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## Interesting Web Sites

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# Interesting Web Sites

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

*Transcribed old newspapers from Iowa:* <http://www.iowaoldpress.com/>

*Swedish Name Days:* <http://www.m.nu/namn/>

*Natural catastrophies and other events in the old days:* <http://www.gendisasters.com/>

*Danish church records online:* <http://www.arkivalieronline.dk/English/default.aspx>

*Swedish Museum of National Antiquities:* <http://www.historiska.se/home/>

*Scandinavian Studies at Augustana College:*

<http://www.augustana.edu/academics/scandinavian/departments/index.htm>

*About the Empress of Ireland:* <http://www.norwayheritage.com/>

*Anna-Lena Hultman's Research Center in Västergötland:* <http://www.konkordiahuset.se/>

*Swedish Patent and Registration office:* <http://www.prv.se/english/default.html>

*The Society of Swedish Walloon Descendants:* <http://www.vallon.se/index.htm>

*Swedish Estates and Farms (see SAG 3/06, p. 29):* <http://enobdr.myshopify.com/>

*Free databases at Ancestry:* <http://www.freeancestry.com/>

*Death Certificates in Utah 1905–1954:* <http://historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/index.html>

*Arkiv Digital (digital photos of church records):* <http://www.arkivdigital.se/>

## New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)

After reading some very favorable reviews, I sent for *Finding Oprah's Roots – Finding your own*, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr, published in 2007 by Crown Publishers, New York. The book was found on British Amazon, which prevents trouble with customs as Great Britain is also in the European Union. It was interesting reading and I learnt a bit about the difficulties in doing African American research. The first big obstacle seems to be to get behind the 1870 Census, which is the first where former slaves might be listed, and with surnames too. Before they were listed on slave schedules, with no names, but age, gender and skin color listed. Some of the descriptions of their living conditions and being dependent on the company store reminded me of the conditions of the Swedish *statare* (farm laborers), a hard system that was not abolished until 1946.

Another book, of a lighter nature, was *In Sheep's Clothing*, by Rett MacPherson (2004). I enjoy reading criminal mysteries with a genealogy touch, and I found out by reading a posting by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak on the *24/7 Family History Circle* blog (<http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/>) that this author had a genealogist as her heroine, Torie O'Shea. In this particular book Torie goes with her husband and stepfather from Missouri to a town in southeast Minnesota to visit an aunt. It turns out that the aunt lives in an old house where a Swedish girl was killed in a fire in 1859, but that her diary has been found. Then some gruesome things happen in the present time, but the mystery is solved by the heroine. The story is OK for entertainment, but the Swedish element is lacking, except for a few names, and how plausible is it that a 17-year old girl, newly immigrated, writes her diary in English?

In the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* 4/06 there is an interesting article about The Swedish-American Newspapers in the Sixties and Seventies, by Edward Burton. Here you can read about how hard it was to try to keep Swedish-language newspapers alive, and how most of them finally had to close down. Another important part of the SAHQ is the yearly *Swedish-American Bibliography*, always in the last issue of the year, where you can find books, pamphlets, articles, dissertations, and academic papers having to do with Swedish-American history.