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Roland Floberg

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Mile High Swedes

Up in the Rockies Swedes are pursuing their ancestors too

BY ROLAND FLOBERG



The *Swedish Genealogical Society of Colorado* boasts over 80 very active members seeking answers to the mysteries surrounding their Swedish ancestry and living relatives.

In 2007, the Society was chartered to assist members in their genealogical research by: encouraging the pursuit and preservation of Swedish-American research; collecting, sharing, and disseminating knowledge related to Swedish genealogy; sponsoring events pertaining to Swedish genealogical resources, methodologies, and culture; publishing materials to aid in the research of Swedish ancestry concerning immigrants and their descendents living in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region; and collaborating with other genealogical and cultural organizations for mutual benefit.

We began as a small study group at the Denver Public Library. Our second meeting featured a local researcher who demonstrated *Genline* research methodologies. With that class, interest in Swedish family research exploded in the Rocky Mountain region. Since that time, we have hosted speakers including Swedish VIPs, national family history experts, regional authors, and local genealogy professionals.

Meetings are generally on the first Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Denver Public Library at 14th and Broadway in downtown Denver.

In addition to topical speakers, the Society provides individual research consultations, access to the SGSC's research resources, and social events.

The membership also benefits in having, as active fellow members, a number of Swedish immigrants now residing in our area.

The October Swedish Seminar

Recently, on October 23, 2010, the Society hosted a second all-day Swedish Family Research Fair. Some 73 attendees enjoyed presentations of Genline North America; Lorna Nelson and Lenora Lynam, McPherson County, Kansas, Old Mill Museum, Lindsborg, Kansas; and Wilma Svedin Larson, Family History Library, Salt Lake City. Ms. Meade was unable to attend but in her absence, Lenora Lynam presented Meade's "Swedish Genealogy in a Computer World," a look at the many electronic resources available to facilitate your Swedish family research. Lorna Nelson's presentation "Looking Beyond the Census" illustrated the importance of looking at the unusual and unexpected sources that are likely available in your local area.

The afternoon sessions were Wilma Larson's "Swedish Research Strategy, Parts I & II," with a close-out on what's coming available on the Family Search site. Wilma's program used a case study in leading us through how to best use various data bases in clearly tracking our ancestors.

Our Society membership and event attendance by yet-to-be members verifies the interest in Swedish genealogy.

We have:

- ◆ published the *1910 Swedish Directory of Denver* on CD,
- ◆ hosted regular personal research consultation sessions (full days of one-on-one immersion coaching by an expert Swedish genealogist),
- ◆ donated genealogical serials and research materials to the Denver Public Library,
- ◆ been featured in the genealogy magazine *Rooted in Sweden* #7, August 2009, (the English newsletter of the DIS Society) as the cover story.

Contact information:

For membership:
SGSC c/o Maryanne Patterson
PO Box 746255
Arvada, CO 80006

Web address:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/

~cosgs

E-mail:

crfloborg0308@q.com

