

6-1-2008

## Bits & Pieces

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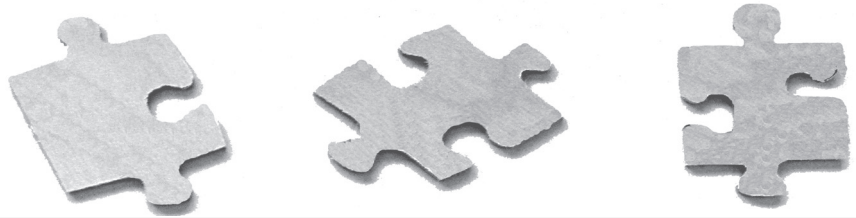
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### Recommended Citation

(2008) "Bits & Pieces," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 28 : No. 2 , Article 7.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol28/iss2/7>

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# Bits & Pieces



## Another Knight!

*Kim-Eric Williams* of the Swedish Colonial Society received the Royal Order of the Polar Star (*Nordstjärneorden*), First Class, at the residence of the ambassador of Sweden in Washington, D.C., on March 17, 2008.

Reverend Williams was recognized for his work as archivist and four-time governor of the Swedish Colonial Society, as Swedish lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania, and translator of the multi-volume *Gloria Dei Records Project*. He serves as archivist at the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia and is the editor of *Archives Advocate*.

He is an 11th generation descendant of three 17th century Swedes. (From the SCS web site).

## A new Swedish CD

This CD is called *Nycopia*, and is produced by the local genealogical society, *Nyköping-Oxelösunds Släktforskarförening*, and has births, marriages, and deaths for a large area around Nyköping. The records can be from as early as 1665 and end in 1861. The data is presented in an easy-to-navigate way, familiar to those that have used, for instance, the Swedish Death Index (*Sveriges dödbok*). The price of the *Nycopia* CD is 450 SEK, but send an e-mail to <hakan.linderyd@nosff.org> and ask for shipping and payment details.

See also page 30 for a link to the society's web site.

## John Ericsson Day

The annual *John Ericsson Day* was celebrated in Filipstad on August 2nd in pouring rain, and with no reenactment of the Battle of Hampton Roads either. Elise Peters of Swedish Council of America placed a nice wreath at Ericsson's mausoleum, and national anthems were played.

## The 2008 Dagmar and Nils William Olsson Fellowship

In May the fellowship for 2008 was awarded to *Rachel Gianni Abbott* of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Northern Studies Program.

Ms. Abbott is especially interested in the folklore and material culture of 19<sup>th</sup> century Swedish immigrants to the United States, particularly those who settled in Utah in the late 1800s. Living in the rugged west, these immigrants quickly learned to blend their traditional rural skills from Scandinavia with the frontier lifestyle in central Utah. With them they brought a tremendous amount of Scandinavian culture, folklore, and folkways. Ms. Abbott's doctoral research is aimed at the folklore and material culture that Swedish immigrants brought with them (i.e. stories, family histories, journals, letters, clothing, fiber arts, recipes), and placing these folkways in the context of the western frontier.

## A new president in Sweden

At the Genealogy Days in Malmö recently the former president of the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*), Mr. *Ted Rosvall*, stepped down after eight years as president. He was succeeded by Ms. *Barbro Stålheim* from Stigtomta in Sörmland. Ms. Stålheim has inherited an organization in deep economy problems, but it is hoped that she, with wide business experience, will be able to salvage the federation. The federation has 163 member societies with some 70,000 individual memberships, and is well known for its production of useful Swedish CD:s.

## LEGO® exhibition in Philadelphia

The American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia will open an exhibition of sculpture by *Nathan Sawaya*. The *Art of the Brick* is the only major museum exhibition in the United States created entirely out of LEGO® bricks. The exhibition is on view through November 30.

(ASHM Newsletter Sept. 2008)

## The Amandus Johnson Service Award

At their 82nd annual meeting, the American Swedish Historical Museum on Sept. 14, 2008, will present the Amandus Johnson Service Award to *Alfred Pfaff* for his longtime service to the ASHM.

(ASHM Newsletter Sept. 2008)

## New documents on SVAR

SVAR, a branch of the Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*), has recently made the extracts of births, marriages, and deaths from 1898 to 1937 available on their web site. They have also added the 1930 extracts of the clerical surveys. All this makes it much easier to trace people in the early 1900s.

The end year of 1937 is due to the Swedish privacy laws that state that records are closed until 70 years have passed.

SVAR has also new scans of the old church records for many counties, which has much better quality than the older versions. They have also added scans of the regular church records from about 1895 up to modern times for some counties.

To be able to take part of all these new records, one has to have a subscription which can be bought for shorter or longer periods.

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