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Genealogical Queries

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Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a “space available” basis. The editor reserves the right to edit these queries to conform to a general format. The inquirer is responsible for the contents of the query.

We would like to hear about your success if you receive useful information as a result of placing a query in this publication. Please send us your feedback, and we will endeavor to report your new discoveries in this section of the journal.

Ahlström, Ahlstrom

My *Mormor's far*, Johan August Ahlström (b. 6 Feb. 1852, d. 9 Mar. 1932), and his brother, Gustaf Ludvig Ahlström (b. 25 Aug. 1849, d. ?/?/?), had a difficult start in life. Born in the Halmstad area, their father, Olaus Ahlström, abandoned his family sometime between 1852 and 1860. I have made a number of attempts to see if I could find out what happened to my great-great grandfather Olaus without success. He wanted to get lost and apparently did a good job of it.

The mother, Kerstin Persdotter (b. 1 Nov. 1819, d. 18 Jun. 1871) and two sons suffered terribly as a result of Olaus's actions. The family was on some kind of public assistance. The two boys were apparently “farmed out.” Johan August grew up, became a shoemaker, married, and, among others, produced my grandmother, Elin Amanda Ahlström (b. 4 Nov. 1883, d. 25 Oct. 1959). Johan August lived out his life in the Båstad/Halmstad area.

My interest turns to Gustaf Ludvig Ahlström. Swedish records show him immigrating to Galesburg (??) U.S.A. on 19 Apr. 1872, shortly after his mother's death. My internet search reveals two Galesburgs in the U.S.A. – one in Michigan, the other in Illinois. The one in Illinois seems to have quite a Swedish immigrant history. I have done some searching, without success, in both communities, even to the extent of sending some personal letters to people with the Ahlstrom name. It would be interesting to me to find out something about Gustaf's life in America.

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1282

Anbytarforum and about Genealogical Queries

Lately there has been very few queries sent in to SAG, probably because there are so many places on the internet to post them.

The most important Swedish resource *Anbytarforum* was shut down for a long time in the late fall, due to technical problems, but is now open again.

From now on a User's Account (*användarkonto*) is needed to be able to write on the Forum, reading posts is free. The account is free for the first 30 days, but during that period an invoice for SEK 100 (about \$16), payable within 30 days, will be sent to your e-mail address. When the payment has been registered you are a *Rötters Vän* (friend of Roots, the main web site) and your account will be functional for another 12 months.

If you already are one of *Rötters Vänner*, a user account at *Anbytar-*

forum is included as a benefit and all you have to do is to create an account. The account will be valid as long as you remain one of *Rötters Vänner*.

There is information on *Anbytarforum* in English about all this.

The charge of 100 SEK to write on the *Anbytarforum* is under discussion, and might be changed after the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*) in late August.

But to post a query in a magazine like SAG is not a wasted effort! Printed queries have a longer life span than those on the internet – they live forever. Someone may pick up a back issue and find a distant relative. As your research makes progress you may end up in new parishes and find new names, and it may pay to look in the back issues.

The queries also get indexed in the annual indexes up to 2004, or the future 5-year index from 2004 to 2009 that is planned, so it is quite easy to check if a specific surname has been posted.

So do keep those queries coming! If sending them by e-mail, please put “Genealogical query” in the subject line.

It would also be interesting to hear from SAG readers that have had success with their queries. Perhaps someone has had an old ancestral problem solved, or has made contact with living relatives.

As you may have noticed it is also possible to send in photos, preferably scanned in 300 dpi and saved as tif files, or a very good copy. Perhaps someone somewhere has the same photo in his/her album. It has happened!