

Swedish American Genealogist

Volume 26 | Number 2

Article 1

6-1-2006

Full Issue Vol. 26 No. 2

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag>



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#), and the [Scandinavian Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2006) "Full Issue Vol. 26 No. 2," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 26 : No. 2 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol26/iss2/1>

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Swedish American Genealogist by an authorized editor of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.

(ISSN 0275-9314)

Swedish American Genealogist



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



Volume XXVI

June 2006

No. 2

Swedish American Genealogist



Copyright © 2006

(ISSN 0275-9314)

Swedish American Genealogist

Publisher:

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center
Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61201-2296
Telephone: 309-794-7204. Fax: 309-794-7443
E-mail: sag@augustana.edu
Web address: <http://www.augustana.edu/swenson/>

Editor: Elisabeth Thorsell

Hästsковägen 45, 177 39 Järfälla, Sweden
E-mail: sag@etgenealogy.se

Editor Emeritus: Nils William Olsson, Ph.D.,
F.A.S.G., Winter Park, FL

Contributing Editor:

Peter S. Craig, J.D., F.A.S.G., Washington, D.C.

Editorial Committee:

H. Arnold Barton, Carbondale, IL
Dag Blanck, Uppsala, Sweden
Dennis L. Johnson, Limerick, PA
Ronald J. Johnson, Madison, WI
Christopher Olsson, Stockton Springs, ME
Priscilla Jönsson Sorknes, Minneapolis, MN

Swedish American Genealogist, its publisher, editors, and editorial committee assume neither responsibility nor liability for statements of opinion or fact made by contributors.

Correspondence. Please direct editorial correspondence such as manuscripts, queries, book reviews, announcements, and ahnentafeln to the editor in Sweden.

Correspondence regarding change of address, back issues (price and availability), and advertising should be directed to the publisher in Rock Island.

Subscriptions. Subscriptions to the journal are \$25.00 per annum and run for the calendar year. Single copies are \$8.00 each. Swenson Center Associates are entitled to a special discounted subscription price of \$15.00. Direct all subscription inquiries to the publisher in Rock Island.

In Sweden the subscription price is 200.00 Swedish *kronor* per year for surface delivery and 250.00 *kronor* per year for air mail. This subscription fee may be deposited in a *plusgiro* account: 260 10-9, *Swedish American Genealogist*, c/o Thorsell, Hästsковägen 45, S-177 39 Järfälla, Sweden.

CONTENTS

The “Kalender of Worcester Swedes”	1
<i>by Kay Sheldon</i>	
Andrew Gustaf Johansson Faust	5
<i>by Paul A. Johnson</i>	
News from the Swenson Center	8
<i>by Jill Seaholm</i>	
The Emigration from the Tornio Valley	9
<i>by Sture Torikka</i>	
The Old Picture	15
Bits & Pieces	16
Prominent Swedish Congressmen in 1923	17
<i>by Elisabeth Thorsell</i>	
A Handwriting Example, X	18
Research Notes	19
<i>by Elisabeth Thorsell</i>	
Solution to the Handwriting Example, X	20
What was the Teardrop Route?	21
<i>by James M. Borg</i>	
From Stubborn Swede to General	22
<i>by John E. Norton</i>	
New CD Databases from Sweden	24
<i>by Elisabeth Thorsell</i>	
Book Reviews	26

Cover picture:

John Faust and his name was a mystery for years, see story on page 5.



Union Station and Washington Square in Worcester, Mass., in 1895 – many immigrants' first view of their new hometown. (From *gå till Amerika*, by Charles W. Estus and John F. McClymer 1994)

The 'Kalender öfver Svenskarne i Worcester'

BY KAY SHELDON

In the mid 1990's, a group of Scandinavian-Americans in New England formed the *Swedish Ancestry Research Association* (SARA). Before that time I had been working on the Swedish families in the town of Auburn, Massachusetts. My mother's family had come from Sweden in 1910 and settled in Auburn. Since I loved to do research, I had expanded my field to include all the neighbors who were Swedes.

By the time SARA was founded in 1994, Nancy Gaudette, the reference librarian at the Worcester Public Library in Massachusetts, had introduced me to the *Kalender öfver Svenskarne i Worcester* (*Kalender*), printed in 1883. Written in Swedish, but in a city directory style, the in-

formation included in the book could be easily understood. At least at the time I thought so!

The *Kalender* lists the *Namn, Födelseår, Ankomst till Amerika, Hvarifrån i Sverige*, and *Adress*. My plan was to identify all those people in the *Kalender* as to where they came from in Sweden and what had happened to them after 1883.

Karen Bickford, another SARA member, transcribed the *Kalender* for me and SARA has it posted on its members'-only website.

By late in the year 2000, Elisabeth Thorsell had sent me a listing from *Emigranten* of the Swedes who had left Sweden before 1883 saying they were going to Worcester. Although the *Kalender* lists over 1,900 people,

some people in the *Kalender* where not on Elisabeth's list.

It was time to create some databases of my own. The 1880 federal census seemed to be a good starting point. The 1880 census for Worcester had about 1,100 people who were either born in Sweden or were children of parents born in Sweden. At that point I knew that not all the 1880 Swedes had made the *Kalender* and that many more had come to Worcester between June 1880 (the date of the census) and 1883 when the *Kalender* was published.

The Old Swedish Cemetery in Worcester was next. Again, many of the *Kalender* Swedes are not in the Old Swedish Cemetery. But these records created another database,

thus another source of information.

At the same time, I began transcribing the naturalization papers for Scandinavians in the Worcester County Superior Court from 1883 to 1890. I am still working on the records from 1890 to 1900.

Each of these databases helps to give a picture of these Swedes.

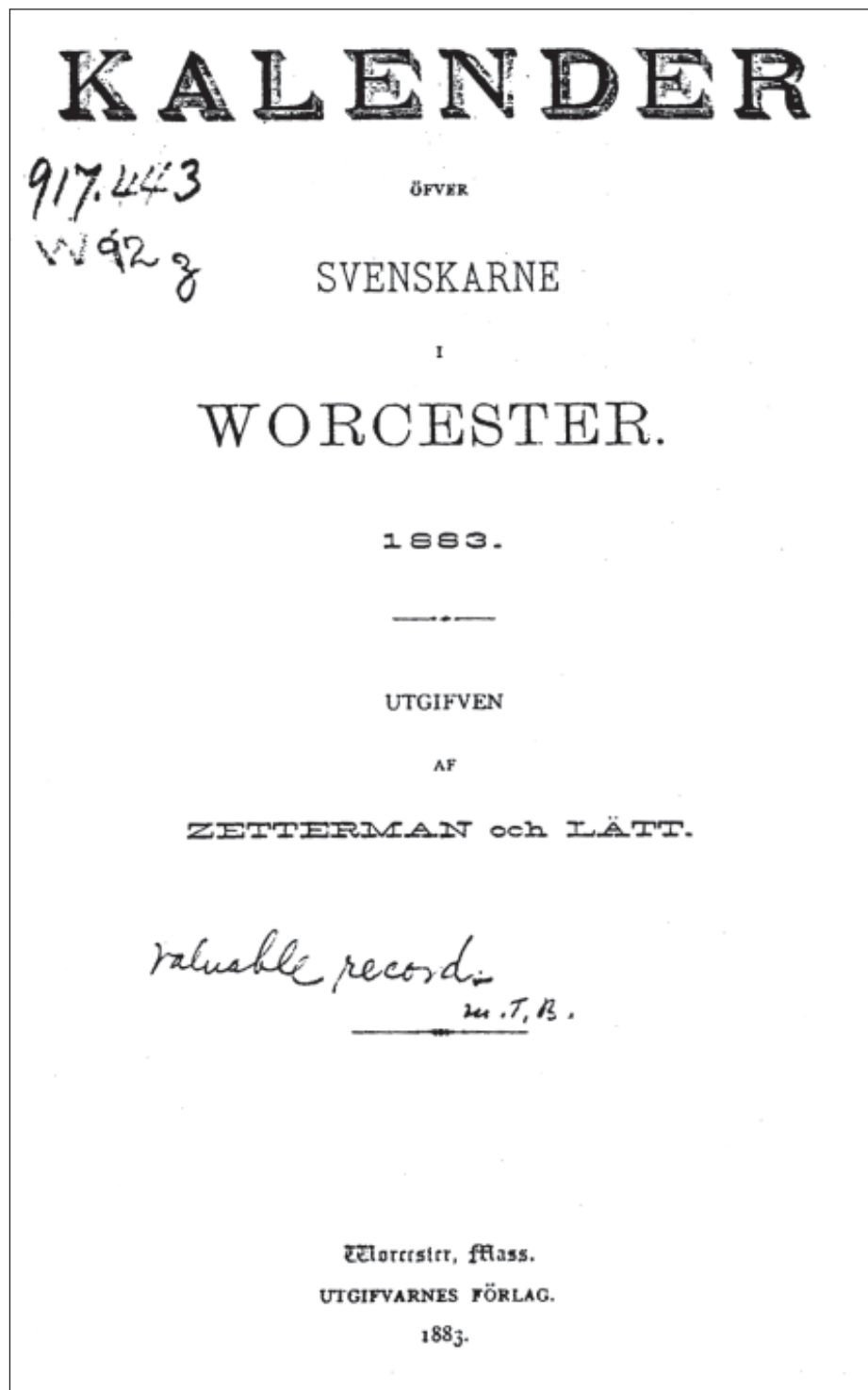
Having access to a Swedish-American newspaper, *SVEA*, published in Worcester in the early 1900's, also has the advantage that Swedish place names are usually spelled correctly. Speaking of spelling, as you all know there was a spelling change in 1906. The *Kalender* was written in 1883. So all of the places are in the old spelling! Example: 'Gefle' instead of 'Gävle', 'Vermland' not 'Värmland', and 'Nerike' not 'Närke'. Even the column headings, '*Hvarifrån i Sverige*' not '*Varifrån i Sverige*'! And of course C's and K's.

Since 2000, I have received the Swedish databases *Emigraten* and *Emibas*. I also have the Örebro emigrants database. Last year I signed up for Genline Family Finder so I have fewer trips to the Family History Center in Worcester or Salt Lake City, Utah. Not that all have been eliminated, but many fewer trips are needed.

People hide

Sometimes these people do not want to be found. I have had some who just keep themselves hidden for years and then when you least expect to find them it's "Here I am."

Most recently a family in the *Kalender*, L.A. Jansson and his wife Maria, one of thirty-one (31) Jansson families, announced themselves in an e-mail from Sweden! Not Lars of course, but someone interested in his son Oscar Edvin. Lars had brought his family back to Sweden in the late 1890's after Oscar Edvin had been born. Over twenty years later Oscar Edvin left Sweden and returned to America! The family in Sweden thought maybe he had come back to his birthplace. Sure enough, he had returned to Worcester in 1923 and then changed his family name from



Jansson to Johnson. Lars knew where his family was, but I didn't. Only an e-mail from a cousin of a cousin in 2006 allowed me to find this family who had left Worcester over 106 years ago.

Research techniques

My usual method of research is to see if an 1880 census family is in the *Kalender*. Sometimes it is necessary

to translate the "English" spelling of a spoken Swedish name such as Colson is Carlsson, Grahl is Agrell, Alstrom is Ahlström, etc. If I say the name the way I think an American heard the name, sometimes I get the correct Swedish name. Sometimes I do not.

The next step is to check the Old Swedish Cemetery records again; most of the names are closer to the

Swedish, but with no 'ä', 'å', or 'ö'. If the cemetery has a burial for the family it's off to the Worcester library to find an obituary. With some luck, the obituary will say something about the family's history in Sweden, such as where they were born and when they immigrated.

The *Kalender* usually gives a year of birth and a year of immigration, but they do not always agree with the records. I believe that some people thought the year they came to Worcester was the year that was requested, not the year they came to America.

Where they came from in Sweden can be where they emigrated from or where they were born. Sometimes it's a parish (*församling*), sometimes it's a village, sometimes it's a county (*län*), and sometimes it's a province (*landskap*). But it is a hint.

As for the year of birth, we all know it can be selective memory when we are asked for that very personal information! We have all looked at U.S. census records. For the majority of these Swedes, they were proud of their age.

The last information for each person or family group listed was their address. Most answered with the area of the city they lived in, such as Quinsigamond, Messenger Hill, or Longblock and Sunnyside, while others gave the address of where they worked, such as 94 Grove Street. Finally there is the group who gave the street name and number where they lived.

If there is a street name and number I can check the Worcester City Directory for the person. I really check each name, but if a Mr. Karl Andersson or Mr. Johan Jansson has not given his address in the *Kalender*, I may not be able to tell which Carl Anderson or Charles Anderson and which John Johnson or Janson is the one from the *Kalender*.

I will do a census search on Ancestry.com or Heritage Quest for the family. This allows me to look at the possible places of emigration for the family after 1883. All Massachusetts vital records are checked either at the Worcester Public Library or the

Namn.	Födelsår.	Ankomst till Amerika.	Hvarifrån i Sverige.	Adress.
Fager, Gustaf	1858	1882	Nerike	4 Seymore st.
" A. J.	1861	1882	"	"
" Lars (<i>bröder</i>)		1882	"	"
Fagerqvist, K. H.	1861	1882	Jönköping	43 Hanover st.
Fagerström, Anders	1855	1879	Högfors	11 Whitney st.
<i>Fru</i> " Rosa	1856	1880	Vestergötland	
<i>Barn</i> " Maria	1881			
" " Marta	1882			
Fagerström, Fred.	1862	1882	Hälgfors	76 Grove st.
Fagerström, Petter	1859	1880	Högfors	11 Whitney st.
<i>Fru</i> " Emma	1861	1881	Sälboda	
Falström, Anders	1858	1880	Vernland	88 Ward st.
Falström, A. F.	1861	1880	Gefle	Quinsigamond.
<i>Fru</i> " Hanna	1857	1878	Örebro	

Massachusetts Archives in Boston. Then it's time to find their birthplace in Sweden.

Finding their origins

If they have been naturalized in Worcester County, I always pray their petition for naturalization or declaration of intent was done here. Even in the 1880's, Worcester County was asking for date and place of birth, date and place of arrival in America, even the ship's name. I have found that other places are not as helpful in their papers.

Again the spelling can be interesting to say the least. A New Englander listening to a Swede, some would say, are two people, neither of whom speaks English. But it's all just a hint. Again, the Swede is saying he was born in someplace that may be the nearest city or a small village. He doesn't let you know, nor does the American know there is a difference.

The date they arrived in America is usually correct, although they have answered that they arrived in an inland city on a certain date. At least I know they lived somewhere else before coming to Worcester if they don't mention it in the petition.

Armed with all these hints, I will check *Emigranten* and *Emibas*, or the Örebro databases. *Emigranten*

will tell where they emigrated from, while *Emibas* and the Örebro Emigrants will give birthdates and date and place of emigration. Sometimes I will check all four. The last two databases give the page in the *husförhörslängd* and the village/farm they left from. Armed with this information I can now go to the church records.

If I have not found the people on any of the Swedish databases, the emigration records for the county or parish will be available at the Family History Library. One of the first families I found was by looking at the emigration records for Älvsborg for 1880 page by page. I found them and that's all that matters.

These Swedes came to Worcester by 1883. Some had been elsewhere before that, others did come directly to Worcester; some stayed, others moved on to other parts of the United States; and still others returned to Sweden. Finding out which of these options each chose is a project I enjoy and would like to share with others.

Contact information

Kay Sheldon lives in Brookfield, MA, and her e-mail is <kaysheldon@yahoo.com>

SVAR

RIKSARKIVET

Your link to your history!



Swedish Church Records 1860 – 1905

The Swedish church records for the counties of *Kalmar, Kronoberg, Östergötland, Jönköping, Gotland, Stockholm, Uppsala, Södermanland, Örebro, Västmanland, Kopparberg (Dalarna), Gävleborg, Västernorrland, Jämtland, Västerbotten, and Norrbotten* are now online on our web site.

We are in the process of scanning the records for the counties of *Göteborg och Bohus, Älvsborg, and Skaraborg*. The database is updated with more than 10,000 and up to 15,000 digitized documents every day.

Swedish Censuses

You can search the whole Swedish population in the 1890 and 1900 censuses. A great part of the 1880 census is ready, and we are working on completing it.

In these databases you will find information on family status, occupations, places of birth, other members of the household with different names, and much more. In the 1900 census most posts are linked to images of the original pages.

Released prisoners

At www.svar.ra.se there is a database of released prisoners (*fångförteckningar*) during the period 1876–1925. The information on each prisoner contains information on his name, place of birth, current sentence, previous convictions, personal description (hair and eye color, etc.), and a photograph. See example to the right.



The Swedish Tax records (*Mantal*) 1642–1820

The Tax records are now online at www.svar.ra.se They list all able-bodied people from age 15 to age 62, household by household.

Other databases

At www.svar.ra.se there are many other databases of interest to genealogists. We have databases with seamen (*sjömanshus*) and much, much more. The number of databases is constantly growing.

How do I get access to all these resources?

By contacting SVAR and getting a subscription. You can subscribe for just a single visit or anything up to a whole year.

Contact us at kundtjanst@svar.ra.se
SVAR, Box 160, S-880 40 Ramsele, Sweden.
Phone + 46-623-725 00. Fax + 46-623-726 05.

Andrew Gustaf Johansson Faust – My Grandfather

**The mystery of his home parish was solved
by a lucky chance**

BY PAUL A. JOHNSON

South Green Lake Cemetery is located about 3½ miles south of Chisago City, Minnesota, just west of County Road No. 23. After driving into the unpaved parking lot, one enters the cemetery through a large metal gate, wide enough for a funeral coach to drive through. If, after swinging the gate open, one takes an immediate left and walks almost all the way to the southeast corner of the cemetery, one arrives at a reddish-gray granite tombstone with the inscription:



Andrew Gustaf Faust was my grandfather. He died of cancer just a few days before my mother's confirmation day. He had hoped to live to see her confirmed, but unfortunately that was not to be. In English the

inscription reads: "Born in Bärja, Sweden." But where is Bärja? There is no city, town, or parish by that name to be found on any map of Sweden. And where did the name "Faust" originate? This was all a mystery. As was the case with so many Swedish immigrants, Andrew did not speak much of Sweden. However, my late aunt Mildred Lilygren, who was very young when he died, was sure that he came from Småland, because he spoke Swedish with a "småländska" dialect.

Puzzle solved

On July 1, 1980, a young people's orchestra from the city of Växjö in Småland performed in concert at the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City, MN. Four young members stayed with us overnight after the concert. Among them was Birgitta Sandell of Ljungby. As we were sitting together in the living room enjoying a glass of lemonade and some cookies, I asked: "Have any of you ever heard of a place named Bärja?" Birgitta replied: "Yes, and I play the organ in the church there." As we were to learn later, the correct spelling is "Berga," and the tombstone was most likely inscribed the way the name sounds in Swedish, not the way it is actually spelled. When I told Birgitta that my wife and I, together with my brother and his wife, planned to visit Sweden in August of that year, she offered to show us the church. So we obtained her address and telephone number and

made plans to contact her upon our arrival.

Clues in Sweden

While in Sweden we stopped at the archives in Vadstena for an hour or so and looked through the birth records for the Berga parish, but were unable to locate any birth on November 17, 1861, that would correspond to my grandfather. Subsequently we met Birgitta who took us to visit the Berga church. While at the church we met a man who was mowing the cemetery lawn, and we inquired about my grandfather's mother, Eva Christina, who had died in Sweden, but he said he never heard of an Eva Christina Faust buried in that cemetery, so we were still unsure if this was really the place from which my grandfather had come.

During our trip to Sweden we found out that a second cousin of mine, Clara Andersson, was quite knowledgeable of genealogical research. When Clara and her husband Arne visited our home in 1982, I asked if she would be willing to try to locate information about my grandfather, which she graciously agreed to do. Later I wrote to her with the information I knew about him, his father John Faust, his brother Charlie Faust, and his sisters Mary and Ida Faust.

The next break came when Clara, who lives in Växjö and has access to the parish microfilms there, wrote to us that she had found records of the

Faust family. It turned out to be *much* more work to locate these records than might otherwise have been the case because the records in Sweden show my grandfather's date of birth to be December 5, 1861, not November 17 as is shown both on his tombstone and in my grandmother's Bible. He came to America as a young boy, which may have caused the discrepancy. This is why we were unable to locate information in the Vadstena archives. Clara was able to do so with the names of his siblings, even though they had "Americanized" their names, and we did not have exact dates of birth for any of them.

Now we knew that my great-grandfather John Faust's name in Sweden was Johan Nils Petersson, and that Berga was indeed the correct parish. My grandfather's name in Sweden was Anders Gustaf Johansson, following the patronymic naming pattern of that time.

Thus we had looked for a man who had died at a relatively young age, whose date of birth in our records was incorrect, who had changed his name upon coming to America, and whose place of birth was spelled incorrectly on his tombstone. How fortunate we were to locate him at all! When my wife and I were in Sweden in August, 1992, we visited Birgitta Sandell-Elisson. Upon mentioning to her how she had helped me find my grandfather, she said that if we had asked any of the other 75 members of the orchestra, none of them would have known about Berga. So it seems we were predestined to meet!

We Faust family members had always rued the fact that the family was so small. Only a few immediate relatives were known. However, as a result of this find, and with a great deal of subsequent genealogical research, the relation now numbers in the hundreds, in the United States, Canada, and Sweden. Andrew Faust had four siblings and 45 first cousins, all of whom have been identified, together with most or all of their descendents.



Andrew Faust and Mathilda Dahl.

About the name Faust

The father of Johan Petersson (John Faust) was Nils Peter Jönsson Fast, Fast being a military name that he received when he was a farmer-soldier in the Swedish army. The family lived in a soldier's cottage.

In 1855 Johan married Eva Christina Petersdotter. They lived in the parish of Berga and raised their five children there. However, Sweden, and especially Småland, suffered three years of crop failures and severe depression between 1867 and 1870, which left Johan and his family almost destitute. So in 1870 Johan left for America to find a better life for himself and his children. During

this time his wife suffered a complete nervous breakdown and was unable to come to America.

When Johan came to America in 1870 he took the name John Fast. The children followed later. Carl Peter (Charlie), age 14, is shown as leaving the parish for America on April 21, 1871. Andrew, age 10, left in 1872 together with a brother Salomon, age 13, and a sister Maria (Mary), age 8. Ida left in 1879 at age 11. Their father found families in Minnesota with whom each of them could live. The 1875 census shows Andrew living with the Charles Weberg family in Chisago Lakes township.



The Andrew Faust farm near Chisago City, Minnesota.

At first John and the children kept the name Fast. However, Fast, which means firm and solid in Swedish, has a completely different meaning in English. I cannot say with certainty, but I believe the change from Fast to Faust may have come about in this way.

Elias Petersson Fast (no relation) was an early immigrant to the Chisago Lakes area, having arrived in America in 1854 together with his wife. Fast is the name that is shown for them in the first records of Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City. However, some time after 1867, he changed his family name to Faust. The fact that Salomon and

Andrew both lived with families in the Chisago Lakes area (Andrew was confirmed at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church) leads me to believe that Elias may have influenced them in some way to change their names to Faust, or at least that they may have followed his example. Salomon (now Soloman) died accidentally in 1874 and his death record shows his name as Faust. When Elias Faust acted as census taker in 1875 he shows Andrew's name as Faust. However, their sister Maria (now Mary) was living with a family in Stillwater at the time and still had the name Fast. Eventually John and all the children took the name Faust.

John Faust purchased a farm south of Chisago City in 1890. Two years later he sold the farm to Andrew and continued to live there. On September 14, 1893, Andrew married Mathilda Dahl, who had been born in Lenhovda, Sweden, and grew up in Spring Lake, MN. They had five children. Two sons died young of diphtheria and are buried next to their parents. The three daughters were Edith (my mother), Mildred, and Esther.

Carl Peter, or Charlie as he was known, went west to look for gold. Oral tradition has it that he also went to Alaska. Nothing further is known about him. Both Mary and Ida moved to Washington, Mary to Seattle, and Ida to Tacoma. They both married and had children.

After my grandfather's death in 1910, John Faust went to Seattle to live with Mary. He died and is buried there. His wife, who remained in Sweden, spent the last 45+ years of her life in a mental institution.

So my grandfather, who was born in Sweden as Anders Gustaf Johansson, became Andrew Gustaf Faust in America. Now the mystery has been solved!

Contact information

Paul A. Johnson, formerly of Chisago City, now lives in White Bear Lake.

E-mail: <pajohnson3@juno.com>

Swedish Genealogy Days 2006

During a weekend in August, 12–13, the annual *Släktforskardagarna* (Genealogy Days) took place in a convention center in Nacka, 20 minutes from downtown Stockholm. These "Days" travel around the country, and are usually managed in cooperation with a local society. Last year they were in Göteborg, and next year they are supposed to be in Halmstad.

For the first time in the Federation's now 20 year history there was an entrance fee of 40 SEKs, but still

there were many researchers, who felt they got more than what they paid for. There were many exhibitors, including *Ancestry*, *The Family History Library*, and the *Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation*. The archives were well represented, as well as *Genline*, and a lot of the member societies, but not as many as usual, as the boths were expensive. There were also a great number of lectures on many subjects.

The most important item on the agenda was the AGM of the Federa-

tion, where the president, *Ted Rosvall* was re-elected for another two years. The big problem this year was the very problematic economy of the Federation; the reserves have diminished rapidly during the last three years, and the future is uncertain.

Among the 6100 visitors I met many friends from all over Sweden, and even *Elsie Martin* of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota!

Elisabeth Thorsell

News from the Swenson Center

Sculptures in the Plym Reading room



Photo by Jill Seaholm.

Why we have these fine sculptures

In 2005, Augustana College had a need to relocate two of its sculptures from the Wallenberg Concert Hall in Denkmann Building. The sculptures both had a Scandinavian theme: one was a horse head by well-known Swedish sculptor *Carl Milles* (<http://www.millesgarden.se/>), who gave it to the College as a gift in the 1920s.

The other was made by *Gene Horvath* in 1991, apparently as a complement to the Milles sculpture,

comprising serpents similar to those found in Viking-era art as well as rune-like symbols.

(<http://www.horvathworks.net/>)

We were given the opportunity to keep them in our reading room for three good reasons: the Swenson Center is in the same building as Wallenberg Hall and it would require much less effort to move them, we have strong Scandinavian ties, and people with Scandinavian background and interests would be pas-

sing through the Swenson Center on a regular basis. We decided to move some furniture around and keep them here, and we are very glad that we did. They reinforce the elegance of the Plym Research Room, and people who come through here are drawn to them, quite impressed to see an actual Carl Milles sculpture here in Rock Island.

Jill Seaholm

The emigration from the Tornio Valley (Tornedalen)

People left Sweden from all parts of the country, even the far north

BY STURE TORIKKA

The emigration to North America from Norrbotten, in northern-most Sweden, started in earnest during the latter half of the 1870s. In the Tornio River Valley (*Tornedalen / Tornionlaakso*) the emigration perhaps did not start in earnest until the 1880s. This article focuses on the first emigrants from the Tornio Valley, who left their homes in the summers of 1865 and 1866.

At times it happened that men from the Tornio Valley found employment as sailors, and it is easy to imagine that some of them arrived at various ports in America and mustered out and stayed behind when their ship set sail again.

From the village of Niemis (present day name: Luppio) in Hieta-niemi parish we find the share-cropper's son *Emanuel Mansten* who went to sea first in 1853. He came home for short periods and found time to get married and father children. He left again but came home regularly. In 1860 he is recorded as "sailor, sailing in foreign waters." In the court records from Nedertorneå District Court in 1883 concerning some unrelated matters, he tells that "he had made several journeys to America." Emanuel Mansten, later known as a photographer in Haparanda under the name of *Andersson*, emigrated in 1875 without his certificate of moving out (*utflyttningsbetyg*), and this was his first actual emigration. His other travels to and from America were when he was a sailor. He came home a year later, but did not stay. Instead he made another journey to and from America.

Stranded sailors

It happened sometimes: some people traveled to and fro and found it difficult to settle in one place. As early as 1858 the sailor *Peter Tumber* arrived in the port of New York, where he mustered out and stayed when his ship continued. His real name is said to have been *Tornberg* and he was born in Nedertorneå. In contrast to Mansten, he stayed in the U.S. Perhaps he was the first person from the Tornio Valley to settle in the U.S.?

Peter Tumber found work on American ships and travelled along the Mississippi river and around the Gulf of Mexico. During the Civil War he served in the Union navy and took part in several sea battles. In 1867 he moved to the harbor city of Erie, Pennsylvania, and spent the rest of his life as a farm owner.

During the Crimean War (1854-1856) a number of Finnish sailors were stranded in some of the larger American ports, and some of them stayed on in the U.S. There are sources that claim that about a hundred Finnish sailors served in the Union navy during the Civil War.

Many reasons for emigration

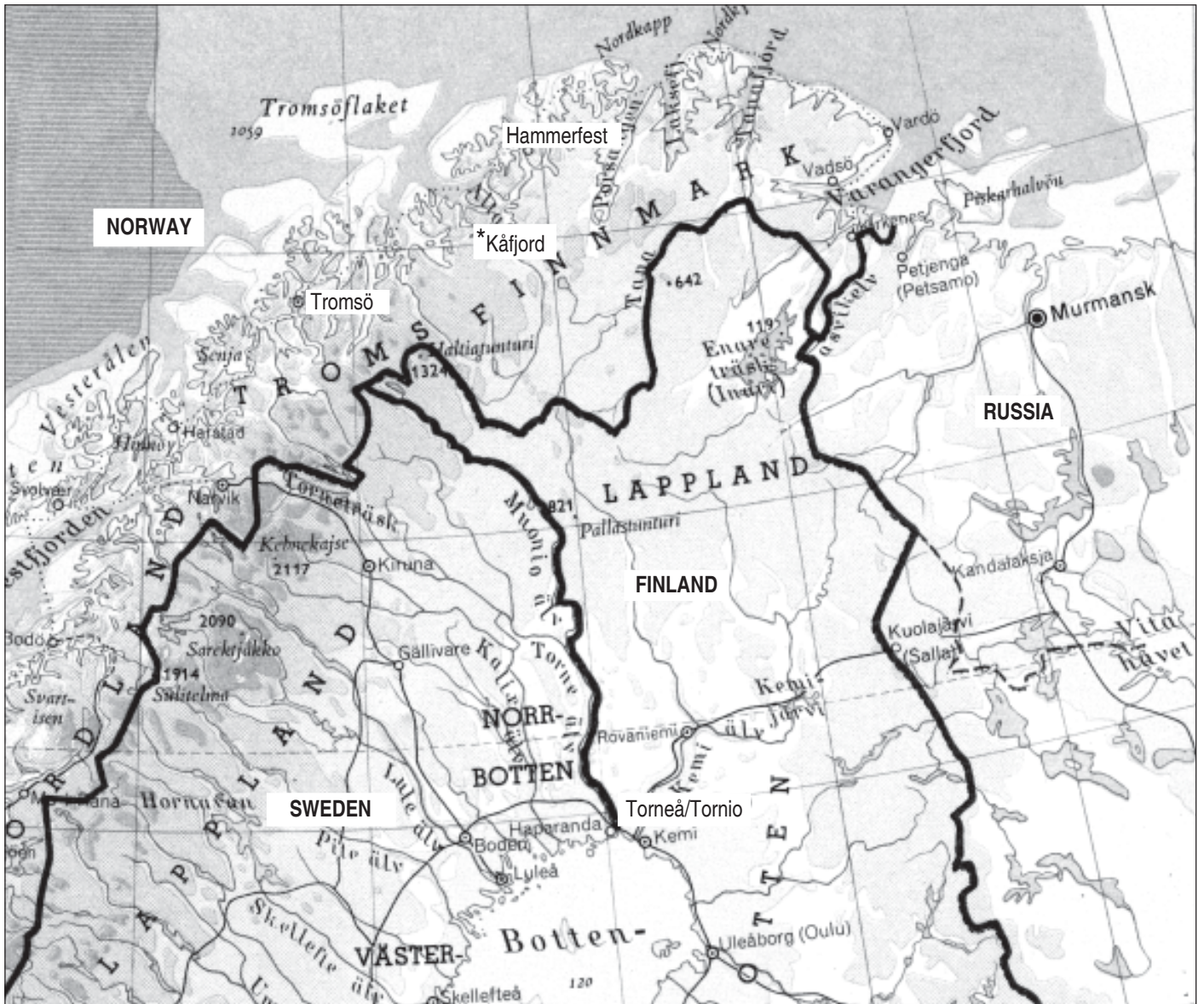
As in Norrbotten, the major wave of emigration to the U.S. did not start in Finland until some decades later. Reasons and backgrounds for migration are numerous, and that is why the phenomenon of migration has existed among our ancestors at all times. The Finnish-speaking people

of Norrbotten have for centuries walked or skied to northern Norway in times of poverty. They had open harbors without ice there, which made life easier than at home. When the copper works started at Kåfjord in Northern Norway in the 1820s this gave work opportunities for a growing population in the river valleys and along the coast. This is true not only for the Tornio Valley but also for large parts of northern Sweden and northern Finland. People even did move there from as far away as Dalarna. One of the first men from Tornio Valley was the fisherman *Mickel Harnesk* and his family from Övertorneå who arrived in Kåfjord as early as 1827.

Miners as emigrants

The copper works in Kåfjord suffered decline in both production and economy from the end of the 1860s. In 1866 the English investors wanted to close down the whole operation. The economic situation for the Kåfjord Copper Works was problematic.

There had not been any emigration from Finnmarken before then, but in 1864 there were 20 emigrants to America from Alta. Most of them travelled by way of Tromsø, where two ships from Bergen were boarded by 200-300 emigrants. Among those who left because of the bad times at Kåfjord were a large number of *kvänner* (Finnish-speaking people). As the Civil War was going on in the U.S. at that time, it was a good time for the American copper works. At the same time many men were joining the



Union army, and there was a lack of skilled miners. The agents that had been sent to northern Norway by the Quincy Mining Company of Michigan promised the *kväner* in the Norwegian mines prepaid tickets. This was a big help and an enticement for the Tornio Valley and the Finnish people there, as they had never before received such a good offer. One might guess that the Tornio Valley people did not hesitate long before they started on their second emigration, this time for North America. During the next two decades between 700 and 1,000 “Finns” arrived in the U.S.

Three early emigrants

Thus the first wave of the Tornio Valley people left from northern Norway during the spring and summer of 1864. Who exactly these emigrants were has not been stated.

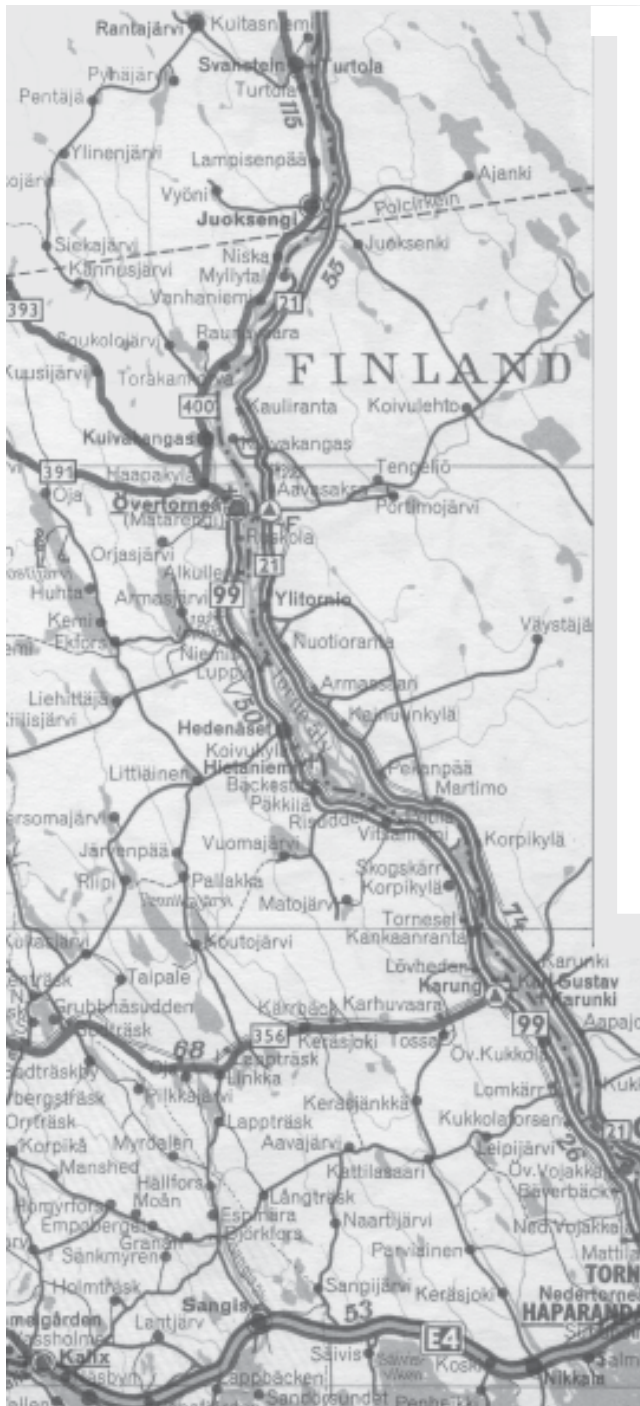
The emigrants were born on both shores of the Tornio river with individuals from the Swedish parishes of Nedertorneå, Karl Gustaf, Hieta-niemi, and Övertorneå, as well as from Karunki and Alkkula (Ylitornio) on the Finnish side of the river.

On the first emigrant vessels in 1864 were found, among others, *Anders Rovainen*, who was born in Övertorneå, *Petter Lahti*, born in Nedertorneå, and *Mickel Heikka* from Finnish Övertorneå.

Lahti was a farmer’s son who

emigrated to Norway in 1853 and in 1864 to North America. He settled in Franklin, Minnesota. Rovainen was a farmer’s son from Haapakylä, who came to Norway in 1858 and went on to the U.S. later. He is said to have started a new settlement in Franklin, Minnesota, already in 1865. In that area a little colony of Finns was established. Anders was the father of Johan Abraham Rovainen, born in 1865, whose tombstone states that he was the first Finnish baby born in Minnesota. Finally, Mickel Heikka





The Tornio Valley.

also emigrated in 1864 from Vadsö in Norway and settled in Franklin, Minnesota.

Petter Lahti was an unusually interesting man in at least two ways. First, it is known that he emigrated with his family in April 1864 on a Norwegian sailing ship from Hammerfest to Montreal in Canada. Anders Rovainen is said to have been on the same voyage, which lasted for seven weeks. From Montreal the

group of travellers went on to Quebec and from there to Chicago and finally reached St. Peter in Minnesota after many weeks on the road. Lahti also functioned as a link for the later Finnish-speaking immigrants to the U.S. He was also recruited as a soldier for the Union army, an event which happened during the fall of 1864. He was a soldier for about ten months until the peace was concluded the following year.

According to other sources, it says that Anders Rovainen did not arrive until 1865.

Three phases of emigration

To sum up: we first have sailors from the Tornio Valley who jumped ship or stayed behind and settled in the U.S. Then we have the miners from the Tornio Valley who left from northern Norway. In the third wave we have the emigrants who arrived directly from their homes in the Valley.

In most cases the emigrants during the 1860s and 1870s travelled by way of northern Norway. In Norway they boarded a ship at Vadsö or Hammerfest and travelled to Trondheim or Bergen. From there they either went on a direct ship to Quebec in Canada, or in some cases, New York, but most often they went to Hull in England, and then on the railroad to Liverpool, where they boarded ocean liners. They probably had to wait a few days in England.

According to information from *Isak Rova*, who was probably the first

direct emigrant from the Tornio Valley, arriving in New York in September 1865, the total travelling time from the moment they left their home until landing in New York was one month and two days. Rova and his family travelled on a steamship. It is more difficult to say how long a voyage by sailing ship took, as it depended on the weather. A typical time for the crossing was between twelve and eighteen days, if you went on the older type of ship that combined sail and steam. Those ships were more susceptible to bad weather than the next generation of pure steamships, which normally took eight days for the crossing. But in the total travelling time one must also count the time used for land travel. So Rova's 32 days can function as a median time for the Tornio Valley emigrants during the latter half of the 1860s, at least for the ones travelling by steamships.

The pioneers from the Tornio Valley

Rumors about the possibilities in "the promised land" of America reached people back home amazingly quickly. The first man from the Valley who asked for a moving certificate [*flyttningsbetyg*] to go to America did so in the beginning of April 1865. Something had happened in Lapträsk village of Karl Gustaf parish – "America Fever" had hit.

Stories spread very quickly and already in April 1865 four families from Lapträsk with a total of 24 individuals went to the parish minister in Karunki and explained that they wanted to leave their country and move to the other side of the Atlantic. They needed a written permit that listed their family members and their conduct. These four families all had Swedish names and had their origins mostly in the parish of Nederkalix. Their mother tongue was evidently Swedish.

The first family was the former farmer *Erik Magnus Jakobsson* and his wife *Florentina Sandberg* and their four children. They asked for a moving certificate for "Norrge. Amer-

ika,” and then went to northern Norway. But further than that they never went; there was no voyage on the Atlantic. Instead they returned to Lappträsk from Norway during late fall of 1865. This was the first planned direct emigration from the Tornio Valley. What happened to them in northern Norway that made them change their plans is not known. When they returned they also brought a fifth child, Johan Fredrik, born in Hammerfest in September 1865.

Next were three other Lappträsk families: farmer *Lars Olof Bergström* and his wife *Lisa Greta* and their four children; farmer *Henrik Wilhelm Lithner* and his wife *Greta Lena* and their three children; and farmer *Johan Bäckström* and his wife *Johanna* and their five children.

From the same village came the lodger *Anders August Sundkvist* who wanted to leave during the month of June. He changed his mind and returned his permit in early July. It has been said that a moving certificate was valid only for one month from the date of issue, otherwise it was cancelled. Sundkvist returned his permit well within the month.

Johan Välimaa

Now the Finnish-speaking neighbors were waking up. Naturally it was another man from Lappträsk who had been caught by the talk about *Amerika* in the village. Farmer *Johan Välimaa* and his wife *Eva* and their three children at Kauppila farm in Lappträsk asked for their moving certificate for *Norra Amerika* in July 1865. Johan Välimaa was born in Hietaniemi and had come to Lappträsk through his marriage. This seems to be the first Finnish-speaking family from Swedish Tornio Valley who aimed to go to America, but it is not certain that they were the first to cross the Atlantic. According to a local tradition in their new home in Minnesota, they had travelled on a clipper ship (and these needed several weeks for the voyage).

In Deer Creek Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota, where the



Finnish log cabin from 1865, Cokato, Minnesota. Photo by Joan Dwyer.

Välimaa finally settled, it is still told that *John Walimaa* had a commission to find good places for future immigrants from the Tornio Valley to settle. Part of his mission was to regularly report back home on the possibilities to earning good wages in the U.S. During the first five years he travelled from the East Coast to Minnesota and had had time to live in both Pennsylvania and Michigan. After about eight years in Minnesota he and his family travelled by train to Pendleton in Eastern Oregon. They travelled twice there and lived for a while in Astoria on the coast of Oregon. Later they returned to the area of New York Mills in Minnesota, where John Walimaa purchased a larger farm of 120 acres. The place was named Heinola.

In the early 1900 John's wife Eva died and John decided to return home to die and be buried in the soil of his ancestors. His five children stayed in the U.S. In the late summer of 1907 he came back to his ancestral village of Koivukylä (*Hedenäset*), but had already caught pneumonia. He died only a few weeks later, in early October, and was buried in the cemetery of his home parish Hietaniemi, in the same soil as his fathers.

During the 42 years John Walimaa

lived in the U.S. he continued to send reports back to Tornio Valley from the various places he visited. Within a year after his immigration other immigrants from the Valley started to arrive. Just a few days after Välimaa's decision to emigrate, his neighbor *Johan Henrik Perttu* and his wife *Elisabet* also started to think about emigration but changed their minds and stayed home.

The Rova story

Other parts of Karl Gustaf parish also started to move. In Korpikylä, just by the river shore, the farmer *Isak Rova*, born in Haapakylä in Övertorneå, and his wife *Greta Toljus (Torikka)* and their four children asked for their moving certificate in the middle of July 1865. This is the second totally Finnish-speaking family from the Swedish side of the Tornio Valley who emigrated directly to the U.S., but may well have been the first ones to land on American soil. In a letter sent home three months later Isak tells that they had arrived in New York just "1 month and 2 days" after leaving their home in Korpikylä. The Rova family arrived at Castle Garden, New York, on the 7th of September 1865.

Isak also tells that the family had

been forced to stay in New York for three weeks as their travelling money, which they had in gold coins, had been stolen. Later in September they all went to Chicago, where they stayed, even though their first intention had been to go to fertile Minnesota, where the Federal government distributed farmland for free.

This immigrant family ended up in the big city of Chicago with more than 200,000 inhabitants. Like John Walimaa, Isak Rova also wrote back about the possibilities of a good income that were offered. After only seven weeks in the U.S., Isak knew almost everything about his new fantastic homeland. He tells about the fertile soil, lots of game in the forests, and fabulous earning opportunities. This is one of the exaggeratedly positive rumors concerning America that went the rounds in the home parishes of the emigrants.

However, Isak Rova did not get to reap the benefits of these fine earning opportunities, as he died of consumption after only about four years in Chicago.

More immigrants

In Lappträsk village the interest in America grew and farmer *Johan Henrik Ekman*, his wife, and five children got their moving certificates only a few days after the Rovas. But they also changed their minds and stayed in their home village.

As said above, Karl Gustaf has more than their share of emigrants in 1865, but from nearby Hietaniemi we find the settler [nybyggare] *Johan Sundbäck*, his wife, and eight children from Saarijärvi who left their home. The Sundbäcks arrived in New York on the bark *McRathbone* on 4th November 1865, and later became farmers at Manistee in Michigan.

The settler *Karl Petter Nilsson* and his family from Kiilijärvi received their moving certificates just two days later. Another settler from Kiilijärvi was *Elias Eliasson* and his family who left another ten days later. He is probably identical to "Olof Olofsson," who arrived on the *Mc-*

Rathbone in early November 1865.

All of them were Swedish-speaking emigrants.

From northern Norway the emigration kept growing among the miners from the Swedish Tornio Valley and Finland.

In 1866 the parishes that did nothing in 1865 started to move. In Övertorneå the dug-out dweller *Isak Parpa*, wife, and one son from Haapakylä decided to start on this long journey, and got their moving certificates in June 1866. Parpa, who was Americanized to *Barberg*, became a farmer in Cokato, Minnesota. They were followed by the dug-out dweller *Isak Brännström* and his family from Kuivakangas. They are supposed to have lived for some time in Cokato, but arrived back in Övertorneå already in July 1867. Their only child, son Karl, died in America only two months after arrival, which might have been a contributing cause for their return. Isak Brännström later became a Laestadian preacher and drowned in 1873.

And more

Hietaniemi had three emigrating families in 1866: farmer *Johan Paloniemi* and his family from Vitsaniemi; former farmer *Per Välimaa* and his wife *Maria Magdalena*, and one child from Vuomajärvi; and former farmer *Johan Mäki*, his wife, and children from Koivukylä.

Johan Paloniemi was called *John Palm* in America, and settled in Dasel, Minnesota.

Per Välimaa was called *Peter Peterson* and lived with his family in Holmes City, Minnesota. His wife was a sister of John Walimaa's.

From Karl Gustaf parish came the former farmer *Johan Jakob Haara* and his family from Keräsjoki, and they seem to have settled in Holmes City, Minnesota. From the same parish came the farmer's daughter *Eva Pipping* from Korpikylä, who seems to have travelled alone. She later married a man named *Viinikka* from Kukkola. They married in Cokato, Minnesota.

Nedertorneå also sent their first

emigrants in 1866: former farmer *Nils Alrik Koski (Holk)* and his wife *Maria Gustafva* (they settled in Bandon Township, Franklin, Minnesota, where he died 1906); farmer *Anders Sepponen* with his wife *Eva Lisa* and two children, who settled in Cokato; farmer *Per Selvelä* and his son *Johan Oskar*; farmer *Nils Selvälä* from Karsikkojärvi travelled alone. He built himself a cabin in the woods of Cokato in 1867, after having lived for some time in Red Wing, Minnesota. The servant girl *Brita Johanna Törn-gren* travelled alone (after arriving in Minnesota, she married Nils Selvälä); the farmer *Erik Lappiniemi* with his wife *Helena* and six daughters.

From the city of Haparanda the only immigrant was the young man *Karl Gustaf Strömberg*.

In northern Norway the emigration went on as before, as well as from the Finnish side of the Tornio Valley. From there, for example, left *Anders Kauvosaari* from Finnish Övertorneå. He is supposed to have travelled in 1866 and afterwards lived in Holmes City, where he called himself *Anderson*. Also *Gustaf Frisk (Sukki)* left and later lived in Franklin, Minnesota.

A break in the immigration

Almost immediately after the start of the emigration there is a decrease in the number of emigrants. From Övertorneå no emigrants are officially recorded for the period 1867-1870, only emigrants with destinations like Norway and Finland.

Of the ones that went to Norway some will probably show up in the U.S. later on. There are no emigrants from Hietaniemi, Nedertorneå, or Haparanda, and just two from Karl Gustaf; it is a bit strange. In 1871 Övertorneå has one family recorded and two single individuals, but none from Hietaniemi. From Karl Gustaf four single people emigrated in 1871 as well as two families. Nedertorneå had eight emigrants and Haparanda just one. There is no change in the

emigration from northern Norway: emigration continued.

The stream of emigrants from the Tornio Valley is still not constant, for some years no emigrants were recorded. From Hietaniemi the emigration to North America continued in 1873 with six individuals, 1874-1875 no emigrants were recorded, 1876 just one, 1877 five, and in 1878 six. The picture is the same in the other Tornio Valley parishes. But in the 1880s the emigration increases and from now on grew every year, and that is true for all the Tornio Valley parishes. In the upper valley the emigration starts a few years later.

From then on the number of emigrants from Tornio Valley has grown every year, and does not decrease until the economic crisis during the later 1920s. But we find emigrants still during the 1930s, as well as a few during the 1940s, 80 years after their forbears' daring decision to emigrate and after their laborious and demanding travels both on land and at sea.

More information?

This is a compilation about the first pioneers from eastern Norrbotten who emigrated to North America. The information can never be complete, but if any of the SAG readers knows anything about those early immigrants I would appreciate hearing from you.

It is with great joy that I can see that Övertorneå *kommun* has accepted these findings on the earliest emigration from this area. What in 1866 was regarded as the start of a negative development concerning the population has 140 years later changed to a positive view; as a possibility to promote the area both commercially and as a tourist goal. In July 2006 the municipality has realized the unusual project of inviting two of the descendants of the first emigrants from the municipality, *Isak Parpa* and his wife *Eva Maria*. These descendants from Cokato, in fact living in the same buildings and on the same farm as

Isak Parpa had built in 1866, have through their own contacts with their local mayor received an official paper linking Cokato and Övertorneå as sister cities. The descendant *Harvey Barberg* solemnly handed the document to the *kommunalsråd* [councillor] of Övertorneå at the big stage during the Övertorneå summer market.

The circle has been closed.

This article has been published in Swedish in *Släkthistoriskt Forum* 4/05.

Translation by Elisabeth Thorsell and Christopher Olsson.

Contact information

Sture Torikka lives in Luleå, Sweden.

E-mail:

<sture.torikka@bredband.net>



The first "savusauna" [smoke sauna] built in 1868 on the Parpa farm near Cokato, Minnesota. Now moved to Cokato Open Air Museum. Photo by Joan Dwyer.

The Old Picture

On this page we publish old pictures sent in by our SAG readers. If you have a picture you want to see on this page, either send a digital copy, scanned in at no less than 300 dpi and saved as a jpg or tif file, or send a good paper copy to the editor at the address shown on the inside cover. Do not send any originals, as we can not accept responsibility for them. Neither can we promise to publish all pictures.



This old picture was sent in by *Dr. Herbert W. Chilstrom*, 1211 Pine Pointe Curve, St. Peter, MN 56082-1344. <Coherb49@aol.com>

The only person Dr. Chilstrom recognizes is his uncle *Sigfred Chilstrom*, who is seated on the left.

Sigfred Chilstrom was born 21 March 1880 in Minnesota and was a farmer at Litchfield, Meeker County, Minnesota, where he died 28 March 1964. He never married.

His parents were *Johan Petter Kjällerström* (born 6 April 1844 in Öreryd, Smål.) and his wife *Hedda*

Nelson (born *Nilsdotter* 6 April 1847 in Gränna, Smål.). They both came with their parents in the early 1850s to the U.S., and lived at Pine Lake, Wisconsin, before moving to Minnesota.

Dr. Chilstrom writes "I assume it (the photo) was taken at the end of a successful harvest when some members of the threshing crew gathered for a photograph. They have in their hands the important elements of harvest – the pitchfork, lunch pail, oil can, and water pump. Judging from their looks, I would guess the

photograph was taken about 1900–1910."

It would be interesting to hear from anyone who recognizes the other three young men in the picture.



Canadian Censuses

Ancestry.com has now added more Canadian censuses to their databases. They now have 1901 (the fourth census), the 1906 census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and the 1911 census (the fifth) of the whole country.

The first census of Canada was not taken until 1871. Manitoba and British Columbia did not join Canada until later, and are thus missing from the 1871 census.

(*Ancestry Weekly Journal* Aug.14, 2006)

Royalty?

The president of the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sve- riges Släktforskarförbund*), Mr. *Ted Rosvall*, is a very diligent man. Having been deeply interested in royal genealogy since childhood, he recently started *Royalty Digest Quarterly*, which is filled with genealogies, articles, and pictures. More information from <ted.rosvall@telia.com>

Kyrkhult microfiche now in Lund

The microfiche of the church records for all Sweden that used to be available at the Research Center in Kyrkhult, which closed down in the spring, are now placed at the Regional Archives in Lund. It is in a special branch, called *Arkivcentrum Syd* at Porfyrvägen 16, 224 78 Lund. They are also the repository for the archives of Lund University, and various other institutions.

They have a web site at www.arkivcentrumsyd.se/ but no information in English, sorry!

Swedish Silver Coin in Jamestown, VA

Recently an old Swedish silver coin was found during excavations on the site of Jamestown, Virginia, founded in 1607. But the coin was older than that; it was a 1 öre, and had been minted in 1576 during the reign of King Johan III, second son of Gustaf I [Vasa].

In those days it was the value of the metal that was the important thing, not where it came from, so all over Europe you could find coins from any country. This one had probably ended up with some Englishman going to the colonies and then lost.



A Johan III ½ öre from 1578; the 1 öre looks the same.

Ockelbo reconstruction

The church records for Ockelbo (Gäst.) burned in 1904, which means that the records for that parish start in 1896. The lack of the older records has long been a serious problem for all researchers with Ockelbo roots. Now the former schoolteacher *Elsa Lagevik* has compiled a CD with information on older Ockelbo residents. She has been through tax records, probates, and many other types of records to gather this information. The price of the CD is said to be 450 SEK + postage. Contact Elsa Lagevik at Rödhakev. 2, S-175 64 Järfälla, Sweden.

Genealogy meeting in Philadelphia 28 Oct.

The Swedish genealogy club at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia will meet on Saturday 28 October at 1:30 pm. The speaker will be *Elisabeth Thorsell*, SAG editor, recently awarded the 2006 Victor Örnberg Memorial Prize by the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies. The topic will be *Swedish databases on CD*.

The easy way to get Swedish things

The *American Swedish Institute* in Minneapolis now has a nice e-shop on their web site, where you can find many Swedish items, books, CDs, and even lingonberry preserves.

The web address is to be found on page 30.

9 October is Leifur Eriksson Day!

As we all know, *Leifur* (Leif in Swedish) *Eriksson* landed first in America, centuries before Christopher Columbus.

"To honor Leif Erikson, son of Iceland and grandson of Norway, and to celebrate our citizens of Nordic American heritage, the Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88 566) approved on September 2, 1964, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as 'Leif Erikson Day.'

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2006, as Leif Erikson Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor our rich Nordic American heritage."

(*Icelandic Embassy web site*)

Prominent Swedish Congressmen in 1923



Senator J.L. Lenroth

Senator C.A. Swanson

Kongressman H. Knutson

Kongressman C. R. Chindblom

Kongressman W. Williamson

In a local thrift store in Filipstad I found this summer a bound volume of the weekly magazine *Vecko-Journalen* from 1923. During the summer months there were a few stories on Swedish-American personalities.

Senator *Irvine Lenroot* (1869–1949) represented Wisconsin. His father, *Lars Lönnrot*, was from Skåne, and his mother from Värmland.

Senator *Claude A. Swanson* (1862–1939) from Virginia, seems to have been descended from the *Old Swedes*. He spent 33 years in congress, was

governor of Virginia, and Navy Secretary under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Congressman *Harold Knutson* (1880–1953) of Norwegian(!) origins, represented the citizens of Minnesota for more than 30 years.

Congressman *Carl Richard Chindblom* (1870–1956) was born in Chicago of parents from Åsbo, (Östg). He represented the citizens of Illinois for 13 years.

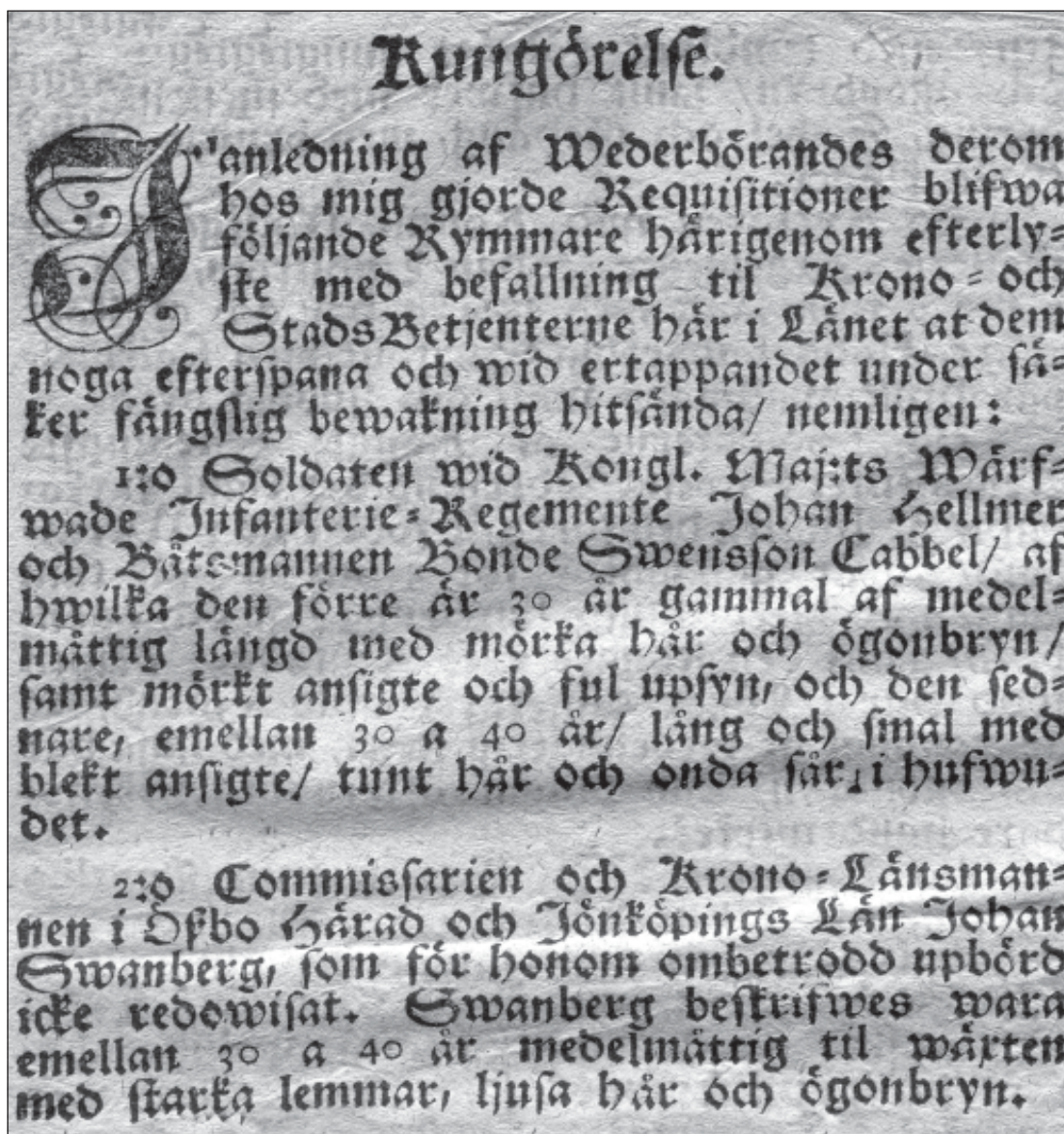
Congressman *William Williamson* (1875–1972) was born near New Sharon, Mahaska County, Iowa, but moved as a small child to South

Dakota. He represented the citizens of South Dakota for 11 years, and during that time helped the efforts to get the carvings at Mount Rushmore done. His official biography does not mention his ethnicity, but the 1910 Census discloses him as being of Norwegian(!) descent. So *Vecko-Journalen* did not do its homework correctly!

Source: *The Swedish Heritage in America*, by Allan Kastrup (1975). Biography web site, see p. 30.

Elisabeth Thorsell

A Handwriting Example X



What is this?

This is not a handwritten document; instead it is printed in the printing font that was the most common one in Sweden until the middle 1800s.

It is called *frakturstil*, and has some similarity with the handwriting style called *tyska stilen* or German style. The *frakturstil* was used in Germany well into the 1960s and may still be used there.

In English the same type of printing font is called "Blackletter" font. You may have a font called "Old Eng-

lish" in your computer; it belongs to the same font family.

What is this document? It is an example of the notifications that each county governor sent out to the parishes and bailiffs and other officials within his jurisdiction. Often they also contain information from other counties too, especially when they are searching for escaped prisoners, as the above text shows. The notifications can also be about advice on what plants you could eat when

the harvest was bad, or when there was to be a big auction, or when the Crown's pig iron, paid in taxes, was to be sold.

The parish pastor had to read this in church on Sunday. This was another inducement for people to go to church, to get the latest news.

The above document is dated 10 July 1800, and was sent out by the governor of Värmland.

Translation on p. 20

Using MapQuest to Pinpoint Ancestor's Residence

By BILL LAWSON

My Swedish grandfather *August LOFSTROM* came to America in 1890. I traced him to Hamburg, then to Liverpool, New York City, and finally to Boston. He settled in Boston, and went to work for the public library as a bookbinder. He was there till his death in 1918.

My query to the Boston Public Library yielded no information. I tried to find him in the 1900 census, using his name Konrad August LOFSTROM, but failed. Family lore said that he built a three-decker on Tower Street, Boston, in 1905. So I reasoned he must have lived nearby in 1900 and liked the area.

I printed out a MapQuest detail of surrounding streets, then I went through the Enumeration Districts (EDs) listed in the census and wrote

the EDs on the map near Tower Street. I then went down each census page of all those EDs looking for grandpa and his family.

YEEESSSS! There he was – his name spelled LUFFSTROM but with the correct names for his wife and children – on Fresno Street. While studying the MapQuest detail of Tower Street, Boston, I noticed at one end of that street was a huge cemetery. Were my grandparents buried there? An inquiry to the cemetery yielded not only a positive answer, but the complete burial records of both of them – in 1910 and 1918!

[Editor's Note: The "L" on the surname was written by the enumerator so it looked something like an "S" and that's how the name was indexed –as SUFFSTROM. How-

ever, a search in the 1900 census index at Ancestry.com using just the given name of Conrad (born in Sweden) in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, reveals this ancestor – Conrad SUFFSTROM, a bookbinder, living at 17 Fresno Street in Boston.]

(Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: 31 May 2006, Vol. 9, No. 22.)

SAG editor's note: This person was probably identical with Conrad Löfström, age 31, from Uppsala, who left Sweden 22 Oct. 1890 via Hamburg with a ticket for New York [Emihamn].

Research Notes, by Elisabeth Thorsell

When doing research in various types of archives different from the church records, there are often items that catch your eye, even though they are not what you are looking for.

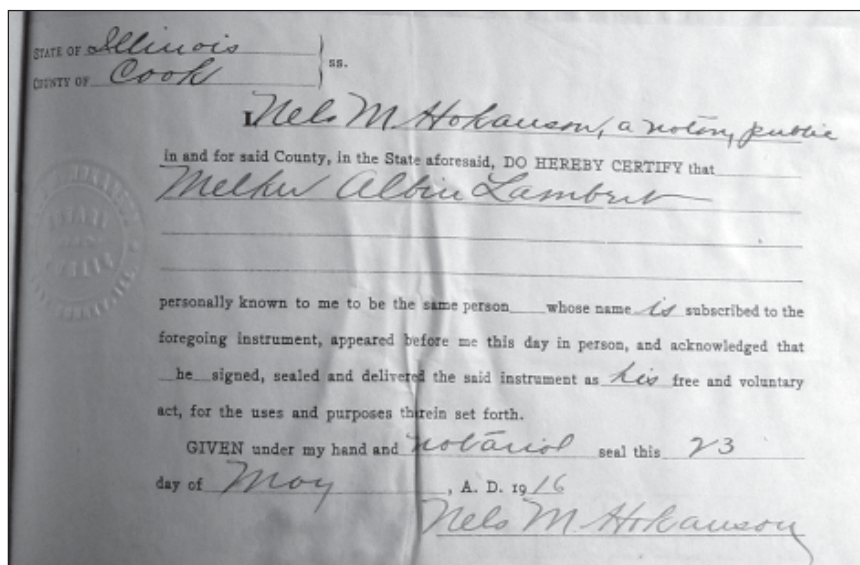
In Vadstena archives some time ago I was looking at the records of *Kalmar Stadsförsamling*, and found a note about a death, that was unusual. In 1915 Aug. 27 the church office received a letter from the Swedish Consulate that told that the sailor *Herman Teodor Swensson*, born 1885 Oct. 15, had been murdered by shooting in the harbor of San Francisco on 1915 June 22nd. One wonders what had happened?

Next I looked into the records of the Kalmar Magistrate for 1915, and found that the widow *Ester Sjöblom* had bought two twelfths of the town lot 163 C from her brothers *A.W. Peterson Harvey* and *Fritiof Peterson Harvey*, both in South Africa, which was quite an unusual destination for Swedish emigrants. So a little further research showed that Ester and her brothers were all born in Kalmar,

as well as a brother Fabian and a sister Alma Brigitta. They were all children of the divorced storekeeper *Andreas Petersson*, born in Mortorp in 1839. This was found in the *Swedish Census 1890*. A look into *Emibas* showed that *Adrian Vilhelm (A.W.)* had left Kalmar in 1893 for the U.S. Brother Fabian had left already in 1889 with a ticket for San Francisco.

Twenty years later A.W. lived at Nauwpoort, and Fritiof in Port Elizabeth, both places in South Africa.

One more interesting thing about the Harvey brothers was that their powers of attorney were glued into the book of records, and there were more examples of such documents in those books. Here is another example:



The Solution to the Handwriting Example X

Transcription

Kungörelse

Ianledning af Wederbörandes derom hos mig gjorde Requisitioner blifwa följande Rymmare härigenom efterlyste med befallning til Krono- och StadsBetjenterna här i Länet at dem noga efterspana och wid ertappandet under säker fängslig bewakning hitsändas, nemligen:

1:o Soldaten wid Kongl. Maj:ts Wärfwade Infanterie-Regemente Johan Hellmer och Båtsmannen Bonde Swensson Cabbel, af hwilka den förre är 30 år gammal af medelmåttig längd med mörka hår och ögonbryn, samt ett mörkt ansikte och ful uppsyn, och den sednare, emellan 30 a 40 år, lång och smal med blekt ansikte, tunt hår och onda sår i hufwudet.

2:o Commissarien och Krono-Länsmannen i Ösbo Härad och Jönköping Län Johan Swanberg, som för honom ombetrodd upbörd icke redowisat. Swanberg beskrifwes wara emellan 30 a 40 år, är medelmåttig til växten med starka lemmar, ljusa hår och ögonbryn.

Translation (line breaks marked by //)

Notification

By cause of the request done by the authority concerned// to me the following fugitives are hereby posted as wanted,// with an order to the servants of the Crown and cities in this county// to search for them and when apprehended sent here under custody; that is

1:o the soldier at His Majesty's Enlisted// Infantry Regiment Johan Hellmer// and the navy seaman Bonde Olsson Cabbel, of// which the former is 30 years old, median// height with dark hair and eyebrows,// and dark countenance and mean-looking, the latter// between 30 and 40 years old, tall and thin with// a pale face, thin hair and bad wounds to his head.

2:o The Commissary and Crown Bailiff// for Östbo District and Jönköping county Johan// Swanberg, who has failed to account for the tax money// that he has been entrusted with. Swanberg is described as being between 30 and 40 years old, of average growth// with strong limbs, light-colored hair and eyebrows.//

What was the teardrop route?

In an e-mail to the editor Dr. *James M. Borg* puts the following question:

"I am a subscriber to the *Swedish American Genealogist* and would like to request your assistance in answering a question about the so-called "teardrop route."

"My great-grandfather, Carl Borg, who was born near Valdemarsvik, Östg., in 1861, went to sea as a sixteen year old. He spent five years (1877-1882) aboard cargo ships – mainly (collier?) barques – operating in the Baltic, Russia (perhaps mainly the White Sea region of Mezen and Arkangel); then went "around South America;" and visited the Caribbean Islands [perhaps the Danish Virgin

Islands such as St. Thomas, and one of the big sugar islands]. He once told a relative that he had followed the "teardrop route" in [some?] of his journeys. Can you assist me in identifying what that route consisted of?

"My speculation is that it may refer to one of two routes: 1) from Goteborg up the coast of Norway (sort of a teardrop shape) and on into the northern seas of Russia (plus maybe the phrase resonated with the tears that young sailors shed on such a miserable journey); or 2) possibly it referred to making a lengthy passage around the ports of South America going all the way to Iquique, Chile, where nitrates were a major com-

modity at this time.

"Your expertise in answering this question would be most appreciated.

*Yours sincerely,
James M. Borg, Ph.D."*

Unfortunately the editor had to admit her lack of knowledge and I am now relying on the many all-knowing readers of SAG.

Any information can be sent to Dr. Borg at 1910 Surrey Lane, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

<slbborg@netzero.net>
or to the editor at
<sag@etgenealogy.se>

Välkommen hem!

Welcome home to your Swedish roots!

A road-map will make your travels in Sweden a lot easier.

A family map of your roots will add other kinds of values to your travel.

Maybe your long lost relatives are waiting for you where it all started?

Or perhaps you are just curious about where and what kind of life your old folks lived in that little country far up north, on the arctic circle.

The *House of Genealogy*, non-profit but professional, can help you discover your Swedish roots.

Our experienced researchers have access to church records from all over Sweden. We have all the necessary databases. We have a nationwide network that makes the search more effective.

Within 2 weeks from your first request you will have an answer from us. If you wish to continue working with us, you will have an answer as complete as possible within 2 months.

Our research-fee is 25 USD per hour + expenses.

Read more about us at www.genhouse-sweden.com Contact us for further information.



From Stubborn Swede Railroad Inspector to Civil War General

BY JOHN E. NORTON

Ernst Mattias Peter von Vegesack was born 18 June 1820 on the island of Gotland, scion of a Swedish military family with German roots. His parents were Eberhard Ferdinand Emil von Vegesack, a captain in the army and later customs officer, and his wife Ulrika Christina Sofia Lythberg. The family earned their Swedish nobility in 1664, and were granted baronial privileges in 1802.

Like many young noblemen, Ernst began his own military career at the age of 15, when he joined the Swedish Army's *jägare* (rifle) company at Visby. He rose through the enlisted ranks in the conscript Gotland Artillery. He was commissioned as brevet second lieutenant of the Dala Regiment in 1840, and promoted to first lieutenant in 1843. He worked as a licensed surveyor in Kopparberg province during the great land reform of 1844-1850. He also saw peacetime duty overseas as an artillery battery officer in the Swedish Caribbean colony of St. Barthélemy in 1852-1853 and in 1854. After returning to Sweden, he was promoted to captain and company commander in the Dala Regiment in 1857. In 1858 he became intrigued by the new technology of the railroad industry, and was named traffic chief/inspector for the new Gefle-Dala Railway between the Baltic seacoast town of Gävle and the inland province of Dalarna, a career change that brought unexpected results and later fame from an unlikely quarter.

It is said that his decision to head for America as the Civil War broke out was encouraged by an unfortunate 1860 confrontation with a prominent railroad passenger, over a shipment of Baltic herring. Swedish Member of Parliament Liss Lars Olsson had chosen to return home from Parliament to Dalarna via the Baltic

seacoast town of Gävle. Olsson had reached an agreement with his business friend and railroad executive director, Per Murén, that he could ship all personal baggage at no cost.

Olsson chose to interpret "baggage" liberally, and tried to load 20 cases of salted Åland Baltic herring in Gävle, as a speculative investment to be sold at home in Dalarna. von Vegesack refused to treat it as baggage, insisting it instead be shipped as revenue-producing freight, or not at all. As the train pulled out of Gävle, the herring boxes remained on the loading dock. Olsson made a shouted appeal, "My herring, my herring!" to Per Murén, standing at trackside. The executive director demanded an explanation of von Vegesack. A heated discussion followed, and von Vegesack resigned. He, along with other Swedish officers hoping to gain battlefield experience, then sought permission to come to America to fight for the Union. He left Sweden on 7 August 1861 with three other lieutenants and a young engineer.

Von Vegesack's entry into Union Army service was smoothed by American Secretary of State William H. Seward, whose intervention landed Ernst a commission in September 1861 as Captain in the 58th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and assignment to staff duty at Newport News. In that capacity, he was privileged to witness, and report home to Sweden, the famous 9 March 1862 sea battle at Hampton Roads between Swedish engineer John Ericsson's ironclad *Monitor* and the Confederate *Merrimac*.

Von Vegesack tired of staff duties at Newport News, and requested reassignment to the field, asking to follow McClellan into battle during the ill-fated Peninsular Campaign

aimed at Richmond. He was refused, so resigned his commission to join McClellan's corps as a volunteer during the siege of Yorktown and battle of Williamsburg. For bravery shown during the battle of Hanover Courthouse, he was promoted to major and joined McClellan's general staff as adjutant. Though suffering from malaria, he later helped cover McClellan's retreat from Richmond to the James River, distinguishing himself in the battle of Gaines Mill.

For his services there, he was promoted to colonel, and given command of the 20th Regiment New York Volunteers, made up largely of German Turners, many who were refugees (or children of refugees) from the socialist revolutions of 1848. He soon became an acting brigade commander, and led the Third Brigade of Gen. Smith's Division in the disastrous battle of Bull Run, 30 August 1862. By the time of the bloody battle of Antietam, 16-17 September 1862, he was a regimental commander, and successfully stopped a Confederate breakthrough by reinforcing the Union center with his Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, and Germans. Shortly after, he was made brevet brigadier general. In that capacity, he participated in the bloody, unsuccessful battle of Fredericksburg 11-13 December 1862, and again on 3 May 1863, when Fredericksburg was finally taken. A day later, he and his unit participated in the disastrous battle of Chancellorsville, where he was nearly captured and his unit almost wiped out. His regiment had, by then, served out its enlistment, and on 10 May 1863, the unit was welcomed home to New York and mustered out.

Von Vegesack was then attached to General Meade's Army of the Poto-

mac, becoming Meade's adjutant in time to participate in the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863.

He left Union service on 3 August 1863, and returned to his homeland as a national hero, receiving a saber and gold medal for "bravery in the field" from King Carl XV. In 1864 he was promoted directly from Swedish Army Captain to Lieutenant Colonel and made commander of the Västerbotten Rifle Corps. He became commander of the Hälsinge Regiment in 1868, and was military commander of Gotland 1874-84. He also served as M.P. and representative of Gotland in the Upper Chamber of Parliament from 1878 to 1887. He was promoted to Major General in 1884 and put in command of Sweden's 5th Military District. He retired in 1888.

His Civil War service was not forgotten by the United States. Following the Civil war, he was named a member of "The Union League," and was promoted to permanent brigadier general in the U.S. Army in 1865. On 26 August 1893, he was giv-

en the United States' highest military award, The Congressional Medal of Honor, for bravery during the battle of Gaines Mill, while covering McClellan's retreat. The citation was simple: "While voluntarily serving as aide de camp, successfully and advantageously charged the position of troops under fire."

He died on 12 January 1903 in Stockholm, a stubborn railroad inspector turned stubborn general, and a national hero on both sides of the Atlantic. He married in 1865 to Edla Amalia Sergel, daughter of the manor owner Johan Gustaf Sergel, and his wife Carolina Magdalena Dubois, but had no children.

More reading

In 1904, the Augustana Synod periodical *Prärieblomman* published a biographical sketch of Major General Ernst von Vegesack, written by its editor, Anders Schön. Schön tells the delightful story of von Vegesack's short railroad career and the famous herring incident that apparently

hurried his decision to emigrate. Modern Swedish author and war historian Alf Åberg published a 1996 popular history, *Svenskarna under stjärnbaneret*, about the Swedes who fought in the Civil War, with frequent mention of von Vegesack. He cites von Vegesack's Civil War letters, now found in Sweden's *Krigsarkivet* (War Archives), of which Åberg served as director. For a general history of the Civil War, one can read Bruce Catton's masterful works *Mr. Lincoln's Army*, 1951, *Glory Road*, 1952, and *A Stillness at Appomattox*, 1953. Many state adjutants general published Civil War unit histories, giving rosters and insight into the operations of those commands, often down to company level.

John E. Norton

Contact information

John E. Norton lives in Moline, Illinois. Email: <jnorton785@sbcglobal.net>



Ernst von Vegesack in the Battle of Antietam. From *Illustrerad Tidning* (Stockholm) 29 November 1862. Nr 48.

New CD databases from Sweden

There are always new CDs in the works, and here are a few of interest to all genealogists

1. Emigranten Populär

This is an old friend in a new costume; the first *Emigranten* came out in 1996 and cost a fortune. This new version has a popular price, around \$60, instead of roughly \$200, and also has some new databases. The new version also allows you to search all ten databases at the same time, or just the ones you have marked.

There are still a few flaws. The *Emigranten Populär* does not speak English, but should not be too difficult to use for the eager researcher. Also one would have hoped that by now all the variants of parish names would have been corrected and ended up in a special field, so it would have been possible to search on the modern spelling, but not so. You still have 238 *Hvetlandas*, and 916 *Vetlandas* in Emihamn. Some people have also complained about the few search windows, they feel it should be possible to search for sex, counties, age, and other fields that do exist in the underlying database.



The search window after a search has been done.

On the other hand, there are lots of good things on this CD. The first and most important is the *Emihamn* (about 1.4 mill. individuals), people leaving the main ports of Göteborg, Malmö, Stockholm, and others dur-

ing the period of 1869–1950. Next comes *Emibas* for Göteborg (53,000) and Värmland (126,000), information based on the church records. *Emisjö* has information on 17,000 sailors mostly from Western Sweden, that jumped ship or got lost 1812–1930. *Emipass* has information on 16,000 persons who left Sweden 1812–1860, also mostly from Western Sweden. *Emisal* lists around 242,000 passengers on the Swedish America Line 1915–1950 (Greta Garbo and others). *Emivasa* lists about 58,000 members of the Vasa Order of America. *Emilarsson* is an index of all people that wrote to the emigrant agents Bröderna Larsson in Göteborg 1879–1911. In this database you get a source citation and can then contact the Regional Archives in Göteborg for a copy of the letter. These letters will be published on another CD in a few years.

On this CD you will also find some-

Efternamn:	SVENSSON	FÄDER	
Förnamn:	ANNA KARIN MARI	Efternamn:	
Kön:	K	Förnamn:	
Församling:	NORDMARK	Yrke/Titel:	
Född:	1896-05-22	MODER	
Län:	S	Efternamn:	
Inflförsaml:		Förnamn:	
Inflän:		Yrke/Titel:	
Yrke/Titel:	DOTTER	MÅKA/MAKE	
Civilstånd:		Efternamn:	
Hemförsaml:	FÄRNEBO	Förnamn:	
Bosatt:	LERSJÖED	Yrke/Titel:	
Län:	S	Huvudakt:	
Utvandrdag:	1916-10-02	Aktnr:	003
Ålder:	20	Anteckning:	0341916003
Ensam/Fam:	ENSAM	Husfhlsid:	
Destland:	N. AMERIKA	Memo:	Text
Destort:			

A hit from *Emibas Värmland*.

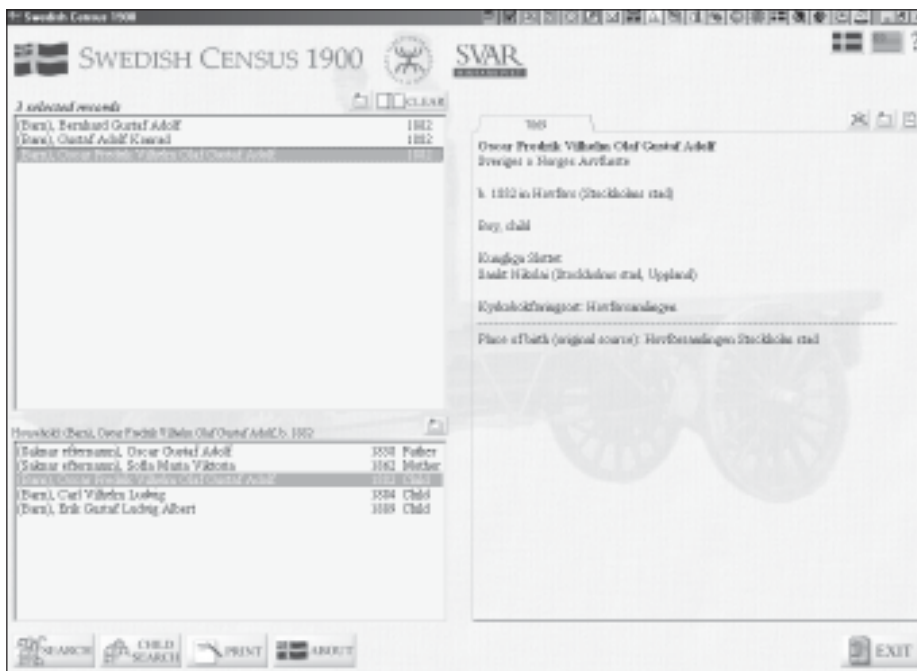
information about the ships that went from Göteborg to England, and even pictures of a few of them. This CD is warmly recommended.

2. Swedish Census 1900

This is another member of the series of Swedish censuses, where we already have 1890, 1970, and 1980. The first two ones are computerized versions of the summaries of the clerical surveys for 1890 and 1900, which were sent in from every parish to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the latter ones are based on the official tax registers. The first two ones (1890 and 1900) are joint productions of the SVAR branch of the Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) and the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*).

One important feature of the new CD is that it is English-speaking: just click on the U.S. flag in the upper right-hand corner, and all the lead-words are in English. Titles and addresses are not translated. Also notice the big blue questionmark in the same corner. It will tell you about the contents of the CD and give hints on how to do an efficient search.

There are two search windows, one for adults and one for children –



The future King Gustaf VI Adolf with his parents and brothers.

sometimes you just know the name of the ancestor and a few siblings, and then you could well use the children's window. Also note that there are some helpful buttons to help you write the "Swedish" letters.

In the Swedish version there is also a "statistics" button, where you may see, for instance how many butchers there were in a certain town, or how many *grufarbetare* (miners) in another one. This CD is

very useful, especially when you are tracing the siblings of your immigrant. There are of course mistakes, misread place names, surnames, etc., but it is a great lead into the church records.

3. Kugelberg

Kugelberg is a DVD with scanned pictures of newspaper clippings from the late 1800s and early 1900s of births, deaths, and marriages. They are arranged by surname, and more than 20,000 surnames are listed. The families here mostly belonged to the professional classes, officers, bank managers, civil servants, etc. Swedish.

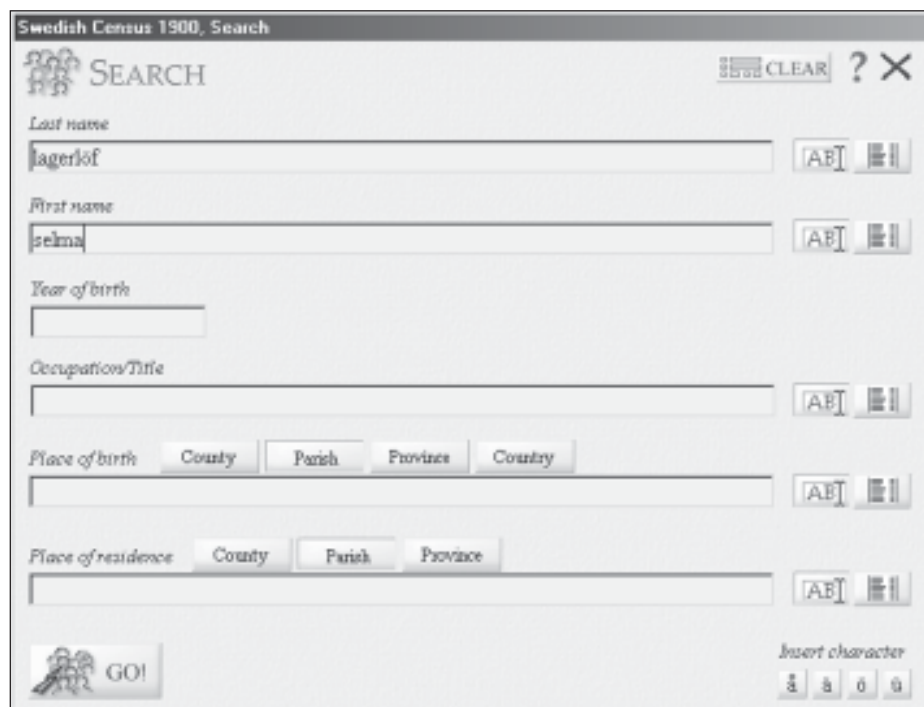
4. Grill

The indispensable book by Claes Grill, "Statistiskt sammandrag af svenska indelningsverket," which is necessary to use to find one's soldier in the military records, has now also become a database, (in Swedish.)

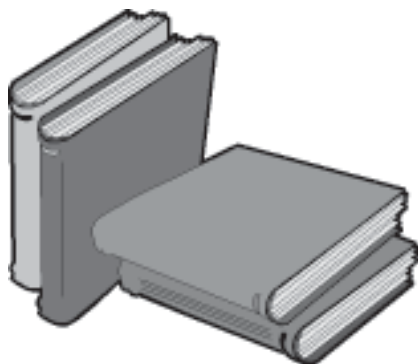
Where to buy the CDs

1. *Emigranten Populär* is sold by the SAG editor for \$60 incl. postage. E-mail <sag@etgenealogy.se> for more information.

For all the other CDs, e-mail the Federation for price, postage, and handling at <info@genealogi.se>



The 1900 search window.



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 <djohnson@2vikings.com> or 2407 Hunsberger Drive, Limerick, PA 19468, so he knows what you are working on.

Old Farmhouses

Death of the Dream, Farmhouses in the Heartland, by William G. Gabler, 128 pages, hardcover, Afton Historical Society Press, Afton, MN, 1997, Amazon.com, \$35.00. (Also available in soft cover, 1999, Amazon.com, \$16.97 plus shipping.)

Driving along the highways and rural roads of the Midwest, one continues to see many abandoned farmhouses sitting in old, overgrown woodlots amidst the almost unbroken miles of corn and wheat fields. Many houses have disappeared and only the woodlots remain to signal their past locations. Those that remain are empty and deserted, in dilapidated condition or even falling down in neglect and disrepair. Modern, mostly one-story houses spaced much further apart than the old woodlots now mark the much larger, mechanized farms of today.

The author of *Death of the Dream*, William Gabler, has chosen to make a record of some of the last of these old farmhouses, centering his study on several counties in western Minnesota along the valley of the Minnesota River. Gabler found the greatest concentration of these old houses mainly in Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Big Stone, Chippewa, and Renville Counties, but also includes several other locations. These lands were homesteaded largely by Swedish, Norwegian, and German im-

migrants, together with a scattering of others of various nationalities. Most of the houses and farms pictured date to the last decades of the nineteenth century, from about 1860 to 1900. The author's aim was to record in photographs the passing away of a special dream, or style of life that took place during these decades but now is no more.

The first part of *Death of the Dream*, entitled *The Dream*, describes the historic context for the settlement of the prairie in the 19th century, including descriptions of the prairie before settlement, the coming of the settlers, pioneer farming, the rise in demand for crops such as wheat, and the rise of industrialization in agriculture. The second part, *The Structures in the Field*, concentrates on descriptions of the elements of the pioneer farmsteads, the various outbuildings and barns, and the houses themselves. The construction and layout of the houses, their style, the various rooms, and the style of living are described in detail, and how the houses relate to the woodlots, the farms, and the various outbuildings making up the farmstead. The third part of the book, *The Plates*, contains over 80 pages of plates, black and white photographs of a variety of houses and farm scenes.

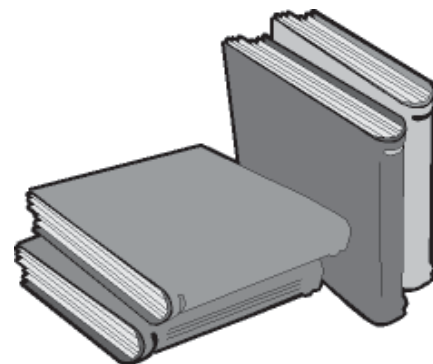
Accompanying the rich images of these houses are descriptions in text to illustrate the methods of construction, architectural styles, details and elements making up the houses, and the author's observations about common features of design. Both interior and exterior

views provide a rich collection of images of a life style that has passed away. The houses are bereft of people, the rooms are empty and often in tragic disrepair, but the powers of imagination of the reader help to recreate an impression of farm life in the 19th century. Barns, outbuildings, an abandoned schoolhouse, a wooden church, and a weed-grown cemetery add to the overall picture of once thriving but now largely abandoned communities.

The reader searches among these images for traces of houses that may have been built by Swedes, or by Norwegians, or by Germans, but finds little to suggest the origins of the original occupants. It appears that the prevailing styles, materials, and construction methods of the day in the American Midwest outweighed construction traditions of the pioneers' homeland. The materials available at the time were small wood framing members, planks for floor joists, boards for sheathing, narrow wood shiplap siding, double hung windows, and factory-made Victorian decorative elements. These were all put together by local carpenters to a generally common style, adjusted to suit the needs, means, and desires of the individual farmer.

The author points out that most of these farmhouses were originally built as a simple rectangular house, often replacing an earlier dugout lean-to or one room sod house erected by the pioneer homesteader. As the farmer prospered and his family grew, the farmer would add a wing to one side to provide added rooms, forming a house now in the shape of

Book Reviews



an 'L' or sometimes, a 'T'. A front porch would usually be added in the corner of this 'L' to shelter the entrances and provide a place to sit and view the farm or receive visitors. The house built by my own great-grandfather, Jonas Jansson in about 1870 in Nicollet County, MN, is similar to these prairie houses and, at last visit, was still standing. This house shared many of the features identified by Gabler in his book, including the later addition to the rear.

This book is a valuable record of a period in American history to which many descendants of these immigrant pioneers can closely relate and identify. I do take exception to the author's choice of title, however: *The Death of the Dream*. This somber title implies that the houses are a symbol of a failure to achieve the dream of those who built them. I prefer to think of these houses as the discarded exoskeletons of families who realized all their dreams in America. Those who built them achieved their goals of freedom, independence, and self-sufficiency to raise their families as they wished, free of old world limitations and traditions. It was a hard life, but they usually had the satisfaction of passing their farm on to a son or daughter, or selling to retire and spend their last years more comfortably in a nearby small town.

These pioneers on the prairies would gain even more satisfaction to know that their children mostly moved to the cities for different, less strenuous occupations and the succeeding third, fourth, and fifth generations were able to achieve their own dreams to become leaders in American society, ranging from industry leaders to movie stars, from astronauts to doctors, architects to scientists, teachers to zoologists, and artists to poets.

Dreams that often began in these little houses on the prairies.

Dennis L. Johnson

For the young ones

Three for Your Brood; a trio of recent children's books sharing the same title, **Swedish Americans**, by three different authors.

For those who would like their children to be more completely informed about their own Swedish heritage, three new books have come to this reviewer's attention. Two are aimed at younger children, the third is well suited to junior high school or high school age students. Written not only for Swedish Americans, these books are also intended to inform others about the Swedish American heritage as part of the American cultural mosaic.

Swedish Americans, by Tiffany Peterson, 32 pages, hardcover, Heinemann Library, Chicago, IL, 2004 (Amazon.com, \$26.79)

A compact but well organized and visually appealing book, this volume is best suited for eight to twelve year olds and would be appropriate for the classroom as well as for general reading or library use. The author has used an individual immigrant, Märta Källström and her experiences coming to America, as a framework for her book about Swedish Americans. Notes from her daughter, Sandi Ekstam and other immigrants, are used on some pages to highlight certain points in the text.

Brief chapters on Sweden, Early Swedes in New Sweden, the Journey to America, and arrival in the U.S. are followed by sections on "America Fever," Land and Lumber, Life in the Cities, Swedish Culture, Celebrations, and Swedish foods. A chapter on Arts and Entertainment highlights several well-known Swedish movie personalities, and a brief final

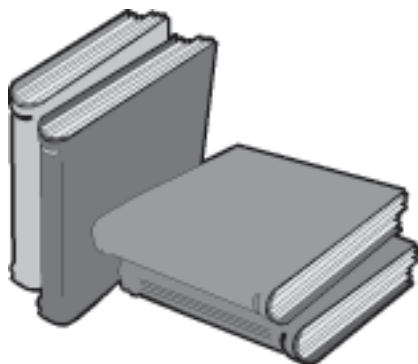
chapter describes Märta's (now Martha Challstrom) Swedish American family. Illustrations are well chosen, colorful, and intended to be appealing to younger children. A glossary explains some of the more difficult words used in the book and are highlighted in bold face type.

Although deliberately limited in scope to suit the age group for which it was intended, Ms. Peterson's book makes an excellent first reader to help your children or grandchildren begin the process of learning about their Swedish heritage.

Swedish Americans, by Lucia Raatma, 32 pages, hardcover, The Child's World, Chanhassen, MN, 2003 (Amazon.com, \$27.07)

Similar in size and scope to the first book, above, this book is also targeted toward the same age group. Chapters are headed The Swedish Life, Coming to America, Making a New Home, and The Swedish American Culture. This book may not be found as interesting to younger children as the first, since the text is a little more formal and lacks the personal references and notes included in the book by Tiffany Peterson. It is a little better, however, in explaining the reasons behind the great migration of Swedes to America and the historical background for this migration.

Small notes of "interesting facts" are sprinkled throughout the book to catch the eye, and many of the illustrations are fine historic etchings or wood cuts, among them the well-known illustration of the founders of New Sweden being greeted by the



Book Reviews

Native Americans, from the foyer ceiling of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia. Regrettably, an illustration on page 13 is identified as being of Castle Garden in New York where immigrants arrived until 1892. The illustration is clearly of the Royal Palace in Stockholm, a serious editing error.

The author includes in several chapters profiles of famous Swedish Americans including the sculptor Carl Milles, entertainer Edgar Bergen (and Charlie McCarthy), author Carl Sandburg, aviator Charles Lindbergh, inventor John Ericsson, executive Walter Hoving, actresses Greta Garbo, Ingrid Bergman, Ann-Margret, and others. Although these people are well-known to our generation, a few Swedish Americans who relate more to young people might have been included as well.

A useful feature at the end is a timeline page with important dates in Swedish and Swedish American history, and a glossary with pronunciation notes for some of the more difficult words used in the text.

Swedish Americans, by Cory Gideon Gunderson, 106 pages, hardcover, Chelsea House Publishers, 2003 (Amazon.com, \$30.00)

This more advanced book for older young people is the sixth in a series about immigrants in America which includes books on Chinese, German, Irish, Italian, and Japanese Americans. An introduction by Daniel Patrick Moynihan serves to put the book into the context of the United States as a nation of immigrants from many

cultures and nations. It is similar in scope to the first two books for younger children, but includes much more detail about each of the subject areas. Targeted to a high school age or older reader, the book is a much more comprehensive, if more difficult, volume which delves further into the many complexities and variations within the immigrant experience.

The author has organized this book into seven chapters: The Swedes in America, The Old Country, America Fever, Tamers of the Frontier, Social Issues in Industrial America, Swedish Identity Across the Atlantic, and Into The Melting Pot: The Swedish American Influence. These are followed by a chronology of events, a bibliography, further reading, a list of websites, and a list of organizations.

Illustrations are not as numerous as in the younger children's books, but serve well to complement the text. Some are the same as in the above books, but many are different. The Colonial Swedes being greeted by Native Americans appears again as do several others, but an actual view of Castle Garden is correctly included on page 45. Unique among the illustrations is an 1850 photo portrait of Jenny Lind, and there are several other early photos from the immigrant experience not previously seen by this reviewer.

The text touches on many aspects of the immigrant experience including Swedes in American politics, Swedish American churches, the Bishop Hill colony, relations with Native Americans, Swedes in the Civil War, other Americans' reactions to Swedes, and the current state of Swedish American culture and the Swedish Language. The book is not totally error-free; it identifies Minnesota as having the highest population of Swedish Americans and does not even list Illinois as among the states with large numbers of

Swedes. Some semantic confusion exists; Illinois has the largest total number of Swedish Americans while Minnesota has a higher percentage of Swedish Americans in its population.

Viewed as whole, however, this book is an excellent introduction to Swedish Americans for those of high school or older age groups, presenting a fairly comprehensive, if brief, picture of the history of their country of origin, the immigrant experience, the influence of Swedish Americans on the nation as a whole, and the state of Swedish American culture and people in the U.S. today.

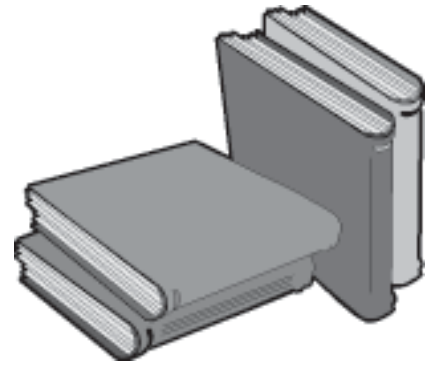
Dennis L. Johnson

On Augustana

The Heritage of Augustana, Essays on the Life and Legacy of the Augustana Lutheran Church, Hartland H. Gifford and Arland J. Hultgren, Eds., softcover, 297 pages, 2004, Kirk House Publishers, Minneapolis. Amazon.com, \$23.50 plus shipping.

If you are a grandchild of the generations of "the swarming of the Swedes" to America in the 19th century, as am I, you are very likely to have had an Augustana Lutheran Church in your background. This Synod was the church of Swedish Lutherans mainly in the Midwest, which in the 102 years of its existence had grown to about 1,200 congregations in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, and many other states. My own family belonged to an Augustana church, where I was confirmed in 1946. The pastor was Rev. Reuben K. Youngdahl of Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis. The exceptional Youngdahl family also had its

Book Reviews



roots in Dalsland, Sweden.

The Augustana Lutheran Church was formed in 1860 at a historic meeting in Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin. Swedish born Lutheran pastors were few in number in America at that early date; among those attending the meeting were Lars Paul Esbjörn, Tufve Nilsson Hasselquist, and Erland Carlsson. Lars Paul Esbjörn had organized the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Andover, IL, in 1850. Two of the founders would become Presidents of the Synod, Hasselquist (1860-1870), and Carlsson (1881-1888). Another is pioneer pastor, Eric Norelius, ordained in the U.S. in 1856, became President of the Synod twice, 1874-1881 and 1899-1911.

The Synod maintained informal ties with the Church of Sweden but was independent of that church. By 1869, there were 17 Augustana pastors serving 36 congregations and about 3,000 communicant members

on the American continent. Swedish immigrants were attracted to other churches as well. Many became Methodists or Baptists. Eric Jansson attracted hundreds to his short-lived community in Illinois, and the Mormon church won a number of Swedish converts. Free churches with roots in Sweden (The Mission Covenant Church, and the Evangelical Free Church) formed their own groups in the U.S. Many others were served by no church at all or did not seek out a church in America. But over a fifth of all immigrant Swedes became Augustana Synod members.

In the 19th century the Synod grew along with the rise in the numbers of Swedish immigrants, and founded a number of colleges in the U.S., including Augustana in Rock Island, IL; Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, MN; Bethany in Lindsay, KS; and Upsala in New Jersey. The Synod founded Augustana College and Seminary under the pro-

fessorship of Lars Paul Esbjörn in Chicago in 1860. Moving to Paxton, IL, and then to Rock Island, IL, by 1875, the College and Seminary continued to thrive and grow. By 1962, when the Augustana Synod merged with the Lutheran Church in America, many hundreds of Lutheran pastors had received their training at the Seminary. In 1962, Augustana Seminary was merged with four other seminaries to form the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Augustana College continues to thrive as a Liberal Arts College in Rock Island, and is home to the Swenson Center, publisher of the *Swedish American Genealogist*.

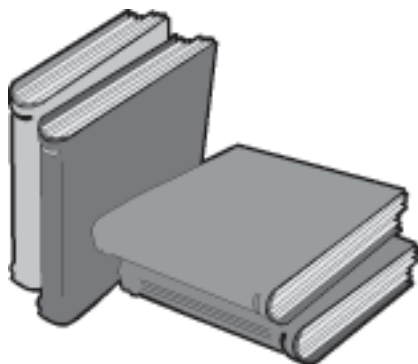
New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)

In *Bryggan 2/06* (also *The Bridge*) published by the Kinship Center of Karlstad, Sweden, there is a long article by Alf Brorson about the *Fryksande Evangelical Lutheran Church* of Evansville, Douglas County, Minnesota. The church was organized in 1877 and the founders were in many cases people from Fryksände, Östmark, and Lekvattnet, all parishes in the province of Värmland. The church was dissolved in 1932.

The *Augustana Heritage Association* (<http://www.augustanaheritage.org/>) is a society whose purpose is to define, promote, and perpetuate the heritage of the Augustana Lutheran Church (1860-1962), merged to form the Lutheran Church in America, and then merged to become the predecessor body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. On the web site you can find a downloadable newsletter in pdf-format. The Spring 2006 issue was very interesting and had a number of book reviews on individuals and families. Also there was the second installment of a long article on the *Reverend Erland Carlsson*, one on the most impressive personalities from the 1800s, written by his relative Carol M. Perkins. Erland Carlsson was born in 1822 in Älgult parish, Småland.

Swedish TV personality *Tina Nordström*, famous for her easy-going cookery programs, has produced a DVD, called *New Scandinavian Cooking with Tina Nordström*, which came out last year. To cite a review "this is the best source of info you will find on Swedish traditions and their way of life. It's so great because it gives you an introduction to the Swedes' lifestyle and it's also entertaining because Tina is always doing something to keep your attention." In English. \$44.49 at amazon.com. [This is probably the summer version, there is also a winter version, which does not show up at Amazon, but the Sweden Bookshop (see p. 30) has both for SEK 188 + postage/each].



Book Reviews

For children?

The Augustana Synod no longer exists, but has been a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) since 1986. Under the leadership of Donovan J. Palmquist, the Augustana Heritage Association was formed in 1998 to preserve the heritage of the Augustana Lutheran Church. This book includes a number of essays about the Augustana Church given at conferences in Rock Island, IL, in June of 2000, and at Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS, in June of 2002. The mission of the Augustana Heritage Association is "to define, promote, and perpetuate the heritage of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church." (Note: the Association may be contacted at www.augustanaheritage.org).

These essays are organized into a series of sections beginning with the roots of the Church in Sweden, and its early connections to the Swedish Church. It continues with the organization of the early churches in Illinois and in Kansas, the formation of the Augustana Synod, and the founding and history of the Seminary. Later sections address the global outreach of the Church, and the role of women in the Augustana Women's Missionary Society. The book concludes with essays on two early Church leaders, Gustav Andreen and Conrad Bergendoff, and two sermons by participants in the heritage conference, Dennis A. Anderson and Reuben A. Swanson. The essays have been contributed by many distinguished former Augustana Parish Pastors, College Professors, and two churchmen from Sweden, who add their perspectives to the history of the Augustana Synod.

Of special value are the essays in the section titled "The Church." These essays focus on the theological roots of the Augustana Synod, its unique character in distinction from the Church in Sweden and from the other Lutheran groups formed in the U.S. Peter T. Beckman describes these distinctions in his essay, "The Heart of Augustana." Herbert E. Anderson addresses "The Theological Foundations of the Augustana Lutheran Church," Robert Anderson describes the Synod's awakening social consciousness, and Mark Granquist writes about "The Augustana Synod and the Evangelical Covenant Church" in America. Taken together, a picture is formed of a Church with its own personality and character, no longer a separate Synod, but clearly having transmitted many of these special elements to the continuing mission of Lutheran theology and practice.

Persons with a history of association with the Swedish Lutheran Church in America will find this collection of essays highly informative and interesting to read. A picture is clearly outlined of the transitions of the Augustana Synod Churches from a Swedish language immigrant church to mixed Swedish and English congregations offering services in both languages, and then to a completely Swedish-American but English-speaking church. The still later outcome was inevitable; a merger with most other Lutheran congregations in America as a part of the ecumenical movements of the 20th century. Many of the unique features of the Swedish Augustana churches continue to exist and this heritage has contributed greatly to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Dennis L. Johnson

Swedish Folktales & Legends, translated by Lone Thygesen Blecher and George Blecher. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis 2004. ISBN 0-8166-4575-2. \$13.26 from Amazon.com

This book is a collection of old Swedish folktales (*folksagor*) and is divided into several sections: *Animal tales; Trolls, Giants etc; True Dummies and Clever Folks; How to Win the Princess; Tales of Heroes and Heroines*; and many more.

Most of the stories are well-known in Sweden, but may be new to American readers. These stories were told before the fire in the fireplace during the long winter evenings, with shadows flickering in the corners, which made stories about trolls and other phantoms quite plausible.

There are the familiar stories about stepmothers, others about the three brothers, where the youngest turns out to be the smart one, and how to outsmart a giant (not known for their intelligence). The stories often come to a moral conclusion, and was a way to teach the youngsters how to behave and what they should look out for in life, at the same time as they gave some relaxation from the daily toils.

One example might be the hare, who in the wintertime says he will build a house in the summer. When summer comes, he does not need a house, he has a home in every bush! The moral here is that you have to think a little longer into the future, or you will regret it in hard times.

This book will give you and your little ones many hours of fun, and maybe also set some thoughts in motion in those little heads. Still in these days of TV and DVDs, kids come running if you start by saying "Once upon a time there was a..."

Elisabeth Thorsell

Interesting Web Sites

(All links have been tried in August 2006 and should work)

About Edshult parish in Småland: http://www.edshult.com/Edshult_home.htm

Around 500,000 burials in Stockholm: <http://www.hittagraven.stockholm.se/>

The official Swedish web site for tourism and travel: <http://www.visitsweden.com/>

Swedish Lutheran Cemetery El Campo, Wharton, Wharton Co, TX:

<http://www.cemeteries-of-tx.com/Etx/Wharton/cemetery/swedisha.htm>

Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society: <http://www.cokato.mn.us/cmhs/fahs.html>

Sture Torikka's page on the Tornio Valley:

http://www.mfhn.com/houghton/finn/s_torikka/WhyDidTheyGo.asp

A Swedish-Latin dictionary from the 1800s: <http://runeberg.org/swelatin/>

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress from 1774- :

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

A short video clip of the 1938 Tercentery: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWuCZdNLF20>

The Swedish Phone Book: <http://www.eniro.se>

The e-shop at the American Swedish Institute:

<http://store.americanswedishinst.org/ccp51/cgi-bin/cp-app.cgi>

Scandinavian Heritage Foundaton: <http://www.scanheritage.org/NewWebPage/aboutus.html>

Sweden Bookshop (Stockholm): http://www.sweden.se/templates/cs/SBFrontPage___11208.aspx

Shelly R. Johnson's web site on the Johnson-Berg families: <http://www.johnson-berg.com/>



SAG reader Don Richards of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, happened to visit the regional archives (Landsarkivet) in Vadstena, Sweden, at the same time in May as the SAG editor.

Here Don enlists the help of Göran Lindström, assistant archivist, to get into the mysteries of the scanned church records.

The Last Page

Dear Friends,

Even though this is the June number, these lines are written later, at the end of the summer. This year Sweden had again a very warm and dry summer. From the end of June until early August the temperatures stayed in the middle or high 80s, something we are not accustomed to. Many people left the cities and moved to their summer homes, perhaps a little red "stuga" or a modern vacation home on an island in the archipelago.

My family and I went to the "stuga" in the Värmland forests, where it was fresher and cooler than in the city. It was the first time that it has been so warm that I wore shorts for many weeks there.

Our place has been in the family

for a couple of generations, and the buildings are getting old. We noticed that the barn had started to sag in one corner, and finally decided to do something about it. Now the heavy tile roof is gone, replaced by a modern metal roof, which should be safe at least for the next 30 years. By then, it will be up to Ossian and the others of his generation to ensure the well-being of the barn.

Another matter came up on the horizon, my trusted laptop suddenly died on me, and has gone to the shop for repairs. That made me realize the importance of **back-ups**, and I hope that those of you who are computer users, remember to do back-ups regularly. If possible, you should also burn a CD with the most important files

at least once a year, and place them in your bank, or with someone who lives in another part of the country.

Because of the lack of water, the birches started to turn yellow already at the end of July; this also affected the blueberries, but we hope the lingonberries have benefitted from the rains in August. These things are tokens of the approaching fall, which for me first means *The Bridge Conference* in Karlstad, and then this year's tour to the U.S. Besides the all-important SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City, I will also visit Worcester, Mass., and Philadelphia, and hope to see many of you!

Greetings from Sweden!

Elisabeth Thorsell

LEARN A NEW
LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND
ART THROUGH AN
ELDERHOSTEL PROGRAM
AT
SJÖLUNDEN,
THE SWEDISH LANGUAGE
VILLAGE

Swedish Elderhostel
October 15-21, 2006
"Sweden and Swedish:
The *Sjölunden* Experience"
Program Number: 6800-101506

Contact:
Concordia Language Villages
8659 Thorsonveien NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

1-800-450-2214
Email: clvevent@cord.edu

Website: www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org



**CONCORDIA
LANGUAGE
VILLAGES**

A program of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, USA

SAG needs more Queries and Questions!

For this issue SAG had no *Genealogical Queries* at all. The Query box is empty, but waiting for the subscribers to send in queries about their lost ones. Perhaps one of the reasons for the emptiness is the message boards on the internet, though I would suspect a printed query to have a much longer life than an internet one. Someday someone may pick up an old SAG and find a query that tells exactly where the ancestors came from, or where they went.

The same goes for the *Question Chest*, where we try to answer questions about other things than genealogy. We want questions like "What was the price of a ticket from Göteborg to New York in 1904?" or "What is a suscepatrix?" or "How long did it take to become a master copper-smith?" or any other thing you are wondering about.

We did have one or two questions, but they were lost in a computer crash in April, so please send them in again.



This is *Ossian Thorsell*, born 23 June 2006 in Spånga, Sweden. In the picture he is one month old. It is a gift to be so relaxed in his mother's arms.

Ossian is a new reminder of why so much time is spent on digging up names, dates, and details of his ancestor's lives – so he and his brother and other siblings, and relatives will know where they came from, which might help them find out where they are going.

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

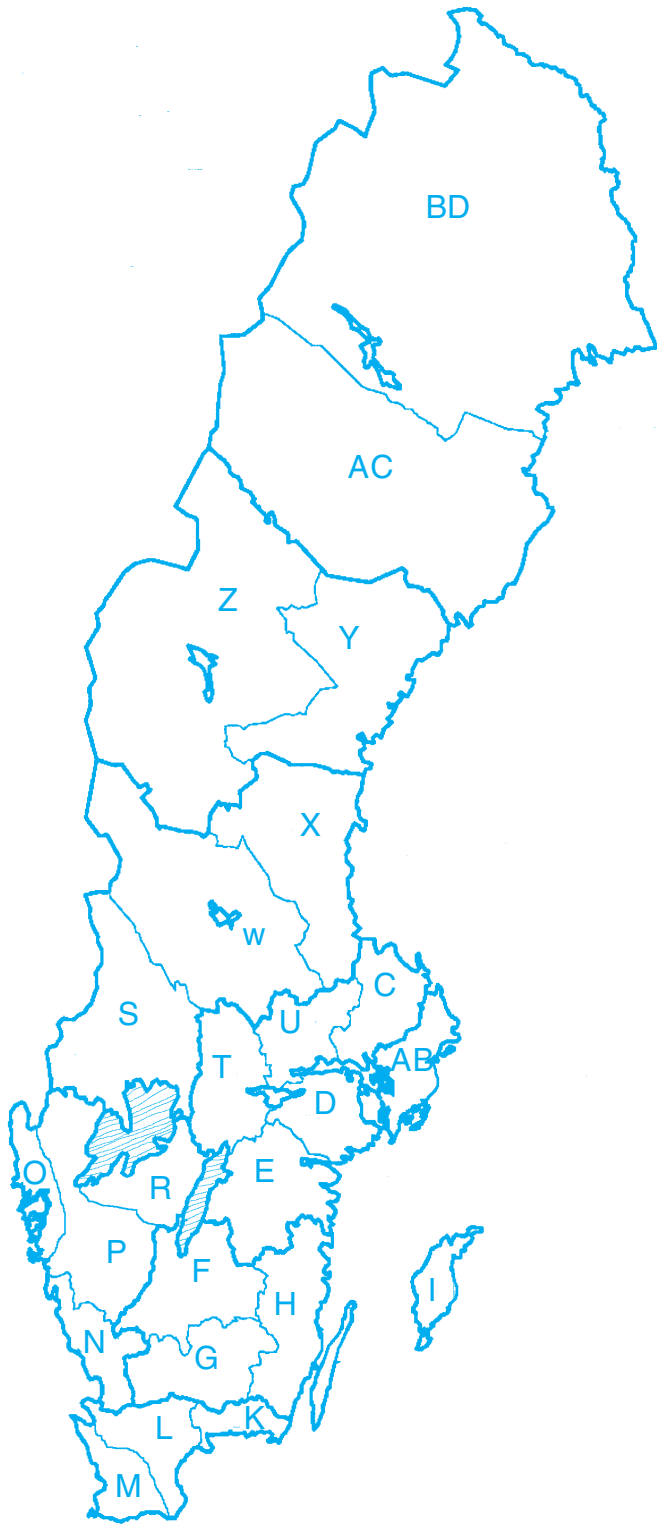
Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

Län (County)	SAG Abbr.	SCB Abbr.	SCB Code	Län (County)	SAG Abbr.	SCB Abbr.	SCB Code
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				

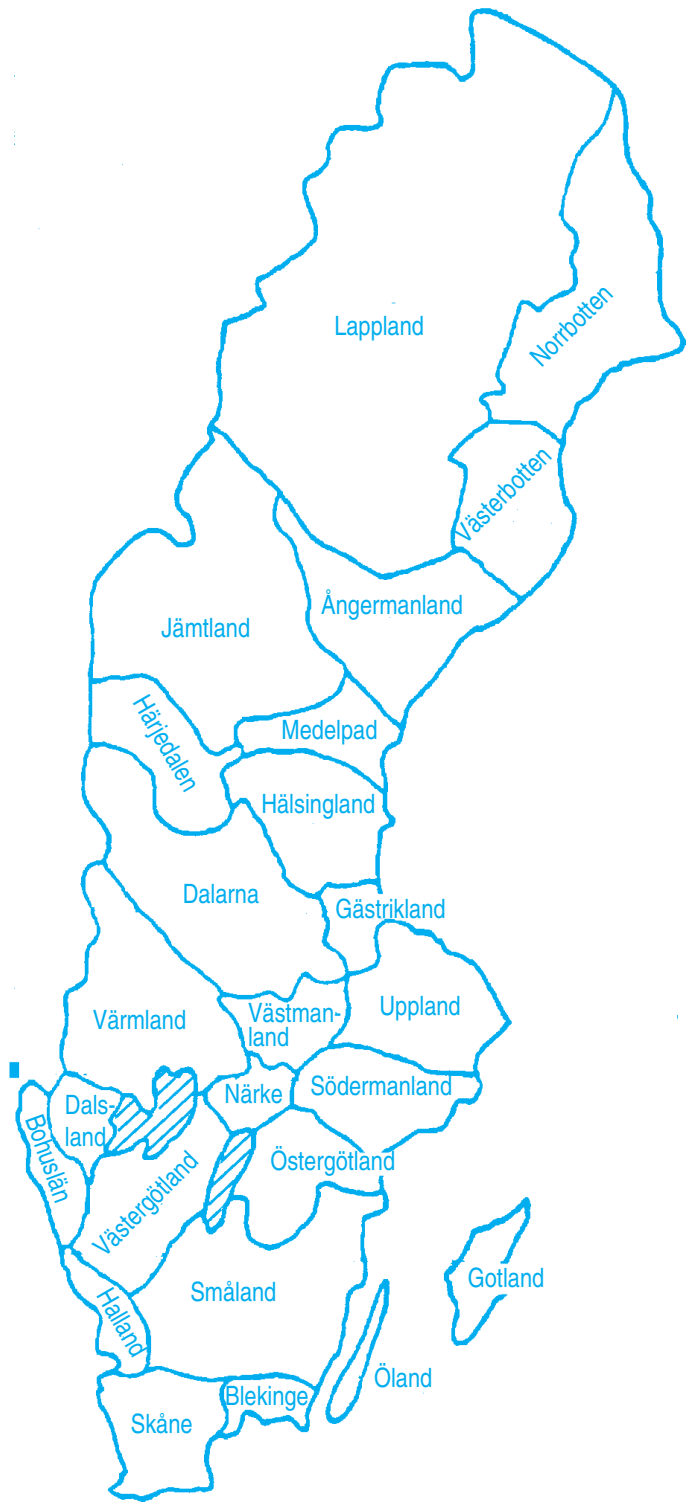
a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

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*).