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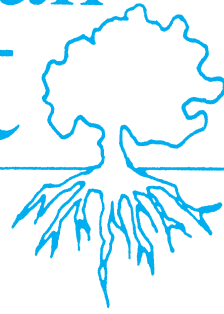
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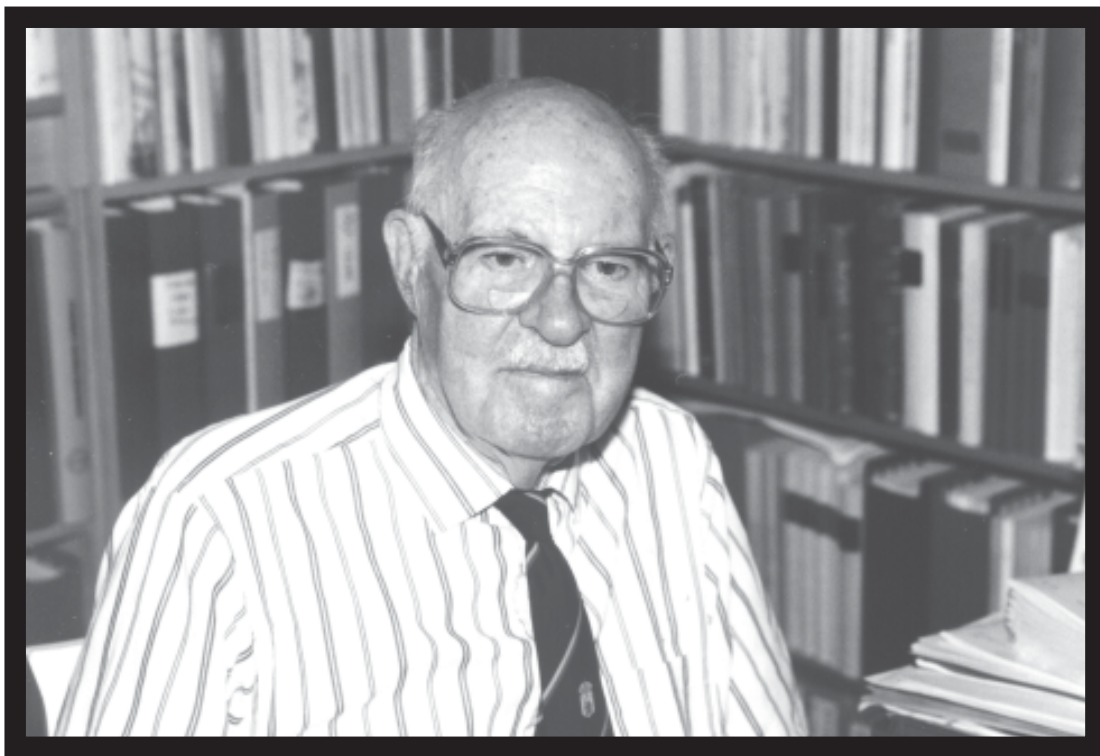
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Swedish American Genealogist



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



Nils William Olsson

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Cover picture:

Photograph of Nils William Olsson from 1995.
(Photo by Bengt Thorsell).

My Father

– Nils William Olsson



Photo by Chris Olsson.

BY CHRIS OLSSON

Nils William Olsson died 20 March 2007 at the age of 97. He had been in failing health for several years, mostly from the effects of Parkinson's disease, and had lived with severe scoliosis for a number of years. Since 1998 he had lived with his wife Dagmar at the Mayflower Retirement Center in Winter Park, Florida. Despite his health problems, he and his wife had been able to live more or less independently until just before his death.

Olsson will be missed mostly by his immediate family: his wife Dagmar, daughter Karna Barbro Olsson and her husband Philip Brown of Belfast, Maine, twin sons Nils Greger (Greg) and his wife Carolyn Olsson of Austin, Texas, and Pehr Christopher (Chris) and his wife Deborah Bergman of Stockton Springs, Maine. In addition, Olsson is survived by four grandchildren: David Anders Carlson and his wife Sarah (Findley) Carlson of Belfast, Maine, Lars Gavert Carlson and his wife Julia Carlson of Hilo, Hawaii, Jonas Erik Carlson and his wife Michelle Lutz of San Francisco, California, and Lily Marlain Olsson of Austin, Texas.

There are also three (now four) great-grandchildren.

Olsson was the oldest of four children born to Swedish immigrants Nils

Albin and Mathilda (Lejkell) Olsson. All four children were born in the Seattle area but after their mother's untimely death in 1913, when Nils William was only four years old, the family returned to Sweden until 1922. In that year Olsson and his family re-immigrated to the United States, settling in Sharon, Pennsylvania. He was placed in kindergarten at age 13 because he only spoke Swedish, but by the end of his first school year he had advanced to the 6th grade. He graduated from high school in 1929 and began his college studies at North Park College (now North Park University) in Chicago. He finished his undergraduate degree in 1934 after attending both Northwestern University and the University of Minnesota.

After several jobs in the Chicago area, he was hired as admissions counselor and instructor in Swedish at North Park in 1937 and later as assistant in Scandinavian at the University of Chicago in 1939, instructor in Swedish in 1945, and assistant professor in the Germanics Department in 1950. His budding academic career was interrupted by the December 7, 1941, attack at Pearl Harbor and only a few weeks after that event, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and, after basic training,

received a commission as lieutenant (j.g.), later Lt. commander, and was assigned to the U.S. Legation in Stockholm, Sweden, as assistant naval attaché from 1943-1945.

After the war he returned to the University of Chicago and obtained his Ph.D. in 1949. In 1947 he took a leave of absence from academia to serve as executive secretary of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial, then being organized in Chicago to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first significant Swedish immigration in 1845. (The celebration was delayed until 1948 because of WWII.)

In 1949 he received a post-doctoral grant for additional research in Sweden, taking his wife and children with him. He had married the former Dagmar Theodora Gavert on June 15, 1940, a marriage that lasted almost 67 years. They had daughter Karna in 1942 and twin sons Greg and Chris in 1947.

Returning to the United States, Olsson joined the United States Information Agency in 1950. He moved with his family to Reykjavik, Iceland, to serve as 2nd secretary and cultural affairs officer at the American Legation there. Two years later he was posted to the American Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, where, now as

a foreign service officer, he served more than four years as Attaché and Public Affairs Officer, later 1st Secretary and Consul. In 1957 he was assigned to the State Department in Washington, D.C., and served in various capacities until 1962. In that year he began his last overseas assignment as 1st Secretary and Counselor for Political Affairs at the American Embassy in Oslo, Norway. In 1966 he was again stateside, serving in his last State Department assignment as diplomat in residence at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, retiring a year later.

In 1967 he was appointed executive director of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a position he held for six years. In 1973 he helped organize the new Swedish Council of America, and then served as its first executive secretary from 1973 until 1984.

His interest in Sweden and Scandinavia was prominent throughout his life. His doctoral dissertation at

the University of Chicago was on an Icelandic saga. He was a founder of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society (now the Swedish-American Historical Society) in Chicago in 1950, an outgrowth of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial. Probably his most outstanding accomplishment was his more than twenty years of research on Swedish immigration which resulted in his magnum opus, *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, 1820-1850*, published by the Royal Library in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1967, and *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States (except New York), 1820-1850*, written with the late Erik Wikén, published in 1979. In addition, Olsson wrote numerous articles, monographs, and other academic papers, dealing mostly with Swedish immigration, personal history, and genealogy. His proudest achievement was probably his launching in 1981 of a new quarterly magazine *Swedish American Genealogist* which is still being published

by Augustana College, Rock Island, IL. He continued to edit SAG until he retired in 1997.

Olsson received numerous honors and awards throughout his life. Noteworthy were two awards received in 1968 and 1969. In 1968 he was granted an honorary doctoral degree from Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden, and in 1969 he was named "Swedish-American of the Year" by the Northern and Southern Divisions of the Vasa Order of America in Sweden.

Nils William and Dagmar Olsson moved to Winter Park, Florida, in 1981 and continued to live independently until 1999 when they moved into a retirement village in Winter Park called The Mayflower. They had their own apartment until late 2006, when health concerns and other afflictions made a move to the nursing care section of the Mayflower necessary for both of them.



The Olsson family around 1998. From left: Karna, Greg, and Chris. Sitting: Nils William and Dagmar.

Many thoughts on Nils William – friends remember this remarkable man

H. Arnold Barton
Professor emeritus, Carbondale, IL:

I first met Nils William at a conference forty years ago, in 1967, and he has been very much a part of my world ever since, especially after I became active in the Swedish Pioneer (now the Swedish-American) Historical Society) in 1970. He was, to the best of my knowledge, its longest surviving founder. We served for several years together on the Society's Board of Directors and then, after 1981, also on the Advisory Committee of the Swenson Center in Rock Island. It was Nils William, together with the late Franklin D. Scott and Wesley M. Westerberg, who persuaded me to take on the editorship of the *Swedish Pioneer* (now *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*) in 1974 (for the next 16 years), and he long contributed to it his periodic "Personal Pioneer History," the forerunner to the *Swedish American Genealogist*.

Nils William was a phenomenon! Through the two volumes of essays in his honor, *An Ancient Folk in a New Land* (1984), and *Essays Presented to Dr. Nils William Olsson in Honor of His 90th Birthday* (1999), in both of which I had the honor of participating, I became ever more aware of his long and varied career as a diplomat, foundation director, historian, and inspirer of others, including not least myself. In all of these areas he leaves his lasting legacy. As a historian, I shall always remain deeply indebted to his painstaking, indispensable scholarship on the early history of the Swedes in America and on Swedish-American genealogy. To this day I constantly refer back to it.

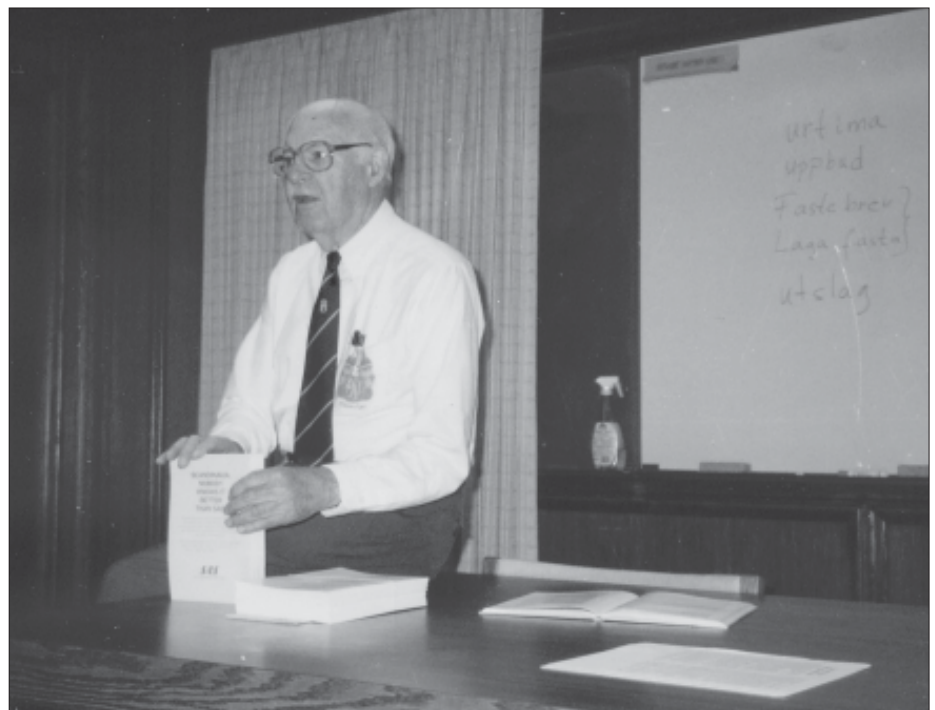
Philip J. Anderson
President, Swedish-American Historical Society, Professor of Church History, North Park University:

A very long life lived well and with distinction (and class) is reason for celebration and the shared recollection of pleasant memories, even as the loss of a friend and colleague is deeply mourned. Almost a quarter-century ago, Arnold Barton described Nils William Olsson as "surely the most protean figure on the Swedish-American scene." This was arguably true since the close of the Second World War, and the legacy of his scholarship, diplomatic service, and organizational entrepreneurship will continue to endure.

The Swedish-American Historical Society will honor Nils William among its founders and sustainers. The American Swedish Institute will

remember him as an efficient executive director with a very visible presence. Swedish Council of America will look to him as the most articulate voice of its stated mission to a growing number of affiliate organizations. Students, scholars, and family researchers will have reason to thank him every time they hold one of his books or explore the materials of his genealogical collection at the Swenson Center. And readers of this magazine, and those who mine its prior issues, will be reminded of the vision of its founding editor and publisher. There is so much more to learn about the abiding significance of Nils William Olsson's life, and future scholars will no doubt have much to say.

Those who knew him personally, however, encountered one with so many rich facets to his person, and the public persona (commanding, eloquent, dignified, and determined) gave way to the more private ele-



Nils William Olsson lecturing in Salt Lake City 1993.



ments of friendship (warmth, concern, sensitivity, and intellectual stimulation). I first came to know Nils William in 1984, when he was a young seventy-five and I was a slightly younger thirty-five. Our growing friendship would have different dimensions. I was just beginning my involvement in the SAHS and I succeeded him as president in 1989. I learned much from him and have relied on his support and encouragement through the intervening years. Just watching him in action was inspiring and intimidating at the same time. We are saddened now to have lost our president-emeritus. His presence will be writ large in the telling of the Society's history.

An important dimension to our friendship was rooted in our common origins in the Covenant Church as well as life at North Park University, where I have taught since 1979. On several road trips together to Rock Island and visits in Chicago and elsewhere we often discussed his experiences growing up as a second-generation Swedish American and his experiences with North Park beginning in 1929. His memory was unfailingly detailed and he was for me a living source of the history of so many people and issues germane to my life and work. I also worked closely with Nils Williams's younger brother Karl (1913-1996), who had been president of North Park and the preeminent historian of the Covenant Church, teaching a course together for close to a decade. These brothers have blessed and enriched my life considerably, and I suspect there is a book waiting to be written by someone about this highly unusual group of brothers and friends (e.g. Paul Elmen, Harold Jacobson, Paul Varg, Jean Hagstrum, Paul Holmer, Leland Carlson, Walter Moberg, and others) who went on to distinguished public and academic careers, the children of Swedish immigrants raised and nurtured in the same community. Besides being an interesting read, it would be an additional way to contemplate dimensions of Hansen's Law and its generational theory.



Nils William outlived virtually all of his contemporaries, and there is considerable truth to the notion that an era has finally come to an end regarding Swedish America. In gratitude I join my voice with many others in bidding our friend and colleague "Hail and Farewell!"



*Bruce Karstadt
President / CEO
The American Swedish Institute:*

When I began my work as executive director of the American Swedish Institute in 1990, one of the first persons to call and offer congratulations and advice was Nils William Olsson. Nils William had served as head of the Institute from 1967 through 1973, and I discovered quickly upon arriving in Minneapolis that his tenure and accomplishments here, even though nearly 3 decades in the past, were well-remembered.

Nils William and Dagmar moved here after his retirement from the U.S. Foreign Service. Much was accomplished during his leadership: membership grew from 2,200 to 5,300 households, considerable renovation work to the historic Turnblad mansion was completed, and the Institute's charter flight business in-

creased from two flights during the summer to Scandinavia to eight flights! Equally important, in my estimation, was his encouragement of programs and classes for children.

Nils William wrote in the Institute's November 1971 newsletter that "Seeing happy children cavorting about the Turnblad mansion learning Swedish and something about their cultural heritage is an inspiring sight and we are pleased as punch."

To say the least, Nils William was a formidable force. The changes and expectations that he had or brought about for this place were not easily accomplished. Many were actively resisted by those who saw it more or less as a private club. Some people discontinued their support, but as Nils William wrote in March 1973 near the end of his ASI tenure, "As we approach our annual meeting, I want to thank you all for the superb support you have given the Institute and its programs. If an occasional grumbler drops out, his place will be filled by others, who believe in and work for our cause." (Wise advice even for today.) The Institute is a better place because he persevered in his commitment to opening it up to a broader community.

Looking over the news articles and materials covering the Olsson years at ASI, there were many highlights. Perhaps the most significant was the Midwest premiere of the Jan Troell film, *The Emigrants*, which was shown in Minneapolis under the sponsorship of the Institute in the presence of HRH Princess Christina in 1972. Nils William and Dagmar had hosted a reception for all of the actors and crew when they were earlier in Minnesota for the filming, and we retain many wonderful photographs of Max von Sydow, Liv Ullman, and others being regaled in the Olsson home by friends of the Institute.

The American Swedish Institute benefited greatly from the wise leadership of Nils William Olsson. His credibility with a wide network of friends and associates well-positioned here and in Sweden did much

to strengthen the bonds of friendship between this museum and Sweden. Personally, I valued highly the times we had together in discussing the challenges and opportunities for this place, and I will miss his sage counsel.



Ann Munsey
Leesburg, VA:

Nils William Olsson lived in the Washington, DC, area when I first met him decades ago. I always met him at Swedish American events and he most always was involved with the organization sponsoring the event.

And always he took time to talk with me alone, first to answer my earliest questions about my immigrant ancestors. I first learned he had put thousands of immigrants in his *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850*. That included my two first immigrants - a couple with six children and then a bachelor. That research had taken Nils William Olsson thousands of laborious research hours.

Whenever I was with him and asked a question he could not answer right then, he would telephone me from home later with a response. How fortunate we all are that there is the Swenson Center - the recipient of his answers to so many questions.

Later, I was able to follow his lead to the Swedish-American Historical Society genealogical trip to Sweden where we had evening lessons in Jönköping from Nils William Olsson and Per Gösta Lindquist. I remember Nils William drove us down to town to the bookstore where he introduced us to the topographical green maps and also to the *Bilatlas*, then drove us back up that high hill again. In those years we were able to hold in our hands the original church books in the regional archives. Some were written, perhaps, by my minister ancestors.

We were delighted when Nils William Olsson introduced us to his son



Chris who was in Vadstena the same time we were there.

Nils William asked us to write and to read aloud what we had written one evening. SAG and the *Swedish American Genealogist* Workshop in Salt Lake City are the creative results of Nils William Olsson's recognition that genealogical research is historical research of persons and persons' participation in history in the midst of whatever sizes of circles of history one wants to view.

Nils William Olsson returned to Washington, DC, one time when it was a luncheon honoring Justice Rehnquist. Nils William had done genealogical research on Justice Rehnquist's paternal ancestry and one ancestor's behaviors with results most interesting to the Chief Justice!

Nils William was always interested in data beyond simply the begats. His interest, his patience, his sharing of the results of his research is his gift to us each time he did it.

Though in obvious pain, Nils William Olsson attended the launching of the *Kalmar Nyckel* in Wilmington, Delaware.

Nils William Olsson visited his SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City a few years ago and it was a joy to welcome him then. He could witness

its quality, excellence, its strength. It is superb in every way, in every detail. For example: each person learns to document data. SAG/SLC Workshops are like family reunions and a person is missed who cannot come that year.

Nils William Olsson will be sorely missed but never, never forgotten.



Ronald J. Johnson
Chairman
Swedish American Historical
Society:

If there were a Grauman's Swedish-American Theater in Hollywood, Nils William Olsson would long since have had his handprints and a star in the cement of the forecourt. In his many faceted life, the Swedish-American Historical Society is only one of the many galaxies in which he shone and left an indelible imprint. But since I happen to be the chief officer of that organization right now, I wish to remember Nils William in particular for the critical rôle he so often played in the history of the Swedish-American Historical Society. To

extend the movieland analogies, he was at the very least the Godfather of the Society.

The Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, as it was called until 1983, was founded on October 15, 1948, as a permanent organization growing out of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial Celebration of 1948. The planning began in December 1945 at a meeting at the Swedish Club of Chicago. Among those present on that day over 61 years ago were Conrad Bergendoff, president of Augustana College, who became national chairman, Vilas Johnson, Chicago chairman, and a young man by the name of Nils William Olsson, already well versed in Swedish Americana. Nils William became the Executive Director of the celebration, and thus was a principal architect of the success of the 1948 observance, which ended in Chicago with a huge gathering featuring President Truman, Prince Bertil of Sweden, Swedish Archbishop Eidem, and Carl Sandburg. (He arranged Prince Bertil's cross-country tour, making sure to give him a day of rest each week. When he asked the Prince years later about what he had liked best about the tour, Prince Bertil replied "the day off.")

Upon organization of the new Society that same year, its first Executive Secretary was: Nils William Olsson. In 1950 the Society began its publishing program with the first issue of the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*, and it put out its first book, volume 1 of the *Memoirs of Gustaf Unonius*, translated by J. O. Backlund and – Nils William Olsson.

The fledgling society had great aspirations, but in the 1950's finances were lean. Nils William Olsson had left for Iceland on government service in 1950. Membership slipped. But in 1956, – quoting Paul Varg, 1979 –, Nils William "came home for a 4-year appointment in Washington, and on his return quickly went to work on getting membership. What he did was truly phenomenal. If I remember correctly we went from 500 or 600 to something over 1,300. It is almost wholly his doing. He

really put the Society on a firm footing." Karna, Chris, and Greg Olsson will remember their father's persuasiveness in co-opting new members. Better financial times also came through the sponsorship of charter and group flights – which Nils William proposed and managed. These began in 1960, and continued through some 35 flights until the early 80's.

The 80's were again tight financially, and the Society was put on a strict financial diet. Governance and management of the Society were reorganized and Nils William Olsson returned from 1986 to 1989 in the new office of President of the Society. Under his guidance these changes eventually paid off, with the organization on a sound footing again since the 1990's. In the meantime, the Olssons had also donated the capital to establish the Nils William and Dagmar Olsson Research Fund, through which the Society has continued to make periodic awards to support the work of researchers of Swedish-American history. As long as Nils William was able to travel, he was an enthusiastic participant in the activities of the Society, in which he has been honored as President Emeritus for many years.

On a more personal note, I wish to add that Nils William Olsson was my mentor. His work in immigration research is the model for everything that I have ever tried to do, and after I received an award from the Olsson Fund in 1980 and began attending Swedish Pioneer Historical Society meetings, he graciously took me under his wing. I am sure he was the one responsible for me becoming a member of the Society's Publications Committee, from which, over a period of many years, I graduated to the Board of Directors and to the Chairmanship of the Society. I was fortunate enough to participate in a two-week genealogical workshop under his leadership in Sweden in 1983 and to attend several of the Swedish American Genealogist (SAG) Workshops in Salt Lake City while he lead them and as Karna Olsson has continued them. He

"forced" me to write for SAG by giving me books to review, and since then I have also written a few articles for SAG. His influence on me and upon the avocation we had in common was enormous. Some have known Nils William Olsson as "Bill"; I feel privileged to have called him "Nils William." The Swedish-American Historical Society, the organization which he helped birth, will by its very existence honor his memory. Blessed may it be!



Siri M. Eliason
Chairman
Swedish Council of America:

The Swedish Council of America mourns the loss of Nils William Olsson, its first executive director. He played a pivotal role in the founding of the Swedish Council of America and he was definitely the right man at the right time for this auspicious occurrence. He was given the task to plan for a Swedish-American national organization, to assemble a board of directors, secure funds, and outline a purpose. No small order, but it was an assignment that suited Nils William exceedingly well. The idea of a national organization had been talked about for a long time and in the beginning of the 1970s, the then Ambassador of Sweden, Hubert de Besche, encouraged vigorously the establishment of such an organization.

Nils William thrived with his calling and with his background in diplomacy and with his connections with leading Swedish-Americans, he soon had accomplished what had been asked of him. During his time at the helm, the Council prospered, and over time and with a dedicated and talented board of directors and staff, the Swedish Council of America is today the pre-eminent Swedish-American umbrella organization that exists to assist its close to 350 affiliated member organizations.

Nils William will always be remembered as the man who initially

put the Swedish Council of America on its course and we, who follow, shall never forget that. Those of us who are fortunate to remember those early days, remember Nils William as an elegant yet modest gentleman who had the conviction and passion to pursue a goal that all Swedish-Americans can be proud of today. In April the Swedish Council of America celebrated its 35th anniversary and we sent grateful thoughts to Nils William.



*Eric Lund,
Swedish-American
Historical Society:*

The success of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial celebration of 1948, involving tens of thousands of participants at multiple events in seven states, was attributable in no small measure to Nils William Olsson, recruited from the University of Chicago to be its executive director. He signed on Carl Sandburg as honorary chairman, worked tirelessly to coordinate all of the activities, and was serving as shepherd to the Swedish delegation led by Prince Bertil. And it is unlikely that the Swedish-American Historical Society, which grew out of the celebration and is now in its fifty-ninth year, would have survived without him.

One of the society's founders in 1948, he left in 1950 for a six-year assignment in Iceland and Sweden with the U.S. State Department. On his return he found a society with less than 300 members and only \$500 in the bank, its existence tentative at best. Through personal recruiting and imagination (a flight program), he was responsible for bringing about financial health and increasing membership to a high of almost 2,000 at the end of the Sixties. Later, as president from 1986 to 1989, he played a major role again in restoring financial stability.

At all times, over more than half a century, he was an active participant in society board and committee

discussions. He served until his death as a member of the publications committee and in 1967 his monumental *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, 1820-1850* was the society's eighth published book. He established the society's Nils William and Dagmar Olsson Research Fund. In 1982 he received the society's Sandburg Medal and in 1989 he was named President Emeritus, the first person so honored. His advice and counsel will be missed.

My own acquaintanceship with Nils William goes back 34 years. I treasure the hours I spent with him ten years ago tape-recording his recollections of society history. I enjoyed his sense of humor, his stories, his frank appraisals of individuals. His life was a string connecting us to the Centennial and the beginnings of the society. His passing leaves a void that can't be filled.



*Peter Stebbins Craig, F.A.S.G.
Washington, D.C.*

I first met Nils William Olsson about 21 years ago when he came to Washington, D.C., to address a meeting of the National Genealogical Society held at the National Archives.

I was very impressed by his talk

and went to the stage to talk with him afterwards. Then began a close friendship which lasted until his death on March 20, 2007, in his 98th year.

An ex-diplomat, Dr. Nils William Olsson pursued a relentless and enthusiastic career in his retirement promoting the histories of Swedish-Americans, be they 19th or 20th century immigrants or settlers of the New Sweden colony on the Delaware in the 17th century.

When I first met Nils William, I had only recently completed the first of many family histories that I have written about the New Sweden colony's settlers and their colonial descendants. That first effort was "The Yocums of Aronameck," published in the *NGS Quarterly* in December 1983. Nils William provided the leads that led to a succession of other articles – "The Stille Family in America," published in *SAG* in December 1986, "The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware," published in *SAG* in six parts, 1989-1992, and republished in book form in 1993; and "New Sweden Settlers, 1638-1664," an 8-part series published in *SAG* 1996-1999, as well as a series of shorter articles. At each step of the way, Nils William always had excellent suggestions to improve my drafts.



Peter S. Craig and Nils William Olsson on the SAHS tour of New Sweden 1997.

In addition, Nils William kindly invited me to be a speaker at each of the SAG workshops which began in 1991. This kindness continued as long as he could manage these workshops himself. Even after Nils William turned over SAG and the SAG workshop to others, he maintained a close and supportive association with me. He was the first contributor to the costs of translation involved in my current project (the *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania*) and personally called me last summer to thank me for the first two volumes, *The Log Churches at Tinicum Island and Wicaco, 1646-1696*, and *The Rudman Years, 1697-1702*.

As a friend and a mentor, I shall never forget Nils William Olsson.



*Fred and Phyllis Wohlfarth
Covington, WA:*

I became acquainted with Dr. Olsson and his lovely lady Dagmar, when Phyllis and I joined one of his Swedish Genealogy Tours to Sweden in 1991. Having just begun her search for her father's "Erickson/Lindholm" parents and my mother's Swedish "Swanfeldt/ Anderson" family lines, she was eager to visit Sweden.

Though I had little interest in genealogy or taking a research trip by ourselves, after my wife found an advertisement in the *Swedish American Genealogist* publication of one led by Dr. Olsson, I agreed to go with her.

He met us at the Copenhagen airport and from then on, I knew we had made a wonderful choice as we got to know him and Dagmar, and the others taking this trip to the land of their forbearers. Soon we seemed like a family as he introduced us to elderly aunts whom he and his brother had lived with in the 1920's and other friends. What a wonderful time we had, seeing the Sweden he knew and loved so much. We celebrated birthday's and anniversaries with him and Dagmar, and the

others, all of whom we have continued to share friendships throughout these ensuing years.

Needless to say, like you all, we have lost a dear friend and teacher.



*Ted Rosvall, President
Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies
Falköping, Sweden:*

In 1972 I visited the U.S. for the first time. I was 20 years old, had an ambitious travel agenda with stops here, there, and everywhere to visit relatives and archives. One stop was in Minneapolis, where I visited the American Swedish Institute and met Nils William Olsson for the first time.

He immediately invited me for dinner at his home, where I also got to meet his wife Dagmar, with whom I shared an interest in church and organ music. Nils William gave me quite a lecture on how to do family research in America: which archives and libraries I should visit, and gave me contact information to various genealogists and "useful" people in several states.

A few years later I visited the regional archives at Vadstena, and stayed over night at the local youth hostel. In the same room was a man whom I had seen in the research room at the archives. His Swedish was almost perfect, but I could make out that he was probably from the U.S. I asked him, and, sure enough, he lived in Minneapolis and presented himself as Christopher. "I know a genealogist in Minneapolis," I volunteered, "his name is Nils William Olsson."

"He is my father," Chris answered.

Since then I have been in touch with Nils William and his family. My wife and I have visited him in Florida on a couple of occasions and he and Dagmar have been to our home near Falköping a few times. We also met at several genealogical gatherings and classes, including the genealogy course at Södra Vätterbygdens *folkhögskola* in Jönköping.

When Nils William started the *Swedish American Genealogist*, he invited me to write articles for the magazine, which I gladly did. We also cooperated on a series of articles about the "Inheritance Cases in the Archives of the Swedish Foreign Ministry of Swedes Who Died in America" (Dec. 1997 through Dec. 1998 issue of SAG).

Nils William Olsson was a man with knowledge, visions, and creativity. If he set his mind on something, he would always see the project through. And he did it well. He was also a good storyteller, with a great sense of humor! And a most worthy recipient of the Federation's prestigious genealogy prize: the "Victor Örnbergs Hederspris" which he was awarded in 1994.



*Glen E. Brolander
Past Vice President
Augustana College, Rock Island,
Past Chairman of the Advisory
Committee,
Swenson Swedish Immigration
Research Center:*

Of the many aspects of Nils William Olsson's activities in Swedish-American affairs, his interest in genealogy covers the longest time period and probably represents his greatest legacy. It began in 1934, when he received a letter from his grandfather in Sweden. This sparked his interest in researching his own family history and began his interest in genealogy, an interest that grew during early visits to Sweden.

Nils William soon became a resource for persons interested in their own family history. Beginning in 1958, he provided a regular section in the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* on "Personal Pioneer History." This section continued until 1980. In 1962, he wrote a definitive article for the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* on "Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry." This guide was then published by the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1965 and

revised in 1974. Countless Americans of Swedish descent have used this little personal volume as they researched their own family history.

In 1981 Nils William fulfilled a long-held dream to develop a journal devoted to Swedish American genealogy. In that year, he founded the quarterly publication *Swedish American Genealogist* and served as its publisher and as the editor. This journal quickly became the leading publication for anyone interested in Swedish-American biography, personal history, or genealogy.

Swedish American Genealogist became a true labor of love for Nils William, and he personally wrote a large number of the articles. In 1992 the function of publisher was transferred to the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center. He continued as editor until January of 1998, when the function was turned over to James E. Erickson, later followed by Harold L. Bern and Elisabeth Thorsell. Nils William was then named Editor Emeritus.

In 1981 the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center was organized at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Nils William took an immediate interest in what was to become the largest center in America for preservation and interpretation of records regarding Swedish immigrants. He became a charter member of the Advisory Committee, a position he continued to hold during the rest of his life.

In 1986 he suggested that he might be interested in transferring his vast personal collection of Swedish-American books and files to the Swenson Center. The collection consists of over 4,000 volumes and is particularly strong in Swedish-American genealogy and local and regional history. The transfer was made possible partially by a gift from the Olssons and partially by contract purchase. The bulk of the collection was transferred in 1991, and cataloging was supported by grants from the Wallenberg Foundation.

Certainly there is no other person who has done more to identify the persons who were included in the

Swedish migration to America and to assist Swedish Americans interested in knowing more about their Swedish ancestors or relatives. The results of his work will live on in the strong personal relationships that have developed between the United States and Sweden.



*Melinde Lutz Sanborn, F.A.S.G.
Secretary
American Society of Genealogists:*

Fellow Dr. Nils William Olsson has passed away quietly at his home in Winter Park, Florida, March 20th. He was several months short of his 98th birthday.

Dr. Olsson was elected as Fellow number 93 in 1968 and was ASG's fourth most senior member, after John Frederick Dorman, Cameron Harrison Allen, and Francis James Dallett.

Dr. Olsson was a prolific contributor to the *Swedish American Genealogist* and author of more than a dozen books, including *Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry* (1985).

He will be greatly missed by us all.



*Lars O. Lagerqvist
Museum director (retired)
Strängnäs, Sweden:*

A learned and good friend has left us. He meant very much for Swedish-American relations, as a scholar and genealogist, but also as a leader of many visits to his family's old homeland. Personally I had the great pleasure of knowing him during his years at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm. I was then Curator of education at the Central Office and Museum of National Antiquities (*Riksantikvarieämbetet och Statens historiska museum*), where he was a frequent and inquisitive visitor. How many things we discussed! And later on his publications became very useful to me as an historian (I even

found a couple of relatives among the earliest Swedish emigrants).

He was also interested in another of my subjects, numismatics, and we have a common friend in the well-read dealer in coins and medals, Ulf Nordlind in Stockholm, whom he always visited when he was back in Stockholm, in order to find something for his modest collection of Swedish objects, coins, or medals with portraits of famous Swedes, preferably with American connections. And he was very kind when I had genealogical problems touching his special subject, Swedes in the U.S.

Yes, he was a remarkable man; thank you Nils William for all the things you have done!



*Dag Blanck, Director
Swenson Swedish Immigration
Research Center
Rock Island, IL:*

Nils William Olsson was truly one of the giants in Swedish America. He was both a part of the Swedish-American community and a student of it. His deep interests in Swedish and Swedish-American personal history and biography were combined with a profound understanding of both Swedish and American society and culture. His network of contacts in Sweden alone was truly amazing, and included many of that country's leading historians, librarians, and diplomats from the past half century. Having spent significant and formative parts of his life in both countries, Nils William was truly a bicultural person.

I first met in him the mid 1980s, when he was in his 70s, and I was immediately struck by his curiosity and inquisitive mind. He was a true gentleman, always with "*glimten i ögat*" as the Swedish saying goes. Over the years I had the privilege and joy of talking and working with him in a number of Swedish-American contexts on both sides of the Atlantic. I was particularly happy for

his support of the Swenson Center, the transfer of his library to us, and for the establishment of SAG. I will miss him greatly.



*Per Clemensson,
1st archivist (retired)
Göteborg, Sweden.*

Thank you for sending the news about Nils William, this death touched me deeply. He was a welcome guest during the summers at the provincial archives in Göteborg, either as a researcher working on SPAUS, or as a travel organizer. I remember him from my earliest years at the archives, and he had a most cordial connection to my father, (Gustaf Clemensson, chief archivist) which was transferred to me. The archives had an ongoing research contact with him, and he became a part of the emigration research that was initiated by and done by the Göteborg Archives.

He came as a certain token of spring and occupied a seat in the research room, where he put our janitors to work in fetching books from the stacks and also engaged the archivist staff, especially me, in helping with his research. Gösta Lext, the chief archivist at that time, was also most interested in immigration research, and invited him to the lunch room and to his home and the gentlemen carried on deep conversations about the sources for Swedish immigration history, which was very inspiring for a young archivist, who was allowed to be present and listen to them. His demands of service from the staff could be exacting and a lot of our time during his visits was spent on serving him. I learnt a lot and had endless discussions with him on registration of immigrants and subtle genealogy problems. It always felt like an honor to work with him. Sometimes our research room held a number of immigration researchers: Nils William, Sten Aminoff, Allan T. Nilsson, and Axel Fri-man. Their conversations could be

carried on loudly, and we had to ask the gentlemen to be quiet and continue discussions in the researchers' lunch room.

While on a journey to America in connection with the Göteborg Immigration Project in 1992, we were received cordially by Nils William and his wife Dagmar, and we have met at a number of conferences and immigration meetings.

Nils William sometimes also was a travel organizer and in that capacity liked to take the road by Göteborg, where I was the guide in Göteborg and at the archive. Sometimes he came in the middle of summer, even on Midsummer Day, after late Midsummer Eve festivities in Dalarna, when his group of Americans were to be entertained in the evening, after a very short time for preparation, because of a change of travel route.

The last time I had the opportunity to meet with Nils William was at the symposium "America – back and forth," organized by the Göteborg Immigration Project on September 18-19, 1996, when he, as the nestor of Swedish-American immigration research, held a lecture, enthusiastically received, about the Swedish sailors in American sources like the crew lists in the National Archives from as early as 1803.

A big *Tack!* goes to Nils William for his efforts for the immigration research and for his friendship.



*Folke Sandgren
Assistant Chief Librarian (retired)
Stockholm, Sweden.*

Nils William Olsson had after World War II kept strong ties of friendship with some of the senior staff members at the Royal Library (*Kungliga Biblioteket* = KB) in Stockholm, especially the Chief Librarian Uno Willers and the 1st Librarian Olof von Feilitzen. His first big volume on the Swedish emigration to the U.S., *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York 1820-1850*, was thus published in its

Swedish edition 1967 in KB's scientific series *Acta Bibliothecae Regiae Stockholmiensis*, even though it did not fit in with the other volumes in the series, concerning bibliography and "book history". The case was the same with the two consecutive volumes of *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in U.S. Ports 1820-1850 (except New York)* and especially the amalgamated finishing volume *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850*, published in 1995. This volume was written in cooperation with Erik Wikén, Ph.D., a retired senior teacher, now deceased, who put in lots of efforts to find errors in the earlier volumes and correct them and also added many new finds in the sources to the history of the older immigration.

During the two last decades of the 20th century I served as the editor of KB's own scientific publications and was deeply involved in the work preceding the publication of the above mentioned concluding mastodontic volume (628 pages!), which included contacts with Olsson and Wikén.



On Sundays NWO sometimes made Swedish pancakes for his guests. 1994.

KB was Nils William Olsson's Swedish central point and scientific home. He did visit Sweden regularly during the summers and it was a joy to see him come into the library. All of us came to have a high regard for the generous, amiable, and elegant grand seigneur, who to the last spoke a totally perfect Swedish. In the winter of 1997 I was invited by him to Florida and spent a memorable week in a summery climate in January with him and his wife Dagmar in Winter Park, in the company of a younger relative. NWO was then 87 years old, and like Dagmar, still sharp intellectually and in good shape; he drove his car, picked us up at the airport, and did everything to make our stay a good one.

When the Royal Library was inaugurated in June of the same year after a major rebuilding, he was one of the Guests of Honor!



*Ulf Beijbom
Professor, Director (retired)
Swedish Emigrant Institute
Växjö, Sweden:*

Nils William Olsson was the first Swedish-American migration researcher whom I worked with. He was also an advisor to the Swedish Emigrant Institute from its start more than 40 years ago. My first meeting with the elegant American diplomat and Ph.D. in Nordic languages from the University of Chicago was during my employment at the provincial archives of Uppsala. NWO was in 1963 working on his *Swedish Passenger Arrivals* and was fighting with several tricky genealogical questions concerning various individuals. I had then started the work on my thesis *Swedes in Chicago* and was preparing my first trip to the U.S. Need I tell that NWO became an invaluable helper? Thus my first report from Chicago was sent to NWO, who already then had assumed the role of a mentor in my thesis work. The relations were

strengthened by the fact that my teacher, Professor Sten Carlsson, soon became one of NWO's closest friends.

Before the start of the Emigrant Institute in Växjö I travelled to Oslo, where NWO then was a counselor at the American Embassy. He soon came for a reciprocal visit and soon won the confidence of Gunnar Helén, the Institute's founder. NWO's advice was "work systematically and carefully!"

He was also the guiding star of his own research work. NWO was the basic researcher with the unselfish goal of excerpting and making public the primary sources, rather than do compilations. In this way he made pioneering research for Swedish immigration research. Especially remarkable are his publications of the *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States* (last version in 1995 in cooperation with Erik Wikén), an outstanding work without any equivalents either in Sweden or America. The biographical detective work, of which he was a past master, also led him into other Sisyphean labors like *Swedish Voters in Chicago 1888*. But besides his work on publishing important source material on migration history, we must not forget his numerous publications of articles in learned journals and conference reports.

NWO's enormous capacity for work and his organizational skills made him, after the Swedish Pioneer Centennial Celebration in 1948, where he was the executive director, one of the founders of the present-day Swedish-American Historical Society (1948) and its *Quarterly*. His brilliant idea of the Swedish Council of America gathered most of the Swedish-American organizations. The need for Swedish-American genealogical research also gave him the idea of *Swedish American Genealogist*.

During a period at the end of the 1960s the untiring man also worked as the director of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. Among his many engagements, the one for the Swenson Swedish Immigration



Research Center at Augustana College must also be mentioned, that is where he placed the major part of his huge library and where he founded a scholarship.

Above all the fantastic things, this powerful man created shines the star of friendship, good humor, and intellectual brilliance. NWO's talent for company and pleasant conversation did not always reveal a stalwart adherence to principles without compromise. If NWO was convinced about something he did not give way to a confrontation. Part of his greatness was also the understanding smile and the reconciling handshake.



*Curt Hauffman,
Colonel (retired)
Järfälla, Sweden:*

It was sad to read about the passing of my friend Nils William Olsson. We knew each other since 1962, when the then Swedish cultural attaché in Washington, Gunnar Lonaeus, had invited us both to lunch at Blackies House of Beef as he thought that Nils William and I ought to become acquainted. He himself was prevented from coming but Nils William and I had a nice meal together and enjoyed ourselves. After that we have

met many times, both in Sweden and in the U.S., but unfortunately not during the later years. Nils William introduced me both to the Library of Congress and National Archives. It was a good start for me, as he knew his way about both places and was a well-known and esteemed researcher there. He was a kind, generous man, who willingly shared his knowledge.



Jill Seaholm, Head of Genealogical Services, Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College:

The first time I met Nils William was when he came to Rock Island for a Swenson Center Advisory Committee meeting in 1993. I admit that I was a bit scared of him in the beginning. I had heard a lot about him and knew how revered he was, so as the fledgling genealogy researcher at the Swenson Center, I was convinced that he would be wondering who this kid was who would be entering his field. I remember my mom, a long-time SAG subscriber, being impressed that I would be working with him. He was very nice to me; a bit stern and formal, but the first thing he wanted to do was call his wife, Dagmar, and tell her that he had arrived. I thought that was pretty sweet and it made me less nervous around him.

That same year in October I attended his SAG workshop in Salt Lake City and was fortunate to learn a lot of things from him and his hand-picked group of lecturers and friends. Nils William was quite in his element during his week there and his sense of humor really came out. I still remember the time during one of his lectures there that he happened to use the words “night and day,” which reminded him of the song by the same name, so he stopped everything and sang a couple of bars. I got to know Dagmar a little, too, and found her to be a very nice lady and full of good humor herself. The next year

Nils William asked me to be on the staff of the workshop because of the growing number of participants. I accepted gladly and have been a part of it each year since then. After several years, Nils William was no longer able to travel so his trips to SLC and Rock Island stopped, but he was still around via e-mail and phone, and still cranking out books and SAG articles. What a presence he was and what a legacy he’s left. I am proud to have known and worked with him.



*Elisabeth Thorsell,
SAG Editor
Järfälla, Sweden:*

Most of the the things that can be said about Nils William have already been said by the previous writers, but I also agree that it was and is a privilege to have known and been a friend of this remarkable man. He was a great scholar, a diligent researcher, but also a kind and fun-loving man, who was meticulous in little details, like remembering birthdays, fixing books for the writing of reviews, and such. He also was very well organized and kept track of new

books that could be useful for the Swenson Library. Many times when we met in Salt Lake City my suitcase was much lighter when I left. I think he enjoyed the workshop week just as much as we all do and did.

When I accepted to become the SAG editor, I told him that I wanted to change a few things, and explained my ideas. He very generously supported my ideas, and seemed to be very pleased with the outcome, and I felt that a heavy load was taken away from me; I had been worried that he would not like the changes.

Another memory is the time he came to our house in Järfälla, and we served him fried salted herring with onion sauce, a meal he said he had not had since his childhood, and he did enjoy his dinner.

I will often miss my kind and thoughtful mentor, but have many good memories.

Donations can be made to the *Dagmar and Nils William Olsson Fellowship* at the Swenson Center, by just sending a check and marking it Olsson Fellowship. In Sweden use the SAG Plusgiro 260 10-9, and we will transfer the money to the fund.



Nils William Olsson and Elisabeth Thorsell in the Old Swedes church in Douglassville, PA, in 1997.

Bits & Pieces



The Eksjö Emigrant Monument

Regarding the *Eksjö Emigrant Monument*, that was mentioned in SAG 4/06 on p. 13, it must also be mentioned that the first initiative was taken about 10 years ago by *Tore Sandh* of Eksjö, a well-known emigrant researcher in the area.

American Swedish Institute Summer Exhibition

Sacred Beauty: Treasures from Swedish Cathedrals and Churches, is the name of the ASI's summer exhibition which is open from 1 June to 7 Oct. Ecclesiastical objects and textiles represent the legacy of worship in Swedish churches. Works by acclaimed Swedish silversmith Anna-Stina Åberg anchor the display of contemporary religious design with chalices, communion sets, processional crosses, and other objects. The exhibit will also include a variety of works by other artists.

www.americanswedishinst.org/

The New Sweden Center

The New Sweden Center museum in the Kalmar Nyckel Ship yard has been completed by the volunteer *Senior Sawyers* of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation. The volunteers of the New Sweden Center have begun work on our exhibit, *Experience Life in New Sweden*. "This is a big undertaking for a small group of volunteers with no paid staff and a very limited budget. But we shall accomplish this, because we believe our Swedish/Finnish heritage is very important."

Hopefully the exhibit will be ready for the grand opening scheduled for June 16th 1-4 p.m.

(Thanks to Aleasa Hogate for the news!)

Swedish Council of America presents "Awards of Merit"

The following individuals received "Awards of Merit" from Swedish Council of America at their Swedish Heritage Banquet in Minneapolis on 21 April 2007:

Harry Anderson, Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, WI

Char Bostrom, Twin Cities Swedish Folk Dancers – Minneapolis, MN, Nisswa-Stämman – Brainerd, MN

Nels Backman, Swedish Cultural Heritage Society of the Red River Valley – Fargo, ND; Nordic Culture Clubs' Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival – Moorhead, MN

Lorraine Sward Carlson, Dalesburg Scandinavian Association – Dalesburg, SD

Paul Dahlin, ASI Spelmanslag – Minneapolis, MN

Edgar Eklof, American Swedish Institute – Minneapolis, MN, ASI Male Chorus – Minneapolis, MN

Elsie Hanson, VOA Norrskenet Lodge #331 – Sioux City, IA

Fran Hillier, Swedish Genealogical Society of MN

Lillemor Horngren, VOA Linde Lodge # 492 – Milwaukee, WI

Dee Kleinow, Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota – Minneapolis, MN

Carol Sakrison Larson, The Swedish Foundation of Iowa's 'Swede Bend' Settlement, Inc. – Stratford, IA

Jo Mihelich, VOA – District Lodge #7 – Minnesota

Claudia Pratt, Nordic Culture Clubs/Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival – ND

Ewa Rydåker, American Swedish Institute – Minneapolis, MN

Dr. John "Jack" Swanson, Augustana Heritage Association

Ron Swanson, Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Stan Swanson, VOA Norrskenet Lodge #331 – Sioux City, IA

Les Touve, Swedish American Historical Society of WI, Inc. – Milwaukee, WI

Louis Unkrich, Swedish Heritage Society of Swedesburg - Iowa

(VOA = Vasa Order of America)

Changes in Växjö

Since early 2006 the director of the Swedish Emigrant Institute (SEI) has been Björn Johansson, who was appointed when the former director, Per Nordahl, resigned after a conflict with the staff.

During the time since there have been many discussions on the future of the SEI. One result is a proposed name change to the Swedish Migration Institute, where also the immigration to Sweden from the earliest time should be a new topic to study. (*Emigranten* 2006/2)

Minnesotadagen

The Minnesota Day in Växjö, Sweden, will be celebrated on 12 August in the park outside the House of Emigrants as usual.



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www.geneologi.se/halland/halmstad2007/english_1.html



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1795 SEK is approximately \$256 based on currency exchange rates on April 3, 2007.



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Iowa State Censuses now online! And Minnesota too

It is wellknown the federal censuses were taken every 10th year, on the years ending in "0", but it might not be known that the various states had their own censuses in the years in between, often on years ending in "5", but can be on other years too.

Now *Ancestry.com* (subscription site) has made the Iowa State Censuses available on the internet. They start in 1836 with names of heads of households only, but full census data are found in 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905,

1915, and 1925. The censuses are supposedly fully indexed and linked to pictures of census images, just like the federal censuses.

As the year of the greatest immigration from Sweden was in 1882, it might be a help to find the the newly arrived Swedes, that had a ticket for Iowa, before they left for greener pastures further west.

A woman, *Christina Albertina Warn*, left Sweden in 1879 and it has not (yet) been possible to find her in

Iowa in 1880, even though she had a ticket for Calmar in Winneshiek County, IA.

Rumours say that she married an Anderson and then moved to California. In the 1885 IA census there is a Christina from Sweden, living in Calmar, and married to an Anderson. At least she is a possibility, and must be checked further.

On 17 May there was a message from *Ancestry* that Minnesota State censuses are now online too!

Research at the Provincial Archives of Arkhangel'sk, Russia – Oct. 2006

An archival adventure

BY MARGARITA CHOQUETTE

My visit to the Regional Archives of Arkhangel'sk, Russia, was preceded by several letters to announce my arrival and to request to research the records of the parish of Piyala, Onega, Arkhangel'sk. The letters were mailed, e-mailed, and faxed from various locations but never produced any response. Three weeks before my departure, I called the archive and got a vague statement about possible help, if I got there. When in Finland I called again and said I was going to visit their archive, but they did not guarantee any co-operation. I decided to take the chance.

I had made an agreement with a second cousin that if I ever went to the Arkhangel'sk archive, she would go with me. My cousin's name is Vera and she is from Russia. On Sunday night October 8, 2006, we flew from St. Petersburg to Arkhangel'sk. Every morning, October 9-13, at 9:30 when the archive opened, we were there and stayed till it closed at 4:30.

When I got to the archive I requested to meet the director of the archives, Vladimir Kirillovich Ananin, whom I had talked to on the phone. He was on vacation the whole week. Next I was led to the deputy director, Olga Ivanovna Korneeva. She took Vera and me to the head of the Department of Publications and Use of Documents, Tatyana Anatol'yevna Sanakina. The two ladies looked at us and told us that the public may not use the church books. For 10,000.00 rubles (\$375.00) their



Margarita Choquette in the Arkhangel'sk archive.

researcher would do all research for us and mail it to us. Then we got to meet the researcher, Natalia Nikolayevna Parishina. In view of the fact that I had come from so far away, I would be allowed to see the books, but only Mrs. Parishina was to handle them. Also I would have to pay the 10,000.00 rubles. I agreed and went and paid in a bank. Then we were led to a desk in a space next to the reading room and close to the elevator that brought the records from the storage. There were huge bun-

dles, like books, waiting for us. They were confession lists (census-like records, listing family members together) from the district I had ordered!

In 1994 I had visited the village where my Russian grandfather was born. At that time I got a compilation of pedigrees from confession lists of four villages in Piyala parish, including grandfather's village of Cheshyuga. I tried to tell Natalia Nikolayevna that I already had the information we were going through,



Arkhangel'sk. The tall building is the archive.

but she was “doing her job.” We also went through the Revision Lists (tax lists, grouping family members together) for 1811, 1816, 1834, 1857, and I did end up with many more names than I originally had.

The greatest surprise of the archive visit was when Natalia Nikola-

yevna brought out the 1897 all-Russian census for Arkhangel'sk *Gubernia* (province before 1917). According to Western understanding, the population information of this census was destroyed, except for Vyatka *Gubernia* and some areas of the Baltic Provinces.

After the census-like records and the one actual census, I was, on the second day at the archive, ready to see the church records of births, marriages, and deaths. They told me to begin with that the Piyala parish records did not extend farther back than 1842. As time went on they brought out records older than that, without explanation. It was very exciting to actually see the birth entry for my grandfather. I knew of five of his siblings and thought that was all. He was, however, one of ten children. I was able to gather information on 170 persons.

The records were nicely written but often incomplete. Commonly, children were found in death records or census-like records but not in the birth records. The huge sewn together yearly bundles of records were worn around the edges. Other than being sewn, they were also tied at the bottom of the page with thick string. Opening the pages made them crumble. The camera I had to photograph the entries with was used without the flash. I had to cover up, with sheets of paper, all the information on a page that did not pertain to an entry of a relative of mine.

On our final day at the archive both Vera and I were presented with books about the Lomonosov family. (Mikhail V. Lomonosov, an 18th century Russian scholar, was born in the Arkhangel'sk *Gubernia*.) I also received a copy of the book for the Family History Library. They showed some books they had for sale which I bought, and our farewell seemed cordial and their invitation to come again seemed sincere.

Margarita Choquette lives in Salt Lake City, UT, where she works at the Family History Library. Her e-mail: <ChoquetteMN@ldschurch.org>



Shopping cart full of yearly bundles.

ПЕРВАЯ ВСЕОБЩАЯ ПЕРЕПИСЬ
населения Российской Империи,
высочайше утвержденного Положения 5 июня 1895 года.

ПЕРЕПИСНОЙ ЛИСТЪ
ФОРМА А.

Уезд или город: *Владимир*

Сельское общество или коопителеское сур ханство: *Владимир*

Село, деревня или другое население на землях сельского общества (переселенцы, казаки, кочевники, инородцы): *Владимир*

Имя и фамилия хозяина двора: *Александр Иванович Турчанинов*

Имя и фамилия собственника двора: *Александр Иванович Турчанинов*

Сельцо или дворик является ли сельцом? *Да* или из кварталов или чужаком двора? *Да*

Имя	Возраст	Пол	Состояние
<i>Александр</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>М</i>	<i>Женат</i>
<i>Ирина</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Ж</i>	<i>Женат</i>
<i>Александр</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>М</i>	<i>Сын</i>
<i>Ирина</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Ж</i>	<i>Дочь</i>
<i>Александр</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>М</i>	<i>Сын</i>
<i>Ирина</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Ж</i>	<i>Дочь</i>

Подготовить население вь дань, къ которому приурочена перепись.

Вид переписи	Число переписанных вь этом населенном пункте			Число переписанных вь этом населенном пункте вь 1895 году		
	М	Ж	Всего	М	Ж	Всего
<i>Сельцо</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Дворик</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Чужак</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Всего</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>

Page beginning a family listing in the 1897 Russian census.

№	Имя	Возраст	Пол	Состояние	Родина	Религия	Служба	Земля	Иные сведения
1	<i>Александр Иванович Турчанинов</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>М</i>	<i>Женат</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
2	<i>Ирина Ивановна Турчанинова</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Ж</i>	<i>Женат</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
3	<i>Александр Иванович Турчанинов</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>М</i>	<i>Сын</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
4	<i>Ирина Ивановна Турчанинова</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Ж</i>	<i>Дочь</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
5	<i>Александр Иванович Турчанинов</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>М</i>	<i>Сын</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
6	<i>Ирина Ивановна Турчанинова</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Ж</i>	<i>Дочь</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
7	<i>Александр Иванович Турчанинов</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>М</i>	<i>Женат</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
8	<i>Ирина Ивановна Турчанинова</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Ж</i>	<i>Женат</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
9	<i>Александр Иванович Турчанинов</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>М</i>	<i>Сын</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>
10	<i>Ирина Ивановна Турчанинова</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Ж</i>	<i>Дочь</i>	<i>Владимир</i>	<i>Православный</i>	<i>Крест</i>	<i>Земля</i>	<i>Православный</i>

A family listing in the 1897 Russian census.

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Letter by “Stenbo gubben” Jonas Olsson

INTRODUCTION AND TRANSLATION BY JOHN NORTON

Introduction

Wealthy farmer “Stenbo gubben” Jonas Olsson of Stenbo Farm in Forsa, (Häls.), born 26 Apr. 1793, was married in 1816 to Cecilia Olofsdotter, b. 13 Nov. 1794 in Tövsätter, Forsa. He was close to the Erik Janssonists, and had allowed Jansson to move onto a Stenbo subfarm, Lumnäs, in the spring of 1844.

Cecilia and three of her children (Olof, Jonas, and Sigrid, who left her husband) apparently immigrated with the Janssonists to Bishop Hill in 1846, probably aboard the *Charlotte*, arriving New York 15 September 1846. Their brother Anders arrived the summer of 1847 with his wife Lovisa. Jonas Olsson’s wife Cecilia apparently died in Bishop Hill before 1850, perhaps in the 1849 cholera epidemic.

In 1850, “Stenbo gubben” Jonas decided to follow his children to America. He sold his farm at Stenbo, hired his own vessel, and filled it with a load of iron which he sold profitably after arriving in New York. After settling briefly in Moline, he became a landlord by purchase of two homes which he rented to recent immigrants, and according to local tradition, even loaned money to John Deere to help keep Deere’s fledgling farm equipment business afloat. He then moved to “Big Brick” at Bishop Hill to be with his family. On 11 May 1851 he married his second wife at Bishop Hill, Karin Jonsdotter, born in Forsa in 1819, who lived until 1914, according to family records retained by Mrs. Elvi Sandberg, Odensv. 12, SE-19145 Sollentuna, Sweden. See also Eric Norelius’s

delightful story of his 1850 encounter with Jonas Olsson in Moline, published in *Prairieblomman* 1900, Rock Island, Augustana Publishing House.

Stenbo gubben Jonas Olsson’s two sons became prominent members of the Bishop Hill Colony, under the name of Stenberg/Stoneberg. Anders and his brother Olof wrote a letter home dated Bishop Hill 9 February 1847 that they had arrived safely in Bishop Hill on 14 October 1846. It was published in the local newspaper *Hudikswalls Weckoblad* 17 July 1847.

Olof Stoneberg returned to Sweden 1849-50 together with Olof Johnsson to collect estate settlements of those Janssonists lost at sea aboard the *Betty Cathrina*. He returned aboard the *Aeolus* from Söderhamn, arriving New York 17 September 1850. (See Andersson, Birgitta, *Faces that Reflect*, Voxnabruk, Sweden, n.d.)

Jonas’s letter

North America and Bishop Hill,
8 March 1851

My dearly beloved Brother,

Since I have now arrived in that fabled land of North America, and have been here for a longer time, I wish to fulfill my promise to some within and outside our parish, to tell what I know to be true, which I have seen with my own eyes, heard with my own ears, and dealt with by my own hands.

First! I had a successful trip across the sea, though there were two sud-

den storms. But I never became seasick, and to this day have been blessed with good health, a dear gift of God. And as for the iron, I made a good profit on it in New York; and I then had a good and successful trip inland, by steamboat and canal boat. I then landed in the city of Hendry [Henry, Illinois] where I bought both horse, harness, and wagon, and then had around 6 Swedish miles¹ (64 km) to travel to Bishop Hill. From New York to Bishop Hill was around 250 Swedish miles (2,672 km), and between those points there is a multitude of steam vessels, locks, canal boats, railways, cities, planted trees, manufacturing facilities for various products, and activity with horses and people in such numbers so as to not be describable. And during the above-mentioned 6 miles, I stopped in admiration on a clear day, looked around and could see no forest, only the finest fields covered with long grass.

But when I came to Bishop Hill, there was sufficient forest, consisting of many kinds of leaf trees, as well as beautiful, rich fields, and water resources with various waterworks found with them, as well as many larger and smaller buildings, among which I fixed my greatest admiration upon one built of brick, 100 *alns* (1 *aln* = 24 inches) long, 18 *alns* wide, and 4 stories tall, plus attic, 145 pairs of windows and 72 rooms. A large steam mill is built of brick, with as many stories, which will be finished next May. The mill house and equipment are valued at \$15,000, or 40,000 Swedish *Riksdalers Banko*. A large, roomy church is built of wood.

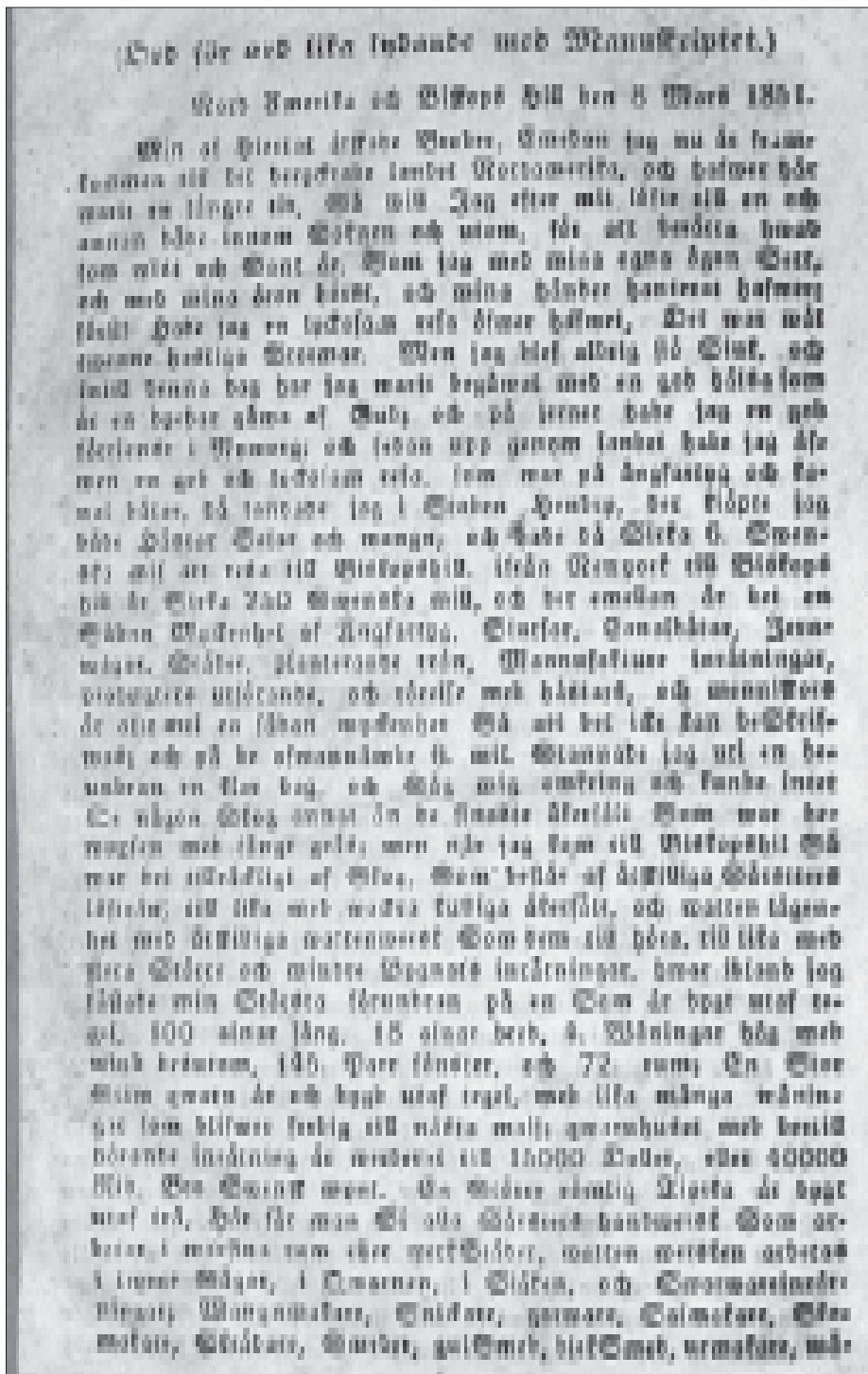
Here one can see all kinds of craftsmen who work in their own rooms or workshops. Water is used to run two sawmills, a gristmill, a scutching mill, and turning mill. There are wagon makers, carpenters, tanners, saddle makers, shoemakers, tailors, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, tinsmiths, watchmakers, glaziers, bricklayers, stonecutters, builders, a school

teacher in the English language, an apothecary, and a doctor, and a spinning and weaving mill. Everything is managed well by the members of the society, from which they draw good incomes from their own products and shops, to their general benefit. This shows itself in a favorable development, and the members, men and women, of the society are

around 700 persons, and as I have heard they have purchased around 5,000 acres of land consisting of fine loam, and whenever they wish they can purchase many more thousands of acres of farmland in the same area. No houses have been burned there, there has been no embezzlement, nor liens, as I have heard was claimed in Sweden. Secondly, after I had been here around three weeks with my children, all four of which are alive and in good health, I could not reach a decision to remain here, so I decided to leave the area to look around, and came to the Mississippi River.

In the Moline area

There I saw four smaller and larger cities with about half a Swedish mile between these four cities. They had a quantity of manufacturing facilities. I stopped there in a little city called Moline, where I purchased a town lot, on which there was a brick building with 8 rooms, and one of wood with 6 rooms, both for a sum of \$800.00, and now it is primarily Swedes who rent them. There are two households from Hög, one from Hudiksvall, one from Hassela, one from Malung, and a household from Germany. And the rest of my money I placed in a bank office there, which together with room rent yields an amount of 100 *Riksdaler* 32 *Shillings* every month. From this city of Moline to Bishop Hill is around 6 Swedish miles (64 km.) and between both there is much land for sale, as there is in many other places. All this showed a much less troublesome future than what I had in Sweden. I have bought pork for 2½ *Riksdaler* a pound, and a lower quality wheat flour for 40 *shillings* a pound in Swedish money. But all this still could not satisfy the immortal needs of my soul, which, for many years, has brought me concern. Here I stopped in quiet contemplation of the only necessary thing; now I have, as mentioned, left Bishop Hill, which I left of my own free choice as to whether or not to stay. Now, I heard stories of the many different faiths and preachers in this country, and



The first page of the original print of the letter from Jon Olsson. From the collections of Elvi Sandberg, Sollentuna, Sweden.

found it necessary to attach myself to something, not as in Sweden where external laws of worldly powers required submission to some special religious form, but I was encouraged by a godly power to hear what they preached.

Views on Swedish pastors

Those who could speak Swedish were named Esbjörn and Hedström, who also was a separatist. The first was a missionary sent from the Lutheran clergy in Sweden. His presentations were as disconnected from Scriptures as they had always been, and thus could not lead me to the belief that his teaching was of God. But the latter was a Methodist, somewhat closer to the Scriptures than the former, yes, even so far that he explained many deep subjects just as Erik Jansson had done in Sweden. I then thought that he might perhaps be the true shepherd, who, standing in Christ's place, can lead the sheep to good pastures. I thus entered into conversation with him about the fruits demanded by God's words of those who should preach Christ's Scriptures. Then I noticed that he could not stand by what he had previously preached according to the word, since he could not show me anything of the fruits and actions that should have come as a result; what Jesus says shall witness that they are His true apostles. From that moment, I had opportunity to both see and hear that he was the one who had been helpful in writing many lying letters to Sweden, and otherwise done all the evil he could against the Swedes in Bishop Hill, with the intent of discomfoting them; while during all this he claimed he was doing God a service thereby, though all attempts have been in vain for him, and during all this I had opportunity to test one thing against another, but nothing could satisfy my immortality.

Back to Bishop Hill

For this reason I returned to Bishop Hill, while I searched the Scriptures and saw clearly that they had all Scriptures on their side in both works and actions, and there was spirit and life in everything preached there, for which reason I moved back in complete satisfaction, and now have my room on the third floor of the previously-mentioned brick building, and have now decided to become part of their society, and am greatly pleased that I have reached this goal, and that I have opportunity to go to church daily, to hear God's pure word preached for the rest of my remaining life, for which reason my joy has become complete.

And it is a great gift of the Lord to see so many living together in such unity and love, showing that they are followers of Christ according to Scriptures. And all appears to be progressing well. I find myself needing to respond at greater length than what has previously been mentioned, about all the various evil reports that even I had heard and seen, both in letters, newspapers, and other writings about this society in my fatherland. I have looked into all this and their source is our own countrymen who had been members of this society, and whose journey had been paid by the society in no small way to leave their fatherland. After having arrived, they, without good reason, become angered and left, and spoke all kinds of evil about these friends.

Yes, it's like the Scriptures say, and since my arrival, they have been asked about what they wrote, and some now blame others and will not admit to what they have written. And some simply deny their letters, and such was the luck of Daniel Lomberg (Londberg) from Söderala that he was able to travel to California after having been put on thin ice like the others. What he wrote on 30 October 1849 is such an apparent lie, and it was the same with the one named (Otto Wilhelm) Stenberg from Mo parish, who wrote in 1847. He and his family were helped with a large

sum of money in Sweden to pay their debts, and then got their travel paid across the sea, and when he came to New York he and his family fled without showing the humanity of at least thanking those who had helped them so much, but instead they could at a distance send such lying writings about this society. One after the other has done so, and so it was with Glug Erik of Del(s)bo [Translator's note: possibly Erik Olofsson or Erik Ersson of Delsbo], who was forced in the same way from the beginning of his arrival in this country, to send home lying letters without cause. But Erik is now living here, and he himself says that he will never leave this society, since they live according to God's word in both acts and deeds, and everyone has their own free will in everything. Yes, no one here is forced into anything, as I had heard in Sweden, or have deposited their funds with this society and then departed and suffered loss in some unjust way.

Death of Erik Jansson

And since I certainly understand that you have heard many different stories about Erik Jansson's death, I wish to briefly tell you the truth about it. Erik Jansson had some land ownership cases at the spring court session, and went there, where he was met by a man named Johan Rutt (Ruth), who had two pistols in his coat pocket, and during the noon recess in the courtroom itself, in the presence of some lawmen, Norsten from Peoria, Drure from Rock Island, Branner from Cambridge, and others, and while Erik Jansson stood speaking with some of them in the courtroom itself, John Ruth called Erik Jansson by name, to get him to turn around, after which Ruth immediately grabbed a pistol and shot Erik Jansson through the heart, and then with the second pistol shot the second shot at him. He died after 4 or 5 minutes on 13 May 1850, and Erik Jansson's friends still remember that day. Ruth was arrested and put behind bars, and remains in the Tulands (sic) [Toulon] Jail, awaiting

his sentence of death. This murderer Ruth has said he was born in Stockholm, and it is said that he is the son of a sister of Fru Gladman at Hötorget (Stockholm), and has taken another name since he came to America. He left the Mexican war in 1848 and came to this place, and asked to stay, which was not denied him. And a short time later he expressed an interest in staying permanently, and become a member of this congregation. He was given a promise of this, and later requested permission to marry a woman from Västmanland, a cousin of Erik Jansson. She promised him [marriage] with the condition that he should let her remain among her friends, if he should change his mind in the future. He assured her of this promise, and entered into marriage with her.

He lived together with her at first. Then he began wandering around here and there, then returned again and asked her if she wished to follow him, but she answered "no," upon which he showed a weapon and threatened her angrily. Then he left, and returned later, taking her by force and dragging her into a wagon, and took her here and there in the countryside, so we did not hear more of them.

In the spring of 1850, it happened that some men from this place came down to Chicago to do some errands, and when she heard that some of her friends were there, she fled the house where Ruth had left her. She was herself out that afternoon, and sought out her friends, asking to follow them to this place, so they let her go along. While they certainly knew first that she had been given permission by her husband before marriage that she should be able to live in peace among her friends, and secondly, the law states clearly here in America that if a man takes his wife from one place to another against her will, he has committed a crime, and it is 25 Swedish miles from this place to Chicago. Later, Ruth gathered a party of angry shirkers (bums), and some of them were like wild men, and came seeking his wife with threats that he

would kill her, as well as Erik Jansson and others. But it didn't work this time. He made renewed efforts, but the lying spirit he had placed upon his party, claiming that his wife wished to follow him, and that they took her by force from him, (which) was a lie, and they could no longer maintain their violent state of mind. The truth began to become evident to them, as well as for everyone, so that his party left him in shame. But, later he found another way to carry out his evil intent, and it succeeded as mentioned above, so that the Scriptures have now been accomplished, saying that they should kill some of you, and that your murderer shall claim he was thereby doing God a service, said Jesus, dearly missed by all his friends whom he had brought to freedom in both spiritual and physical ways, though this was not unexpected, since Erik Jansson, from the time he first began to preach, had always said, in accordance with Jesus' Word, that he should be killed by his own people, and right in the middle of the land of freedom he has said that his blood should flow for the sake of truth. And all this has now been realized according to Scriptures, for the hate and anger the Swedish clergy raised against Erik Jansson and his friends has even followed them here. For ever since the people came to this land from Sweden, the Swedish clergy have tried even here to hold the people imprisoned, claiming they thereby do God a service by killing he who offers himself for the people's freedom. Out of this hate, Ruth was encouraged to, like Judas, a disciple of Jesus, not only betray, but kill a servant of the Lord. ... [religious parable omitted]

Lönner from Hudiksvall stayed with a Lutheran preacher [Translator's note: actually Episcopalian] in Chicago named Unonius. He is the brother-in-law of Vicar Oldberg of Alfta, and Lönner became a member of his congregation, since it was shown and the reason was that they were so alike in their joint scoffing about those here in Bishop Hill, all without basis, and I understood, Lön-

ner since has become an appropriate sheep for that flock. Lönner was certainly an historic master of mystery on both the sea and on land, but now I could note that he became an apostle against this flock, etc.

No illnesses have been heard of here. There has been no snow here this winter, though there was a little twice, but it went away after a few days. And now it looks like the spring thaw will begin. Here it is very pleasant by reason of Nature itself, here there have been some 2,000 trees planted, and some will begin to bear fruit. Here there is no heavy work, rather it goes peacefully and in unity, while scriptures are read and preached daily.

(s) Jon Olofsson at Bishop Hill, previously of Forsa and Stenbo.

Note:

- 1) In 1851 a Swedish mile was 10,688 meters or 36,000 feet, according to *Nationalencyklopedien*.

Svensk Hyllningsfest

The biennial *Svensk Hyllningsfest* will take place 12–14 October 2007 in Lindsborg, Kansas.

Lindsborg's *Svensk Hyllningsfest* is a biennial tribute to the Swedish pioneers occurring in October of odd numbered years. The festival features art, crafts, special foods, ethnic music, folk dancing, parade, smörgåsbord, and special entertainment. The festival coincides with the Bethany College homecoming. Many of Lindsborg's residents don traditional Swedish folk costumes for the event. Swedish folk dance groups and musicians add to the Swedish flavor of the festival.

Please join us for a true Swedish experience in the heart of America! Lindsborg is located just twenty miles south of Interstate 70 at Salina, or seventy miles north of Wichita on Interstate 135.

www.svenskhyllningsfest.org/

The 444 - Sandin-Tillner Family Tree Statistics

BY NORMAN "PONO" SANDIN

I don't have any batting averages, greens in regulation, or wins by knockout numbers, but for those of you who are statistically inclined, I've picked out what I think are some interesting numbers about my family tree.

Currently, I'm reporting information on 444 direct ancestors. The information is complete on some, partial on some, and really scanty on some others. I have personally verified the data on many of the ancestors, but not all of them. There are some others cooking, but not yet at the stage of being ready to report. There are many hundreds more who are siblings to my direct ancestors and I have info on lots of them, but I have not applied the same degree of diligence to that research, so I have not reported on them.

Lifespans

Of the 444, more than 300 have known or carefully estimated birth and death dates. For these, the average lifespan is 67.9 years. I find this number remarkable for several reasons. First, I am now older than the average. Second, the ancestors represented in this average lived from the early-1600s to current days, with the preponderance in the earlier times when life expectancies were much lower than they are now. Third, I've seen lots and lots of early deaths in the Swedish records I pursued. Of course these early deaths did not result in offspring but did factor in

to the low life expectancy. It seems that persons who survived to child-bearing age tended to survive much longer!

The shortest lifespan accurately documented (both birth and death record were found) is my 4th great-grandfather Per Andersson. He lived for only 34 years. The longest lifespan is clearly documented in the death record, but subject to question only because it depended on the memory of the reporter. It is my 8th great-grandmother Anna Olofsdotter who lived 108 years! Second oldest is Per Nilsson Västgöte at 102 years, subject to the same question. Third oldest is my mother Mamie Eleanor Tillner Sandin accurately documented at 97 years!

Given names

Of the 444, 210 are female and 234 are male. Why the difference? In early days, women were truly the lesser sex – almost chattel. Birth records often read "Jan Jansson's son Jan, etc." with no mention of the mother. Death records for women were often "Jan Jansson's wife died, etc.," or "Wife of Jan from farm name died, etc.," or even "Widow of Jan Jansson, etc." many years after Jan's death! Household surveys in the early days often gave the husband's name only or sometimes his name and just the Swedish word for wife. Again, even years after his death, the widow was referred to as "Widow of Jan Jansson" in the yearly census.

It was not unusual to find a man known to be married, but with no indication in the records of the wife's name.

Of the 210 females in my database, 5 had no reference to their first names, and only one of those had reference to her patronymic name.

Of the 234 males in the database, there are only 61 unique first names. This number is shaky due to interpretation of handwriting, quality of records, spelling and penmanship of the recorders, and many other factors. Occasionally an individual could be found with several variations of spelling of the given name.

Jan appeared as Johan, Johannes, Jonas, and Jon. Per might be Pehr, Peter, or Petter. When "variations" are combined, there are only 46 unique male names out of the 234!

Of the 205 females with first names (after deducting the 5 with no names), there are only 54 unique names. This number is similarly shaky due to the factors noted above. Also, very frequently an individual could be found with a large number of variations of spelling of the given name.

Catharina was also written Catrina, Caisa, Kajsa, Cajsa, and Katarina. Elisabet was also written Elisabeth, Lisa, Lisbet, Elisabets, and Elisbet. It could be argued that other combinations are valid. Karin and its variations somewhat overlap the Catharina set. Maria and Margareta sometimes overlap. These are just

the ones in my ancestry – there are many other variations as well! When “variations” are combined, there are only 31 unique female names out of the 205!

Here are the most popular male and female given names in this database with the count of each:

34	Anders, Andreas	43	Anna, Annika, Anica
23	Jan, Johan, Johannes, Jon	25	Kerstin, Cherstin, Chierstin
20	Per, Pehr, Peter, Petter	23	Maria, Marina, Marit, Maja
19	Erik, Erich, Eric	18	Karin, Carin, Kari
16	Nils	16	Elisabet, Elisabeth, Lisa
16	Olof, Oloff	15	Brita, Britta
14	Lars	14	Cathrina, Katarina, Cajsa
13	Hans	11	Margareta, Margreta
9	Sven	8	Stina, Christina
7	Hindrik, Hindrich	4	Elin
6	Mats	3	Ingrid
5	Göran and Märten (tie)	3	Sara

The most popular male first name represents 14% of the total male names.

The most popular female first name represents 20% of the total female names.

The 4 most popular male first names represent 41% of the total.

The 4 most popular female first names represent 51% of the total.

The 12 most popular male first names represent a whopping 77% of the total.

The 12 most popular female first names represent an enormous 87% of the total.

My personal choice from the database for most unusual male first name is my sixth great-grandfather Gottskalk and for most unusual female first name is my eighth great-grandmother Sissela.

Last names – patronymic and surnames

By far the majority of ancestors had patronymic last names. For those not familiar, the patronymic convention consists of a given name followed by the father’s first name combined with the Swedish word “son” or “dotter.” Thus Per Jansson is Per, son of Jan, and Anna Jansdotter is Anna, daughter of Jan.

Because of the patronymic convention, last names pretty much paralleled the male first names in frequency. Andersson and Andersdotter prevail, with Jansson and Jansdotter following. Of the 444 ancestors, 194 men sported patronymic names and 179 women.

Forty ancestors, less than 10%, (both male and female) carried non-patronymic names – regular surnames. Of those 40, there were only 21 unique surnames. Not surprisingly, Sandin was the leader with 7 representatives. There were 5 Finne, 5 Skotte, 2 Bagge, 2 Krantz, 2 Rotkopp, 2 Tillner, 2 Willing, and 13 single occurrences.

The rest, some 30 individuals, go into my records with no names (see above) or only first names.

As ever, one should take these numbers with a grain of salt. First, the group surveyed is small – 444. Second, some people carried both patronymic and regular surnames. These were included in the surname numbers only – 40. Third, some surnames actually referred to nation of origin (e.g., Finne – Finland; Ryss – Russia), even though they were used as surnames. Fourth, some surnames were actually occupations (e.g., only one example, Garmakare – copper ore refiner).

One gentleman, my 8th great-grandfather Per Nilsson Västgöte, carried a patronymic, son of Nils, and a surname. He was from an area on the ill-defined border between the provinces of Västergötland and Småland. He mostly used the name Västgöte relating to his origin in the first province, but also was called Små-

länning relating to the second province.

My 7th great-grandfather Erik Ersson was the end of a line. I could find nothing about his ancestry, but according to the patronymic conventions his father would be Erik also. Ersson is a commonly used abbreviation for Eriksson. Erik 7 had a son Erik 6 who had a son Erik 5 – all my ancestors – so I have three ancestors in a row named Erik Ersson! I can only guess that there must have been a lot of nicknames in use to disambiguate between the generations. This was not unusual!

Summary – the end of the line

By far the most Sandin ancestors are from Ljusnarsberg and Ramsberg in the *län* of Örebro. The Tillner ancestors are from Ärtemark in Älvsborg and Essunga in Skaraborg.

These stats are fluid. As I review them, I see some areas that need more work or more careful research. Each day that passes after this one will see changes to the numbers. A year or two years or some time later I hope to republish a similar memo. It will be interesting to see if anything changes significantly. As a preview I can tell you that I’ve been tracking average life span for a long time – from about 184 ancestors to the current 444 – and the average has only changed a tenth of a year or so!

Now, to wrap it up: these stats cover 444 individuals. I am the only one still living. Each person was born, grew up, married, worked, had more or fewer children, lived a short or long life, experienced joy and sorrow, had a story to tell, and finally died. The stats only aggregate and summarize 444 lifetimes and tell a generalized story. Looking at the forest makes one forget that each tree had its own life and glory.

Hindrik Werre, Bertil Larsson, Sigfrid Matsson, and Erland Algutsson were all born around 1600. Hindrik had three children who fed their genes into my tree. Bertil, Sigfrid, and Erland each contributed one

child's genes. Many others also made their contributions. Now, four centuries later, I really wonder what they would think of the product.

Editor's note:

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics the mean expected length of life for a baby, depending on if it was a male baby or a female, was like this for the whole country of Sweden:

Males

Year of Birth	Age
1751-1790	33.72
1791-1815	35.35
1816-1840	39.50
1841-1850	41.66
1851-1860	40.49
1861-1870	42.80
1871-1880	45.27
1881-1890	48.55
1891-1900	50.94
1901-1910	54.53
2001-2005	77.99

Females

Year of Birth	Age
1750-1790	36.64
1791-1815	38.44
1816-1840	43.56
1841-1850	46.10
1851-1860	44.40
1861-1870	46.37
1871-1880	48.62
1881-1890	51.47
1891-1900	53.63
1901-1910	56.98
2001-2005	82.41

It is interesting to see that the median life expectancy decreased during the 1850s, but increased during the 1860s, when there were three difficult years of famine. It is also clear that these figures show that the population must have grown, as more people lived longer. The increase of the population was one of the major reasons for the migration to other countries. There was not enough work to be found in the homeland.



Charles Sandin, born 1 May 1873 in Ljusnarsberg (Väsm.), died 25 July 1961, the author's grandfather.

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The Poorhouse in Boone County, Iowa

While surfing on the internet there are many things to find, not all of them showing the best side of people. In the old days people ended up in the poorhouse for many reasons, and here are a few with a Swedish connection, who were inmates of the Boone County Poorhouse in the center of Iowa:

John Peterson Nov 6, 1917, correspondent Mrs. J.M. Olson, Storm Lake, Iowa, where living when committed: Swedish Home, white male, 78 yrs, 135 lbs, 5'5, blue eyes, gray hair, married, has three kids, is a farmer, mother and father are Swedish, lack of memory.

Matilda Wilson Feb 21, 1918 Garden Twp (Boxholm, Iowa), correspondent John Wilson (brother), 55 yrs, 140 lbs, 5'6 dark complected, gray eyes, gray hair, mom and dad were from Sweden.

Anna Forslund transferred from Clarinda Sept 10, 1935, paroled to brother in 1952, Joe Youngstrom from Fort Dodge, Iowa, from Pilot Mound, Iowa, correspondent Esther Ballard, sister, Stanton, Iowa, white female, 50 yrs, 140 lbs, 5'3, blue eyes, gray hair, b. July 10, 1882 Webster City, Iowa, widow with 3 kids youngest 14 yrs,, parents from Sweden, cause of insanity: Accidental death of husband.

No 4735 **Charles Zanderholm** Dec 3, 1920, painter, dementia paranoid type, white, single, age 66 b. March 21, 1885 Boonesboro, Iowa, returned to Clarinda July 10, 1943, back to Boone March 21, 1950, father Andrew Zanderholm, Sweden, correspondent: Mrs. J E Huffman, sister.

Sarah L Johnson April 9, 1929, brother John P. Johnson, Ogden,

Iowa, correspondent G.E. Johnson guardian, physician Dr J.O. Galleo Ogden, Iowa, living with brother when committed, white female, 63 yrs, 125 lbs, 5'5, gray eyes and gray hair, b Aug 6, 1855 Sweden, mother and father born in Sweden, type of insanity: psychosis, mental deficiency.

Mary Wilson Hoflund Feb 21, 1918, Dr Johnson Boxholm, Iowa, white female, 53 yrs, blue eyes, white hair, b. April 24, 1854 divorced, father and mother from Sweden.

Mrs **O.W. Tornell** Dec 20, 1946, Pilot Mound, Iowa, widow with 8 kids, white, 79 yrs, 100 lbs, 5', gray eyes and hair, b. Oct 22, 1867 Illinois, religion: Swedish Mission, father and mother from Sweden.

<http://iagenweb.org/boone/history/poorhouse1.htm>

Handwriting Example XIII

Födde i Nordmarks församling 1819.			
Månad	Född	Föräldrar och Faddrar Hemvist, Namn och Caräcter till	Mödrans Namn
Januari	22	24. Nordmarkshyttan Grufarbetaren Lars Nilsons och dets Hustru: Anna Erikson ^{de} Son	27 Nils
		Faddrar: Unoant: Jonas Jonsson från Nordmarkshyttan, Enkan Anna Erikson ^{de} från Stjelvet, Drängen Erik Eriksson och fligan Greta Landberg från Nordmarkshyttan.	
	24	26. Nordmarkshyttan hinkullbäcken Jonas Jonssons och H: Maria Andersdotters Son	21 Jonas
		Faddrar: Grufarbetaren Anders Andersson, dets Hustru Brita Pettersson, Drängen Jan Andersson och fligan Cajsa Jonson alla fr. Nordmarkshyttan.	
	25	26. Nordmarkshyttan Grufarbet: Nils Nilssons och dets H: Maria Liza Arnbergs Son	20 Johan Fredrik
		Faddrar: Grufarb: Sven Svensson, Enkan Liza Jansson ^{de} från Nordmarksgrufvor, Drängen Sven Nilsson från Grundsjön och fligan Lena Jonsdotter i Sabergsöfjärne.	

This is a part of the birth records for Nordmark parish in eastern Värmland.

The handwriting is quite easy to read, but you still have to look out for the "old" spelling in some words. "Old" spelling means that "f" is used instead of "v", or that you see "fv" instead of just "v" (Gustafva). An-

other example might be "hv" for "v". This can be confusing if you read a tombstone and can decipher names and dates, but then comes the mysterious "H.H.", which should be read as "Här Hvilar" [here rests]. The modern spelling is *Här Vilar*. Also notice that the letter "s" inside words is a long one, almost like an "f".



Nordmark church, late 1800s.

Michelle Pfeiffer's ancestors

The film star is a product of
the American melting pot

By DICK ERIKSSON AND BO LINDWALL

In 1996 Bo Lindwall edited a book published in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the significant Swedish immigration to the U.S. The book was called *24 Famous Swedish Americans and Their Ancestors*. One of the many Swedish-American actresses who were not included in the book was Michelle Pfeiffer, whose heritage Bo Lindwall and his friend Dick Eriksson decided to trace anyway. After having solved the Swedish connection, they found it interesting to try to see how much information, besides the Swedish lines, that it was possible to find without leaving Sweden. It turned out to work very well.

Michelle Pfeiffer's ancestry demonstrates the various waves of immigration from Northern Europe and can be divided in four distinct groups, one for each of her grandparents.

Her paternal grandfather's ancestors were all Catholic Germans. Her great-grandfather was born in Saxony to Catholic parents. The grandfather's maternal grandfather is said to have been born in "Prussia" and also the grandfather's maternal grandmother's parents are said to have been born in "Prussia." When you see the name of Prussia you may think of Eastern Germany, Brandenburg for instance. In this case Prussia probably means the Rhine country, which was made a part of Prussia already in 1815. It looks like all the "Prussian" ancestors of

Michelle on her paternal grandfather's side are Catholics from the Rhine country. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to try to trace them in German records.

The ancestors of her paternal grandmother were from Pennsylvania and mirror fairly well the various groups of people who settled in this state, such as the Pennsylvania Dutch, Palatines (Pfalz), Welsh Quakers, and some Scotch-Irish.

The ancestors of her maternal grandfather were all from the area of Davos in the Canton of Graubünden in Switzerland. Their religion was evangelical and they were ethnic Germans, with some influx of Räto-Romans, as is shown by the name Taverna.

The maternal grandmother's ancestors were all from *Värend*, one of the many small "folk lands" that together make up the province of Småland in Sweden.

1 *Michelle Marie Pfeiffer*, born 29 Apr. 1958 in Santa Ana, Orange Co., California, U.S.A. Actress.

Generation I

2 *Richard "Dick" Pfeiffer*, born 28 Oct. 1933 in Carrington, Foster Co., North Dakota, died 21 Dec. 1998 in Midway City, Orange Co., California. Salesman and contractor in Midway City, California. Married to



3 *Donna Jean Taverna*, born 20 Aug. 1932 in New Rockford, Eddy Co., North Dakota.

Generation II

4 *William John Pfeiffer*, born 19 May 1904 in Brainerd, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota, died 6 Aug. 1968 in Lynwood, Los Angeles Co., California. Farmer and later machinist in Carrington, Foster Co., North Dakota.¹

Married 1 Nov. 1926 in Carrington, Foster Co., North Dakota, (later divorced) to

5 *Dorothy Straley*, born 15 Oct. 1908 in Carrington, Foster Co., North Dakota, died 19 Feb. 1986 in Santa Ana, Orange Co., California. Later remarried twice.

6 *Jacob "Jake" Bernhardt Taverna*, born 28 Aug. 1905 in New Rockford, Eddy Co., North Dakota, died 19 Dec. 1983 in New Rockford, Eddy Co., North Dakota. Farmer and livestock buyer in Rosefield Township, Eddy Co., North Dakota.

Married 1 Oct. 1929 in Fargo, Cass Co., North Dakota, to

7 *Delma Lillian Hill*, born 19 Aug. 1911 in Sheyenne, Eddy Co., North Dakota, died 19 Dec. 1999 in New Rockford, Eddy Co., North Dakota.

Generation III

8 *Wilhelm "William" F. J. Pfeiffer*, born 30 June 1863 in Calbe an der Saale, Saxony, Germany, died 6 Aug. 1942 in Jamestown, Stutsman Co., North Dakota. Farmer in Saint Mathias Township, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota, later shop clerk in Brainerd, Crow Wing Co., general merchant in Carrington, North Dakota, and finally an employée of the Northern Pacific Railroad.²

Married 19 Nov 1891 in Saint Mathias, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota to

9 *Susanna Miller*, born 11 Sep. 1866 in Owatonna, Steele Co., Minnesota, died 26 Nov. 1936 at 615 Milton Avenue South, Jamestown, Stutsman Co., North Dakota.

10 *James Berton "Bert" Straley*, born 20 Sep. 1874 in New Enterprise, South Woodbury, Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, died 17 July 1951 in Carrington, Foster Co., North Dakota. Farmer in Carrington, Foster Co., North Dakota.

Married 4 Nov. 1897 in Curryville, Pennsylvania, to

11 *Hulda Blanche Griffith*, born 27 June 1872 in Fishertown, Saint Clair Township, Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, died 1 Oct. 1952 in Carrington, Foster Co., North Dakota.

12 *Jacob Taverna*, born 24 Jan. 1868 in Davos (Frauenkirch), Graubünden, Switzerland, died 22 July 1920 in New Rockford, Eddy Co., North Dakota. Farmer in Rosefield Township in Eddy Co., North Dakota.³

Married 29 Mar. 1896 in Davos (Frauenkirch) to

13 *Dorothea Bernhard*, born 1 Jan. 1872 in Wiesen, Graubünden, Switzerland, died 16 July 1953 in Carrington, Foster Co., North Dakota.⁴

14 *John Sigurd Hill (born Charles Alfred Peterson)*, born 9 Dec. 1870 in Marine Mills, Washington Co., Minnesota, died 28 Feb. 1962 in

Sheyenne, Eddy Co., North Dakota. Carpenter in Sheyenne, Eddy Co., North Dakota.⁵

Married 1st 29 Oct. 1891 in Barrett, Grant Co., Minnesota, to *Anna J. Betland*, born 2 Feb. 1872, died 2 Feb. 1899 in Lien Township, Grant Co., Minnesota.

Married 2nd 25 May 1903 in Barrett, Grant Co., Minnesota, to his second cousin

15 *Amanda Karolina Olson*, born 10 Oct. 1880 in Nyelund, Klackhult Södergård, Hornaryd parish, (Smål.), died 25 April 1952 in Sheyenne, Eddy Co., North Dakota. She came with her parents to the U.S. in 1886 and grew up in Elbow Lake, Grant Co., Minnesota.

Generation IV

16 *Ernst Pfeiffer*, born 18 Mar. 1831 in Germany, died 6 Nov. 1905 in Saint Mathias, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota. Farmer in Saint Mathias, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota. He, his wife, and the children came with the *Ohio* from Bremen to Baltimore 21 Dec. 1881.⁶

Married to

17 *Henrietta Gebhardt*, born 18 Oct. 1830 in Germany, died 14 Aug. 1888 in Saint Mathias, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota.

18 *Johann "John" H(einrich) Müller*, later *Miller*, born Apr. 1835 in Prussia, died 10 July 1908 at 1519 South Seventh Street, Brainerd, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota. Farmer in Brooklyn, Hennepin Co., Minnesota, and later in Saint Mathias, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota.⁷

Married 18 June 1862 in Chicago to

19 *Katherine "Kate" Meyers*, born 10 Aug. 1844 in McHenry Co., Illinois, died 15 Sep. 1922 at 217 North 9th Street, Brainerd, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota. She had 13 children of which 8 were alive at her death, as well as 38 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

20 *David M Straley*, born 17 Feb. 1849 in New Enterprise, South Woodbury Township, Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, died 20 Aug. 1882 in

Fairmont, Fillmore Co., Nebraska. Blacksmith and later pastor in New Enterprise, South Woodbury, Pennsylvania.⁸

Married 11 May 1871 in New Enterprise, South Woodbury Township, Bedford Co. Pennsylvania, to

21 *Leah L Stineman*, born 15 Aug. 1847 in Richland Township, Cambria Co., Pennsylvania, died 22 Feb. 1916 in Grand View, Yakima Co., Washington.

22 *Abner Messenheimer Griffith*, born 27 July 1833 in Fishertown, Saint Clair Township, Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, died 10 May 1914 in Fishertown, East Saint Clair Township, Bedford Co., Pennsylvania. Laborer in Fishertown, East Saint Clair Township, Pennsylvania.⁹

Married 1st 26 Apr. 1855 in Bedford Co. to *Rebecka Lingenfelter*, born 1831 in Saint Clair Township, Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, died there in 1856.

Married 2nd in 1857 in Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, to his 2nd cousin's daughter

23 *Rachel Penrose*, born 30 July 1834 in Saint Clair Township, Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, died 6 Mar. 1896 in Fishertown, East Saint Clair Township, Bedford Co., Pennsylvania.

24 *Hans (Johannes) Taverna*, born 29 Jan. 1837 in Davos (Frauenkirch), Graubünden, Switzerland. Teacher in Davos (Frauenkirch), Graubünden.

Married 5 July 1857 in Davos, Graubünden, Switzerland, to

25 *Anna Engel*, born 3 March 1836 in Davos (Hauptkirche), Graubünden, Switzerland.

26 *Christian Bernhard*, born 8 Feb. 1843 in Wiesen, Graubünden, Switzerland. Lived in Wiesen, Graubünden.

Married 27 Feb. 1869 to

27 *Dorothea Jud*, born 19 Sep. 1840 in Janisberg, Graubünden, Switzerland.

28 *Johan "John" Gustaf Peterson*, born 15 Nov. 1845 in Ugnanäs

Påkagård, Hovmantorp parish, (Smål.), died 1 Sep. 1916 in Barrett, Grant Co., Minnesota. Postmaster, hotel owner, and policeman in Barrett, Grant Co., Minnesota. Married 2 July 1867 in Chisago Lake, Chisago Co., Minnesota to

29 *Martha Kristina Johnson*, born 15 Sep. 1847 in Gynkelstorp Norregård, Tolg parish, (Smål.), died 4 Apr. 1930 at 338 East 17th Street, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co., Minnesota. She died at the home of a daughter, but was buried in Barrett.

30 *Sven Johan Olson*, born 16 June 1858 in Norrgärde, Tolg Mellangård, Tolg parish, (Smål.), died 18 July 1908 in Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co., Minnesota. Farmer in Elbow Lake, Grant Co., Minnesota.¹⁰

Married 1st 5 March 1880 in Tolg parish, (Smål.), to

31 *Sara Katarina Petersdotter*, born 9 Jan. 1860 in Ryltestugan, Rylte, Tolg parish, (Smål.), died 30 Nov. 1901 in Elbow Lake, Sanford Township, Grant Co., Minnesota. Buried at the Union Cemetery, Elbow Lake, Minnesota.

Endnotes

1) In October 1936 he is said to be a plumber in Carrington, but when his mother died in November 1936 he lived in Sykeston and by his father's death in August 1942 in Durwood, Minnesota. According to his obituary he came to California in 1942.

2) He came to the U.S. with his parents in 1881. In October 1936 the Pfeiffers were interviewed by M. Monson about their lives and William Pfeiffer told the following: "Mr Pfeiffer was born in Germany in 1863 and came across in 1881. He settled in St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked in the car shops. In Germany he had learned no particular trade, but had attended a seminary, thus his early days were spent as a student. From St. Louis, he went to Wisconsin in 1882. There he worked on the section for three years. Then he came to Minneapolis, Minnesota. There he kept a boarding house for a year. Then, in 1885, he came to Crow Wing Co. taking a homestead in St.

Mathias Township, then a part of Ft. Ripley. He then went to work in the machine shops in Brainerd. This he followed for two and one half years. Then he saw seven years of work in the round-house. He clerked for Fred Luken for seven years. Then he went out to North Dakota and worked there in various stations for the N.P.R.R. until 1933, when he retired. He hasn't worked since. From 1885 to 1917, William Pfeiffer was a resident of Crow Wing Co., besides a pioneer homesteader."

3) Jakob Taverna, 28 years, wife Dorothea, 24 years, and Jakob's brother Conrad Taverna, 27 years, arrived in New York 13 April 1896 on the *La Touraine* from Le Havre, France. They settled in Eddy Co., five miles southwest of New Rockford, North Dakota.

4) She left the farm in Rosefield Township in 1928 and moved to her son, Chris, in New Rockford. She became ill in 1945 and moved to her daughter and son-in-law, Martha and Erwin Nicholson, in Carrington. She left 8 children, 16 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

5) He was born as Charles A. Peterson and used that name still at his second marriage in 1903, but then changed his name to John Sigurd Hill for unknown reasons, possibly in connection with his move to Sheyenne, before 1910.

The origin of John Hill was rather difficult to find. According to his death certificate he was born in Barrett, and even in his obituary in the *New Rockford Transcript* he is said to be born 9 Dec. 1870 in Barrett, Minnesota. In his daughter Delma's birth certificate he is said to be born in Marine Mills, Minnesota (which turned out to be correct). By checking the 1870 and 1880 censuses it was found that neither in Barrett, which is in Grant Co., or in Marine Mills, which is in Washington Co., was there a Hill family during those years. After a contact with the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö it was known that there was no Hill family in Swedish congregations in the nearby area in Minnesota.

Further leads were found in the obituaries in the local papers for Mr. and Mrs. Hill. According to the *New Rockford Transcript*, John Hill and Amanda Olson had married in Elbow Lake,

Minnesota, 1904. Elbow Lake is in Grant Co., but after corresponding with the local officials it was clear that no one named Hill had married in Grant Co. around 1904. A brick wall again. In the 1962 obituary for John Hill his children were listed, and among them, the youngest son Gordon Hill in Mandan, North Dakota. Luckily enough, Gordon Hill was still living in Mandan and he could by phone and by correspondence give information and explain the riddle of John Hill.

Gordon knew that his father's name had originally been Charles Peterson but that he had later changed his name. Now everything became clear. He was born as Charles Alfred Peterson in Marine Mills, and recorded in Birth book A, p 72, for Washington Co., Minnesota as Carl Alfred, born 9 December 1870, son of John G. and Martha Peterson. As a child he had moved with his parents to Barrett in Grant Co., where he grew up. He was still Charles Peterson in 1903 when he married Amanda Karolina Olson in Grant Co., and now it was possible to get a copy of his marriage certificate. All the pieces in the puzzle now found their places, but it is still not clear why Charles A. Peterson, when moving to Sheyenne, suddenly changes his name to John S. Hill. If we had not been able to get in contact with his son Gordon and been told that he had changed both his first name and his surname, it would have been almost impossible to trace him.

6) In an interview with the granddaughter Susanna Driver in 1936 she tells about her paternal grandparents: "After staying in St. Louis, Missouri, for some time, they came north into Minnesota and near St. Paul a while, then finally in 1885 they located at St. Mathias, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota. Mr. Pfeiffer filed on a homestead immediately and built his house, a log cabin, near where Mr. John Miller lived (see ancestor #18), a man of his own nationality and who was there when he came." We are also told that "In the old country he had worked on fruit farms. Therefore as quickly as possible, he prepared some land and put in some berry bushes." Finally it is told that "Mr Pfeiffer lived on his homestead and raised fruit and did gardening until he passed away." Ernst Pfeiffer was recorded in the 1900 Census as a widower in Saint

Mathias Township in Crow Wing Co., Minnesota, living with his daughter Anna and her husband Millard F. Shannon.

7) He came to America before 1862 and lived in 1864 in McHenry Co., Illinois. In the 1870 Census he lived in Owatonna, Steele Co., Minnesota, as a laborer. In the 1880 Census he lived in Brooklyn, Hennepin Co., Minnesota, as a farmer and in the 1900 Census as a farm laborer in Saint Mathias Township, Crow Wing Co., Minnesota. According to his obituary in 1908, he came with his family in 1884 to Crow Wing Co., taking a claim in St. Mathias township where he resided until about 1907 when he moved to Brainerd. According to what his daughter Susanna told in 1936, John Miller was originally a basket maker by trade, supplying the big wholesale houses in Minneapolis. When she became 11 years old, that is in 1877, they moved to a farm at Brooklyn Center. They lived there seven years. Then they moved to Crow Wing Co. and John Miller filed on a homestead in Saint Mathias, where they lived until he was too old to run it, and then he moved to Brainerd. During his time in Saint Mathias he wrote a petition for a road to Brainerd from the Morrison Co. line. He even helped survey it in 1886. He succeeded in putting the road through. He also helped to build Saint Mathias Church.

8) In the 1879 Directory for Bedford Co., where also his middle initial is mentioned, he is listed as a blacksmith in New Enterprise, Woodberry Borough-South (present spelling South Woodbury). He united with the Church of the Brethren, in the New Enterprise congregation, in the spring of 1878. This congregation called him to the ministry 14 October 1878. In the spring of 1882 he moved to Nebraska, where he met with an accident that cost him his life, he died from being kicked by a horse.

9) In the 1879 Directory for Bedford Co. he is found in East Saint Clair Township as Abner M. Griffith, worker in Fishertown. From his obituary it is found that he "was the 13th child and last survivor of William and Hannah Griffith, all of whose large family became people of local prominence." Next you are told: "When a young man he learned the tanner trade with his brother Joseph, which business, after a few years, he abandoned and devoted the remaining years of his active life to lime burning and all other forms of outdoor labour for his neighbor farmers. Mr. Griffith had lived alone for many years prior to his death. He was a great reader and had a large store of general information. He was a member of Osterburg Castle No 307, Knights of the Golden Eagle."

10) Sven Johan Olofsson, as was his Swedish name, was a tenant farmer in Nyelund, Klackhult Södergård, Hornaryd parish (Smål.) 1880-1881, then sharecropper at Holmatorpet, Bringeback, Hornaryd parish (Smål.) 1881-1882, tenant farmer and carpenter at Bråna Frälsegårds *soldattorp*, Tolg parish (Smål.) 1882-1886, and then the whole family moved to North America on 26 May 1886. They settled in Elbow Lake, Sanford Township, Grant Co., Minnesota. Some years after his first wife died, Sven Johan and four sons went back to Sweden, where he remarried. After about one year they moved back to America, first to Canada and then to Alexandria, Douglas Co., in Minnesota. He worked as both a butcher and a carpenter until he bought some land, 80 acres, in 1906 in Zimmerman, Sherburne Co., Minnesota and moved there. Buried at Bellwood Cemetery, Orrock Township, Sherburne Co.

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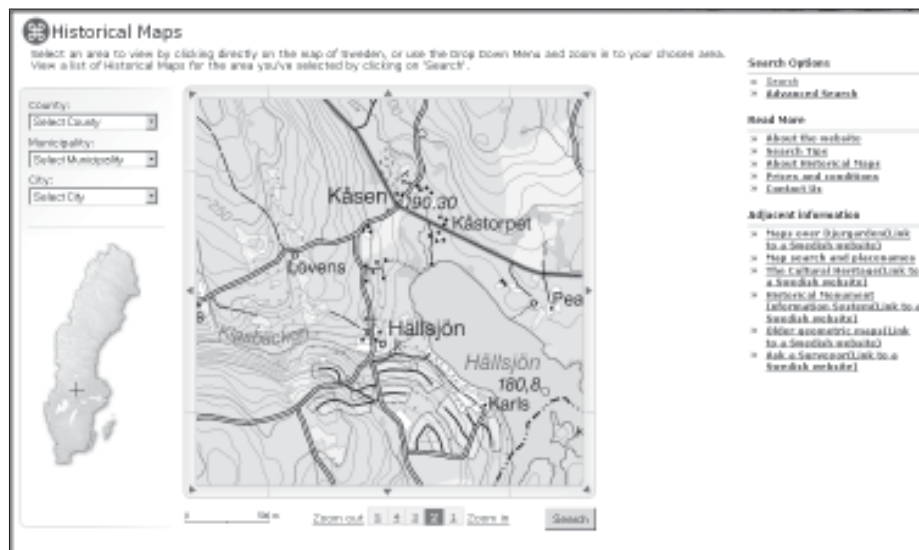
Historical maps online

The Swedish General Surveyor's Office (*Lantmäteriet*) has recently opened a new version of their web site, and now you have access to many thousands of old maps. To look at the maps is free, but the maps are not downloadable. Instead you can go to the *Lantmäteriet's* e-shop and buy copies of maps on paper, online or on a CD/DVD.

This service is quite new, so the SAG editor has not yet tried all different kinds of searches, but will get back to this important site in a future issue of SAG.

When you first come to this site, it might be in Swedish, but look for an English link in the upper left corner, click on that and all, or most, following pages will be in English.

Lantmäteriet started in 1628.



This is the view you get if you click on "Historical Maps". There are two search possibilities – either just click on the map, or fill out the fields to the left. Then click on the Search button under the map.

<http://www.lantmateriet.se/>

The Solution to the Handwriting Example XIII

Transcription

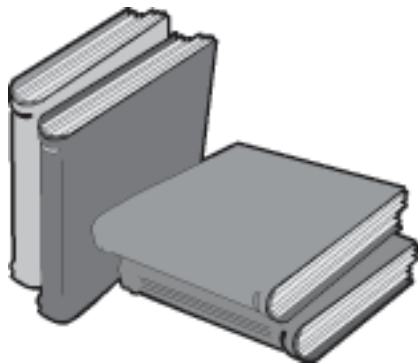
Födde i Nordmarks församling 1819.

Månad	Född	Döpt	Föräldrars och Faddrars Hemvist, Namn och Caractere	Moderns ålder	Barnets Namn
Januari	22	24	<u>Nordmarkshyttan</u> Grufarbetaren Lars Nilssons och dess Hust. Anna Eriksd ^{rs} Son Faddrar: Undant[agsman]. Jonas Jonsson från Nordmarkshyttan, Enkan Anna Eriksdotter från Stjelpet, Drängen Erik Eriksson och Pigan Greta Landberg från Nordmarkshyttan.	27	Nils
	24	26	<u>Nordmarkshyttan</u> LimkullsBäcken Jonas Jonssons och H. Maria Andersdotters Son Faddrar: Grufarbetaren Anders Andersson, dess Hustru Brita Pettersd ^r , Drängen Jan Andersson och Pigan Cajsa Jonsd ^r , alla fr. Nordmarkshyttan.	21	Jonas
	25	26	<u>Nordmarkshyttan</u> Grufarbet[aren] Nils Nilssons och dess H[ustru] Maria Lisa Arnbergs Son Faddrar: Grufarb[etaren] ^{Skjutaren} Sven Svensson ^{i Tabergsås.} , Enkan Li-sa Jansd ^r från Nordmarks Grufwor, Drängen Sven Nilsson från Grundsjön och Pigan Lena Jönsd ^r i Tabergsåsarne.	20	Johan Fredrik

Translation

Births in Nordmark Parish 1819

Month	Born	Bapt.	Homes of parents and sponsors, their names and character	Age of Mother	Name of Child
January	22	24	<u>Nordmarkshyttan</u> The miner Lars Nilssons and his wife Anna Eriksd ^{rs} Son Sponsors: Pensioner Jonas Jonsson from Nordmarkshyttan, Widow Anna Eriksdotter from Stjelpet, Hired hand Erik Eriksson and Servant Greta Landberg from Nordmarkshyttan.	27	Nils
	24	26	<u>Nordmarkshyttan</u> LimkullsBäcken Jonas Jonssons and W[ife]. Maria Andersdotter's Son Sponsors: Miner Anders Andersson, his wife Brita Pettersd ^r , Hired hand Jan Andersson and Servant Cajsa Jonsd ^r , all from Nordmarkshyttan.	21	Jonas
	25	26	<u>Nordmarkshyttan</u> Miner Nils Nilssons and his Wife Maria Lisa Arnbergs Son Sponsors: Miner ^{blaster} Sven Svensson ^{of Tabergsås.} , Widow Li-//sa Jansd ^r from Nordmark's Mines, Hired hand Sven Nilsson from Grundsjön and Servant Lena Jönsd ^r of Tabergsåsarne.	20	Johan Fredrik



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 Augustana

The Creation of an Ethnic Identity: Being Swedish American in the Augustana Synod, 1860-1917, by Dag Blanck, 256 pp, ill., Hardcover (cloth), 2006, Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, Ill., \$55.00 plus shipping.

As a young Swedish American growing up in Minneapolis, I was certainly aware that my parents and all my grandparents were Swedish, yet any sense of a Swedish American ethnic identity was embryonic at best, and largely submerged within me by my absorption with being an American. This was reinforced by the patriotic nationalism associated with the major event of my teenage years, World War II. My parents, like most second generation Swedish Americans, were more concerned with my assimilation into my peer group than they were with any strong interest in Sweden. This was not difficult, since my school classes included many different ethnic backgrounds, but the majority of my classmates were of Scandinavian, if not Swedish, heritage.

In retrospect, more was there than was readily apparent to my young eyes, then much more concerned with my own future than my ethnic past. My mother's mother lived with us part of each year during those years, read her Swedish language newspaper faithfully, but spoke with little affection about the country of her birth. She was deeply religious, however, and spent much time read-

ing her Swedish Bible. Born in Småland in 1867, she grew up in a large farm family and attended her parish church, becoming a child evangelist. By age 16, she had joined the local and newly permitted Evangelical Free Church not far from her home, no doubt to the consternation of her family. By 1890, she left for America, where she married, raised a large family on farms in Iowa and Minnesota, and remained with the Free Church all her life.

My mother, her eldest daughter, married a Lutheran Swede, however, and our family grew up in Lutheran churches, which for Midwestern Swedes were nearly all Augustana Synod. I was confirmed in an Augustana Synod church in Minneapolis, the large Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church of Pastor Reuben K. Youngdahl, a member of a prominent Swedish American family with roots in Dalsland, birthplace of several of my own ancestors. Although bearing little distinction for me at the time, my ethnic identity was clearly a product of being Swedish American in the Augustana Synod, the focus of this book published sixty years later by Dag Blanck.

My own family history was brought into much sharper focus by Dag Blanck's new book which is a scholarly attempt to examine the history and influence of The Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church in creating and establishing the Swedish American identity in the U.S. The Synod was founded in June of 1860 in Clinton, Iowa, and included thirty-six Swedish and thirteen Norwegian Lutheran congregations with nearly 5,000 communicant members. By

1870, the Norwegian congregations left the Augustana Synod to form their own Synod, and the Augustana then became entirely Swedish. This independent Lutheran Synod survived for over 100 years, eventually joining in 1962 with most other Lutheran synods in the U.S. to form The Lutheran Church in America. The new church organization included United Lutheran Church in America, The American Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Augustana Synod, and the Suomi Synod (Finnish Lutheran Church in America).

In his book, Dag Blanck looks at the period from the founding of the Church in 1860, on the eve of our Civil War, to the year 1917 when the U.S. entered World War I. This was the period of the greatest migration of Swedish people to the U.S. and particularly to the many midwestern states: Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, and the Dakotas. In the first few decades of this migration, nearly 35% of these immigrants belonged to churches within the Augustana Synod, and during the rest of the great migration period membership remained about 20 per cent. By 1910 about 47 per cent of these Swedish immigrants lived in Minnesota or Illinois, the remainder distributed among many other states.

The first chapters of Blanck's book describe the setting in Swedish America for the development of the Augustana Synod and the Swedish American identity. The circumstances leading to the founding of the Synod and the individual pastors involved are explained in some detail, and the education of young peo-

Book Reviews

ple in the Synod is described. A full chapter is devoted to the development of the Swedish American tradition at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. After a chapter on identity formation in Swedish America during the period and the influence on education of the Augustana Synod, Blanck then describes the formation and influence of the Augustana Book Concern, publisher of many Swedish and Swedish American books, textbooks, and religious books during this period. In his concluding chapters, the author interprets how the past was put to use in creating a Swedish American history.

The book also touches on the Synod's relationship with other Swedish American organizations in America, both religious and secular. These included the Mission Covenant Church, the Evangelical Free Church, and various non-Swedish denominations that established within their organization Swedish-language services and conferences. Secular organizations included the Vasa Order, the Svithiod Order, the Viking Order, Scandinavian groups, and the once numerous Swedish language press in America.

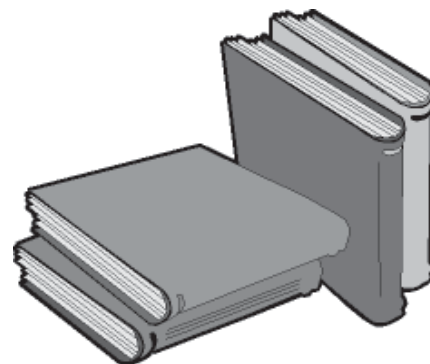
During the life of the Augustana Synod, it became a national church body, provided services to individual congregations, sent missionaries to various locations and overseas, established social service agencies and institutions, and founded several colleges and a seminary. The Synod had grown to include about 423,000 members in 1,269 congregations served by 1,393 ordained ministers by the time of the merger in 1962.

(More recently, many former Augustana members met frequently, leading to the founding of a new Augustana Heritage Association at Rock Island, IL, in the year 2000. The Association now meets annually to "define, promote, and perpetuate the heritage of the Evangelical Lutheran Church" and to assist in identifying

and remembering the values and commitments of that church body.)

In his Epilogue, Blanck summarizes in compact but insightful fashion the principal themes of the book: how was the Swedish American ethnic identity created, what did this identity consist of, and why did it develop? He has focused primarily on the role and history of Augustana College as the principal institution for the conveyance of Swedish American culture, a college created by the largest single Swedish American organization in America, the Augustana Synod. He traces the evolution of the college since its founding and the evolution of the student body first from those immigrants born in Sweden to the succeeding generations of Swedish Americans. He points out how their needs changed over time from the early necessity to assimilate into the American mosaic of cultures to the later need to recall and recreate the memory and traditions of Swedish culture. These memories and traditions exist down to this day even unto the fourth and fifth generation, as a way of distinguishing Swedish Americans from all the many other hyphenated Americans making up our population in the 21st century.

This well-documented, scholarly work of social history will be a valuable addition to the literature in ethnic identity for all academics and researchers in this field, as well as being of great interest to those interested in tracing the foundations of their own Swedish American identity. In my own case, it helped me understand better my own strong interest and participation in things Swedish American. In my native Minnesota, being Swedish American is still as commonplace as mashed potatoes and matters little to all but a core of rabid enthusiasts. Living in Philadelphia, however, having Swedish roots puts one in perhaps one of the smallest ethnic minorities in the



area and has no doubt enhanced my strong interest in my own ethnic identity. For this greater appreciation, I am grateful to the author.

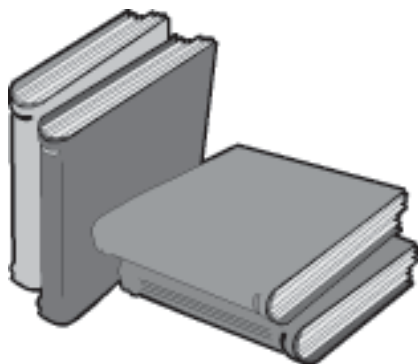
Dennis L. Johnson

A Florida Pioneer

The Adventurous Life of Josef Henschen, Swedish Immigrant in the 1870's, by Rebecca Weiss, Lulu Press, 2006, 162 pp., ill., Softcover, Amazon.com, \$15.95 plus shipping.

When thinking about Swedish pioneers in the United States, Florida is not one of the first states that comes to mind. However, Rebecca Weiss, a great-grandniece of Josef Henschen, has written a book that charts the life and conditions encountered by the brother of one of her own Swedish ancestors. Josef Henschen was leader of a small group of Swedes who settled in the semi-tropical and sparsely inhabited wilds of central Florida seeking their own fame and fortune. Josef settled in Orange and Seminole Counties, the area that was to later become part of the metropolitan area of Orlando, Florida, a city that is now widely known as the home of Disney World.

Unlike most 19th century Swedish immigrants to North America, Josef Henschen did not leave Sweden to escape poverty or the lack of opportunity. In 1871, Josef was a young medical student with a bright future, studying at Uppsala University in Sweden. He was born in 1843, the



Book Reviews

third son in a family of six with an older sister, Maria, and four brothers, Johan, Wilhelm, Esaias, and Salomon. His father, Lars Henschen, was born in Blekinge and was descended from an Andreas Henschen who had immigrated from Germany in 1620. Lars Henschen had been a county judge, a lawyer, and in 1853 became a member of Parliament. He married Josef's mother, Augusta Munck af Rosenschöld, a noblewoman from an important family. The family had lived most of their lives in Uppsala. Josef's mother died in 1856, when Josef was only thirteen years old.

Despite the opportunities available to the children of Lars Henschen in Sweden, three of the sons soon decided to travel to America. Daughter Maria remained in Sweden to live a long and exceptional life, and youngest son Salomon (great-grandfather of the author) finished medical school to have a distinguished career in Sweden. The oldest son, Johan, died at 17, probably of tuberculosis. Two brothers, Esaias and Wilhelm, began studies in philosophy at Uppsala, and Josef began studies in medicine but, unlike Salomon, was not to finish. Wilhelm finished his studies in the late 1860's to receive a doctorate in philosophy and a teaching job at Uppsala. Adventure called, apparently, and he left Sweden in 1870 to buy some land near Lake Jesup, Florida, possibly inspired by Frederika Bremer's descriptions in her book, *Homes of the New World*. He soon went to New York, however, where he became involved in persuading Swedes to come to the U.S. to settle in Florida.

Wilhelm, now William, had met an investor, Sheldon Sanford, who had

purchased over 12,000 acres of land in Seminole County, Florida, and needed workers to plant, tend, and harvest orange trees on his land. Dissatisfied with local workers and friction between white and black employees, Sanford began looking elsewhere for good workers. William Henschen offered to bring in Swedish workers for these new orange plantations, and the idea of hard-working, honest, and able Swedes sealed the deal. William returned to Sweden and recruited some fifty workers, 32 of whom would go to work for Sanford in Florida, the others elsewhere. Accompanied by his brother Esaias, and a maiden aunt named Sofia, William brought the workers to Florida, where he delivered the workers and set up his own homestead. Conditions were hard, however, and many of the Swedes did not honor their terms of employment. Their contract called for them, in return for passage from Sweden, to work one year without pay. After that year they would be paid and also able to obtain five acres of land for themselves. Most, however, left Mr. Sanford's employ to find their own land in Florida.

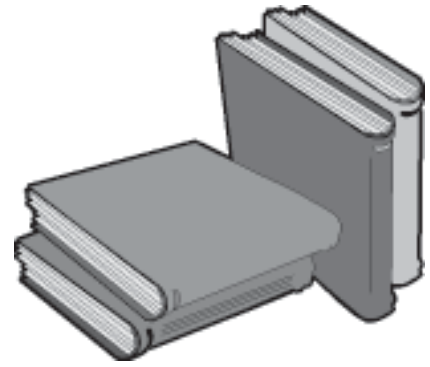
By summer, Sanford asked William to return to Sweden for more workers, those with particular skills and some women to work as cooks. This he did but on his return by way of New York, he fell ill. He then cabled his brother Josef and asked him to bring about 35 more Swedes to Florida. Josef finally agreed and, with some difficulty, succeeded in recruiting the desired workers. He left Sweden with these workers in October of 1871 accompanied by Williams's wife, Hanna, and her baby, and also an artist friend Hasse Bergman. They traveled via Scotland to New York, then the Swedish workers, Josef, and his group went to Florida by ship. Josef joined William at their house near Lake Jesup, then by January of 1872, left with Hasse

to go exploring in Florida on foot. (Hasse had painted a watercolor of Williams's Florida homestead, used for the cover of this book.)

All three brothers were now in Florida, but William soon returned to New York with his family and Sofia. He divided his time between New York and Florida until about 1875, serving for a short time as secretary to Swedish inventor John Ericsson and editing a Swedish language newspaper. By 1875 he had become a Methodist minister, moved to Chicago and taught at the Swedish Methodist Theological Seminary, and edited their newspaper. He retired in 1911; he and his wife Hanna had seven children and many grandchildren. Esaias lived for a time in Florida and married a Swedish girl, Emelia Magnusson. They later also lived in St. Augustine where he served as a justice of the peace. They returned to Sweden in 1879, where they had two daughters, two grandsons, and several great-grandsons. Esaias became the director of a bank in Uppsala, and died at age eighty-two. Their father, Lars Wilhelm Henschen, died in 1885, after a long and distinguished career in medicine.

The remainder of this book, exhaustively researched by Rebecca Weiss, chronicles the life of Josef, the brother who chose to remain in Florida and make his life there. Josef, who saw his first trip to America as a temporary adventure and as a help to his older brother, never returned to his studies in Sweden. He apparently fell in love with Florida and lived there for over sixty years until his death in 1930. He became a leader of the small colony of Swedes in central Florida called the Upsala settlement and helped organize the New Upsala Lutheran Church. He became a citizen in 1879, and was appointed a postmaster soon after. He had completed his five-year obligation to own his homestead land, raising cattle and growing oranges.

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Josef was becoming more prosperous and had acquired several servants from Sweden. In December, 1885, he married Carolina Svensson, from Karlskrona, Blekinge, who had appeared in Florida under unknown circumstances.

About the same year Josef, with three partners, invested in a new railway to be built between Sanford and St. Petersburg on the west coast of Florida. Named the Orange Belt Railway, the new line was completed with some difficulty and soon went bankrupt, leaving Josef deeply in debt. He spent much of his life trying to recover from this bankrupt venture and lived in poverty for many years. Josef had invested over \$40,000 in this railroad. In spite of this debt, he, Carolina and their two daughters were able to visit Sweden in 1888 and spend time with old friends and relatives there. They returned to Florida, where they had a third daughter in 1889 and a son, Harald, in 1891. Carolina died in 1905. Josef had originally lived two years at Round Lake near Lake Jesup, then moved to Lake Maitland where he lived from 1873 until 1887. Two years after his marriage, he moved to a new home in Oakland,

just south of Lake Apopka, where he lived until his death in 1930. These homes were all fairly close together in an area that is now a northern suburb of Orlando. In his old age, Josef was a respected member of the Swedish American community in this area and is generally credited with naming the city of St. Petersburg, the terminus of his ill-fated railway venture.

In her fascinating and detailed account of the life of this Florida pioneer, Rebecca Weiss has drawn heavily on correspondence written mainly to a close friend of his youth in Sweden, Knut Ångström, (son of the Swedish scientist Anders Jonas Ångström, namer of the Angstrom unit used in the measurement of the wavelength of light waves and other forms of radiation). Also used were letters from Josef Henschen to his father, Lars, and to his brothers. These letters are mostly quoted in their entirety and organized by the author in chronological sequence. Supplemented by other sources, personal research, and interviews with other descendants of the Henschen family, Rebecca Weiss provides a very interesting and detailed insight on the life of this early Florida pioneer.

The book is enriched by over thirty family and other collected photographs of Josef's family and the locations referred to in the book.

A *Florida Pioneer* is a historic treasure for the State of Florida and for all those interested in the history of the small but significant group of hardy Swedes who carved out a life in Florida long before air conditioning and modern conveniences made the climate of the state as comfortably habitable in the hot, humid summers as in its long popular winter climate. Readers will be especially intrigued reading the many letters of Josef Henschen, recounting in his own words (as translated from Swedish by the author) the living conditions encountered as a pioneer and his descriptions of the challenging life he found for himself in Florida.

Dennis L. Johnson

New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)

In the *Swedish American Historical Quarterly* 1/2007 there is an interesting article by Roger McKnight, called *Night Buckets and Trick-or-Treaters: Notes on Swedish-American Inmates at Minnesota State Prison 1858-1914*. This article deals in detail with the Swedish-American inmates of the prison in Stillwater. Not all Swedes conformed to the ideal picture of the Swedish immigrant: honest, sober and hard-working. Some ended up in prison for various reasons. The author has found that during the period of 1858 to 1915 there were 335 inmates with a Swedish background. The first entered the prison in 1867, a *småläanning* named Swan Johnson from Nicollet County, who had, in a state of hallucination, decapitated his nine-year old son, to improve his life in heaven. Swan was later transferred to an insane asylum. The last Swedish-American to enter the prison in 1914 was Frank Oscar Anderson, born in Närke, now of Carlton County, who was described as "33 years old, a Lutheran, a moderate drinker, single, uneducated and muscular". He had stolen a certificate of deposit, and then bought himself a horse and buggy. Of all the cases that resulted in prison sentences, murder and manslaughter constituted 10.7%, assault 15%, larceny 38%, burglary, embezzlement etc. 10.7%, sexual crimes 8.3%. There is no list of names for the inmates, but the article is good reading, and a remainder that not all made good in America.

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.

Andersdotter, Larson, Magnusdotter, Aronson

I am searching for someone who knows something of my grandfather's aunt Hilda.

The woman at the right side of the picture is Hilda Maria Andersdotter born 26 Jan. 1882 in Skatelöv (Smål.), and she died 1925 in the U.S. I suppose her husband is also in the picture. His name was Emmett Larson and he was born 1882 and died 1941. Is there anyone who knows something about them? They had one daughter named Olive. Hilda lived in Sycamore Ill., when she wrote one letter before 1924 home to Sweden.

There were more people in the family who had immigrated; Hilda's aunt Martha went to U.S.A. before Hilda and I suspect that Hilda went to visit her and the cousins.

Martha Magnusdotter was born 14 Aug. 1832 in Skatelöv. She left as a widow for the U.S. 5 May 1886 with two of her daughters, Eva Julia born 12 Dec. 1870, and Elin born 16 Dec. 1874 at Huseby in Skatelöv. Some of Martha's sons, Gustav, born 12 Dec 1863 at Torp Södregård, Skatelöv, immigrated 14 June 1883 and, Carl Fredrik, born 5 May 1868 at Charlottenberg, Blådinge (Smål.), and, Peter Johan, born 22 March 1866 also at Charlottenberg, Blådinge, immigrated together 10 July 1884 to the U.S. All the children's last name was Aronsdotter or Aronsson.



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E-mail: <conny.gustavsson@bredband.net>*

1272

Eriksson

For 23 years I've been seeking information about my elusive grandfather, Nils John Erickson. The picture shows him with his wife Amanda Charlotta b. 12 Aug. 1856 in Sävast, Överluleå, (Nobo.), the daughter of Nils Nilsson Lindholm and Anna Stina Sundberg; and their first two children. It was probably taken about 1891, when they were members of the Asbury (Swedish) Methodist Church in Duluth, MN.

Both children: Janny/ Jenny b. 1 Aug. 1888, d. 5 Dec. 1891, and Gideon b. 17 Jan. 1890, d. 3 Dec. 1891 of diphtheria and are buried in unmarked graves at Union Cemetery on the Hermantown Road in Duluth, MN.

Their births were followed by Elin Maria b. 5 Mar. 1891, Duluth, MN., and baptized 22 May 1892, by Methodist Pastor, F. Gustafson, and George Walter, b. 26 Dec. 1894. Delayed Birth certificate is registered at Grantsburg, Burnett Co., WI. He was baptized, 17 Nov. 1895 at Wood Lake, WI, by Pastor O.C. Nilson.

My father, Daniel Walter, b. 14 May 1897, whose delayed Birth certificate was found at Rock Creek Township, Pine Co., MN, was baptized 16 May 1899 by A.G. Hultgren at Swedish M.E. Church in Duluth, Minn. Both brothers delayed 1941 birth certificates were attested to by their mother Amanda Erickson.



continued on next page ->

Interesting Web Sites

(All links have been tried in May 2007 and should work)

Old postcards: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>

Listen to words in Swedish or other languages:

<http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/frameset.php?frame1=talk>

Burials at New Sweden Cemetery, Jefferson Co., IA:

http://www.rootsweb.com/~iajeffer/Cemeteries/New_Sweden_Lutheran/

Life in the Illinois countryside in the mid 1800s: http://iltrails.org/19th_Everyday_Life.html

Online databases from Washington State: <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/default.aspx>

Recipes for Swedish Cooking: <http://www.foodfromsweden.com/>

Site with lots of information about Swedes in Illinois: <http://www.illinoisancestors.org/swedes/>

Emigrants from Jämtland: <http://www.emigrant-z.com/index1.html>

The Provincial Archives of the Åland Islands: <http://www.arkivet.aland.fi/>

Searchable U.S. Newspapers 1900–1910: <http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/index.html>

Nils J. Erickson was believed to be from southern Sweden. U.S. Census records state both immigrated to the U.S. in 1887. Only Amanda's record of exit papers to leave Stockholm in Dec. 1882 have been located. Nothing has been found for Nils John except their 14 Oct. 1887 marriage record by a justice of the peace, Chicago, Ill.; the 1900 Census in Brule, Douglas Co., Wisconsin, and the birth, death and marriage records in the family Bible. My father Walter told me that, "He had a dent in the top of his head caused by an injury, possibly during work in a quarry, mine, or woods accident."

I am hoping that someone will have matching pictures of these two old pictures in old family albums. Amanda is said, "to have corresponded with a half brother for many years." This might have been Johan Anton, son of Nils Nilsson Lindholm (Taskila – Finnish Name) b. 19 Feb. 1851 in Överluleå. However, no records of this have been substantiated.

No birth, baptism, or exit records from Sweden for Nils John Erickson have been found, nor knowledge of siblings in the United States. He died of asthma on 18 May 1903, half past 12 a.m., age: 49 years 7 months 3 weeks 2 days according to the family Bible.



Phyllis Wohlfarth, 26539 163rd Ave. SE, Covington, WA. 98042. E-mail: <phylw2@msn.com>

1273

Response to Query 1269

Superior Evening Telegram, Wednesday, 7 April 1971:

C. H. SWANSON DIES AT 80. Charles H. Swanson, 80, 1216 N. 18th St., died Tuesday at the home of his daughter in New Carlisle, Ind. He was born in Sweden and had resided in Superior for most of his life and had been a produce manager prior to his retiring. Mr. Swanson was a member of the Hammond Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include his wife, Inez, Superior; a daughter Mrs. James (Shirley) Countryman, New Carlisle; a sister Mrs. T. H. (Eleanor) Saunders, Coral Gables, Fla.; two grandchildren.

Mrs. Inez H. Swanson, 86, New Carlisle, Ind., formerly of Superior, died Saturday at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, Ind.

Information submitted by SAG reader Gerald Sime, Duluth, MN. Thank you, Gerald!

The Last Page

Dear friends,

This issue turned out a bit different than I first planned.

Even though I knew that our Editor Emeritus Nils William Olsson was very ill, I still did not quite believe that he would pass away – he seemed to be indestructible, but so was not the case. A fragile body could no longer support a still clear mind, and he has definitely gone to his well-earned rest. But we are many that will miss him, and remember him for years.

Those of the SAG readers who had not made his personal acquaintance can still learn to know him from his articles in older SAGs and through his monumental books.

Right now, in the middle of May, the weather has become very nice, not very warm yet, but sunny, which

is important after a greyish winter. The trees are in full bloom and soon, very soon, the lilacs will also blossom. The cities will become empty on the spring weekends as we migrate towards our *sommarstuga* or *fritidshus* (house to spend spare time in). In the suburbs you have already started to smell the grilling of sausages and steaks on balconies and in the gardens, and the little children do not want to go to bed, as the evening is still light as day, even though it is past nine p.m.

It is a nice time of the year, and I am glad that many American friends have announced their plans to visit in the homeland of the ancestors. This is the time to travel around the countryside and visit the churches with their surrounding cemeteries.

Don't forget to look for the local Heritage Museum (*hembygdsgård*), where you might find people eager to share their stories about life long ago. Bring an ancestral chart, and maybe they know your family.

If you wish to plan ahead, a list of most *hembygdsgårdar* (plural) can be found at www.hembygd.se Look for the British flag or click on the map of Sweden, or do both!

Summer is also a time of festivals, markets, outdoor auctions, and many other things. At the web site www.sweden.se you can find lots of useful information that will make your visit here a memory for life!

Välkomna!
Elisabeth Thorsell

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**SAG Workshop
Salt Lake City
21 – 27 Oct. 2007**

**Welcome to join our happy group of
researchers at the Family History Library in
Salt Lake City!**

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

The social side includes welcome and farewell receptions, a buffet dinner & entertainment, Swedish movies, etc.

Contact Karna Olsson at 207-338-0057 or e-mail: sagworkshop@yahoo.com
Limited number of spaces!

Abbreviations

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

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

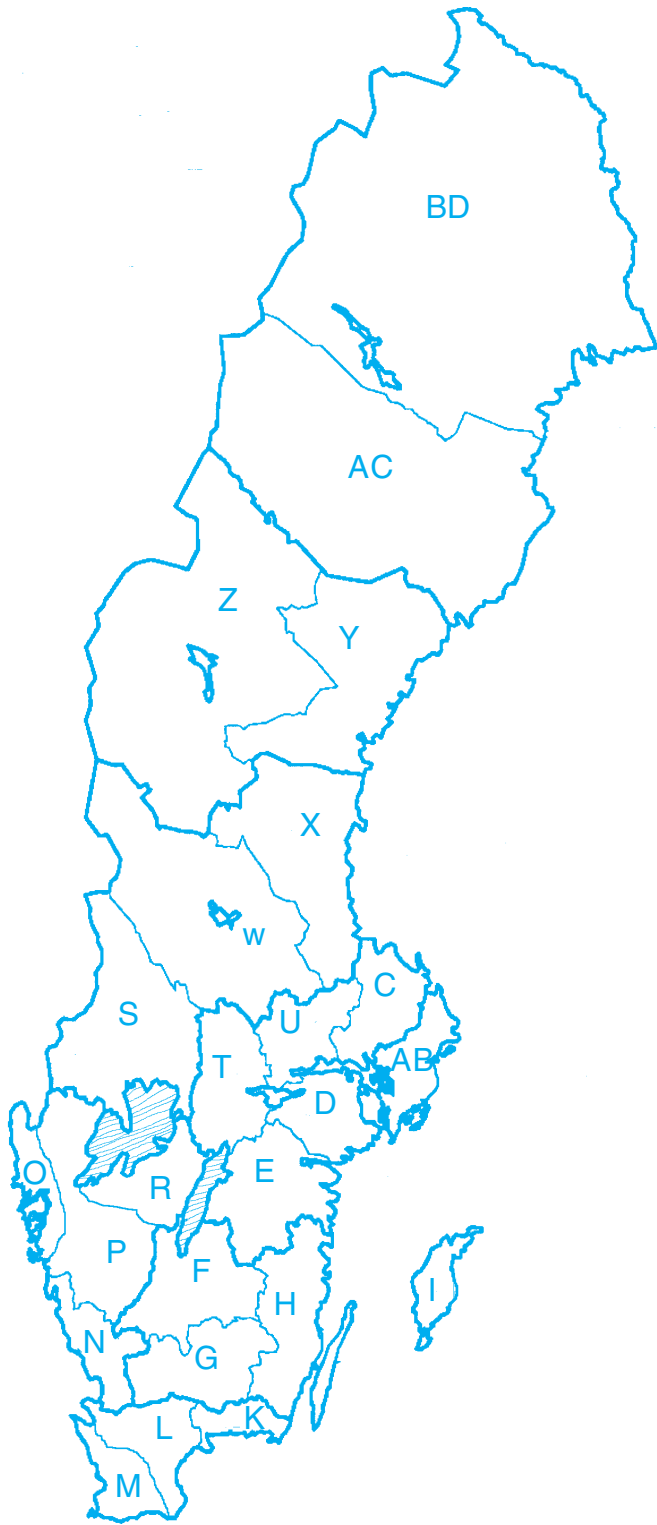
Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

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

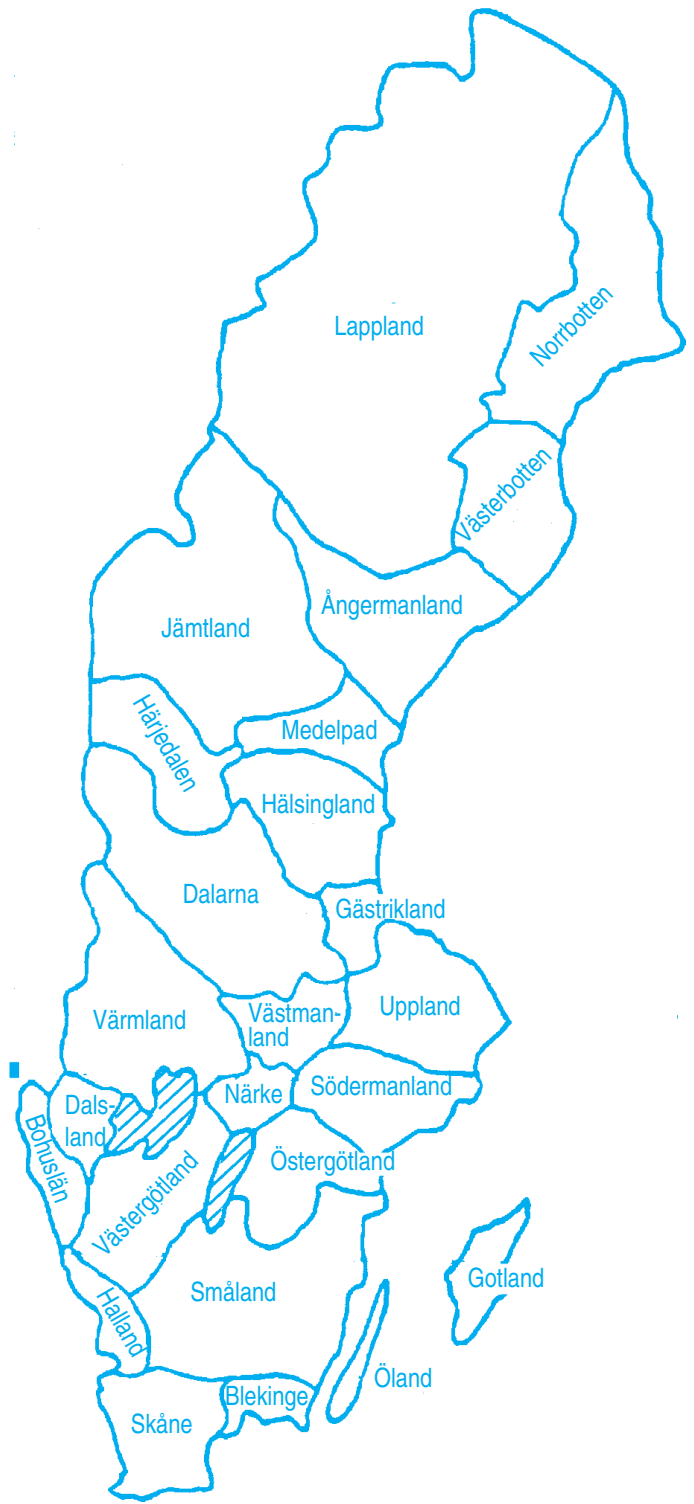
a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

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

c includes the former counties (*län*) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).



The counties (*län*) as they were before 1991.



The provinces (*landskap*).