiction is a difficult genre. The lack of subject index, endnotes, or bibliography make it impossible for most readers to know when the facts are being stretched. It is sometimes difficult to tell which thoughts are excerpts from Jansson's memoir and which are fabricated. In creating incidents, thoughts, and dialogue, Fontander has tiptoed over the line.

The bias against the Jansonists is glaring. Without irony, Fontander several times likens the pious and peaceful sect members (full disclosure: my ancestors) to acquiescent Germans under Hitler. Jansson he dismisses as a "religious fanatic" and a "slick fish" who mesmerized over a thousand gullible countrymen with his passion and preaching.

Some of the unsubstantiated claims are startling, for example, that Erik Jansson spoke Latin (p.163), that happy times in Bishop Hill lasted only until 1851 (p.171), that Jansson planned to build a palace in Bishop Hill (p. 145). The charming cover photo of unidentified travelers has nothing to do with Janssonists, and was taken fifty years after the Colony dissolved.

The author's imagination runs well beyond the historical record. Although Jansson's mother and two brothers emigrated with the sect, Fontander speculates that he was the black sheep of the family (p. 35). With no evidence of anything beyond a childhood accident, he wonders whether Jansson's brother chopped off two of his fingers intentionally.

The treatment of women is especially troubling. Although they comprised the bulk of the colony and made crucial contributions to the sect's survival and economic success, Jansonist women show up here chiefly in salacious and/or romantic episodes going well beyond the evidence – Bos Karin, Anna Maria Stråle, Maja Stina Larsdotter, and Sofia Schön.

Not one to let the facts get in the way of a good story, journalist Fon-

tander spins a tale to support his somewhat smug premise – Who in their right mind would want to leave our *Fjällhöga* North? Thus, activists must be crazy, emigrants must be bewitched.

A fan of creative nonfiction, I wanted to like this book, but Fontander's foray into frontier history was a disappointment. Neither fact nor fiction, *De lydiga kreaturen* is a Nordic yarn for a long winter night that doesn't stand up to the sober light of day. The real story of the Jansonists is powerful and immensely moving. In straining for the sensational, this otherwise talented author disrespects us all.

Brita Butler-Wall, Ph.D., is a descendant of the Jansonists who writes about the Bishop Hill Colony.

#### Sources:

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Olov Isaksson. *Bishop Hill: A Utopia on the Prairie*, Stockholm: LT Publishing, 1969.

George Swank. *Bishop Hill: Swedish-American Showcase*. Galva, IL: Galva Historical Society, 1965.

Emil Herlenius. Erik-Jansismens Historia. Ett bidrag till kännedomen om det svenska sektväsendet. Jönköping: Lundgrenska Boktryckeriet, 1900; Reprint by FaluKuriren, 2002.



### Modern Swedes in Oregon

Ten New Lives, Swedes in the Pacific Northwest, by Lars Nordström, Swedish Roots in Oregon Press, Portland, 2010, Soft Cover, 256 pages, Swedish Roots in Oregon Press, \$15.00.

Lars Nordström was born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden, but has lived in the U.S. since 1978. He has authored many books in both Swedish and English about Swedish immigrants in the U.S. Northwest, where he now resides with his family. Once a technical translator, he now divides his time between growing grapes in his vineyard near Beaver Creek, Oregon, and writing, translating, and giving talks on various Swedish-American subjects.

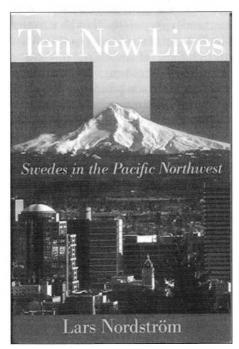
In this new book, Lars Nordström has recorded the results of ten interviews with recent Swedish immigrants, five men and five women, most of whom came to the U.S. around the year 1980. These interviews stand in vivid contrast to those usually read about Swedes coming to the U.S. during the "Great Migration" vears of 1840 to 1930. These stories illustrate the differences in circumstances between today and the earlier years, and vary greatly among the ten themselves. Lars was interested in the reasons why Swedes would migrate today to the U.S., in a time when living conditions in Sweden were much more stable and secure in many ways than they were in

## **Book Reviews**

earlier days.

The method used was to search for people born in Sweden who had lived here at least ten years. The people were found largely by word of mouth in the Portland area, among friends and acquaintances. Of those interviewed and recorded, only one had become a U.S. citizen, the others were resident aliens, and one had returned to Sweden. Nordstrom provided a four page questionnaire ahead of time to serve as a starting point, before the three to four hour interview, usually held in their own homes. From these interviews Nordström condensed and edited their stories, then gave them an opportunity to review the final draft and work out any changes before publication.

Today, all but one of the persons interviewed still live and work in the Portland area but eight are now U.S. citizens (probably due to a 2001 change in Swedish law allowing dual citizenship). All but one remains married to the same spouse, all continue to work and none have retired. A big change which has occurred in the last ten years is the growth of the internet, allowing these Swedish-born residents to stay in



closer and easier touch with relatives in Sweden and with Swedish news. Most felt that their opinions as recorded in their original interviews in 1988–91 have not changed much since that time.

The ten individual stories related in the book are as fascinating as they are unique and different. Of the ten, a few examples are:

- Roger, b. 1955, an electrical engineer from Eskilstuna, had an urge to travel and worked in several countries before coming to Texas with his Swedish wife and small child. He later moved to the Pacific Northwest, where he remained.
- Cecilia, b. 1950, from Sundsvall, had been to the U.S. as an exchange student. She met her husband, an American, in 1974 and they moved to Oregon in 1977, living in Eugene and later Portland.
- Jan, (b. 1958, male) first came to the U.S. as an au pair desiring to see more of the world, went home, then returned later to work in California. He later moved to Oregon where he met and married a Norwegian-American girl in 1990.
- Britt-Mari, (b.1948 in Nässjö), met an American at a folk high school in Sweden, stayed in touch, and then married him in 1971. They later moved to Seattle where he continued his law studies, returned to Stockholm, then settled in Portland, Oregon.

Each interview as recorded by the author began with a brief biography

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By Nils William Olsson 302 pages of Swedes, comments, and indexes.

\$10 + \$5 S&H

Contact Jill Seaholm at <jillseaholm@augustana.edu>



of the person being interviewed, then summarized the experiences and opinions that they had formed about their experience, quoting them directly wherever possible. Most liked moving to the U.S. but had strong feelings and attachments to their families in Sweden. A common feeling was that this is only a temporary change; at some point they would return to Sweden to live. Settling in, owning a home, and raising children in the U.S. made a return difficult however, and only one of the interviewees at this point had actually done so.

Of great interest to readers are the reaction of these Swedes to living in the U.S., and their view of the many differences they found. In one case, Maria was divorced and returned to Sweden with her children, mainly to continue family ties. Some adapted quite quickly and nicely to living in the U.S., others told of more difficulty. Taken as a whole, the interviews give a valuable picture of how a recent immigrant sees their new country, both the positive and the negative. The variety of experiences and reactions that they had is very revealing of the cultural differences between the two countries. There is also the enormous contrast between 19th century Swedish immigrants seeking opportunity when there was none at home, and those of 100 years later where opportunities were plentiful in both countries and choices became much less clear-cut.

The glimpses into these ten lives provided by Lars Nordström makes for great reading by Swedish-Americans and others interested in a better understanding of Swedish attitudes and how they differ from our

## **Book Reviews**

own. A common element in both cultures appears to be that our lives seldom work out in the ways we had envisioned when young. In today's world,

"Life is what happens to you while you are making other plans."

Dennis L. Johnson

#### **Old Swedes**

Swedes of the Delaware Valley, by Margaret Murray Thorell, 2011, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston SC, 128 pages, softcover, Illustrated, Amazon.com, \$17.15 plus shipping.

This compact volume is another in the "Images of America" series of books about the history of numerous cities and places in the U.S. published by Arcadia Publishing Co. The book provides an excellent summary of the role of the Swedes in the settlement of the Delaware Valley, and identifies most of the remaining structures and sites related to the Swedish settlement. The Delaware Valley includes the lands around the upper Delaware Bay, including parts of present-day Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. The author is a resident of Philadelphia and, in fact, the daughter of a wellknown merchant couple and community leader in Chestnut Hill, near where this reviewer lived for some years. A foreword for the book was provided by Tracey Rae Beck, popular current director of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia.

The colonial settlement of New Sweden began in 1638 with the arrival of a ship bearing a group of some 24 settlers, mostly of Swedish, Dutch, and Finnish descent. Three more voyages by the same vessel, the *Kalmar Nyckel*, and another ship, the *Fogel Grip*, brought other settlers to increase the small colony to some 600 in all. In 1655, the colony came un-

der Dutch rule, and later English when William Penn arrived with a charter from the British king. In a time before roads and bridges, the first settlers stayed close to the waterways, but in time they and their descendants settled and claimed farms throughout the Delaware Valley.

The story of the Delaware Valley Swedes from colonial days to the present day is told mainly through the use of many historic and contemporary photographs of places, artifacts, and people associated with the settlement over the years. Extended captions to these photographs and, in some cases, portraits, fill out the story and provide many interesting details. A first chapter illustrates the history and life of the Swedish Museum, built in the Great Depression on land settled by Swedes, and dedicated in 1938 as a center to celebrate the history, culture, and life of Swedes and Swedish Americans in the area. This it continues to do today with permanent and special exhibitions, social events, and the observance of Swedish cultural and ethnic celebrations.

A second chapter focuses on the history of the Swedish log cabin, brought to the U.S. by Swedes and Finns as a form of dwelling readily constructed in the forests of North America and used by many for several centuries in the later settlement and development to the West. A few examples remain or have been restored, although many others have been lost to time.

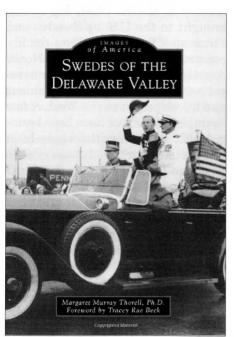
Where Swedish immigrants settled in the neighborhoods of Philadelphia over time is also the subject of the second chapter, including Wicaco, Southwark, Kingsessing, Port Richmond, and elsewhere. Swedish Farmers spread out to New Jersey to the East, and on the upper Schuylkill to the West.

Churches were an essential accompaniment to the Swedish settlement, beginning with Gloria Dei in



Philadelphia (1700) and Old Swedes' in Wilmington (1699), both replacing log or wood churches built earlier. As the Swedish population and their descendants spread, six additional churches were added at various times such as St. James of Kingsessing (1760), Douglasville, and elsewhere. A fourth chapter focuses on information and photographs related to these historic churches.

In the fifth chapter, the earliest history and its subsequent commemorations are illustrated along with other locations and buildings related to this history. The sixth chapter is devoted to the various monuments, art work, sculpture, and important historic personalities associated with the Swedish history of the Delaware Valley, including visits by Swedish royalty, art work by Anders Zorn, Claes Oldenburg, Christian von Schneidau, and various



## **Book Reviews**

Swedish and Swedish American celebrities.

The seventh and final chapter addresses the impact of Swedish culture on Philadelphia and in the U.S., including such persons as Jenny Lind, Fredrika Bremer, John Ericsson, Charles Lindbergh, Gloria Swanson, and Birgit Nilsson. Even the modern IKEA stores are mentioned as contributing to Swedish culture. The Philadelphia flag continues to bear the blue and yellow of Sweden, and statues of a Swedish pioneer woman and of a man in pioneer dress, designed by Alexander Calder in 1894 are poised near the top of our city hall tower to recognize the historic contribution of Swedes to the building of Philadelphia.

This book serves as a useful and excellent compendium of the history of the Swedes in the Philadelphia region, both for the prospective visitor and for those generally interested in Swedish contributions to the life and growth of the Delaware Valley. It is thoughtfully put together and incorporates many historic photographs not available elsewhere. The captions and descriptions are thoroughly researched and reinforce the photographs in telling this interesting story. It will serve as a useful reference in any personal or public library, or for persons finding ancestors with roots in the Delaware Valley.

Dennis L. Johnson

**Ed:s note:** The cover picture shows H.R.H. Prince Bertil during the 1938 Pioneer Jubilee.

#### A new book by Lilly Setterdahl

Well-known Swedish-born author Lilly Setterdahl has recently published a new book, this time about the Swedes on the *Titanic*.

Lilly Setterdahl's Not My Time to Die: Titanic and the Swedes on Board presents a brief, but thorough history of the Titanic, and gives an array of information about the tragedy as reported by the press of the day – the American, the Swedish, and most importantly the Swedish-American press. In a generously large paperback format, the book describes the conditions in Sweden in 1912, the reasons for the emigration, and profiles each of the 123 Swedes on board. The stories of the 34 survivors cover some 100 pages. The author has researched the intriguing lives of the survivors to a greater extent than anyone else. She has translated eyewitness accounts, letters, newspaper reports, and interviews that give new insight into what happened on that tragic night one hundred years ago when the biggest steamer built-todate foundered on its maiden voyage. Families are separated, or decide to die together. The personal stories were vivid and heartbreaking, but not without some happy endings. This well-referenced and illustrated book about the third-largest ethnic group on the *Titanic* is the first of its kind published outside of Sweden.

Available from www.amazon.com Price \$19.95 + s & h.



## **Interesting Web Sites**

All links tested in April 2012 and should work

John Michael Neill's Genealogy Tip of the Day: http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com/

150 years since the Dakota War: http://www.usdakotawar.org/

Deaths of celebrities: http://www.findadeath.com/

The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF): http://www.amscan.org/

Nya Kopparbergs Bergslags Hembygdsförening (local historical association), old pictures, click on "Bilder": http://nkbh.se

Old U.S. photographers: http://www.langdonroad.com/

Elizabeth Shown Mills new web site: https://www.evidenceexplained.com/

Kate Reuterswärd's blog on living in Sweden as an American: http://blogs.sweden.se/expat/

The National Archives Home for the 1940 Census: http://1940census.archives.gov/

The compact guide to the 1940 U.S. Census: http://www.germanroots.com/1940-census-records.html

A map that shows how much of the 1940 Census has been indexed:

https://www.familysearch.org/1940census/

A helpful blog: http://www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/

The Swedish Royal Family: http://www.kungahuset.se/royalcourt/

Nordic Culture Clubs [Nordic Footprints]: http://www.nordiccultureclubs.org/

Genealogy Days in Gävle: http://www.sfd2012.se/

Information on Gävle (the site can be translated by Google): http://www.gavle.se/

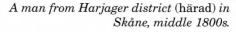
## A Skåne surprise

Recently my grandson and I visited the Consulate General of Sweden office @ 150 North Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, seeking information for his 6<sup>th</sup> grade school project. While there we had two interesting experiences:

First, in the reception area were several copies of the *Swedish American Genealogist*, something I did not expect to see but was pleased that they were available to the public. During our discussion we exchanged information and discussed my experiences in writing genealogy articles about our Swedish ancestors for this journal.

Second, the woman who assisted us, lives in Lund, a city in Skåne, the same province our grandparents came from in the 1890's.

Contributed by P. Robert Willey, Bloomington, IL <hogworc@insightbb.com>





### 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.

#### Larsson, Patriksdotter, Wall

I am looking for information on Sixten Aron Evert Larsson, born 2 Sept. 1906 in Torup, (Hall.).

His parents were: Homestead owner Aron Larsson of Rönskog, Torup , b. 7 Juni 1866, and Ida Maria Patriksdotter b. 14 Sept. 1873. Sixten Aron Evert left Sweden on 17 March 1928, arrived in New York 28 March 1928. He travelled on the S/S Stockholm, of the Swedish American Line.

He was married to Sylvia Wall, b. 1916 in Norway. She had immigrated to the U.S. in 1922 with her parents, Peter Wall b. 1891, and Petra Wall, b. 1897 and six siblings. In the 1930 U.S. Census Sixten and Sylvia live in Carpenters-ville, Ill. Sixten's and Sylvia's first child was a son who died at birth 15 Sept. 1933.

Sixten Larsson was naturalized 11 Sep. 1941, and at that time he lived at 747 Edison St., Geneva, Ill. Sixten died 29 Januari 1987 in St. Charles, Kane County, Ill.

I would appreciate any information about Sixten and his family, if he and Sylvia had more children, etc.

Ann-Marie Engfeldt, Fabriksgatan 2 F, S-432 78 Tvååker, Sweden. Phone: +46 340 472 44. E-mail: <a href="mailto:kiza2@telia.com">kiza2@telia.com</a>

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#### Larsson, Martinson

Magnus Larsson, b. 20 Oct. 1870 in Villie (Skån.) left Sweden for the USA without properly informing the Swedish authorities, in 1889, probably via Copenhagen.

In 1905 his brother *Alfred Larsson*, b. 11 Dec. 1881 in Slimminge (Skån.) emigrated 13 Oct. 1905 from Malmö, and had a ticket for Calumet, MI. Upon arrival in New York with *S.S Caronia* 25 Oct.1905, he told the immigration officer at Ellis Island that he would visit his brother M. Martinson, whose address was Box 55, Opechee P. O. (no state mentioned).

The next trace is the U.S. naturalization record for Alfred Martinson which he initiated on 23 Feb 1910 while in Seattle, Washington, before going to Alaska in 1910. Source citation: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Name - Alfred Martinson age - 28 years - Occupation - Railroad man.

The next trace is the 1910 U.S. Federal Census stating that Alfred lived in a lodge, Valdez, Division 3, Alaska.

The parents of the two brothers are: Lars Mårtensson b. 9 Sept. 1841 in Villie, and his wife Sissa Olsdotter, b. 18 Sept. 1843 in Skivarp (Skån.).

Both the brothers took the surname Martinson in the USA, the same as their father's.

Any information about the two brothers or possible descendants is most welcome.

Leif Mårtensson, Syrenvägen 5a, S-187 35 Täby, Sweden. E-mail: leif.martensson@lm-konsult.net

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#### Send queries to SAG! Not everything is online

#### Persdotter, Håkansson, Svensdotter

I am looking for immigration information on my great-grandmother, *Anna Persdotter*, who was b. 16 March 1851, in Färlöv, (Skån.), to parents Per Håkansson, b. 7 April 1821, and his wife Elna Svensdotter, b. 29 Jan. 1826, who were married 30 December 1847 in Skrynarp, Färlöv.

Per Håkansson left his cottage on Bjärlöv 18 lands in Färlöv on 19 Apr. 1869 for America. He was then followed by his son Nils Persson, b. 9 May 1860, who left 24 Apr. 1872.

Anna was one of seven siblings, an unmarried mother of my grandfather, *Otto* b. 16 Aug. 1872, in Färlöv. According to moving out records, Anna and son Otto, moved out of Färlöv, on 7 October 1873 to America.

On 18 Sept. 1876 Per's wife Elna Svensdotter left from the port of Malmö with tickets for Hudson, Wisconsin. She was accompanied by children Pernilla (b. 31 Dec. 1854); Olof (b. 19 March 1864); August (b. 21 March 1866), and Wilhelm (b. 2 June 1868).

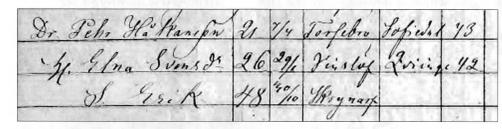
What I am hoping to find, is the port of departure, the name of the ship they took to America, and the port of entry in America, and their destination.

I find Anna in River Falls, Wisconsin, in the 1880 Federal census,(if the information is correct). It states she arrived in 1875. If she didn't leave for America in 1873, where did she live and what did she do until immigrating to America in 1875?

I would also be interested in locating Per Håkansson's birth record, and information on his parents, grandparents, as well as Elna Svensdotter's birth record, parents, and grandparents.

Judy Janke, 5723 N. Ridge View Dr., Janesville, WI 53548. E-mail: judyjanke9@gmail.com

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Ed:s note: Here is a picture from Färlöv clerical survey AI:8 1846-1850) which shows the new family of Per and Elna, with their oldest son Erik. Erik left the parish of Önnestad on 23 March 1869 for America, possibly in the company of his father.

Per is shown as being born in the Färlöv parish, and possibly in Torsebro, which is a place in the parish. He came to Skrynarp in 1843 from another farm in the parish, called Sofiedal. His wife Elna was born in Vinslöv parish, but came to Färlöv from nearby Kviinge (old spelling: Qviinge) parish in 1842.

[Per and Pehr is prounced in the same way, the "h" is not pronounced].

#### Jäderberg, Jaderberg

I am looking for info on the family of *Lars Jäderberg*. He was from Järbo, (Gäst.), b. 30 Dec 1856, and emigrated in 12 April 1882 from Järbo. He left from the port of Göteborg on 21 April and had a ticket for Detroit. His sister *Stina Lisa Jäderberg* left her mother in 1883 Oct. 6, also went from Göteborg, which place she left on 12 Oct.1883, also with a ticket for Detroit. In 1893 sister *Johanna Jäderberg*, b. 18 Oct. 1893 left Järbo with a ticket for Kansas.

His name was changed when he came to U.S., to Louis Peter Jaderborg. I don't know why he came except that he was from a family of at least 8 children, so probably not enough land for him.

I believe there is still part of his family that stayed in Sweden.

I am grateful for all information about this family:

1309

Kay Harold, 1926 Highland Ct, Clinton IA 52732-4970. Phone: (563) 242-0417. E-mail: kay.harold@mchsi.com

**Ed:s note:** a quick look into the clerical surevys at the time of Lars's emigration tells a little of why he left. His father, also named Lars Jäderberg, b. 27 Nov. 1830, died 6 Oct. 1880 at Nordanå in Järbo. This left his wife Karin Persdotter, b. 18 July 1827, in charge of the six children still at home. The youngest was daughter Maria Erika, b. 29 Nov. 1873, who was a deaf mute.

The father of the family, Lars Jäderberg, was a kind of blacksmith (*klensmed*) who worked at making small items, like locks and such, and who probably did not own land, but rented a place to live.

In the 1890 Swedish Census the widow Karin Jäderberg now has only two children at home, son Karl Johan, b. 18 March 1868, and daughter Maria Erika.

In the Swedish Census 1900 the situation is unchanged.

## The Last Page

#### Dear friends,

The garden is full of small singing birds, and the wild spring flowers are everywhere. There is a white one that covers much ground, so it seems like the snow is back. It is the *vitsippa*, Latin name: *Anemone nemorosa*. And they are just beautiful in a birch forest. If you don't have them, but would like to see what they looks like, just google "vitsippa."

This time of the year many American friends are planning a tour to Sweden. I have two sets of friends, that I will take around the country.

The first ones want to go to Östergötland, and the other ones to Värmland, two of my favorite places, so that will be fun.

In this issue I wrote a short article about the EmiWeb, which is based inKarlstad. While writing this I tested the database of members in a few societies. I did search for people born in my own research parish, Nordmark in Värmland, and found that 19 of the immigrants from there had been members of the Svithiod Society in Chicago. That is really a big help when you want to know what happened to them?

My next step is now to look for them in my database and add this information, if they are in there already. Otherwise they will be added to the database.

In case anyone wonders, I do use the Swedish genealogy program *Disgen*, which is developed by the DIS Society. That is the oldest society for genealogy and computers, it started in 1980, and I have been a member since then. The program can write reports in Swedish, English, and a number of other languages, which is very handy.

Summer is ahead, and we hope it will be blessed with good weather, not so much rain and mosquitos, as that makes life more fun.

Summer is also the time to travel a bit and look for ancestral churches and cemeteries, and also the various local museums, *hembygdsgårdar*, ofwhich there is usually one in every parish. The national organization for these places has a website with addresses, unfortunately almost no English:

http://www.hembygd.se/index.asp?lev=1033

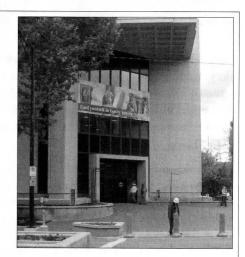
Till next time! Elisabeth Thorsell

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SAG Workshop Salt Lake City 23 – 30 Sept. 2012!



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>.

## **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 ( <b>Province</b> )	SAG & SSF Abbr.
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.
Norrbotten	Nobo.	9	

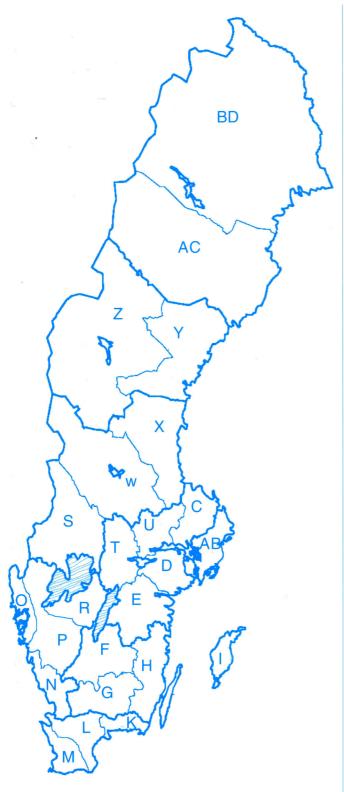
**Table 2.** Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

Län SAG SCB SCB Län SAG SCB SCB (County) Abbr. Abbr. Code  Blekinge Blek. Blek. K Stockholm Stock. Sthm. AB Dalarnaa 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 Götalande Vgöt. O Kronoberg Kron. Kron. G Örebro Öre. Öreb. T Norrbotten Norr. Nbtn. BD Östergötland Ög. Östg. E Skåneb								
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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 Götalande Vgöt. O Kronoberg Kron. Kron. G Örebro Öre. Öreb. T Norrbotten Norr. Nbtn. BD Östergötland Ög. Östg. E	Dalarnaa		Dlrn.	$\mathbf{W}$	Södermanland	Söd.	Södm.	D
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		Norr.			Östergötland	Ög.	Östg.	E

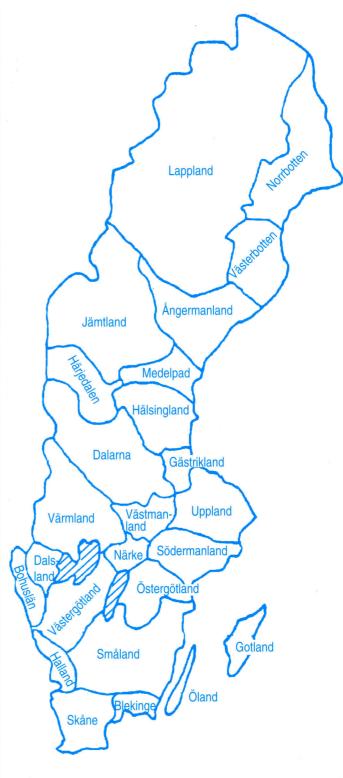
**a** formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

**b** includes the former counties (län) of Malmöhus (Malm.; M) and Kristianstad (Krist.; L).

 $<sup>{</sup>f c}$  includes the former counties  $(l\ddot{a}n)$  of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).



The counties  $(l\ddot{a}n)$  as they were before 1991.



The provinces (landskap).