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Cover picture:
The Battle of Bornhöft, in Schleswig-Holstein in 1813. Picture by Carl Johan Ljunggren, a Swedish officer.
See article on page 10.
Interview with the widow
– a journalist explores the world of boupptekningar. Part 1.

BY NORM SANDIN

It is October 21, 1795, here in Hällefors parish, Västmanland, and we are privileged to have with us Christina Pehrsdotter. Christina lost her husband, the late Sven Larsson, four weeks ago and we are on the estate today with some of her family who have assembled a team to perform the estate inventory and evaluation. Christina has agreed to let us interview her during the process in an unusual way. As I question her, I’ve asked her to pretend that she is answering someone who will be reading the interview in a different language and two centuries or more hence. The reader will know little of the dialect of this time and place, little of the objects and equipment that are in the estate, and little of the customs and practices that prevail.

Me: Why are we here today?
Christina Pehrsdotter: We are here to perform the boupptekning for my late husband Sven Larsson.

Me: Now remember who we are addressing – what is the boupptekning?
CP: Everyone knows that – it is the inventory and evaluation of all items in the estate and the determination of the distribution of everything to the heirs. This is required by the court after a death.

Me: Good – now who are all these people?
CP: Petter and Sven are my husband’s sons, Nils Nilsson Zander and Göran Andersson are his sons-in-law, and the other Nils Nilsson has been named guardian to the minor children.

Me: I understand Petter and Sven are both millers just as your husband was. Are the sons-in-law also millers?
CP: No, Nils is Maria’s husband - a tailor who lives in Kullberget, Södra Torp rote. Göran is Anna’s husband - a tenant farmer in Damshögden. Both of those places are here in Hällefors parish.

Me: There seem to be two other men here. Who are they?
CP: Swen Siggesson and Mats Persson are the “good men” who will conduct the inventory and assign the valuations. They have done estate inventories many times before.

Me: Besides Petter and Sven, I believe you have had several other children. How many, who are they, and how are they represented?
CP: My husband was married earlier to Brita Hindersdotter. They had eight children but only Maria, Lars, and Sven survive. Maria is represented by her husband Nils Nilsson Zander. Lars is a bit slow in the head and is represented by his brother and guardian Sven. Sven the elder and I had ten children, of which six survive. Petter is here today and Anna is represented by her husband Göran Andersson. Brita, Christina, Nils, and Catharina are minors and they are represented by their appointed guardian Nils Nilsson from Hällefors.

Me: So you had ten children – how long were you and Sven married?
CP: Let’s see, we married in 1768 and it is now 1795, so it was 27 years. Sven was 18 years older than me.

Me: So Sven was pretty old when the minor children were born?
CP: Yes, my goodness, he was almost 65 when Catharina was born! I’ve always said, as long as butter will melt in their mouths, men will continue to try for more children!

A Swedish pewter goblet from ca 1800.
Me: Do you recall how you lost the four children who died?
CP: Of course! Stina died of whooping cough when she was about 17 months old. I don’t think anyone knows for sure what causes infants to die, but the first Nils had severe stomach pains and the second Nils and Johan both had diarrhea.

Me: And how did Sven die?
CP: I think it was pneumonia.

The list of estate items
Me: We are looking at the list of estate items. The items are grouped by various attributes. The first of the groups we will look at are Silver, Pewter, Copper, Brass, Bronze, Porcelain, Glass, Iron, and Pewter.

I see that you have several rather expensive pieces of silver Christina – how did that happen?
CP: As you said, Sven was a miller. Usually, he was paid by keeping a portion of the grain submitted by the customer, which we used for the family and sold any excess. In the last few years, the weather has been quite good and Sven accumulated quite a bit of cash. He didn’t like to keep loose money around so he bought silver items. Silver retains its value well and it is easy to sell if cash is needed. Besides, silver is beautiful and makes a nice display!

Although it is generally frowned upon, some of the items in the estate were acquired by what I think you would call barter. Some customers had skills but were very poor, so Sven did their milling for goods instead of grain.

Me: The copper still with all its parts is a very expensive item. Was Sven a heavy drinker?
CP: Sven was a steady drinker, but probably no more so than his many friends. He was a hard worker and the drink never got in the way of his work. I admit that I have also had an occasional nip – after all, I was usually the one who ran the still!

Since it was the nature of the milling business to have grain around, one of the ways to use the excess was to make alcohol. Sale of this product also contributed to Sven’s income.

Me: The cast iron stove (Bergslagskamin) is another expensive item, right?
CP: Yes, but it was worth every bit of it – we all had many happy winter evenings huddled around the warm stove, enjoying the heat and the light of the flickering fire, telling stories, reading from the Bible, and feeling like a family! I will truly miss those nights!

Me: I’m sorry for your loss Christina. Would you like to take a break from the questioning?

CP: No, I’m all right.

Me: Judging by the large number of plates, bowls, goblets, kettles, pots, casseroles, candlesticks, and bottles of various materials, I’d guess you must entertain a lot. Is that the case?
CP: Well, if you call the serving of meals entertaining, the answer is yes! We always had tables full of people for meals – even when it was just family. Remember all the children, the families of the married ones, not to mention the maids and hands! Lots and lots of food has gone through my kitchen!

Me: I see broken iron casseroles and broken stoneware plates on the list. Why have you been keeping these?

CP: The iron was saved for the blacksmith. He can make it into other things. The stoneware plates can probably be repaired, but we never found anyone to do it. Even if things are damaged, we use them as long as we can. You know, we have to pay tax on the total value of the estate, so it is important to identify all the deficiencies so the valuation stays low.

Me: It seems that Sven didn’t have many hand tools – I guess he wasn’t very handy?

CP: Sven could do many things, but besides his milling work and tending the horses, he really preferred spending time with the children and fishing! We always had a small garden, but the children and I did most of the work. He would help with planting and the harvest of potatoes and rutabaga because that was heavy work but other vegetables were up to me. The cows, of course, including milking, feeding, cleaning up, and the cheese and butter were “women’s work” (which included boys until they were about 15). He wouldn’t be caught dead dealing with a cow! Sven had all the tools necessary to conduct his business.

Me: Yes, I see many grain bins, scoops, grain sieves, measuring devices, shovels, and carts that were probably a part of his business. I also see a few drills, saws, chisels, and axes, probably for maintenance of equipment and buildings.

Next in the list come Vehicles and Farm Equipment. I see quite a few carts and sleighs as well as riding saddles, but no horses – how is that?

CP: We haven’t had horses for some time. The saddles and other horse tack are very old. The carts and sleighs were pulled by the ox that Sven the younger took prior to the inventory.

Me: This section is a list of all of Sven’s clothing. There are several items of clothing made of “wal-marns.” Could you tell me what this material is?

CP: Huh, I may not be able to write as well as these guys, but I think I can spell better! The word is actually “vadmal,” a rough woolen cloth, sometimes called home-spun. I wove the cloth for some of these things and Anna became pretty adept and made other items.

Me: Linenware is next. You have some very elegant dräll table linens with an interesting block pattern. Did you get these for a special occasion?

CP: Yes, they were purchased for the marriage of Maria, Sven’s eldest daughter. Sven always felt bad for Maria because she was without a mother for more than a year and a half between Brita’s death and our marriage. Not only was she motherless, but she had three younger brothers and the baby Jonas to help out with. Brita died while giving birth to Jonas and then Jonas died when he was only 19 weeks old. I guess after all that, Sven tended to spoil Maria.

Me: There is a separate section for Fishing Equipment – Sven had 22 fish nets and four boats. Looks like he was serious about fishing.

CP: It was more than a hobby with him. Whenever he could get away from milling activities, Sven made pretty good money fishing. He would usually take one or more of the older boys or a son-in-law with him. He had one flat-bot-
During my recent stay in Minnesota, I found many interesting things.

One of those was a volume of *Korsbaneret* (The Banner of the Cross), which until now I had not seen. This small bound book is a yearly calendar for the Augustana Synod, and was published by the Augustana Book Concern from 1880 to 1950, in Swedish. Its first editors were: Olof Olszon and C. A. Swensson, E. Norelius, O. Siljestrom, J. G. Dahlberg, O. H. Ardahl. Swenson Center seems to have the full collection from 1880 to 1950.

The volume I have been studying is for 1915, and starts with several prayers and sermons. The next section is called From the church’s field of work, and here are reports on the Synod’s Immigrant’ and Sailors’ Home in Boston, and on the retirement home in Chicago, with pictures. Also there are reports from the mission fields in the U.S.


These obituaries, in most cases, have enough information to trace the deceased person back to Swedish sources. Some of them were among the early immigrants, and there can be some very personal views on the deceased that can be hard to find now. There are photos of most of them.

Next comes a few stories, among which perhaps the Paxton-minne (memories from Paxton), by M.J. Englund, is the one with great interest, as it tells about the early days of Augustana College.

The book ends with photos of all the new pastors that were ordained in 1914, and of churches and pastors’ houses around the country.

As can be seen this series of books has a lot of information that can be useful for family historians, but there does not seem to be an index online, and it was not possible to find a comprehensive article about the series either.
Four new pastors, ordained in Sycamore, Ill. in 1914

Who were they?

With the help of Conrad Bergendoff’s *The Augustana Ministerium. A Study of the Careers of 2,504 Pastors of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Synod/Church 1950–1962*, we can find out more about these solemn men.

1) **Andrew Gustaf Anderson** born 1884 Mar. 4 in Antrim, PA, died 1973 Apr. 22 in Gresham, OR. He went to Washington State University and got a B.A. in 1909, graduated in 1914 from Augustana Seminary with a B.D. in 1914. After his ordination he served in Strandburg, SD, 1914–18, and Marshfield, OR, 1918–20. Next he went to Mount Vernon in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, for a short time, returned to the U.S. in 1920, and served in La Conner, WA, 1920–29, Gresham, OR, 1929–39, then he had secular work until 1946, when he served at Idaho Falls, ID, until 1953. He was married 1914 Oct. 7 to Hildegard Miller, and they had 3 children.

2) **Johan Leonard Benson** was born 1884 Jan. 4 in Breared, Halland, Sweden (not found in *Emilias*), immigrated in 1900, died 1973 Mar. 4 in St. Paul, MN. He first graduated from Upsala College with a B.A. in 1909, then continued his studies at the University of Chicago and graduated there in 1913 with an M.A., and then spent the next year at Augustana Seminary. He served at Hsüchow, Honan, Taiwan, China, from 1914–56, and was the president of Augustana China Mission. He got a D.D. from Upsala College in 1942. He was married in 1914 July 29 to Lillie Starbranch, who died in 1959.

3) **Nels Benson** was born 1885 May 15 in Hastings, MN, son of John Peter Benson and Brita Lena Nelson. He died 1979 Apr. 3 in Hector, MN. He went first to Gustavus Adolphus college and graduated from there in 1910 with a B.A. He studied in 1914 at Augustana Seminary and received a B.D. Then he served at Honan, China, 1913–31, and again 1946–49. 1932–34 he served at Winter, Ojibway, and Draper, WI, and at Hinckley and Dell Grove in MN 1935–46, and at Strandburg, SD, 1952–54. He was also Secretary of the Lutheran Church in China.

Married 1st in 1914 to Wilhelmina Nelson, R.N., who died in 1946, and had three children with her. Married 2nd in 1951 to Alice Holm, who died in 1976.

4) **Kenneth Anton Bescher** born 1878 Mar. 25 in Ålesund, Norway, and came in 1900 to the U.S. He studied at the Augustana Seminary 1912–14. Then served at Kearney, NE, 1914–16, and at Fort Dodge, IA, 1916–17, and dropped from the roll in 1922. In 1920 he was a “Minister of the Gospel” in Minneapolis. In 1930 he was a travelling salesman.

He was married to Ellen C., born around 1888 in Sweden. He died in Minneapolis in 1940 May 6, as Bescher.
The 1880 Swedish Census now covers most of the län. Missing is only Blekinge.


New scans of the original Mormon microfilms for more than half the län in Sweden. Try Ervalla parish in Örebro län for free!

Two of the released prisoners in the SVAR prison records.

We have many new, exciting resources for researchers. Here we mention just a few – there is much more on our web site!

www.svar.ra.se

Contact us at kundtjanst@svar.ra.se
SVAR, Box 160, S-880 40 Ramsele, Sweden.
Phone + 46-10-476 77 50. Fax + 46-10-476 77 20.
News from the Swenson Center

The Swenson Center now has a page on www.facebook.com.

Facebook is a social networking website for individuals and groups. Jill Seaholm thought it would be a fast and modern way to spread the word about the Swenson Center. She learned about it through a course about how libraries can use the Internet, and now its popularity has spread like wildfire. Through her own personal page she had also seen what a tremendous outlet it can be for spreading Swenson Center news about Swenson Center events and other items of interest.

The way it works is that an individual becomes a "Fan" of an organization. Individuals receive messages on their own pages from individuals they befriend and organizations of which they are fans. If you are a fan of the Swenson Center, whenever we post news, photos, or information from the Swenson Center, it will appear on your page immediately. Your friends will also automatically see what organizations and friends you have attached yourself to as you do it, and they can in turn become friends or fans. That is how fan numbers increase rapidly.

If you have a Facebook page, please look for the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center and "become a fan" and ask all of your Swedish American friends to do the same!

The 2009 O. Fritiof Ander lecture

This year's O. Fritiof Ander Lecture in Immigration History was presented by Professor Emerita Anne-Charlotte Harvey of San Diego State University on the campus of Augustana College in October 2009. Harvey has enjoyed a distinguished career and been active in the field of Swedish-American popular culture since the 1960s. She has also received numerous awards, including the recent recognition as the 2009 Swedish-American of the Year.

In her talk entitled Yon Yonson — The Original Dumb Swede But Not So Dumb: Swedish-American Comic Stereotypes in American Popular Culture, Harvey illustrated how the character of Yon Yonson was created by a German-American playwright in 1889. Her research suggests that the portrayal of the Swede as a thoroughly honest but sometimes slow character laid the foundation for the American characterization of the Swedish stereotype. Harvey also noted that despite the negative description of being slow, Yon was portrayed as a positive character which also represented promise.

Members of the audience nodded along as Harvey spoke and afterwards one man testified that this stereotype certainly fit his own grandparents even though, as Harvey claims, it was created by a German-American to attract an audience for the 1890s theatre in America. The lecture provided for a most stimulating evening and the Swenson Center staff was pleased to have attracted both Anne-Charlotte Harvey as this year’s presenter and with the positive feed-back generated by the audience.

Christina Johansson

Swedish American Genealogist 2009:3
The world of Swedish-American genealogy lost one of its leading researchers when Peter Stebbins Craig, 81, slipped away peacefully at his Washington, D.C., home on Thanksgiving Day.

Peter as a child listened to his great-grandmother Martha Yocum talk about how their family’s roots went back to Nya Sverige, the Swedish colony established in the Delaware River Valley in 1638. (The colony was overtaken by the Dutch in 1655, but almost all the colonists stayed, and that is what makes the colony’s history so interesting.)

Peter tucked the stories away, never forgot them. He went on to Oberlin College and to Yale Law School, earning a J.D. degree, and then moved to Washington D.C., where he worked for many years in such positions as legal counsel for the federal Department of Transportation and for the Southern Railway.

After discovering that doing genealogy only as a sideline when you are employed full-time really doesn’t work well, Peter retired in 1987 at age 59 and immersed himself in researching the Swedish roots his great-grandmother had talked about, bringing to the task his strong sense of right vs. wrong – fact vs. supposition, his remarkable ability to retain detail, and a legal background which gave him an advantage in reading and interpreting birth/marriage/death, probate, land, and court records. The quest led him to study first-hand the sources available in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and in Sweden. Not surprisingly – at least not to any genealogist, he found himself researching all the colonial Swedes and Finns he kept stumbling across. To keep things reasonably manageable, Peter established a cut-off date, limiting his research to the 1638-late 1700’s period.

Before long, Peter was in touch

Peter Stebbins Craig (1928–2009).
with other scholars in the U.S. and Sweden who had been researching *Nya Sverige*, and with various organizations and individuals concerned with colonial history, including especially the Swedish Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, of which he became a permanent council member and official society historian and genealogist until his death.

Among those who came to know Peter are all the many individuals who enlisted his help in establishing their own family connections to the Swedish colony.

Among Peter’s colleagues and friends was Nils William Olsson, the founder of SAG, who published a series of Peter’s articles detailing the genealogies of numerous *Nya Sverige* settlers. For many years Nils William included Peter as a member of the staff of the annual SAG workshop in Salt Lake City.

Peter’s work appeared in other publications as well, and he frequently lectured. Among his noteworthy contributions are his many major articles in the Swedish Colonial Society of Pennsylvania’s quarterly, *The Swedish Colonial News*, each article focusing on just one of the early Swedish or Finnish families and their descendants. His two books, *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware* (1993, published by SAG) and *1671 Census of the Delaware* (1999, published by the Genealogical Society of Pa.) are definitive works that should be on the bookshelf of anyone interested in the Swedish colony.

Not to be forgotten is the Gloria Dei Records Project. For more than a decade Peter has led the team in the U.S. and Sweden which has been translating and compiling the locatable records of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church in Philadelphia, starting with the early 1640’s. Five volumes have been published; there are three more to come. The team cannot imagine what it will be like to continue without him.

Peter was a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists (F.A.S.G.) and a Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. In 2002 King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden designated Peter as a Knight First Class of the Royal Order of the Polar Star (*Nordstjärneorden*) in recognition of his contributions.

Just this past October Peter was honored by the Swedish Colonial Society with its first (and possibly its last) Lifetime Achievement Award during the Centennial celebration of the founding of the Society.

In the words of a Society member, “Many who went before, like Amandus Johnson, did outstanding research on the Swedish colony, but it is Peter who has made it come alive by compiling all sorts of information we can trust is correct. Now we know who the settlers were, about the lives of their children and grandchildren, which creek they lived by, how much land they had, who their neighbors were, what legal disputes they got into, whether they could read and write, how much they gave to the church repair fund, even the occasional scandal, things like that.”

Peter leaves his wife Sally, his four children Steve, Cary, Jenny, and Katie, four grandchildren with another on the way, and, among others, his older brother John and family. We send them our heartfelt condolences.

The writer is Ellen Rye of Silver Spring, Maryland.

E-mail: <ellenrye@msn.com>

The Swedish Colonial Society establishes a Memorial Fund

The Honorary Governor, Rev. Kim-Eric Williams writes:

“A Publications and Research Fund, in Peter’s name, will be established by the Society and contributions in his memory may be made out to the “Swedish Colonial Society” and marked “Craig Fund.”

Donations in honor of Peter should be sent to the Swedish Colonial Society, Gloria Dei Church, Christian St. and Christopher Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19147, U.S.A.

“May he and all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

Digitized old Swedish newspapers

Recently the Swedish National Library (*Kungliga Biblioteket*) finally gave the public access to parts of their huge collection of old newspapers.

They have been working on this for a long time, starting with the world’s oldest newspaper *Ordinari Post Tijdender*, that started publishing in the 1640s, and still comes out every week as *Post och Inrikes Tidningar*, the official gazette of Sweden.

This effort, which also read the newspapers by computer (an OCR program), did not have any marked success, and was also difficult to search. The new effort seems to be using the same programs as the successful Finnish National Library has used, and is easy to navigate.

As this is just a beta-version, the number of newspapers is limited, but still very useful. You need to be able to read Swedish to get the benefit of it. The newspapers from the 1700s and early 1800s are printed in *fraktur* type face, which might not be so easy to read.

There are 28 available newspapers online now. The search is not yet perfect, but it is still useful, as you can search on a place name or a family name. I recently found an old wedding announcement from 1823 for a relative in a rural parish, where I would never have looked otherwise.

It is estimated that in due time more than 110 million pages will be digitized and made public. And then we are just waiting for the Swedish-American newspapers...

Link on page 30!
The search for Swedish ancestry leads to the carnage of a Napoleonic War battlefield

Paul D. Sward

The Dragon Pehr Pehrsson Svärd was born, as Pehr Pehrsson, in Köpinge #37, Köpinge parish, Kristianstad län on October 15, 1860, to Husman Pär Pärsson and Bengta Tufvesson.

On November 12, 1880, Pehr Pehrsson was enrolled as Pehr Pehrsson Svärd (Svärd being a soldier’s name meaning sword) into the Livkompaniet (Life Company) of the Skånska Dragonregementet (Scanian Dragoon Regiment) under Rusthåll – Köpinge #37. He served until his discharge on December 9, 1886.

Köpinge parish records indicate that he emigrated on March 4, 1887. The Emigranten Populär reveals that he departed Malmö on March 17, 1887, destined for New York, New York.

After arrival in the United States, Pehr settled in Kewanee, Illinois, and went by the name of Peter Sward. He married Karna Nilsdotter, also from Köpinge parish, on March 14, 1888. Peter’s father, stepmother, and his only two siblings also immigrated during the same time period. Peter eventually became a foreman for the Kewanee Boiler Company which was one of the largest producers of commercial boilers in the U.S. at that time.

Family legend has it that when Peter was serving in the Life Company of the Scanian Dragoons, he became part of a squadron that demonstrated “trick horseback riding” and had performed before the King of Sweden. Whether this is accurate is unknown; numerous family members did attest to his acrobatic talent and exceptional personal strength.

A Military Tradition

Dragon Pehr Pehrsson Svärd was my paternal great-grandfather and was the starting point for my genealogical research on this family line. Robert Nelson, an acknowledged expert on the Swedish-American genealogy of the Bishop Hill Colony, was my mentor and provided guidance on researching Swedish parish records. As an interesting side note, it was found that Peter Sward’s son married a descendant of an original Bishop Hill colonist, but that is another story.

Armed with Peter Sward’s basic information it was relatively easy to trace his path through the Köpinge parish records and gain additional information about his father, Pär Pärsson. Pär Pärsson had been born in nearby Everöd parish. Quickly I discovered that Pär Pärsson’s father had also been in the military, but was an infantry soldier rather than a dragoon. He was Pär Pärsson Pyk (Pik), under Rotehåll – Everöd #23.

An examination of his military records revealed that he was enrolled in 1812 in the Gärds Company of the Norra Skånska Infanterirregement (North Scanian Infantry Regiment). He served in this unit until he was granted a disability pension due to deafness on June 16, 1828.

In the Napoleonic War

The record indicated that he had taken part in the Napoleonic War 1813 – 1814 and in the war with Norway in 1814. It also indicated that he had a distinguished service record. This in itself captured my imagination, but the household examination records for Everöd parish also revealed that his father Pehr Pehrsson Hurtig was in the military and that his death occurred in 1813. Could his death be related to the Napoleonic War?

Who was Per Hurtig?

I subsequently obtained Pehr Hurtig’s military record which revealed that he was enrolled in the Livkompaniet of the Skånska Karabinjärregemente (Scanian Carabineer Regiment) on July 12, 1792, under Rusthåll – Everöd #31. This regiment was eventually renamed the Scanian Dragoon Regiment which was the same regiment that Peter Sward had served. To my astonishment, the record indicated that Pehr Hurtig had served in the

Pehr Pehrsson Svärd.
Napoleonic War and died of a gunshot wound at Bornhöft, Tyskland (Germany), on December 7, 1813.

Father and son in the Napoleonic War
Like most Americans, my knowledge of the Napoleonic Wars was limited. I was aware of Sweden’s struggle with the Russians over Finland. I was also aware that subsequently Sweden joined the alliance opposing Napoleon and that Crown Prince Carl Johan led one of the armies against Napoleon’s forces. However, that was the limit of my knowledge and I had never heard of Bornhöft, Tyskland.

It became clear that I needed to educate myself concerning Sweden’s involvement in the Napoleonic Wars. I was soon to discover that is not an easy task. Very little of the history of the Napoleonic Wars that is written in English deals with Sweden’s involvement. Combined with the fact that my comprehension of Swedish is minimal, it became a struggle to gain this education. Nevertheless by deciphering the Swedish sources and reviewing the limited English sources, I was able to gain the understanding I needed to piece together this genealogical inquiry.

Swedish troops to Germany
In May of 1813, Crown Prince Carl Johan arrived in Germany with Swedish troops and soon took command of the allied Army of the North.

Swedish troops saw minimal combat until the Army of the North joined other allied armies in confronting Napoleon at Leipzig in October which resulted in the “Battle of the Nations” and a defeat for Napoleon. Swedish troops played a limited role in this battle. Historical records identify both the North Scanian Infantry Regiment and the Scanian Carabineer Regiment at Leipzig.

Battle of Bornhöft
In December the Army of the North was pursuing the retreating Danish army, the Danes being allies of Napoleon. On December 7, General Skjöldebrand, commanding the Swedish cavalry vanguard, attacked two brigades of Danish troops and their Polish lancer escort at the village of Bornhöft (also known as Bornhöved) located in Schleswig-Holstein in modern day Germany. Although outnumbered five to one, Skjöldebrand launched a massive cavalry charge which routed the Danes and Poles. However, they regrouped and subsequently repulsed the Swedish troops. In a subsequent charge by a squadron of Scanian Carabineers on the Danish flank, the carabineers suffered significant casualties. This was a bloody affair in which neither side gained a clear victory. The battle resulted in both sides retiring from the field. By Napoleonic War standards this was a relatively small battle. There is some confusion as to what the actual losses were for the forces involved. The highest estimates place the Danish and Polish losses at 66 dead and 75 captured, and Swedish losses at 80 dead with an untold number of wounded from both sides.

Perhaps Pehr Hurtig died in the initial charge, or in the subsequent flank charge by the Scanian Carabineers. Regardless, he died at some point during this battle. However, his son, Pär Pik, survived the Napoleonic War and the subsequent war with Norway.

A father and son served their country on the battlefields of Europe. The father died in the carnage of a cavalry charge, but the son survived the horrors of war, for which I am thankful. Otherwise, I would not have been here to write this article.

Editor’s Notes:
1) The French marshal Jean Baptiste Jules Bernadotte was elected Crown Prince of Sweden in 1810. His name was then changed to Carl Johan, and in 1818 he became King of Sweden under the name Carl XIV Johan. In private, the family kept the surname Bernadotte, which since has been used by members of the family that have lost their royal status by marrying commoners.
2) The reason for the Crown Prince to save his troops is sometimes explained by that he was already then thinking of war with Denmark, which ended in 1814 with the Danes ceding Norway to Sweden.

The author is Paul D. Sward
E-mail: <wikblom@yahoo.com>

The Storming of Leipzig 1813, by Carl Johan Ljunggren.
Find your Swedish roots!

Genline’s Swedish Church Records archive contains over 35 million pages from the Swedish Church Books from the 1600’s to 1920. Record types include births, marriages, deaths, household examinations records (similar to yearly census records), registers of movement in and out of parishes and church accounts. All birth, marriage and death records for all of Sweden up to 1920 have been added to the archive.

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Those mysterious words – what do they mean? Part 3

Illnesses

BY ELISABETH THORSSELL

The ancestors died from various causes, but as there were very few doctors or surgeons in the old days, the causes of death can be anybody’s guess.

The clergymen had to write down what they thought in the death records, as they every year had to report back to the Central Bureau of Statistics, beginning in 1749 when this was founded. Some clergymen were interested enough to take a little course of a few weeks of medicine, others got by with the help of a medical dictionary.

This means that the causes of death are probably correct when somebody died from an accident, drowned in the lake, or was hit by falling rocks in the mine, or hanged himself. For internal illnesses the diagnosis is probably also true when there were epidemics of, for instance, smallpox or the measles.

With the help of a recent book, Gamla sjukdomsnamn i gångna tider (Names of illnesses in past times), by the pharmacist Gunnar Lagerkrans (latest printing in 2003), we will look at some of the illnesses you may see in the death records.

Håll och styng
This is usually translated as pneumonia, but literally means that the sick person feels a stitch in his chest, a sharp pain when breathing or moving.

Frossa
This is usually translated as the ague, shivering and feeling first hot, and then really cold. This can be the symptoms of malaria, which was quite common in Sweden about 200 years ago. It was especially common along the coasts and around the big lakes, Mälaren, Hjälmaren, and Vänern, but not around Vättern, as the water is much colder in that lake.

Okänd barnasjuka
This is one of the most common causes of death for small children, and can be translated as “unknown children’s disease” or “I do not know.”

Rödsot
This is one of the names for dysentery, as a visible sign of the illness was a bloody diarrhea. It comes from bad hygienic conditions, where many people lived together closely and did not have enough access to clean water and clean latrines. It is also very contagious. There was an epidemic in Sweden in 1772–74, when hundreds of people died, mostly children and old people. This can also be called “durchlopp,” a German word that means diarrhea.

Lungsot, tvin sosot, tbc
This is the same as tuberculosis, or consumption, which was a big killer in the 1800s and the early 1900s, until it was realized how to treat it. The name tvisot means “wasting illness” as the sick person lost a lot of weight. Young people in their teens or early twenties were especially vulnerable to this.

Svullnad, vattusot
This is translated as dropsy, and was probably a heart condition, when the sick person had too much water in the body.

Ålderdomssvaghet
This is translated as old age frailty, which probably means old people being easily tired, not able to work, and losing interest in life.

Smittkoppor, koppor
This is smallpox, which was a big killer during the 1700s, until inoculation became mandatory in 1816. This is called “vaccination” in Swedish. There is a special column in the clerical surveys which shows if people had been inoculated (v) or had had natural smallpox (n).

Mässling
This is translated as the measles, an acute, contagious viral disease, one certain sign is red spots on the skin, fever, and coughing. This was also an epidemic, and killed mostly small children, often all the children in a family.
The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region

A result of an essay contest in 1948

BY MARIANNE B. LENNER

Editor's introduction:
In 1948 the Swedish American Line had an essay contest for youngsters and received many entries from high school seniors, as was then the present author, and others. Many of them were printed in Stories of Swedish pioneers in North America: a selection of essays submitted in a contest in 1948: sponsored by The Swedish American Line to commemorate The Swedish Pioneer Centennial. Editor: Lundbeck, G. Hilmer. 10 volumes. Available at the Library of Congress and Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö.

One of the entries concentrated on a family from Nordmark parish in the mining area of Värmland.

The story of Johannes Olsson and his family:
This is the true story of the family of Johannes and Katherine Olson, born in Nordmark in the province of Värmland, Sweden. Johannes and Katherine gave birth to eight children, all of whom were born in Sweden. Beginning with the oldest, they were the following according to the year of birth: John, (1859); Gustaf, (1861); Karl, (1867); Anna, (1870); Andrew (1872); Hulda, (1874); William, (1877); and Oscar, (1881).

This story is centered around Andrew, the fifth member of the family, who now in 1948, is a retired resident of the city of Wakefield, Michigan, in the county of Gogebic. He has been a friend of our family for many years and has been associated with my father in a number of community projects in the interests of public welfare. For this reason, as a result of admiration for Andrew Olson and the Olson family as a whole, it was natural that the name of Andrew should be singled out in demonstrating the influence of the family of Johannes and Katherine Olson on the regions known as the Marquette Iron Range and the Gogebic Iron Range, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

This presentation was made possible because of my father's several interviews with Mr. Olson in making the biographical material an authentic document of an outstanding community-minded American citizen of Swedish birth.

It begins in Sweden
As a matter of historical review, it is well to remember that our story of the Olson family had its origins in Sweden about the middle of the nineteenth century. Iron ore had been discovered in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and miners were in great demand.

Sweden seemed to have very little possibilities for the Olson family because practically all or most of the land was controlled by large estates or else by the smaller landowners where land titles had run for generations.

Johannes Olson and his family were neither farmers nor miners. Father Olson had been a sort of Jack-of-all-trades or handy man for one of the large landowners. His duties included that of overseer of forestry production, conservation, and the making of charcoal, which was finding important usage in the smelting of iron ore. An iron ore mine had been worked near the landowner's estate for several years. The shipping of ore and charcoal to a mill at Uddeholm was the beginning of the industry in that section of Sweden. The sons of Johannes Olson and Katherine Olson were destined to follow their father's footsteps and thus work on the estate.

The first to leave
In 1880, the oldest of the Olson brothers, John and Gustaf, at the ages of 21 and 19, respectively, had decided to leave for the United States. As there were visa and other permits from the crown, state, and church to be secured, it was not until early the following spring before they were ready to leave Sweden. Even the owner of the estate on which the family was employed seemed to make it as difficult as he could for them; but finally leave was granted and the Olson brothers were on their way. When they reached America, they headed for the mines in Marquette County, Michigan, where some of their friends from Sweden had preceded them. They easily acquired jobs at one of the mines known as Cambria.

By late summer John and Gustaf Olson had earned enough, at probably $1.50 per day, to send for their father in Sweden. Tempting their father with a prepaid passage, the boys encouraged him to join them at Negaunee, Michigan. He sailed for the United States in October 1881, thus leaving Mother Olson with the remaining six children in the old country. However, by next spring, Father Olson and the two brothers had earned enough to send to Sweden the prepaid steerage passage for two full fares, four half-fares, and a
baby, no charge. The latter child, Oscar, was only five months old when Mother sailed with her brood for the land of promise.

The rest follows
Andrew Olson, although only ten years of age when he came to America, said he still has vivid memories of the trip coming here from Sweden. In recalling the journey, Andrew stated that Mother and the remaining six children left home on a beautiful day in the middle of May, 1882. The landlord’s finest team of horses and best carriage brought them to the railroad station. By train the family reached Filipstad for some examination or interview. During the time the steamship passage was being prepared, the oldest sister had passed her twelfth birthday, and only a half-fare ticket had been prepaid for her. She was now scheduled for full fare and as Mother Olson had no extra money, it was thought the family would get no further. Brother Karl and Mother were resourceful and they got through. By the time the family arrived at Gothenburg, the pleasant weather had subsided and a big storm came up. Since there were no docks in those days, the large ship could not tie up.

Passengers for America were hoisted into a small boat and taken over to the ship, and by that time the entire Olson family was so sick that no one cared what happened. It was thought the ship would never make it, but as Andrew, said “Who cared.” In the morning, the passengers were told the ship had gone through the worst storm on the North Sea in twenty years. The ship was really not a luxury liner as it was an old cattle-ship which had been converted into a passenger boat called the Orion. Its destination was Hull, England. The “bedroom” was composed of what had been cattle stalls, each with enough room for four bunks, two up and two down, and was a little wider than the length of a bed. Each section would hold altogether about twenty-five people.

Andrew recalled that a strange incident occurred during the storm: “There were four or five young men in one of the bunks across the area way in the Olson section who were from somewhere in Sweden. They had all found it necessary to pile their belongings between the bunks. The younger Olson sister, Hulda, had been the sickest, and she found it convenient to lean over the edge of the bunk and relieve herself of what little she had last eaten, and it went into one of the young fellow’s boots. He made a little fuss over it and had to clean his boots someway, but did not know who had done it. Fifteen years or so later Hulda married a minister. A few years after, when a group was together talking about happenings, it was discovered that Hulda was the one who had vomited into the boots of the young man, now a minister and her husband.”

When the old cattle-ship Orion reached Hull, England, after three days of what appeared a sure shipwreck, the passengers traveled across country to Liverpool. At the latter port of embarkation, the White Star liner the Baltic continued with the journey to America. This was a luxury trip in comparison with the days on the Orion, according to Andrew. The Baltic reached the New York harbor after nine days. The Olsons were none the worse for their ocean trip.

Arrival in the U.S.
It so happened that “Papa Olson” and the two oldest sons had left Marquette County, Michigan, and had gone to Worthington, Minnesota,
because there was a Swedish settlement there that seemed to offer prosperity in farming. They arranged for prepaid transportation for the rest of the family from Sweden to the town of Worthington. However, after the entire Olson family had a reunion in Worthington, the newcomers found nothing but grass and more grass; the land of promise in Minnesota proving to be merely a mirage. After a few months of work on a railroad building project, the laborers in the Olson family decided to return to Marquette County, Michigan, in the fall of 1882, with the town of Negaunee as their future home.

Back in Negaunee

The first thing the Olsons did was to build a house in Negaunee. There was lots of material as the woods were full of virgin timber, but there were not many sawmills. It was necessary for the older Olsons to work at a small sawmill on the lake nearby to help cut the lumber for the house. Most of the house was up before winter really set in. Mr. Andrew Olson said: “The lumber was green, the winter of 1882 cold, and Jack Frost had quite a time trying to pull out the wrought-iron cut nails from the lumber and two-by-fours.” However, the house must have been well-built because to this very day in 1948 it is occupied where it stands in Negaunee.

After the house was built, Father Olson and the oldest boys went to work at the Cambria mine. The brothers became miners, while the father cut and framed heavy timber sets for underground mining to keep the ground from caving. He continued at this kind of work for the rest of his life. As the main bodies of iron ore around Negaunee had not yet been discovered at this time, the miners believed the mines to be depleted. It was actually the lull between depression and boom. As large deposits of iron ore were being uncovered on the Gogebic Iron Range, and a process was discovered for converting the new finds of Bessemer ores, there was quite a rush for this new range.

On the move again

The Olson family, especially the men, again got the wanderlust, so plans were formulated to go westward a little over one hundred miles to the new iron ore range, with the town of Ironwood as the destination.

While in Negaunee, the Olson children got two things of great importance — a family name and a little education.

Taking Andrew Olson, the fifth oldest child, as our example, here is what happened in Negaunee. At the age of ten he started his American education. The father’s name being Johannes, Andrew started to register as Johanneson or Johnson in school, according to Swedish custom. However as the surname was Olson, Andrew soon convinced his family their name should always be Olson. When the oldest brothers had come to America, they had been told that there were already so many Johnsons and Olsons in the United States and so much confusion on account of it that they had already taken some other names, but they were soon convinced that Andrew had the proper slant on the name; and finally the family agreed with Andrew to become all “Olsons.”

In Sweden, Andrew had received only two years of schooling in the primary studies, but his training was so well-rounded that he had no difficulty in advancing scholastically in the Negaunee schools. Finally, when in the ninth grade, an attack of rheumatic fever put an end to Andrew’s schooling. But anyway, a new superintendent insisted that the pupils should wear dress suits and low, well-shined shoes, while the Olson dress suits were mostly overalls and hightop boots. Since the Olsons could afford nothing different at that time, Andrew quit for good and went to work in a confectionery.

It was in 1886 that the Olson family moved to Ironwood, Michigan, the boom town that the Olson family decided would bring them prosperity on the new Gogebic Iron Range.

John, the oldest of the brothers, went to work in Ironwood’s well-known “Norrie” mine. Brother Gustaf having had enough of mining started a small confectionery business. It was a rather unsuccessful enterprise, as the rough and tumble miners were not candy-minded. However, this experience and a meat market venture gave Gustaf the ambition to become a wholesale grocer. So finally, when an opportunity presented itself in 1890, the wholesale grocery firm of Olson Brothers and Company, under the leadership of Gustaf, had its humble beginning.
Now in 1948, after fifty-eight years of depressions and booms, the Olson Brothers firm is considered the largest independent wholesale grocery firm in this section of Michigan and Wisconsin.

A family business

At some time or another every member of the Olson family has been interested in the firm. Gustaf has been the most persistent, and has continued firmly through thick and thin, panic and depressions, prosperity and booms. His two sons had picked up enough experience in the business and after serving in the First World War came into the firm. One of the sons, Walter, is now, in 1948, the mayor of the City of Ironwood. His two sons are now also being groomed to eventually carry on the traditions and business enterprises of Olson Brothers and Company.

This essay being centered around Andrew, whose education and experience consisted of “hard knocks,” it is now the intention to summarize the activities of Andrew on the Gogebic Iron Range. His schooling being terminated at Negaunee, it was necessary for him to secure a job as soon as the family reached Ironwood. For a year he worked in a bakery, and then went into the Olson Brothers grocery firm. Being ambitious, Andrew took up some office and book work, and spent a year in an Ironwood law office. He learned some shorthand and typewriting, and read a little Blackstone, as he could not rid himself of the urge for law.

However, he never had the chance to continue an education. Andrew moved to the town of Wakefield, near Ironwood, and started a confectionery store and ice cream parlor. As a sideline, he was a justice of the peace from 1908 to 1920 and associate relief director of the poor in Gogebic County to the end of 1939. Wakefield had no attorney until about 1928, and, so during all this time, Andrew was a sort of legal adviser for most of the people of the town, thanks to his year in the Ironwood law office. In December 1898 Andrew married and raised three daughters.

Andrew has always been active in the welfare of the Wakefield community. He served faithfully as secretary of the Rotary Club and the Masonic Lodge; both groups have prospered as the result of his untiring efforts. In Wakefield, countless performances of charity, goodwill, and community and church services can be traced back to Andrew Olson. Now in 1948 Andrew has retired. He has been an exemplary symbol of the motto of the Rotary club “Service above Self” and “He Profits Most Who Serves Best.”

Appendix:
The Olssons in Swedish records

According to the Gåsborn and Nordmark Church records:

- Johannes Olsson was born 1838 Feb. 24 in Gåsborn.
- Wife Johanna Catharina Olssdotter was born 1837 Mar. 7 in Gåsborn.
- Son Erik Johan Carlqvist was born 1859 Dec. 21 in Färnebo.
- Son Nils Gustaf Nordström was born 1861 Dec. 14 in Nordmark (as all the younger siblings)
- Son Karl Olsson was born 1867 Mar. 4.
- Daughter Anna Mathilda Olsson was born 1870 Jan. 10.
- Son Anders Fredrik Olsson was born 1872 Nov. 15.
- Daughter Hulda Maria Olsson was born 1874 Oct. 31.
- Son Wilhelm Olsson was born 1877 July 7.
- Son Oskar Edvard Olsson was born 1881 Dec. 29.

The two oldest sons, Erik and Nils, emigrated from Göteborg on May 15th with tickets for Negaunee. Their father followed on Sep. 23 with a ticket for New York, and then Johanna and the rest of the children left Göteborg on 1882 May 12. She was recorded there as a Johanson(??).

Anders (Andrew) married in 1898 Dec. 28 in Bessemer to Hulda Amalia Wandau, a fellow immigrant from Sweden. She was born 1874 Apr. 18 in the parish of Naverstad (Bohu.), and immigrated in 1890 to Ashland, Wisc., and moved to Ironwood in 1891. They had daughters Mildred Wandau (born 1900 Jan. 21 in Bessemer), Hazel, Elma, and Margaret (Margit) Elizabeth, born 1906 Sep. 26 in Bessemer.

(Dates from records of the Salem Lutheran Church in Ironwood. Thanks Jill!)
The above notices are taken from the digitized issues of the *Inrikes Tidningar* 1799, as an example of what you can find in these old newspapers. More was written about this project on page 9 in this issue of SAG.

The *Inrikes Tidningar*, also under different names, was the official gazette of Sweden, so this is were officers’ new commands were published, other official announcements, and also a number of private matters that individuals wanted to make public. During the later 1800s you can see many requests from pastors, who ask if anybody knows if so and so had married during their stay in the U.S.
The Carl Sandburg Medal to Ronald J. Johnson!
At the annual meeting of the Swedish-American Historical Society in November 2009 at the Chicago Swedish American Museum, the Society's Carl Sandburg Medal was presented to Ronald J. Johnson of Madison, Wisc. Ronald was awarded the medal for his longtime efforts in Swedish American genealogy, manifested in many ways, as in his book Vista ’76. 120 Years of a Scandinavian-American Community, which was printed already in 1976. Since then he has spent much time and research on finding out more about the people in this community in Waseca County in southern Minnesota. Ronald has been a frequent member of the SAG Workshop, and all his friends from there send their congratulations!

U.S. Census for 1940?
Now it is only a little more than 800 days until 2012 April 1. What happens then? That is the big day when the National Archives releases the 1940 U.S. Federal Census for all researchers, and hopefully some old problems will be solved then.

The world’s 2nd largest coin
This piece of copper, which is actually a coin, weighs about 28 pounds. It was minted in Sweden from 1649 for a time, but became soon regarded as very impractical. Its value was 8 daler koppermynt, and it had a bigger brother, the 10 daler coin, which weighed around 40 pounds. There is now about 20 of these smaller ones still existing. The above one was sold at auction in Stockholm in November 2009 for 1.8 million SEK. (Svenska Dagbladet 2009 Nov. 27)

New name for the Swedish National Archives
The Swedish National Archives (Riksarkivet) has for some years had a web site together with the regional archives under the name Statens arkiv (State archives). From 2010 Jan. 1 the name will again be Riksarkivet for all of the state archives, due to a reorganization, and the name of the web site will also change. Link on page 30!

Arkiv Digital keeps growing
The Arkiv Digital company are now more or less finished with Gävleborg county, and are now working on Stockholm county and city, and Västernorrland, and adding to Malmöhus and Kristianstad counties.

Swedish genealogists working on a new Death Index
The latest Swedish Death Index (Sveriges dödbok) on CD covers the period of 1947–2006, and was released in 2007. Many researchers had wished for a similar index that would start earlier, as the 1900s are a difficult period to research, due to the privacy rules (70 years), and that the records were not digitized.

However, it was decided by the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (Sveriges Släktforskarförbund) in 2007 to start a new project, called Nämner åt de döda (Names for the deceased) 1901-1946. This is a volunteer project, as people and genealogical societies accepted the challenge to copy the handwritten death records into a database.

For the years after 1938 the project has been having fine cooperation with the archives, who have permitted project managers to take digital photos of most parts of the death records. These photos have since been used by the transcribers.

Now the project is about to end, and some provinces have had 100% of their old death records transcribed into the common database, others less, but it is still thought that at least 75-80% of all the deaths during the period will be available on the new CD, when it will be ready in the late summer of 2010. It will also include the deaths from 2006–2009.

More old documents at SVAR
The SVAR subscription site is now adding scans of very old records. They are now working on the landskapshandlingarna (provincial documents), that start around 1535, and go up to 1634.
Put Your “Genealogy Stuff” in Book Form!

Don’t hide your research results in the closet

BY P. ROBERT WILLEY

If you are like me there probably are boxes of family documents and photographs stored in either your home or other family members’ homes. They all may be long time forgotten. Nobody knows who many of the individuals are.

“What to do with this?” For thirty-eight years I have been collecting such items about our Swedish ancestors with the goal of someday organizing everything.

So about a year ago I made the decision to do what I had been postponing – looking through the albums, boxes, documents, old letters, etc. I began to organize the information into an interesting, readable book. When I began I knew this would be a challenge. What I did not realize nor understand were the many details involved in such a seemingly tedious but rewarding project.

Unexpected consequences:

* Discovered previously unknown living family members who were eager to learn of their ancestors.

* Gained greater perspective of my childhood memories about family members.

* Identified deceased family members in letters, documents, and photographs whom I had never met and had little knowledge of.

* Family members reflected on events and sought additional information to enhance their knowledge and understanding.

Some recommendations:

* Realize the task will take some time – in my case over a year of concentrated, almost daily work.

* Consider researching the history of the area during the times your ancestors lived there.

* Involve family members in the sharing of documents and photographs that you are considering using.

* Set a “target date for completion.” Be selective – you can’t include everything. Accept that new information will always be found by you or family members and will thus enrich what already has been written.

* Have specific questions that are focused and clearly stated when you seek information from family members or other sources.

* Strive to lessen making erroneous assumptions from your research. Your book needs to make extensive use of footnotes and a comprehensive bibliography to identify sources. The goal is to present accurate information that can be easily substantiated.

* Weave into the text anecdotal information (historical events, family events, experiences, travel, and other stories, etc.).

* Submit “book drafts” for proof-reading to family members re accuracy, appropriateness, as well as seeing if it is interesting to a non-genealogist reader. Realize people’s feelings and perceptions of events and experiences may vary a great deal. Once they see it in writing, family history takes on a more personal meaning.

* Seek professional advice re costs, editing, lay-out, and printing format. With today’s technology it is amazing what can be done at reasonable cost.

* Consider donating copies to local genealogical or historical museums and societies, and send copies to family members.

* Upon completion of your book, submit an application to register your work at the United States Copyright Office to “protect authorship of original published or unpublished works.”

<http://www.copyright.gov/>

There are additional guidelines or suggestions that could be listed but these have been the most useful for me to follow when researching and writing about our ancestors.

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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 picture was sent in by Jörgen Vessman, Lekevallsgatan 54, S-431 39 Mölndal, Sweden. E-mail: <jorgen.vessman@alfa.telenordia.se>

Jörgen writes:

“My paternal grandfather had four brothers that all left Sweden for the U.S. The youngest one, Adolf Fredrik Wester, was born 30 March 1871 in Fellingsbro, Västmanland province, and in Örebro county. In September 1888 he immigrated to the U.S.A. together with his next oldest half-brother, August Rober Vester, born 19 Jan. 1864, who went to Chicago.

“Adolf Fredrik soon dropped his first name and was only called Fredrik. It is said that during the first year over there he worked in a quarry in Illinois. After that he moved to Price County in Wisconsin working at a lumber camp. He stayed there until November 1893, when he married Emma Jakobsson in Ogema, Price County, Wisconsin.

“Later the family moved to the city of Phillips, Price County, Wisc. There were seven children in the family, six daughters and one son, the youngest one named Fredrik and born in 1914. Adolf Fredrik was the only one of the Wester brothers that remained in the U.S. as the three half-brothers returned to Sweden, some of them doing the trip more than one time.

“When I inherited my grandfather’s cottage in Fellingsbro from my uncle in 1968 I found two pictures that have been quite interesting to take part of. They belong to the period when the forests were harvested for timber. Both deal with lumber felling in Wisconsin and this photo is taken in Ogema, Wisc., by N. Nelson.

“The Ogema picture shows the timber fellers at the camp with the smoke from the chimney of the kitchen in the background.

“I have been in touch with a grandson of Fredrik (born 1914) and presented him copies of the pictures, but there has not been any interest to proceed further.

“If anyone among the readers of SAG does recognize something/someone here or know where this could have taken place I would be very interested.”
The solution of the (Hand)writing Example XXII

Transcription

N:o 61.

Inrikes Tidningar

Stockholm, Tisdagen den 28 Maji, år 1799

Som Garfwaren Budén rest ifrån Stockholm den 23 November 1797, och pantsatt en Kista med Kläder uti hos undertecknad, anmodas han at det med första igenlös, i annor händelse blifwer det lagligen sält; som tredje gången kungöres.

       J. B. Creus

Då händelse jag skulle, under sjukdoms och ålderdoms swaghet, hafwa gjort någon Disposition, testamenté, gäfwa eller annan författning; så förklarar jag altsammans, under hwad namn det wara må, för ogildt; som härmed tredje gången kungöres. Stockholm den 21 Maji 1799.

       Maria Christina Lundman,
       Kakelugnsmakare-Enka

Döde i Stockholm

Lieutenanten Michael Roos, död den 19 Maji, i sit 61 års ålder.
Handelsmannen och Deputeraden uti Slagtare-Ambetet Adam Peter Hjelting, död den 15 maji i en ålder af 52 år.
Deputeranden wid Lofl. Tractörs-Socei- teten Anders Ahlstedt, död den 21 Maji, uti en ålder af 53 år.

Translation

As the Tanner Budén has left Stockholm on 23 Nov. 1797, and pawned a chest of clothes with me the undersigned, [he] is called upon to at the first to redeem [his property], if not it will be sold according to the law. As is now made public for the third time.

       J. B. Creus

In case I should, during illness or old age weakness, have made some dispositions, by a will, gifts, or in some other way, I declare everything, of whatever name, to be void. As is now made public for the third time. Stockholm the 21st May 1799.

       Maria Christina Lundman
       Tiled oven maker’s widow

Deceased in Stockholm

The Lieutenant Michael Roos, deceased on 19 May, in his 61st year of age.
The merchant and deputy in the Butcher’s Guild Adam Peter Hjelting, deceased 15 May, at an age of 52 years.
The deputy in the Laud[able] Innkeepers’ Society Anders Ahlstedt, deceased 21 May, at an age of 53 years.
The Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (SGSM) started in 1983, and can thus in a few years celebrate its 30th anniversary. The society has a close connection to the American Swedish Institute, but moved last year for various reasons to the localities of the Minnesota Genealogical Society in South St. Paul.

SGSM has their library there, as well as the microfilms for the Swedish-American churches of Minnesota.

SGSM has meetings four times a year, and also publishes a quarterly newsletter, Tidningen, which has many useful articles. A past president was the late Phyllis Pladsen, well know for her Genealogical Dictionary.

The present president is Virginia Taylor, who has many dedicated volunteers, including Dee and Ray Kleinow, who work with the website and the program planning.

Last October SGSM organized a well-attended research seminar with lectures and one-on-one help from no less than 7 visiting Swedish genealogists on their premises.

A scene from the Fall Research Seminar, when the one-on-one sessions kept all the visiting Swedes busy. Photo: Dee and Ray Kleinow.

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mngsm/

Swedish American Genealogist 2009:3
Old Swedes again


Volume 5 of this series of books about the New Sweden churches continues the massive work undertaken by the Swedish Colonial Society in 2006 to record in one place, in English, the documentary history of the Old Swedes churches of Pennsylvania during the Colonial period up to 1786. A total of eight volumes are planned. This volume covers the period from 1750 to 1759, in which the newly assigned pastor Olof Parlin (pronounced Par-leen) served until his death in December, 1757, and includes the time that the Wicaco church was served by his assistant, Eric Nordenlind, who served in 1758 and 1759 pending the arrival of Pastor Carl Magnus Wrangel in 1759.

The decade covered by this book was a time of turmoil both in Sweden and in the colonies. Sweden was in a period of decline from its “Age of Greatness” which ended with the defeat in 1709 of Karl XII by Peter the Great of Russia at Poltava and Karl’s subsequent death in Norway a few years later. During the first part of the 18th century the power of the monarchy declined and became concentrated in the hands of the nobility. Foreign trade with the Far East and elsewhere created some large fortunes and the building of several large manor houses, but the lot of the common people was little improved. Not until reforms begun in 1772 by Gustav III was the power of the Crown restored and a new era of culture began among the aristocracy, called the “Gustavian Period.”

In North America, the thirteen colonies were becoming increasingly restive under their British rule. The French and Indian War of 1754–63 increased tensions and served to help unite the colonies in their common grievances. In Philadelphia, the leading city of this period in the colonies, the population continued to increase with mainly English and German settlers. Pennsylvania was also a haven for many groups seeking religious freedom in the New World. The descendants of the New Sweden settlement, now in the fourth and fifth generation, had been intermarrying with other groups and had mostly adopted the English language. Church records were now being kept in English, although the archbishop in Sweden continued to rebuff efforts to conduct services in English despite the fact that few Swedes remained who spoke the language.

As in previous volumes in this series, the authors have relied on assembling and recording the original documents to relate the events of this period, with a minimum of introduction and commentary. Historic maps have been included to illustrate the city and the neighborhoods referred to, with assistance in the introduction to help the reader understand the many changes in place names since the colonial period. The documents are arranged in chronological order, and include letters between the clergy and their superiors in Sweden, letters between the clergy and other Lutheran clergy in Philadelphia (mainly German), journal entries, minutes of parish meetings, and various other letters and meeting records. Many are in the original English, the correspondence with Sweden has been translated from the original Swedish.

Supplementing these documents, many vital records of the period are included. These recorded marriages, baptisms, burials, and deaths from the Wicaco church (Gloria Dei in Philadelphia) and from Manatawney (now St. Gabriel’s in Douglassville). An index of personal names is included, as is an index of place names to assist readers who may want to identify individual ancestors or persons and places referred to in the documents. Other members of the Swedish clergy assigned to the New Sweden churches referred to in the years recorded in this book include Pastor Israel Acrelius, who was assigned the dean of the mission, and assigned to invigorating the congregations at Wilmington, Racoon (Swedesboro), and Penn’s Neck.
following the deaths of their pastors. Also assigned to the Swedish churches was Pastor John Abr. Lidenius and Pastor Eric Unander, all by the archbishop and consistory in Sweden.

These documents reveal that during this period, the Swedish pastors reached out to form an informal ministerium with other Lutheran pastors in the area, mostly serving the growing population in Pennsylvania. The leader of the German congregations was Pastor Henry Mühlenberg, who founded the congregation and built the old Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, PA, on the old ridge road to Pottstown and Reading. (This reviewer is now a member of this church. The old church was built in 1758 and is maintained in its original unaltered condition. One of Henry's sons was a general in George Washington's army in the Revolution.) Their relations were most cordial with the Swedes, often exchanging pulpits and meeting together regularly.

The correspondence and parish meeting records reveal the difficulties of all pastors serving in the colonial Philadelphia area. Congregations were widely scattered due to population growth and the many outlying farms, mills, iron furnaces, and villages. Travel was difficult with few if any bridges and primitive roads. Horses were needed by pastors to reach outlying congregations and members and much time was consumed in travel. The Swedish pastors also complained of the large numbers of competing sects and often untrained religious leaders, focusing much of their antagonism toward the Moravian sect from Germany and Switzerland, but also less friendly to the many Baptists, Methodists, and other faiths planting roots in the Delaware Valley. Letters between the pastors and Swedish authorities, reading between the lines of the elaborate honorific language of the day, seemed mainly to complain of difficult conditions, inadequate income, services in Swedish to few who still spoke the language, and complaints about one of their fellow pastors who was uncooperative.

It is also very clear that all the pastors involved during this period saw themselves as being on temporary assignment to an overseas mission, not as settlers. They were expected to serve seven years in the Colony, and each was prompt to request relief when their assignment neared an end. (Pastor Parlin died of pleurisy a year or so before his relief, and is buried in Old Swedes Church). This contrasts sharply with current ELCA practice, where pastors may be proposed by the synod bishop, but are reviewed by the congregations before acceptance.

Of particular interest to me were the records of deaths and burials at Gloria Dei Church in Wicaco, which also included some records from the Manatawney church. The 169 deaths recorded between 1750 and 1759 are probably a reasonably representative sampling of the general colonial population of the time. It was shocking to see that of the 169, about a third (33.7%) were infants or children under 5 years. About half were 20 years old or less. 75% were age 50 or less and only ten percent lived to reach age 65. (One old-timer lived to be 91). Unlike today, early deaths in families and among young people were usual mostly due to the many diseases common at the time, though some were due to accidents. Medical care was almost non-existent; a few midwives and folk healers were present and the rare physicians could do little but give comfort. The median age at death was less than 30, contrasted with 78 (80 for women) in the U.S. today.

As part of the projected series of eight volumes, this book becomes a valuable historic resource about the conditions faced by the descendants of the New Sweden Colony during this time period. It is also of great value for researchers, descendants, and forefather members of the Colonial Society. For general readers interested in the history of the colonial period, invaluable insights can be gained from the information included in this collection of documents as a whole. Sponsors of this project include the Swedish Colonial Society, several foundations, and Gloria Dei Church, whose support has all made this project possible. The editors continue to make an invaluable contribution to the history of this period.

Dennis L. Johnson
The Loggers’ life


If you would like to sample life in a Michigan logging camp in the 1880’s for a young immigrant from Sweden and his father, this work of fiction may be just the thing for you or the teenager in your family. Sven Anderson, age 13, and his father have just embarked on an immigrant’s journey to America to find work, leaving the rest of their family behind in Sweden to fend for themselves. Their intention is to send for the rest of the family when it becomes possible to do so. The young boy and man travel by the usual route, arriving in America where an Indiana family befriends them for a time. They learn of work to be had in the logging camps of Michigan, and sign on for the winter logging season at a camp near Pinch River.

The father is a fairly skilled carpenter and is put to work building the camp bunkhouses, dining hall, blacksmith shop, and store in the woods near Pinch River. The son, still growing and passing for fifteen years old, goes to work as a camp helper and “brusher,” trimming branches from trees after they have been taken down by the loggers. He soon becomes a shanty boy, working with the cooks and helping tend the horses. His father works in the woods as a logger. They both have to contend with learning English, and with learning to work and live with others of many nationalities and backgrounds.

An entire logging season from the autumn camp building to the spring logging drive is described vividly as seen through the eyes and experiences of the young Sven Anderson. It is a rough existence where the young grow up in a hurry, and the customs of the loggers dictate the relationships between boys and men. Accidents, injuries, and even deaths are almost routine, and there are no health care, sympathy, or unemployment benefits for those who fall victim to the work. The work is hard, the days are long, meals are ample, and pleasures are very few. Most squander their pay and have little to show for a hard season’s work when the season ends. Sven’s father falls victim to gambling and drink, along with many others, and eventually disappears from the story.

Sven, while disappointed, has larger dreams of life in America. A broken leg late in the season during the logging drive removes him from the lumberjack life and he again finds shelter and work while his leg mends, with the Indiana family he had met the previous summer. In a brief and abrupt epilogue, we learn that a few years later Sven has married and is homesteading his own land near Brainerd, Minnesota. He also has found the means to send for the remnants of his family in Sweden, his mother and an older sister.

The author of Pinch River has been a teacher of writing at Southern Adventist University since 1987, having previously been an elementary and secondary school teacher. She is a native of northern Minnesota, and a graduate of Walla Walla College. She began her writing career in college and has been the author or co-author of several works of fiction on various subjects and historical periods. This story has the ring of plausibility and historical accuracy to it in describing the conditions of logging work in the 1880’s. This is no doubt because she and her husband both come from families historically involved in logging, and two of her sons are now loggers in Alabama.

Although a work of fiction, this story is an engaging story which entertains the reader while informing about many of the details and conditions in which Swedish and other immigrants found themselves, as greenhorns arriving in the woods of Michigan at the time, to find work in the logging camps. This kind of rough but ready work allowed many new arrivals to get a start towards a better life in their new land. Teenagers in particular will enjoy this young man’s adventures while they learn about the conditions which their grandparents or great-grandfathers may have had to deal with. Lives which are in sharp contrast with the much less rigorous conditions for young people today.

Dennis L. Johnson
A Minneapolis Building

*Biography of a Building*, *The Personalities of 2615 Park Avenue*, by Mary Jo Thorsheim, PhD, Park Press Minneapolis, 2008, softcover, illustrated, 126 pages, American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, $16.00 plus shipping.

Visitors to the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis can hardly fail to notice the dignified, large apartment building directly across the street from the Turnblad Mansion, home of the Institute in the 2600 block of Park Avenue. I know it was a matter of curiosity to me each time I made a visit, although I knew nothing of its Swedish connections until this book was published.

As an architect, I admired the stately elegance of this six-story building designed in the Art Deco style of the 1920–1930's, and the fact that even at the age of eighty years it appeared to be well maintained and in good condition, but I knew little more.

In the early 20th century and until World War II, the Park Avenue area and nearby Portland Avenue, from Franklin Avenue to the railroad line at 28th street, was a neighborhood of the residences of many wealthy and important Minneapolis residents. The Turnblad Mansion, home of the wealthy *Svenska Amerikanska Posten* publisher, Swan Turnblad, was completed in 1908. Nearby is the massive Harrington Mansion from 1907, now home of the Zuhrah Shrine organization. Other mansions and large homes line these blocks, mostly dating from the same period. According to the author, Swan Turnblad, his wife, and daughter lived in their mansion for only a short time, finding it too ostentatious for their tastes, and moved across the street to 2615 Park. The Turnblad mansion was later donated to become the home of the American Swedish Institute. Most of the stately homes in the area have over the years been adopted by various non-profit organizations and private businesses, with the passing of their owners. The prestigious neighborhoods are now around the cities' lakes and in the wealthier suburbs.

2615 Park Avenue survived the changes to this neighborhood, however, and it remains a place of residence for many who prefer apartment living close to the center of the city. Many apartments dating to the same era have since fallen into disrepair or been demolished, perhaps due to less desirable locations, neighborhood decline, or the encroachment of nearby hospitals and institutions in need of land for expansion.

2615 was built to a high standard, has underground parking, and other

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features and amenities that continue to maintain its desirability for many current residents.

The author has undertaken a great deal of original research to chronicle the history of this building, including interviews with the son of one of the builders, Lars Anderson, who served as a building maintenance manager for many years and lived in the buildings before his marriage and later when his family was grown. Lars died in 2004. The building was the conception of two Swedish Americans who had emigrated from the same place in Sweden, the town of Mellerud in Dalsland, where they had lived on neighboring farms. (Coincidentally, Mellerud was also the home of my maternal grandfather who emigrated about a decade earlier.) The two men, Carl A. Anderson and Gustav Nelson, first settled in Ironwood, Michigan, but had relocated to Minneapolis by 1907. They began work as builders of, at first, modest dwelling houses and later building apartment buildings in various locations in Minneapolis.

The success of Anderson and Nelson in the 1920’s led them to undertake their largest project yet, as developers and builders. After several years of planning, work began on 2615 in 1929, despite the severe depression then just beginning. The building was completed by the end of 1930, and it received immediate status as a prestige building in a then popular location. They had engaged another Swedish American, Martin Lindquist, as the architect for the building. Martin was born in Minneapolis of Swedish parents and was an active member of the First Covenant Church in downtown Minneapolis, known to many as the “Swedish Mission Tabernacle.” He had studied at the University of Minnesota and had been in practice for about ten years in 1930. The building was laid out as a double ‘E’ with wings front and rear to create light and views for the many apartments on each of six floors. A garage for residents’ cars is below the building with an entrance at the rear, on Columbus Avenue. The building was set well back from Park Avenue with a broad lawn and driveway leading to the main front entrance.

The building has roots in the New York concept of luxury high-rise apartments with many services provided within the building. It was innovative at its time for Minneapolis and has maintained its popularity for eight decades. The original builders managed the building on behalf of its businessman owner-investors until 1947, with Lars V. Anderson, son of Carl (C.A.) Anderson, as the building manager.

In 1947, the 116 residents took steps to convert the building into a cooperative, in which the tenants all purchased shares in the building to become co-owners. Not all residents were in agreement with this plan, however, and it took several months to conclude the deal. Management was now in the hands of a new board of directors elected from among the residents. A fiftieth anniversary gala occurred in 1997 to celebrate this milestone in the life of 2615.

Most of the remaining chapters in this book are devoted to a description of various residents and notables who have lived in the building. Residents included business and community leaders, professionals, teachers and professors, writers and musicians, and other prominent residents of the city. Other chapters describe the history of “Loretta’s Tea Room,” which was a social center for the building for many years, as was the old laundry, where hired staff washed and ironed for many residents. Many residents were Swedish or Scandinavian, but by no means exclusively. Some prominent residents included writer Bruce Rubenstein, sportswriter Charlie Johnson, writer Steven Polansky, film impresario Ted Mann, and conductor Eugene Ormandy. There are even unverified rumors that Amelia Earhart lived at 2615 for a time. Other anecdotes about past residents are included together with interesting accounts of the many services provided in the building. The building became especially popular with part-time residents who spent parts of the year elsewhere, or traveled abroad, or had a lake home where they would spend most of their summers.

The author, Mary Jo Thorsheim, is a current resident and has become acquainted with many of the residents. She studied at St. Olaf College, the University of Oslo, and the University of Minnesota. She is an importer of prints and paintings from Scandinavia to the U.S. and lectures on Scandinavian arts and artists. She is also a researcher and consultant in occupational therapy, health, and
The new Swedish Family Register 2010 (Svenska Släktkalendern 2010) has just been published. It is a book of family genealogies, in Swedish, for about 60 Swedish families with dates as recent as August 2009. This volume is # 45 in a series that started in 1885. For more information and a list of families, see www.svenskaslaktkalendern.se/

Well-known archivist Per Clemenson of Göteborg has written a number of manuals for Swedish Genealogy in Swedish during the years in company of his co-author Kjell Anderson. Now this team has published a new basic manual, in Swedish, geared towards younger researchers who need to conquer the 1900s before entering the land of church records. The book is called Börja släktforska. Genvägar till din släkts historia. It is full of good hints on how to use the information from the tax authorities (Skatteverket), the various CD:s, the SVAR website, and much more. It sells for about 219 SEK + postage. More information can be had by e-mailing <info@genealogi.se>

Family Tree Magazine (November 2009) has a number of articles on how to trace immigrant ancestors online, and the tips here can be used to track elusive Swedes too. Mentioned are all the NARA passenger list, and it is noted that they are available on Ancestry with indexes, as well as Castle Garden and Ellis Island. The Hamburg lists are explained. Naturalizations can also be important, and can also be found at Ancestry and Footnote. There are several research examples, but none from Sweden(!).

Family Tree Magazine (December 2009) has an article on how to trace European ancestors, and gives some good advice, like doing the proper homework before trying to go overseas, and also trying to find out the original name. A man emigrated from Sweden by the name Oskar Wilhelm Lundqvist, who then changed his name to Oscar Williams(!) is not so easy to trace. This issue has also a good guide on how to use the Mormon web site FamilySearch, including the new Record Search Pilot, where there are many new and useful databases, but perhaps not so easy to navigate.

The British TV program Who Do You Think You Are? (now even having a Swedish version) has evolved into a monthly glossy magazine with the same name, which is quite interesting, especially for those with British roots.
Interesting Web Sites

The Archives of Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN:
The East European Genealogical Society (Canada): http://www.eegsociety.org/Home.aspx
Federation of East European Family History Societies U.S.: http://feefhs.org/
The DIS Swedish Computer Society: http://www.dis.se/denindex.htm
Old pictures from Hälsingland: http://www.helsingebilder.se/utsida/index.asp
Stalcop (Stålkofta) Family Website: http://www.stalcopfamily.com/index.html
Stockholm City Death certificates (not complete!):
   http://www2.ssa.stockholm.se/Dodbevis/Allaregistrerade.aspx
Swedish Frog Dance at Midsummer:
   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXhGKIY65Jo&feature=related
Census research for Genealogists: http://www.1930census.com/index.php
Nordstjernan newspaper: http://www.nordstjernan.com/
A tribute to the Swedish American Line: http://www.salship.se/
Listing of Swedish-American church records at Swenson Center:
   http://www.augustana.edu/x14874.xml
Digitized old Swedish newspapers:
   http://magasin.kb.se:8080/searchinterface/search_newspaper.jsp
The blog of Swedish Way in Vancouver: http://blog.nordicway.com/
Swedish state archives: http://www.riksarkivet.se
Convert many kinds of measurements:
   http://web.telia.com/~u54504162/javascript/convert/english.htm
An English site about dead poets' graves: http://www.poetsgraves.co.uk/
Guided bus tours to Swedish sites in Minnesota, and more: http://www.swedishcircletours.com/

All the above web links will be found as clickable links on
www.etgenealogy.se/sag.htm
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.

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**Öberg, Andersson**

Hilda Öberg, born 25 April 1875 in Kville (Bohu.) left on 27 February 1893 from Göteborg, in the company of her brother Nestor, born 19 Aug. 1876, also in Kville, and both had tickets for Chicago. Their parents were the soldier Otto Elis Öberg and his wife Josefina Nätt in Kville.

Hilda married John A. Anderson in Cook County 15 Feb. 1898. According to the 1900 Census, John (born in Sweden in May 1868) and Hilda lived in Hyde Park, Chicago, with their son John C. W., born in Feb. 1899 (later used first name Clarence), and her brother Nestor, who was then a garden laborer. In 1910 John and Hilda also had son Arthur (8) and daughter Edith (7). In 1920 the children are still at home. In 1930 the probable son Clarence Anderson is 30, and married to Kathryn, and they have children Clarence (5), Herbert (4), Charles (2½), and Theodore (0). A Clarence Anderson, born 25 Feb. 1899, died in January 1968 in Chicago. Is he the son of Hilda? What happend to his children, and Hilda’s other children?

Nestor moved to Birmingham, Alabama, and later to Thorsby in Chilton County, AL, where he died 19 Nov. 1940. He never married.

Hilda’s brother Johan, born 3 Dec. 1879 in Kville, was first a soldier in Tanum (Bohu.) and then left Grebbestad in 1910, and continued 4 May to Birmingham, AL, to brother Nestor. In the WWI Draft registration he lives in Suffolk, Mass, and is single.


These siblings have an old cousin in Sweden who hopes for more information about them.

*Contact Elisabeth Thorsell, Hästskovägen 45, S-177 39 Järfälla, Sweden. E-mail: <sag@etgenealogy.se>*

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**Send queries to SAG! Everything is not online!**

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**A SAG reader: Sonya Anderson**

SAG reader Sonya Anderson of St. Paul, Minnesota, e-mailed me earlier this year with suggestions for article topics, which is a great idea that could be done by more of you. In my note to her I mentioned that I was going to be in the Minneapolis area in October, and she suggested that we should meet.

However, our schedules made it difficult to find a suitable time, so finally it was decided that we should track her down at work.

And from this photo you can see where Sonya works, at IKEA! And as I live about 5 minutes from IKEA Barkarby in Stockholm, it felt just like home. So we had a nice chat and will keep in contact. It is always nice to meet with the SAG readers!
The Last Page

Dear friends,

Again I have had the experience of participating in the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City, and as usual it was a very positive experience. The members of the Workshop seemed to be happy with the arrangements, not least with the decision of Jill and her husband Dave to finally do something about the very poor microphones and loudspeakers that we have had to use during lectures. Dave, who understands these things, went out in the city and finally found a nice portable microphone and loudspeaker. This made it possible for the members to finally all hear the lectures, which is what we wanted all the time. The bad thing is that now they may catch us saying incorrect things!

Another good thing was that the FHL staff at the library held a number of good extra lectures that interested many. We hope though that by our week next year (Oct. 24–Nov. 1) the library will have finished remodeling the International floor.

Before coming to Salt Lake City, I had visited Minnesota and had a good time there, among other things at the SGSM Fall Research Seminar (see p. 32). A personal thing was that I was able to visit the Goodhue County Museum and see the manuscripts left by Carl Roos, an adventurous värmlänning who came to Vasa in 1853. He wrote a long narrative about his travels to America and his first years in the country, all in Swedish. He also wrote about his childhood and Civil War experiences. Maybe some of it will turn up in SAG.

Then I spent some days in the Philadelphia area, first with a very nice cousin in Princeton, and then with an old friend, a former Workshop member. We both went to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Swedish Colonial Society, and listened to a number of interesting presentations. We also had the pleasure of meeting with Peter S. Craig, who received his Lifetime Achievement Award for his great efforts in clearing the undergrowth and myths in the history of the old Swedes. He looked a little worn, but we had no idea that this was the last meeting with this great man, who also for many years was a SAG Contributing Editor.

Till next time!

Elisabeth Thorsell

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### 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]).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landskap (<em>Province</em>)</th>
<th>SAG &amp; SSF Abbr.</th>
<th>Landskap (<em>Province</em>)</th>
<th>SAG &amp; SSF Abbr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blekinge</td>
<td>Blek.</td>
<td>Närke</td>
<td>Närk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohuslän</td>
<td>Bohu.</td>
<td>Skåne</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalarna</td>
<td>Dala.</td>
<td>Småland</td>
<td>Smål.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalsland</td>
<td>Dals.</td>
<td>Södermanland</td>
<td>Södm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotland</td>
<td>Gotl.</td>
<td>Uppland</td>
<td>Uppl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gästrikland</td>
<td>Gäst.</td>
<td>Värmland</td>
<td>Värm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halland</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Våbo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hälsingland</td>
<td>Håls.</td>
<td>Västergötland</td>
<td>Vägö.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Härjedalen</td>
<td>Härj.</td>
<td>Västmanland</td>
<td>Väsm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jämtland</td>
<td>Jämt.</td>
<td>Ångermanland</td>
<td>Ånge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lappland</td>
<td>Lapp.</td>
<td>Öland</td>
<td>Öland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medelpad</td>
<td>Mede.</td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>Östg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrbotten</td>
<td>Nobo.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Län (<em>County</em>)</th>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
<th>Län (<em>County</em>)</th>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gävleborg</td>
<td>Jäm.</td>
<td>Västmanland</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Vbn.</td>
<td>Vbtl.</td>
<td>AC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jämtland</td>
<td>Jkpg.</td>
<td>Älvsborg</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Västernorrland</td>
<td>Vnrl.</td>
<td>Vnrl.</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmar</td>
<td>Kron.</td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Västra Götaland</td>
<td>Vgöt.</td>
<td>Vgöt.</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrbotten</td>
<td>Nbt.</td>
<td>Ös.</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>Ög.</td>
<td>Östg.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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).