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Bits & Pieces

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Bits & Pieces



President Bush has Swedish ancestors

In early April (but no joke) there were many articles in the Swedish newspapers about how it had become known through a press message from the Swedish Colonial Society that President George W. Bush is descended from a Swede, *Måns Andersson*, a member of the Delaware New Sweden colony. Måns Andersson was one of the earlier colonists and is said to have arrived on the *Kalmar Nyckel* on its second voyage, landing in 1640. Måns travelled with his wife and a small daughter, Brita. His wife died some years later and he remarried. He and his new wife established a farm "Silleryd" in Delaware County, where they lived for a few years. As a member of the opposition against Governor Printz, Måns found it best to leave the area and finally settled in Maryland, where he still lived in 1679.

That he gave the name "Silleryd" to his farm has been taken as an indication that he came from the parish of Sillerud in western Värmland. The local grocer was on national TV and the village was filled with journalists who wanted to know all about Måns – a task that no one has been able to accomplish so far. To find a man named Måns Andersson in the tax records in the 1630s is no easy matter, especially as he might not be from Sillerud. The church records do not start that early, and the tax records most often give just the first name and no patronymic.

Anyway, Måns had a son Christopher Mounts (=Månsson), who in his turn had a daughter Ann, married to Robert Mercer, an 8th grandfather of the President.

On p. 31 there is a link to an article about this by Dr Peter Stebbins Craig.

The Swedish War Archives (*Krigsarkivet*) will be closing

The War Archives (*Krigsarkivet*) in Stockholm will be closed for rebuilding and renovation of the offices and the research room. The archive closes on **14 August** and they hope to be able to open the new premises on **23 October 2006**.

During the time the research room is closed it will be possible to use microfiche copies of muster rolls and much more at the research room at Arninge. It will also be possible to order volumes and search them at the National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) in Marieberg.

(www.ra.se/KRA/index.html)

From Bjurtjärn to Stockholm, WI

The founder of Stockholm, Wisconsin, returns to the American Swedish Institute with some 80 of his relatives and friends at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, **July 5, 2006**. The Bjurtjärn Theatre Group from Värmland, Sweden, brings to life Erik Peterson, who founded Stockholm in 1854. The troupe will perform a concert version of the play *They Sold Their Hometowns*. There is no charge for the concert, but freewill donations will be accepted. Space is limited; reservations are advised. For reservations or information, call (612) 871-4907 or e-mail:

<info@americanswedishinst.org>

House of Genealogy web address

The correct web address for the *House of Genealogy* (Släktforskarnas Hus) in Leksand is www.genhouse-sweden.com/

The Order of the Polar Star

In early April it was announced that *Ronald A. Hendrickson* and *Sandra Springer Pfaff* had been awarded the Order of the Polar Star (*Nordstjärneorden*), along with some other distinguished Americans.

Ronald A. Hendrickson has been Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society, which maintains the memory and genealogy of the Swedish colony New Sweden in Delaware which was founded in 1638.

Sandra Springer Pfaff is chairperson of the Board of Directors of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia.

(www.ColonialSwedes.org)

Famous photographer Lennart Nilsson in Minneapolis

Well-known Swedish photographer Lennart Nilsson will exhibit his extraordinary photos of the beginning of life at the American Swedish Institute during the period of **31 May to 8 October**. The exhibition is called "Lennart Nilsson: Life," an exhibition of the Hasselblad Center, Göteborg, Sweden. It includes images from his early photo essays, portraits of celebrities and statesmen, Sweden's royalty, images of human development from "A Child is Born" and science pictures.

History of the clergy of Lund diocese is complete!

The work on a complete history of all the clergy (*Herdaminne*) of Lund diocese has been going on since 1948, and was recently completed when two volumes on the clergy of Blekinge were published.

(www.genealogi.se)