

Swedish American Genealogist

Volume 25 | Number 1

Article 1

3-1-2005

Full Issue Vol. 25 No. 1

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



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

Recommended Citation

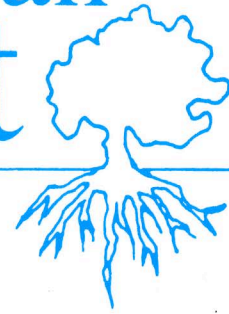
(2005) "Full Issue Vol. 25 No. 1," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 25 : No. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol25/iss1/1>

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

(ISSN 0275-9314)

Swedish American Genealogist



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



Volume XXV

March 2005

No. 1

Swedish American Genealogist



Copyright © 2005

(ISSN 0275-9314)

Swedish American Genealogist

Publisher:

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

Editor: Elisabeth Thorsell

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

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

Contributing Editor:

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

Editorial Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTENTS

The Swedish-Born Orphan	1
<i>by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak</i>	
The Farm Names of Dalarna	5
<i>by Elisabeth Thorsell</i>	
Treasures in Rock Island. Part II	6
<i>by Jill Seaholm</i>	
The Saga of Sella and John	8
<i>by William J. Hempel</i>	
From Höganäs to Worcester	10
<i>by P. Robert Willey</i>	
A Handwriting Example	15
The Immigrants Best Friend	16
<i>by Elisabeth Thorsell</i>	
The Old Picture	18
The Staff at the SAG Workshop	19
<i>by Fran Paulson</i>	
Bits & Pieces	21
Solution to the Handwriting Example	22
A Letter to the Editor	23
<i>by Per Clemensson</i>	
Book Reviews	24
Interesting Web Sites	29
Genealogical Queries	30
The Last Page	32

Cover picture:

Photo of Theresa Erickson White. See story on p. 1.

The Swedish-Born Orphan

A photographic mystery

BY MEGAN SMOLENYAK SMOLENYAK

As mysteries go, this was pretty intriguing. When my last article on orphan heirloom rescues (that is, playing sleuth to get stray items back to rightful owners) appeared, I received the following from Marjie Mountainsong:

“I would like your help in returning a photo in my possession. When my mother died, I inherited her wonderful collection of old photos. I’ve managed to return some special ones to the families who might most enjoy them, but have been puzzled by one (see front cover). It’s a studio portrait of a young woman, possibly in her late teens, and the following lines are penned on the back: *Theresa White; Killed Oct. 26, 1922; Funeral Oct. 29, 1922; Given to Mrs. Johnson.* Some distance below in pencil rather than pen is the date: January 1899. Mrs. Johnson would be my Swedish great-grandmother, Brita Kajsa Johnson, wife of Nels Johnson, who homesteaded in Mille Lacs County near Lawrence, Minnesota (now Wahkon), from 1892 until 1932, coming there from several years of residence in Duluth, Minnesota.

“I do not know whether the name White is a birth name or a married name. If she died in Minnesota, I would guess that some newspaper carried a notice of her unexpected death. The Minnesota Death Index online lists a Theresa Antoinette White as dying 26 October 1922 in St. Louis County¹. That would be the area that includes Duluth, Minnesota.”

A young woman killed? How? What happened to her? And why did

Mrs. Johnson wind up with her photo? So many questions. I had to try to find some answers.

Surfing time

As always, my first instinct was to search the Internet. Marjie had given me a head start by locating the listing for Theresa’s death. Since the date was identical to the one on the back of the photo, I was quite confident it was the same woman, so I started my search by trying to put her in context through census records.

Since Theresa died in 1922, I decided to start with the 1920 census and work backward. I looked for White families living in St. Louis County, Minnesota, and found Gilbert White with his wife, Theresa A.

This Theresa had been born around 1879-1880 in Sweden. That would have made her nineteen or twenty at the time of the photo (January 1899), so those dates fit. Also, her photo had been given to a Swedish woman, so her own birth in Sweden seemed to fit as well. I was reasonably sure I had found the Theresa I was seeking.

Learning more about Theresa

Theresa was forty years old and had no children enumerated with her in the 1920 census – but could she have had a child or two already grown and out of the house? If so, their lines could lead to descendants, so I backed up to 1910 to see if there were any children in the house. Fortunately, the family had stayed in

place, so it was easy to find Gilbert White in 1910, but sadly, the census confirmed that there were no children. I would have to go back in time to find collateral relatives who might have descendants alive today. The census also revealed that Gilbert and Theresa had married around 1906, so Theresa would have been listed under her maiden name in 1900 – but I didn’t know what that was.

Ancestry.com is in the midst of creating an every-name index for the 1900 census and is more than halfway through the project, but Minnesota is one of the states that has not yet been completed.

I couldn’t just search on Swedish-born Theresas of an appropriate age (although that will be possible in the near future). In any case, a census record wouldn’t satisfy my curiosity about her death, so what else could I do?

How was she killed?

At this point, I consulted a favorite site of mine, Joe Beine’s *Online Searchable Death Indexes & Records* (www.deathindexes.com). I clicked on Minnesota and saw that the Minnesota Historical Society also had an online index of Minnesota deaths. I duplicated my earlier search and found the listing for Theresa’s death – and then I noticed the “Add to Order” button. I clicked on it and discovered that I could have a copy of her death certificate mailed to me for \$8. That would certainly help solve the riddle of her death, so why not?

Then I spotted a box that said “Obituary Research Services.” I

clicked on it and learned that I could order a search for her obituary for \$15 (\$12, if you're a Minnesota resident). Since she was killed, I was virtually certain there would be an article about her death, so I decided to make the investment. One week later, I received the death certificate, and two weeks after that, I received the obituary. I confess that this quick and efficient service made me jealous of those with Minnesota roots.

An Unfortunate Accident

The death certificate answered my first question: Her death was given as, "struck by RR engine while crossing track. Accidental. Died from shock." The article about her death – front-page news in the *Pine County Pioneer*, a newspaper in the area where she had lived most of her life – explained that she died of injuries sustained when she alighted from one train and failed to notice an approaching freight train on a nearby track.

The article went on to reveal many more details. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Erickson of Pine City, Minnesota; she was born in Sweden in 1879 and came here in infancy with her parents (later research in earlier census records indicated it had been in 1882); she had married on 10 June, 1906, and moved to Duluth about a year later. She was also an only child, so there were no sibling lines to follow forward in time in the quest for living relatives. The story it told was a sad one, but in genealogical terms, this article was a gold mine. Among other details was a list of friends and relatives who had attended her funeral. First on the list was Mrs. Nels Johnson, the owner of the photo.

What's the Connection?

At this point, I contacted Marjie with this information, including the fact that her great-grandmother was a friend or relative of the mystery woman. In fact, we were later to learn that the first eight people mentioned in Theresa's obituary were relatives of Marjie's. Marjie, it

turns out, is quite a detective, and rather fortuitously, was traveling in Minnesota at the time, even though she lives in Oregon. She decided to join in the hunt.

She started by researching the obituary file for Theresa's parents, as well as the 1905 Agricultural Census for Pine County, at the Pine City, Minnesota, library. Marjie found all these records and some clues about additional possible relatives, but nothing that explained the connection to Mrs. Nels Johnson. As she explains, "Seemingly, I had reached a brick wall, but it finally struck me that I still had another option. I went to the Minnesota Historical Society Library and found the microfilm for the 1922 *Wahkon Enterprise* (the newspaper of the town in which my great-grandmother had resided at the time). I started scrolling and found this in the 3 November, 1922, issue: 'Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Swennes and Mrs. N. J. Johnson motored to Pine City Sunday to attend the funeral of Mrs. White. Mrs. White is a cousin of Mrs. Johnson.'"

Marjie went on to say, "You can, of course, believe that the two adjacent microfilm reader occupants were treated to a burst of joy from their neighbor."

Time to cross the Pond

The mystery is mostly solved. Theresa White and Mrs. Nels Johnson were cousins, and given that Theresa was an only child and had no offspring of her own, Marjie has decided that the orphan photo was already home, as she may well be one of Theresa's closest living relatives.

That doesn't mean that the search is quite over, though. Marjie wants to find out the exact nature of the cousin relationship, and fortunately, she now has the means. I asked what she knew of her great-grandmother's origins in Sweden, and she replied with these details:

Date of birth: 6 July 1860

Birthplace: Gissjö; Torp (parish); Västernorrland (province)

Parents: Anders Kristmansson and Märta Susanna Bjelkström

I took this information and treated myself to a twenty-day subscription to *Genline* (www.genline.com), a new resource of online, digitized Swedish Church records. Sure enough, there she was in the 1860 births, and, better yet, a household examination showed her with her entire family and their exact birth dates, back to the 1820s. Once again, I felt a twinge of jealousy – this time, for those of Swedish ancestry! Because Marjie's such a competent researcher, I'll leave her to connect the rest of the dots via Genline, and I have no doubts that she'll do so soon. And Theresa's photo and rediscovered story will remain safe with the one who cared enough to ask questions in the first place.

Note:

1) You can search the Minnesota Death Index at Ancestry.com, or at the Minnesota Historical Society web site www.mnhs.org/index.htm

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak can be contacted through www.genetealogy.com and www.honoringourancestors.com.

This article was first printed in the *Ancestry Daily News* at (www.ancestry.com/dailynews) 11 January 2005, and is reprinted in SAG according to ADN Reprint Policy: "We encourage the circulation of the Ancestry Daily News via non-profit newsletters and lists." (Copyright 1998-2005, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.)

Editor's note:

I contacted Marjie Mountainsong and asked her if I could borrow a copy of the photo of Theresa as an illustration for the article above.

She not only sent the photo of Theresa but also a photo of her great-grandparents and two of their children, and an amazing story of serendipity, so read on



Marjie's story

After an extended cross-country genealogical road trip, I had many leads I wanted to pursue and I decided to put Theresa and her family on the back-burner. Another old photo in my mother's collection was of my grandmother, Severa Johnson Swennes, and her cousin, Severn Swordling, circa 1889.

While traveling through Spokane, Washington, I had found Andrew (the father of Severn) Swordling's obituary. Listed among the survivors was a brother, John Shulene¹. Upon returning home, I tracked down a direct descendant of John Shulene, a grandson with the same name. John was quite surprised by my phone call as he had no knowledge of his grandfather's sister, Brita Kajsa Andersdotter Swordling Johnson. He had, however, been told how each brother claimed a different name following his military service in Sweden.

John knew details of both his grandfather's and Andrew Swordling's life.

I was listening intently when I heard him say, "my father had a sister named Evenda and she married Gilbert White. They had one son, Gilbert Jr." The critical question hung on my lips until John paused. I asked, "Did this Gilbert White live in Duluth, Minnesota?" "Yes," John replied.

More questions followed quickly, establishing that Evenda's husband, Gilbert White, worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad as a traveling auditor, the same position held by Theresa's husband. I was almost positive I had found Theresa's Gilbert in his second marriage. Then I asked, "Was he ever married to a woman named Theresa?" John replied that Gilbert was quite old when he married Evenda and he certainly could have been married previously.

He generously offered to contact his cousin, Gilbert Jr., and inquire.

Shortly thereafter, I learned that Gilbert Jr. had no direct knowledge of an earlier marriage for his father in part because Gilbert Sr. had died



Nils and Brita Kajsa Johnson with oldest children Severa and Emelia 1891.

when young Gilbert was only 8 years old and his mother had died when he was a teenager. However, he suspected there might have been an earlier marriage. He mentioned that he inherited a decorative folder with an old photo of his father standing closely beside a woman he did not recognize.

John took the lead in arranging a first meeting where all our con-

tributions were spread out on the dining room table. The 1899 photo of Theresa was compared with the later photo of Gilbert White and the mystery woman.

Theresa's striking facial features appeared in both photos. Supported by other data, it became very clear that Gilbert had married twice (a fact that his lengthy obituary did not mention) and both women were

directly related to my great-grandmother, one as a cousin and the other as a niece.

Note:

1) My great-grandmother's marriage certificate (dated 16 December, 1882, in Rush City, Minnesota) has the signature of "John Sjöling" as a witness, probably an earlier spelling of "Shulene."

Editor's additions:

As the SAG editor can not resist research challenges, she also asked Marjie for more dates on the Johnsons and on Theresa's family.

Marjie responded by giving the birth dates on Nils Jonas Johnson and his wife Anna Britta Björkman, and also a little on the family of Theresa. She thought her parents Charles Erickson and Anna Brita Björkman had married in 1878, and that Theresa had been born 13 August 1879 in an unknown place. Marjie also mentioned that Nils Jonas's exit permit came from the same place as Anna Brita's, so it was not hard to decide trying a little with Torp records.

The first step though was to try the "Emihamn database," but the results were negative, these two families could not be identified there.

So *Genline* was the next step, and luckily enough the records for Torp in Västernorrland had been published there.

Nils Jonas was found as having been born 1856 April 18 in Karrsjö village, son of the *nybyggare* (settler) Jon Larsson and his wife Sara Magdalena Nilsson.

The 1870-79 clerical survey [Torp AI:14a, p. 272] showed Nils Jonas family like this:

Jonas Larsson, born 11 Dec. 1821
w. Sara Magdalena Nilsson, born 2 Jan. 1829
s. Lars Petter, born 30 Jan. 1851
d. Märta Magdalena, born 3 Jan. 1853
d. Brita Kajsa, born 28 Dec. 1854
s. *Nils Jonas*, born 18 Apr. 1858
d. Kristina, born 12 June 1861
s. Erik Olof, born 20 June 1865

There is no parish of birth listed for anyone in the family, but a certain guess is that they all are born in Torp.

Brita Kajsa was born 6 July 1860, daughter of Anders Kristmansson and his wife Märta Susanna Bjelkström in Gissjö. She married Nils Jonas on 16 December 1882 in Rush City, Minnesota. Their oldest children were *Severa*, born 8 September 1883 in Pine City, Minn., and *Emelia (Millie)*, born 9 May 1890 in Duluth, Minn.

Severa later married and became Mrs. Ole S. Swennes. *Millie* married also and became Mrs. John E. Ford.

Then I checked the marriage records for Torp to try to find Theresa's parents there. This search was negative, but next I tried to find her birth, also in Torp:

13 August 1879 *Theresa Antoinetta*, daughter of the laborer Carl August Eriksson and his wife Anna Britta Björkman of Torpshammar.

The Torp clerical survey [AI:14b, p.436] showed the family like this:

Carl August Eriksson, born 27 November 1842 in Fliseryd, Kalmar county
w. Anna Brita Björkman, born 10 February 1856 in Torp
d. *Theresa Antoinetta*, born August 13 1879 in Torp

According to the clerical survey the parents had married in Torp on 6 July 1879, just a few weeks before the birth of Theresa, and that was nothing unusual in those days.

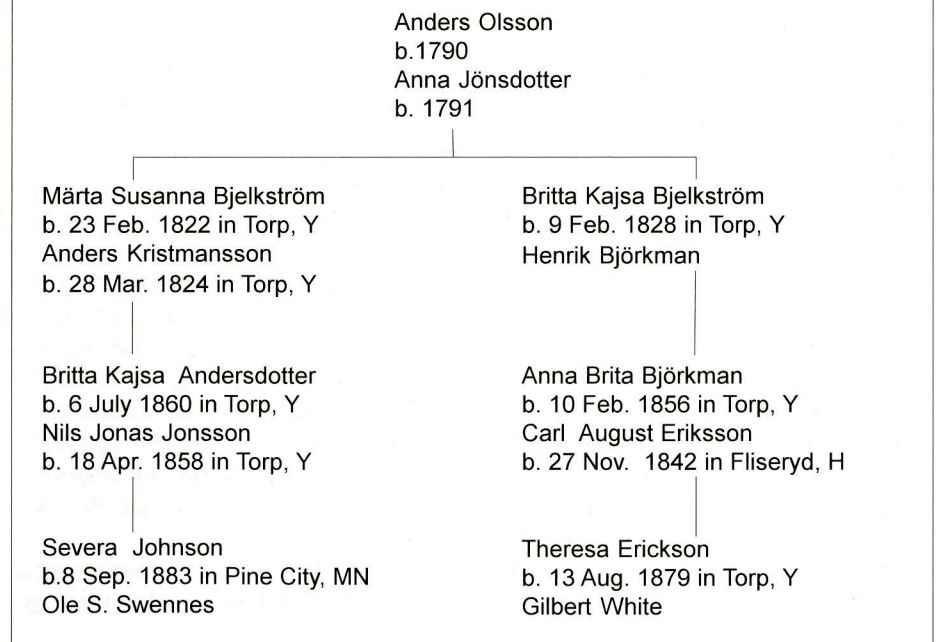
Carl August had come in 1875 from faraway Fliseryd. Maybe he had been recruited as a skilled worker from a paper mill there when they started the paper mill in Torpshammar in the 1870s? Further research might tell.

His future wife Anna Brita was also found in the Torp birth records:

Anna Brita, born 10 February 1856, daughter of the farmer Henrik Björkman and his wife Britta Kajsa Bjelkström of Gissjö.

The Bjelkström sisters were children of the farmer Anders Olsson and his wife Anna Jönsdotter of Gissjö. Anders did not use his family surname when the girls were born, but might have done so later. His father was the old man Olof Bjelkström of Gissjö, born in 1762.

How Britta Kajsa and Theresa were cousins



The Farm Names of Dalarna

An old type of name still lives on and can confuse the new researcher

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

In the province of **Dalarna** (*Dalecarlia*) people used and still use **gårdsnamn**, which means farm names.

These names are always put first in a person's name. They show that this person belonged to the "Der" farm or the "Blom" farm, and they were always put before the person's Christian name, and they were mentioned as Der Eric or Blom Anna.

If Blom Anna married Der Eric and moved to the Der farm, she was usually known as Der Anna after the marriage. But if Der Eric moved to her home, he was probably known as Blom Eric after the marriage.

The reason for this is not clear, but probably has to do with the fact that very few first names were used when a baby's name was to be chosen. In the old days people almost always used a name that already was used by an older relative, and that gave the parents somewhat less than 20 names for boys and 20 names for girls to choose from. As a result you could have several *Anders Erssons* or *Anna Andersdotter* in a village.

The villages, especially around lake Siljan, can be very big with some 50 different farms in the same village. So to help sort out which Anders Ersson or Margareta Olsdotter you were talking about, a farm name was added to this person, like *Orr Anders Ersson* or *Stolts Margareta Olsdotter*. Then you knew that you were talking about Anders from Orrgården or Margareta from Stoltsgården in that village. The same

farm names could also be used in other villages, without the people on those farms being related.

This custom is very common in all of Dalarna, but the *gårdsnamn* are not recorded in the church records until about 1800 or so, at least not in Leksand, which is the parish I am most familiar with. But they were probably used in the local society much earlier.

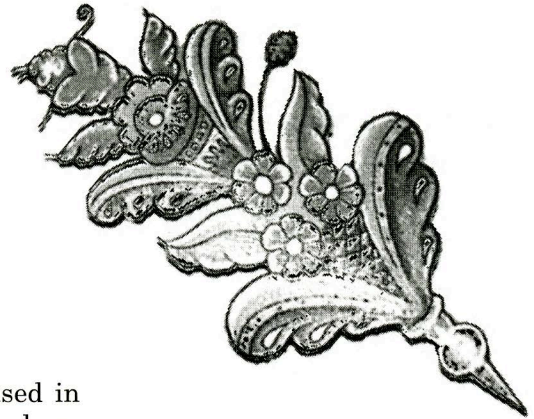
These names are of several types, and the most intriguing ones are the ones like *Knis*, *Kers*, *Hases* as they are contractions of the name of an early owner of the farm. *Knis* can be derived from someone named Erik Nilsson, if you say the name fast, and the same goes for *Kers* from Erik Ersson, etc.

The name can also be of a type that has to do with nature, like *Berg*, *Land*, *Sjö* [mountain, land, lake]. Another variety are names that were first used by a soldier as his army name. My husband's ancestor, *Erik Jönsson Orre* [*orre* is a forest bird], was a soldier and he had a son, and he was called *Orr Anders Ersson*.

The names can also be based on some position in the local society, like *Körkvärns* (the church warden's), *Nämndemans* (the permanent jurymen), *Klockars* (the church singer and clerk) or *Lärmors* (the schoolteacher's).

They can be based on a craft, like *Skommars* (the shoemaker's) or *Målars* (the painter's).

Names could also be based on personal characteristics, like *Lång* (tall)



or *Munter* (cheery). The most common ones are the ones of the first type, based on the name of the first owner; more examples are *Olars*, *Perers*, *Perols*, *Mases*, *Helgas*, *Göras*.

These days many people with a farm name in the family use them for surnames, like our rock singer Björn Skifs, or ice hockey player Åke Lassas, or artist (painter) Jerk Werkmäster. My husband's direct farm name is Helgas, but I am quite content that his grandfather changed this to Thorsell.

Note:

A longer essay on these names can be found in the SARA Journal VI (2001), "Farmstead names in Dalarna," by Eric B. Kula. SARA's web site is

www.members.tripod.com/~SARAassociation/sara/SARA_Home_Page.htm



Treasures in Rock Island

News and general information about the Swenson Center. Part II (continued from SAG 4/04)

BY JILL SEAHOLM

Genealogy

There is also quite a bit of family history research that goes on at the Swenson Center, and that's what I am responsible for. Our sources center primarily on the mass migration period of roughly 1850-1930, which is when about 1.2 million Swedes immigrated to North America.

People hire us through the mail to do research, and they also come to us to do the research themselves. A few years back our board decided that in order to help make ends meet, we needed to start charging genealogists a daily fee when they come to use the center. Maintenance on our microfilm readers is costly, and we are not a public library. So, we followed the lead of similar private libraries such as the Vesterheim Norwegian Research Center in Madison, which does the same thing. That daily fee of \$10 is waived for Augustana students and their parents, Augustana alumni, faculty, and Swenson Center annual supporting members. Members are also given a discount on our genealogical research services through the mail and a discounted subscription rate to our journal *Swedish American Genealogist*. Our hours are by appointment, so please contact us ahead of time to schedule your visit and give us the opportunity to chat with you beforehand about your research needs.

We want to be sure to have staff available and to be able to give you the attention you need. The bulk of our records are in Swedish and the average visitor will need some help getting started.

Our request form

People who hire us through the mail to do research fill out our research request form that we designed to be sure that people will or can provide all of the information necessary to do a search. For the same reason, we also have people fill one out who are coming here to do research themselves, so that when we consult with them about the records they will use, we can be assured that they have their information collected and organized before they get here. That enables us to help them much more efficiently.

Impact of the internet

The internet has made us more visible and busy with research and visitors. Our usual genealogical goal is to help people find out where their ancestors came from Sweden, which is one of the early steps in tracing Swedish ancestry. We try to achieve that using our Swedish-American church records, which are on microfilm. These are records of churches that were founded by Swedes in North America. We also have Swed-

ish port passenger indexes starting with 1869, which is when Swedish ports were required to start keeping records. We also have some other types of microfilmed emigrant indexes and lists from all of the counties in Sweden. Usually some tidbit of information can be found about an immigrant, unless all you know is that your immigrant ancestor is named John Johnson from Sweden and he disappeared in Chicago. Then we need to know some more before we can get started. I perform some of the research requests, my co-worker Anne does some when needed, and we have a pre-med Augustana student worker named Karen O'Quin, who was hired to assist with genealogy research. Karen has gotten pretty good at the chase and still takes it personally when she can't find someone in the records.

Karen lived in Karlstad for a year as a high school student, and her experience with the language and her determination make her good at it. She also spent this past summer in Karlstad as an intern at the Emigrant Register/Kinship Center, which specializes in the province of Värmland.

Some computer CD-ROMs that we have purchased recently for our use and for patron use are the 1890 Swedish census, so if you know that someone was born before 1890 and emigrated after that, you should be

able to find him or her there; and the 1970 & 1980 Swedish censuses to look for more current or living people. Another CD-ROM is "Sveriges Dödbok," which is an index of deaths in Sweden from 1947-2003. The Swedish port indexes have been on a CD-ROM called "Emigranten" for several years now, and the Norwegian and Danish ones are online. We also have indexes to Scandinavian heads of household in the 1870 and 1910 U.S. Federal Censuses. And, there are 5 CDs of indexed City Directories for various parts of the U.S. that cover the years surrounding the 1890s in order to try to make up for the no-longer-existing 1890 U.S. Census. We try to be on the lookout for U.S. records that contain Swedish immigrants and other U.S. records that are pertinent to the specialty research that we do.

Contact work

We also do a lot of referring to other places of people who just don't know

where to go or what to do with the information they have, or don't understand what they already have. We answer many dozens of e-mails a year that come from our web site. We can usually refer them to another part of our web site for the answers or for information about how to get those answers, and we try to mold our web site based on the types of questions we get.

The ultimate goal almost always seems to be to find living relatives in Sweden, so we have a genealogy *Frequently Asked Questions* or FAQ web site. It answers a lot of the questions that people have asked over the years about the different ways to go about finding their relatives in Sweden.

<http://www.augustana.edu/SWENSON/genfaq/>

Swedish TV in the U.S.

A tidbit of information of my own that's not about the Swenson Center: for those of you who live in the Quad

City area (Moline, Rock Island, East Moline in Illinois and Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa) and have cable television, Channel 11 is the St. Ambrose University channel, and they broadcast foreign newscasts from the SCOLA network. They show news from dozens of countries including the Ukraine, Spain, France, Israel, Mexico, and even Sweden.

Every Saturday and Sunday morning at 4:30 on cable channel 11 they show news from Sweden. I do not know why SCOLA uses this particular newscast, but the one they use is called "Smålandsnytt," which is the local newscast from the province of Småland. It is in Swedish and without English subtitles, so it is good practice, even if you don't know what they're saying. It's fun to see Swedish news coming out of my TV. Check www.scola.org, your local college or university's communications department, or TV listings to see if there is something similar in your area.



The Denkmann Library and Old Main at Augustana an early October morning.

The Saga of Sella and John Nelson

A sad story about a short-lived romance

BY WILLIAM J. HEMPEL

Sella in Red Wing

My great-aunt *Sella Victoria Seastrand* was born January 14, 1883, in Red Wing, Minnesota, a small city on the Mississippi River downstream from St. Paul, the capital.

The 1895 Minnesota state census reports John Seastrand 52, Elizabeth 50, Herman 22, Augda 20, Rudolph 16, John H 14, and Sally [!Sella], 12. Both her parents were born in Sweden. Her father died in 1906 of an accidental fall. Sella was employed as a clerk in a millinery shop. Somehow she became acquainted with a young Swedish immigrant, John M. Nelson. Romance bloomed between them later.

John Goes to California

John's own employment record shows he worked as a brakeman

from 1901 to 1904 for the Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Omaha Railroad. He then went to California to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1904 he bought block two of the Calexico townsite for \$400. The property is a few blocks from the border with Mexico. Its official assessed value was \$300 for land and \$120 for improvements. In 1905 he was commended by his employer for exceptional work on the Imperial Branch tracks during heavy rains. The Imperial Valley is in the southeast corner of California.

Their Marriage and Move West

In August, 1909, John returned to Red Wing and on September 1 he married Sella. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Henry Soder-

holm, witnessed by Rudolph Seastrand and Ruth Nelson. The couple went to Calexico, a huge change for Sella from the lush valley of the Mississippi River to the harsh desert of the Imperial Valley. In November, 1909, they took a mortgage on block two, paying it off three years later.

The 1910 U. S. Census reported them residing on Heber Ave. (block two) in Calexico, ages 29 and 27. When the census was taken in April of that year, John worked as a grocery store salesman. Sella is reported as having no work outside the home.

Deaths in Los Angeles

On June 10, 1912, Sella delivered a stillborn child in Los Angeles. The death certificate signed by Dr. H. F. Boardman gives the name only as infant of John M. Nelson and the undertaker as family. The boy was buried the next day at Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles.

Beginning in November, 1912, John was under the care of Dr. William Barnhart. John Nelson died at 4 a.m. on March 13, 1913, at home. He had been seen by his doctor just the day before. The cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis, with valvular heart disease contributing. No duration of the disease was given. His occupation was railway brakeman.

By mistake, in the death certificate he was said to be single. The informant was described as Miss J. M. Nelson. His length of residence



Lakeside Cemetery in Red Wing, Minnesota.

at the place of death was given as nine years, true for the state of California, but not for Los Angeles. His place of birth was stated as Sweden, as was his father's, Albin Nelson.

But the words "don't know" appear in the spaces for the maiden name of John's mother and for her birthplace. He was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, not far from Evergreen Cemetery. His grave marker simply states the years of his birth and death.

The *Red Wing Daily Eagle* reported the death the next day on its front page, saying it was due to dropsy and complications and that the deceased had been well-known in that city years before. The paper said Mrs. J. Seastrand planned to travel to Los Angeles to be with her daughter.

Sella Becomes a Teacher

Sella soon returned to Minnesota, and then moved to Minneapolis, near the banks of the same Mississippi River she had left in 1909. She became qualified to teach business English, typing, and shorthand. She served on the Minnehaha Academy faculty from 1921 to 1952, when she retired. She encouraged attendance there by my mother, Margaret Elise, who graduated in 1923 and after col-

lege, taught French for a year in Red Wing. My sister Elizabeth graduated in 1949, after touring with the famous *Minnehaha Singers*. As a freshman I took typing from Mrs. Nelson and Latin from Gertrude Sandberg. She also taught Swedish and was Sella's housemate for many years. The 1930 U.S. census reports both women as boarders in a house near the academy campus. Our family tradition at the academy continued with high school attendance and graduation by our daughter Elise Margaret and son Drew William in the 1980s.

Sella's Legacy

On November 15, 1960, Sella died at age 77 while living at the home of Gertrude Sandberg. She left no will but had told her friend of her wish to leave \$1,000 to Minnehaha Academy and \$1,000 to her church, Bethlehem Covenant. Minnehaha is owned and operated by the Northwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, with a strong Swedish heritage. Her heirs, sixteen nieces, who of course shared the Swedish heritage if not the church connection, all agreed and contributed \$125 each to those charities. I was one administrator of the estate. The other was Arthur Munson, husband of one of the nieces.

Conclusion

One of the still surviving nieces, Mildred Seastrand, told me recently that on the rare occasions when her aunt spoke of her time in Calexico she had a twinkle in her eye.

Today the fertile sands of the Imperial Valley, irrigated by the mighty Colorado River, produce many crops year round. Block two in Calexico has some substantial homes on it with a school nearby.

Born November 14, 1880, John Mikael Nilsson, son of Albin Nilsson and Anna Greta Pettersdotter, he immigrated to Red Wing at age one with his family. I found no record of change of name, but he used Nilsson at least once in California in his real estate transactions.

Readers interested in the Colorado River and the Imperial Valley of California, especially the Salton Sea, well below sea level, are referred to an excellent book with many fine photographs, *Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low Down California* by William deBuys and Joan Meyers (University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1999) available both in hardcover and softcover editions.

The author is William J. Hempel, a retired member of the Minnesota Bar. His e-mail: <billhempel@juno.com>



Calexico, California, Tent City in 1908.

From Höganäs to Worcester: Discovering My Swedish Ancestors

BY P. ROBERT WILLEY

When I began to research my Swedish ancestors, I did not know how to spell, locate, or pronounce **Höganäs**. My thirty-three year search has led me to take two trips to Sweden.

Verifying clues, hunches, or family legends has led to many interesting surprises. This article represents my genealogical journey to become educated about my ancestors' daily lives and their involvement in the community.

From the middle 1800's to the early 1900's several hundred people left Höganäs, Sweden, for a new life in Worcester County in central Massachusetts. This article is about one family, my maternal grandparents and relatives, who immigrated from Höganäs in southernmost Sweden to Worcester, Massachusetts.

My grandfather, Martin (Svensson) Swanson, born July 20, 1872, began working in one of the coal mines in Höganäs at the age of twelve years. He left Höganäs October 13, 1890, (*Flyttningsbetyg* - Emigration Record) and arrived in Worcester, Massachusetts, November 4, 1890, at the age of eighteen (port of departure and date of arrival unknown). The earliest reference to an address in Worcester was 25 Vernon Street in 1900 in the military & naval population of the 12th Census of the United States (1900).

Ellen Maria Larsson, my grandmother, was born October 29, 1880, (American church record) or October 31, 1880, (Swedish church record) in

Höganäs. On May 30, 1896, (aboard the *SS Hekla*) she arrived in New York at the age of fifteen and traveled to Worcester. I have found no evidence to confirm that my grandparents knew each other prior to coming to this country, though they lived only a few blocks from each other in a town whose population was slightly more than 3,000. My grandmother is listed in the 1900 Census as a "servant of the family" in a private home on William Street. Family oral history says my grandparents met on their second voyage from Sweden to New York in 1901 or 1902.

The Genealogist as Family Historian

The family historian is the keeper of the family records. The genealogist is the developer of the family record from a historical perspective. For example: So far I have documented four countries and ten states where my Swedish ancestors have lived. When I began in 1971 I knew about two dozen Swedish ancestors. I can now identify 400 individuals, dating back to the late 1600's (eleven generations).

My grandfather had six siblings all born in Höganäs, Sweden. One immigrated to Chicago, Illinois, and three to Worcester, Massachusetts:

Sigrid Paulina Svensson was born September 1, 1863. She married August Karlsson, born November 20,

1865, in Våxtorp, Sweden, and died September 4, 1931. They raised six children, two of which came to Worcester.

Gerda Svensson was born April 24, 1866, and died April 30, 1866.

Gerda Elise Svensson was born May 15, 1867. She initially lived in Evanston, Illinois, 1898–1923 (immigration date is mentioned later in this article). She was employed as a domestic for several families and married (October 5, 1916, Evanston, Illinois) her employer's chauffeur Frank Rhodin born 1866 in Sweden. She eventually moved to Worcester (1924–1934), later Riverview, Florida, (1934–1950) and then back to Carlisle and Worcester (1950–1961). She died March 28, 1961. They had no children.

Martin Svensson was born March 21, 1870, and died January 26, 1871.

Ida Svensson was born March 22, 1875, (immigration date is mentioned later in this article). She married Axel Nelson (date and place unknown) and lived in Chicago (she was listed as next of kin on her brother Martin's fourth naval enlistment in 1898 and allegedly moved to St. Francis, Ontario, in the early 1900's).

Sigfrid (Fred) Svensson was born February 27, 1878. Prior to leaving Sweden he began working at the age of twelve in one of the coal mines in Höganäs. He left Höganäs October 12, 1895, at the age of seventeen, arriving in New York November 1, 1895, aboard the *Tingvalla* departing

from Copenhagen, Denmark. Documentation of his early whereabouts was again found in the Ellis Island records on April 28, 1913, when he arrived in New York on the ship *Orotava* from Hamilton, Bermuda. His occupation at the time was as a cook. He had previously lived in this country for seventeen years and became a United States citizen on November 9, 1920, in the Superior Court of Worcester, Massachusetts, (legally changing his name from Sigfrid Svenson to Fred Swanson). His culinary talents led him to travel the Eastern seaboard working for various employers. Subsequently he lived in Carlisle 1930–1958 and Worcester 1958–1960. He married three times. He died September 6, 1960. There were no children. His three wives were:

- Mary K. Brennan “Kitty” – was born 1883 in England. They were married July 1, 1902, (Boston, Massachusetts).

- Signe Brynhildsen was born August 10, 1887, in Horten, Norway. She left on September 28, 1914, (aboard the *Kristianiafjord* departing from Hordaland, Norway) and arrived in Boston at the age of 26. They married May 1, 1915, (Boston, Massachusetts). She died June 7, 1931.

- Rose Raymond Bachelidor was born November 1, 1877, in Cohes, New York. They were married July

8, 1932, (Worcester, Massachusetts). He died January 22, 1951.

I had not been able to find information about my grandmother’s siblings until recently, when old photographs taken in Höganäs were found in a box and provided new clues yet to be pursued. They all remained in Sweden. Her three siblings were:

Constance Louise Larsson was born January 26, 1879, and never married.

Betty Emilia Larsson was born January 23, 1883. She married Idar Svenson and raised a family.

Ernst Larsson was born July 31, 1885. He married Esther (surname not known) and raised a family.

Family Supporting Family

Family members who immigrated from Höganäs maintained close relationships with one another as they were building new lives in different places in “Amerika.” This was done by correspondence, attending important family events, and establishing residence near immediate family members.

The Genealogist as Detective

The genealogist is a persistent detective looking for clues, identi-

fying patterns, clarifying confusions, and solving puzzles in family connections and journeys. For example:

One of the most time consuming and frustrating research tasks has been in locating two of my great-aunts on the Ellis Island web site (www.ellisland.org). The names of Gerda Svensson and Ida Svensson were identified as passengers on the ship *Aurania* arriving in New York on May 20, 1897. At first I doubted the validity of the information because the port of departure was Liverpool, England; I had never heard that mentioned as part of the family oral history. After verifying names, dates, and places, I was convinced it indeed was them. However the real challenge was negotiating the Ellis Island web site to document the discovery.

Once having downloaded the passenger record with the information, I found it inexplicably confusing. Several e-mails and phone calls were made to administrators of the web site seeking assistance to clarify the information. Finally the assistant director responsible for overseeing the database communicated that there are many errors in the passenger records on their web site and my only choice was “to go page by page.” This included beginning on page 612 (May 29, 1897) and five hours later arrived at the correct page (76). Coincidentally my grandmother was easily found several years ago on this same web site.

Several years ago our son had received in the mail from my mother’s former pastor an old medal she had inadvertently placed in a church rummage sale, with a picture of King Oscar II, my paternal great-grandfather’s name, the date of 1897, and an inscription on the back (in Swedish). No one in our family knew what it was. I began my inquiry by sending an e-mail to the Consulate General of Sweden in Chicago. They suggested I should contact the Swedish-American Historical Society (www.swedishamericanhist.org) who graciously provided a translation of the inscription. My next task was to contact the librarian at Höga-



näs AB, who in turn suggested I communicate with the Royal Coin Cabinet in Stockholm. The end result was that it was identified as a medal commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Högånäs *Stenkolsbolag* (HSB) [Coal Company] given by the King of Sweden to employers to present to employees for their “long and loyal duty.” My maternal great-grandfather had been a worker for many years in one of the local coal mines (as was his father). All sources were found through the internet.

Regarding Martin Swanson’s United States naval record, several years ago I had found extensive information from the Department of the Navy Personnel Command in St. Louis, Missouri. My grandfather had enlisted in Boston on January 26, 1892, and discharged in New York March 12, 1901. His monthly salary in 1895 as a “Landsman” was \$17 per month and in 1926 he began receiving his monthly pension of \$20.

Now I wondered if there was a record of any medals or citations he may have received. In June of last year I sent in an additional information request. Several weeks later I received a Naval Good Conduct Medal along with verification that he was also entitled to the Spanish Campaign Medal, Philippine Campaign Medal, and the China Relief Expeditionary Medal (having served on 15 different vessels). Lending depth to his military records, a family member recently found our grandfather’s detailed “navy log” while he served on the *U.S.S. Yorktown* from November, 1898, to December, 1900, (with the rank of “Boatswain Mate First Class”).

The Genealogist as Descendent

My grandparents, *Ellen Maria* and *Martin Swanson*, were married February 14, 1903, in the *Svenska Lutherska Gethsemane Kyrkan* in Worcester, Massachusetts. Martin Swanson became a citizen April 29, 1898, (Eastern District Court of New York). *Ellen Maria Swanson* died July 17, 1951. *Martin Swanson* died Novem-

ber 16, 1956. They had four children:

- *Bertha Ella Maria Swanson*, was born September 23, 1903, (our mother) and died March 12, 1992. She married (December 31, 1928, New York, New York) *Roy Chester Willey*, born August 27, 1903, (Worcester, Massachusetts), and died January 16, 1945. They raised three sons (the author and two brothers).

- *Martin Irwin Swanson*, was born December 23, 1904, and died February 4, 1905.

- *Margaret Lillian Swanson*, was born July 8, 1906, and died May 23, 1950. She never married.

- *John Paul Swanson*, was born November 13, 1907, and died July 31, 1975. He married (August 2, 1935) *Margaret Johnson*, born August 20, 1909, (Stockholm, Sweden) and died December 13, 1999. They raised two sons.

The Genealogist as Archivist

Through archival findings, the genealogist is able to document community involvement and contributions. For example:

I had always heard my grandfather had been active in the local Republican Party. Correspondence with the Worcester Historical Society yielded a picture of him at a Republican Party outing on July 15, 1911, along with records that he was an alderman and member of the Common Council from 1923–1926. The Massachusetts State Archives and State Library identified that in 1929 he was elected to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives (12th district) and served four terms until 1940. Compensation for 1930–1940 was \$2,000. The committees he served on while a state legislator were: 1929–1930, Public Safety (clerk) & Public Service
1931–1932, Civil Service, Highways & Motor Vehicles
1933–1934, Counties
1935–1936, Rules, Highways & Motor Vehicles
1937–1938, Rules, Banks & Banking
1939–1940, Rules & State Administration (Assistant Floor Leader)



Martin, Bertha, (author’s mother) and Ellen Marie Swanson 1906.

In our library we have a large photograph of him sitting with his elected peers at the State Capitol in 1935. In the front row was his friend Leverett Saltonstall who was elected Massachusetts Governor (1939–1944) and United States Senator (1944–1967).

Further research identifying his public service work included:

- May 17, 1937, he helped to propose legislation for the “Special Commission to Prepare Plans and Programs for the Celebration of the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the First Permanent Settlement of Swedish Colonists in this Country.”

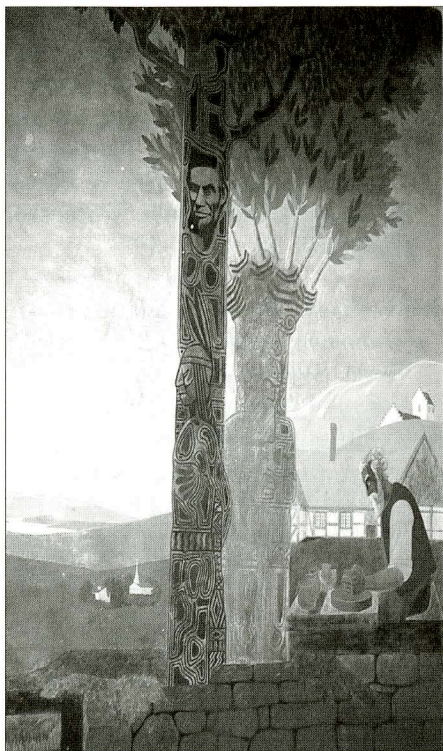
- January 11, 1938, he introduced legislation to create Worcester Junior College.

- June 26, 1942, he was appointed to the Selective Service Board (serving five years).

- He was also a founding director (1930) of the Worcester Bank & Trust Company (previously incorporated on September 23, 1915, as The Skandia Credit Union; later became the Guaranty Bank & Trust Company).

The Genealogist with Childhood Memories

Ellen and *Martin Swanson* became members of the newly formed *Greendale Lutheran Church* (later named



A part of the Zion murals.

Zion Lutheran Church) on October 22, 1916. My grandfather's company (independent contractor for foundations, concrete, and asphalt work) built the stone foundation for the church and his son (Swanson & Janson Construction Company) built the chapel in 1948. All of my grandparents' children were confirmed (Swedish) in this church, my two brothers and I were baptized and confirmed there, and our son baptized there. In the chapel is a large mural on the wall depicting the history of the Norton Company and the Swedish Immigration to Worcester. Coincidentally while visiting The House of Emigrants Museum in Växjö, Sweden, (1988) I found Zion Lutheran Church records (in Swedish) which included several family members.

The Genealogist as Family Collaborator

For years I have been accumulating ancestral information. Finally, two years ago, I decided to make individual files and create two large family trees, listing all the relatives in order to see relationships and develop perspective. This has proven to be an

invaluable step in the self-organization process as well as identifying future genealogical inquiries. My search always takes on new meaning when I successfully communicate by phone, letter, or in person to a previously unknown relative. Several examples:

My mother had frequently mentioned Aunt Betty Carlson (born 1866 in Höganäs) who married Axel Swenson. She was my grandmother's maternal aunt who lived in Worcester. When we moved to Holden, Massachusetts, (a Worcester suburb) in 1958, my mother frequently identified a house within a mile of where we lived as the home of Elsa (Carlson) Johnson, (born June 23, 1897, in Worcester) daughter of Aunt Betty who married George Johnson.

I have no memory of meeting them and thought nothing of it for many years. Then I recently began looking through letters written by my grandmother to our mother in December, 1944, that mentioned these same individuals. From there I was able to obtain a copy of Elsa Johnson's obituary that listed several relatives. In September of last year, I took a chance and sent a letter to an individual with the same last name mentioned in the obituary living on the same street where she had lived. "Voila!" another distant relative located. Subsequently we have ex-

changed family stories along with old photographs of relatives we both previously were unable to identify and about whom we had only vague information. Surprisingly, we each had a photograph in which the same chair was visible and from this we were able to identify connections of people, time, and place.

My grandmother had an obituary (in Swedish) of August Karlsson (husband of Sigrid Paulina Svensson). For years I did not know who he was. With information containing names, dates, and cities my second cousin had given me during our initial visit to Höganäs, in addition to reading through letters he sent me over the years, I began to put together the names and make connections through the use of a sequential order. In July of last year while searching www.ancestry.com at our local public library, I located a John (Johannes) Carlson born July 10, 1860, in Våxtorp, Sweden, (brother to the previously named August Karlsson) on the 1920 Census living in Humboldt County, California. With the assistance of the public libraries in Kalispell, Montana, and Eureka, California, I was able to locate several obituaries. This led me to communicating with distant relatives now residing in both states.



Martin Swanson and family at 30 Ararat Street in Worcester around 1918.

It's a Small World

My mother had given me her parents' marriage certificate (in Swedish) identifying the date, place, and pastor. What I did not know was the name of the church. To research this I communicated with the Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester (my grandmother had been a member in the early 1900's - at that time it was called the *Svenska Lutherska Gethsemane Kyrkan*). I was given the name of a person to e-mail my questions. Several weeks later I received a letter that the church archivist had known my mother and my grandparents. I telephoned her and soon learned she and her family lived for many years in the same house in which my mother and her parents had once resided. We have since exchanged documents and memories of local people, places, and events.

The Genealogist as Networker

One of the most productive techniques in researching my ancestors has been to create a collaborative resource network. Specifically this has involved identifying, communicating, and nurturing interactive relationships with relatives, researchers, and public or private resources over an extended period of time. This has been especially productive when my "research was going nowhere" and I had prematurely concluded all known avenues of

inquiry were exhausted. Likewise, researching my family has often been complicated by cultural nuances, language differences, identification/location of faraway resources, as well as continually uncovering previously forgotten old family documents. However, my attitude quickly changes when "family clues" are found in boxes, closets, garages, letters, basements, or an individual's memory. Once discovered and placed in perspective regarding their possible meaning for further research, they often act as guides for innumerable new directions of inquiry in the evolving journey of discovering my heritage.

Notes

1. In 1876 the Swedish colony in Worcester numbered about 200. In 1880 the United States Census estimated approximately 1,000. "From Sweden to America. A History of the Migration. A Collective Work of the Uppsala Migration Project" Eds. Hans Norman & Harold Runblom. University of Minnesota Press. 1976.
2. In 1910, Worcester had about 8,000 Swedish born inhabitants. "The Swedish Heritage in America. The Swedish Element in America and American-Swedish Relations in Their Historical Perspective." Allan Kastrup. Swedish Council of America. 1975

3. Almost one out of five Worcestertites was of Swedish descent by 1915 (30,000). "Gå till Amerika - The Swedish Creation Of An Ethnic Identity For Worcester, Massachusetts." Charles W. Estus, Sr., & John McClymer. Worcester Historical Museum. 1994.
4. Swedish House of Emigrants (*Svenska Emigrantinstitutet*) Växjö, Sweden.
5. By the early 1900's Worcester had 13 Swedish speaking church congregations. "The History of the Swedish People in Worcester and Worcester County." *Worcester Evening Post*. May 31, 1936.
6. "Worcester, Massachusetts/Zion Lutheran Church (1914) Register, Minutes and Ministerial Acts, 1914-1949 Swedish/English." Microfilm distributed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. 2004.

P. Robert Willey resides in Bloomington, Illinois. E-mail: <bawille@ilstu.edu>

The author lived in the Worcester area from 1945-1962 and 1966-1969.

Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

About 35% of the Swedish immigrants belonged to a Swedish-American church in America, and the records of those churches are mostly microfilmed and available at the Swenson Center in Rock Island.

Those Swedish-American churches belonged to the *Augustana Synod*, which joined the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (ELCA) in the 1960s.

ELCA seems to have an active archives institution, situated in the Chicago area, where their records are

accessible to the public. Among their collections, they have personal papers of several Swedish pastors, including Gustaf Albert Brandelle, Erland Carlsson (founder of Augustana), Lars Paul Esbjörn, and many others.

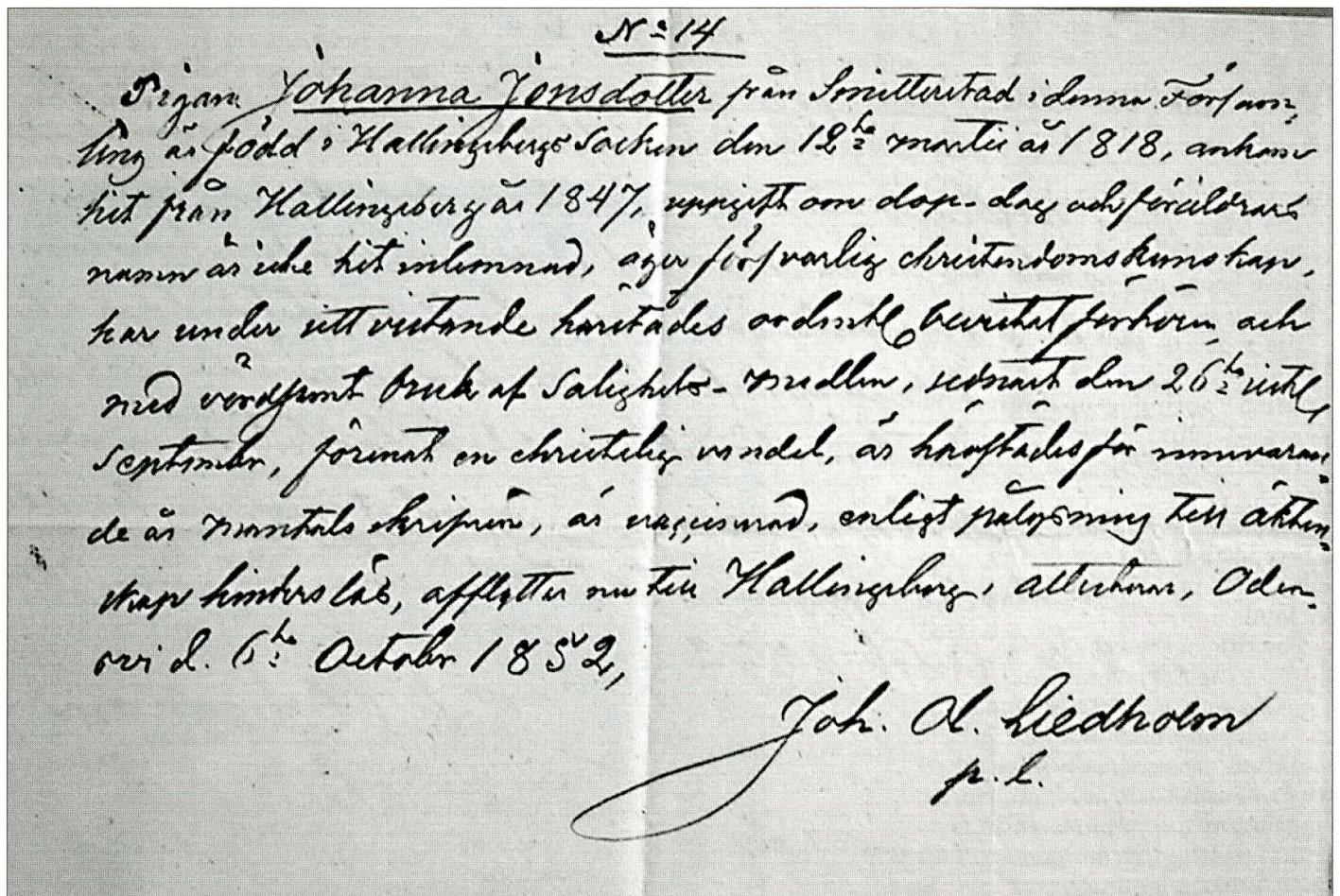
They also have congregational papers from Sagetown, Svenska (Bethel), and Swedonia (Berlin), Svenska in Illinois, New Sweden Swedish in Iowa, and Kimball, Karmel Swedish (records 1887-1902) in Nebraska, as a few examples.

On the web site there is also a good on-line catalog of their holdings, both printed books and archival holdings. A search for just "swedish" gave many hits, which made the page a bit slow, but for instance a search for "Olsson" came up with nine hits in a second.

There is also a nice page about all the missionaries to various parts of the world, searchable by country, which gives the names and time frame.

www.elca.org/archives/index.html

A Handwriting Example, #V



This is a *flyttningbevis* or *flyttningsbetyg* (removal certificate) that people had to have when they moved from parish to parish.

This one is not on a printed form like the one in SAG 4/04 p. 20, so here the pastor could include things that were not mentioned on the printed forms that existed at this time.

A *flyttningsbetyg* is the very best document you can have to trace your ancestors back to Sweden, as they give an entry into the Swedish church records. You get to know the parish of origin, perhaps even the

page of the clerical survey, and the full name and the place and date of birth for the individual.

Many asked for a *flyttningsbetyg* from the home parish when they emigrated, and then used it to become members of a local Swedish-American church at their destination. This means that they might still be kept in the archives of the church, but most have been lost during the decades.

In the 1990s local Swedish researchers found a binder in the archive of Trinity Lutheran Church

in Worcester, MA, which contained several hundred *flyttningsbetyg*, both from congregations in the U.S., and also from Sweden and Finland.

These valuable records have since been microfilmed and are now for sale on 35 microfiche by the *Swedish Ancestry Research Association* (SARA) of Worcester.

http://www.members.tripod.com/~SARAAssociation/sara/SARA_Home_Page.htm

The transcription to this document is found on page 22.

The Immigrant's Best Friend – His English Phrase Book

For those who could read, a phrase book was very important during the preparations for leaving home

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

As we all know, Robert spent much of his time onboard the *Charlotta* reading to his friend Arvid from his phrase book, according to Vilhelm Moberg's story in the *Emigrants*.

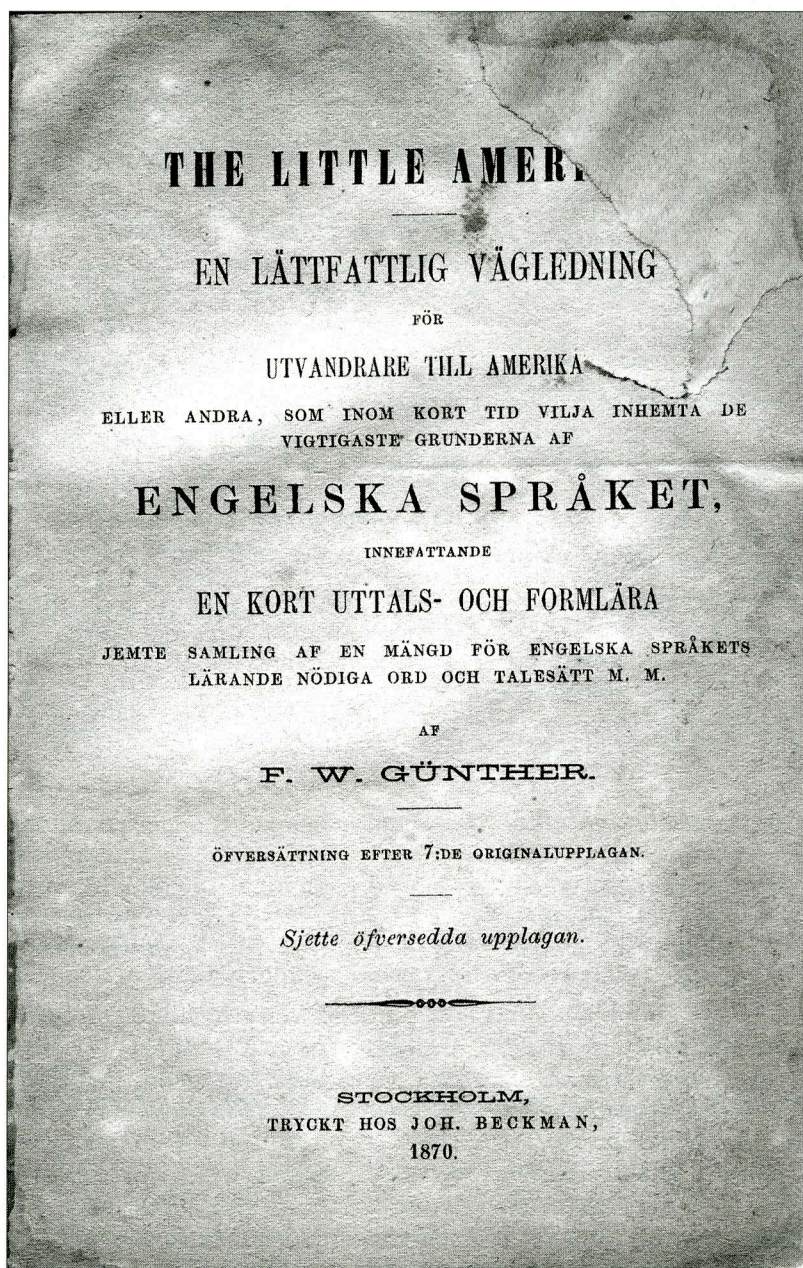
His story is placed in the early 1850s, but the need to learn a little English continued during all the years of immigration, and new phrase books were printed all the time.

The book shown here was found on a Swedish auction site on the Internet, and is probably fairly typical of its kind.

The title of the book is
The Little American
– An easily understood guide
for emigrants to America
or others, who within a short space
of time wishes to learn the most
important fundamentals of
the English Language
containing
a short chapter on pronunciation
and syntax
and a collection of a number of
necessary words and phrases for
the student of the English
language,
by F. W. Günther.

The book was printed in 1870 in Stockholm and has 95 pages. Unfortunately the price is missing, but a guess is that it cost around \$1, which an average farmhand could pay after working for a week.

The Introduction explains that most of the contents are dialogues as



that is the best way to learn a foreign language. But first comes a section on how to pronounce all these foreign sounds, and the next one is a short grammar, which seems to require the eager student to know about Swedish grammar to make the best use of this.

The Swedish parts of the text are always printed in the old *fraktur* font, while the English parts are printed in Roman font. All English is also transformed into a phonetic spelling, which looks very curious, but probably was of some help. (The same system was lately used by the Swedish *Systembolaget* to explain how to pronounce French wines.)

[The words in the following part are quotes from the phrase book].

After this more formal part of the book comes lists of words, necessary for daily life, starting with the groceries. Here one learns with some astonishment that raw meat was called flesh, and cooked meat was just meat.

Then comes venison, vegetables, and fruits. Next comes soups, the beloved pea-soup and pancakes, for instance. You will also learn the words for cutlery and for drinks of various kinds, different wines and hard liquor. A corkscrew has the phonetic spelling of "ä kärkskruh".

Another chapter teaches words necessary on travels like various kinds of trunks and boxes, horses' harnesses and different kinds of wagons; there were no trains then. When you arrived at your destination you needed to be able to ask for the townhouse, the house of correction, or the library, and then an alehouse.

To be able to travel you also needed clothes, like a great-coat, and a pair of breeches with breeches-bearers, a shirt and stockings. On your feet you could have spatterdashes or slippers, and in your belt there hung a sword.

To buy a farm

Your goal was probably to become a husbandman, and here is how you fulfilled that dream:

I want to purchase a farm.

And the agent answered: *I know one*

Min moder kom ur huset.	My mother came out of the house.	mej moddher kehm aut ov dhe haus.
De sutto fring en eldbrasa.	They were sitting round a fire.	dheh hvehr sitting raund ä fejr.
Sedan min an- komft.	Since my arrival.	sins mej ärrejvel.
Jag skall qvar- stanna till nästa morgon.	I shall stay till the next morning.	ej schäll steh till dhe nekst mårning.
Det inträffade mot slutet af Novem- ber.	It happened to- wards the end of November.	itt häppn'd tuoärds dhe end ov nå- vembör.
Det är under sto- len.	It is under the chair.	itt iss önder dhe tschär.

that will suit you; it is only two miles from here.

And now you asked: *Is it near a village? I should be glad if it were situated on a salubrious spot of ground and did not lie in a marshy soil. Is the house built of brick or freestone, or is it a loghouse? Is there a well near the house or a spring or do they drink riverwater? What is the produce of the estate?*

The agent comes back:

The ground seems to be rather sandy, yet it can be converted into fertile fields.

You are still not decided:

It must be dunged now and then. I have a mind to drain this marsh and make a meadow of it. What corn do you sow this year?

The agent informs: *Summertime, that will soon sprout, wheat, barley, oats and pease[!].*

On America

Q. How many inhabitants are there in the United States?

A. About 28 millions. The increase amounts to a third part every 10 years.

Q. Is there still much land to purchase?

A. Inclusive Oregon between 42 degrees North and 49 degrees North more than 1,042 millions of acres.

Q. What is the fixed price of an acre of the remainder after the public sale?

A. 1 1/4 dollars.

Q. What is the worth of an American dollar in Swedish money?

A. 4 riksdalers.

Q. What is the postage of a single letter in the United States?

A. Five cents for every distance not above 300 miles; ten cents for more than 300 miles; that's all.

Q. What means a single letter?

A. Not above half an ounce.

Q. How much costs a good labouring horse in America?

A. You will have a very good one for fifty dollars.

Q. And a cow?

A. For 25 dollars.

Employment

Qualified craftsmen easily meet employers in the United States. Such ones will be wanted in the western countries yet for centuries to come.

Q. What wages does a journeyman get daily?

A. At least one dollar, but no boarding and lodging. He must work 6 days in the week, 12 hours during the summer, 10 in the winter. He that will thrive must rise at five. A sober, diligent and considerate tradesman will never be in want for employment in America.

The first dwelling of the colonists is a log-house, and then, if they prosper, they build a brickhouse or a house of freestone.

The American supper consists commonly in tea, bread and butter, cheese and cakes.

The Old Picture

On this page we intend to 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 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.



What church is this? The picture was posted on the Swedish web site *Anbytarforum* on 21 November 2004 by Sören Andersson. He says that the only information on the postcard is the following "This is the Swedish church and the Pastor's house. I live across the street but you can not see my home." Sören has no idea of who sent the postcard or where it is from.

If anyone knows, please write or e-mail the SAG editor, address on the inside cover.

Re: Egg Coffee

SAG reader *LaVonne Johnson* of Limerick, PA, writes:

"From my first birthday in July, 1934, until I was about 17 years old, we spent most of my father's vacations in Lead, South Dakota. Lead was the home of both my father and mother, and their families were still there.

"Both of my grandmothers had wood burning stoves, probably until after WWII. My Swedish grandmother always had a pot of coffee warming on the stove. I often watched her prepare it. She would mix a raw egg in with the coffee

grounds and then pour that into the coffee pot in which the water was already hot. After about 10 minutes, the coffee had steeped and the grounds had settled to the bottom. If any grounds were still floating, a little cold water sprinkled on the surface of the water would usually cause them to sink also.

"Coffee made this way is so clear. For those who like it not so strong, it is wise to get it soon after it is ready. The remainder would sit on the warm part of Grandmother's stove until used.

"Since my Swedish grandmother

made coffee this way, I always assumed that it was being made in an old Swedish manner. I was surprised to find our friends from Sweden completely unaware of this method of making coffee. I now call it Swedish-American coffee."

Other memories of egg coffee and other kinds of food and drink, supposedly Swedish-American, are most welcome by the editor.

The staff at the SAG Workshop

The staff members are scrutinized by a group member

Continued from SAG 4/04

By FRAN PAULSON

The members of the staff of the SAG Workshop are an interesting group. Elisabeth and Ulla come from Sweden, Priscilla from Minnesota, Jill from Swenson Center and Nils William's son Chris and daughter Karna from Maine. They are cheerful, always ready to answer a question or point one in the right direction. They are so knowledgeable and helpful that others, not just our group, often try to take advantage of their expertise. There's often a lineup of people waiting for an answer when you arrive at their desk but it is best to stay put and wait. If you leave hoping to return when the line is shorter you are likely to find it is even longer.

Elisabeth Thorsell became interested in genealogy in the 1960's and being a researcher at heart she read everything she could find about it. That led her to Nils William and his writings about Swedish American genealogy. She wrote him and eventually met him when he came to Sweden on one of his genealogical trips; he invited her to come to the U.S. to help with the workshops. When he had to stop traveling in 1998 and daughter Karna took over the workshops, Elisabeth stayed on to help. Each year more and more Swedish civil records are being put on CD's and Elisabeth brings the newest ones. This makes it easier to continue your search after the Parish

records end. When those you are searching for haven't made the list yet, Elisabeth just smiles and says, "Maybe next year."

Ulla Sköld comes with her husband *Daniel* to help her shirt-tail cousin, Karna. She's a wiz at deciphering flashy Swedish writing that Jill and the rest of us find impossible. Ulla reads the unreadable and then will add a bit more to the telling. When she reads they were "very poor" you can almost feel the pain. If it reports the person is "very weak" or was given "communion at home," Ulla will say the person is at death's door and suggest you look in the *Död-boken*. Daniel, her husband, can also read the words but then you miss the



The SAG staff escaping from the group and sneaking a cup of coffee at Borders. From left: Priscilla Sorknes, Ulla Sköld, Elisabeth Thorsell, Chris and Karna Olsson, and Jill Seaholm. October 2001.

drama Ulla adds. He and Karna's husband, Phil, always plan an exploration. This year they took off for Las Vegas leaving their wives to answer our questions.

Priscilla Sorknes started as a language buff and indirectly that led her to genealogy. In 1968 she was in Germany studying language and while on break she decided to visit Norway. She found the farm where her ancestors had lived and she wanted to find out more. When visiting with one of the locals she was shown a book on Norwegian farms; she coveted it but was told that it was out of print and unavailable. Her host, "out of the goodness of his heart", offered to sell her his; he would get a new one when and if they reprinted it. Priscilla bought the well-used book and found pages torn and missing; the gentleman bought a brand new book in a few months. But that old book piqued her interest and she has been a genealogy maven ever since. In 1986 Priscilla traveled to Norway with a genealogy group that included Nils William. They spent two weeks traveling together, exchanging philosophies, and admiring each others interest in genealogy. Later, Nils William asked her to help with his workshops and she joined the staff in 1993; she's been helping ever since. In recent years, Priscilla's husband, a retired Lutheran minister, *Earl Grefsrud*, has been accompanying her to the workshops. He loves resale shops and finds them a cheap source for the books he reads while Priscilla helps the confused. This year he had to search the shops for more than books; Priscilla's walking stick was left behind in their Minneapolis garage.

Jill Seaholm first came to the SAG workshop as a participant in 1993; in 1994 Nils William asked her if she would help and she's been doing that ever since. Jill is a graduate of Augustana College in Scandinavian Studies and started working at the Swenson Center in 1992. Before that she worked as a travel agent and helped in her family's stained glass business. Jill says her job is being a tutor, giving basic instructions, and

says she spends most of her time explaining how to do things. One thing she doesn't try to do is read the florid and curvaceous writing on those church records; she leaves that to Elizabeth, Priscilla, and Ulla. Jill brings a computer and several CD's from the Swenson Center with her; they often come to the rescue when facts elude the seeker. Her husband, *David Garner*, likes to accompany Jill to these workshops when he can. He's been known to help confused souls make peace with a computer and he mans the cameras when everyone lines up for the group shot.

Chris Olsson, Nils William's son and Karna's "baby brother" had no interest in genealogy. He knew his father was considered an expert but paid little attention. He was drafted when Nils William had to stop conducting the SAG workshop. Karna took over and she needed help. Chris says, "I don't consider myself a genealogist but I can read Swedish." Reading Swedish is a plus but it isn't everything; sometimes Chris struggles to decipher those records before sending the questioner to Elisabeth, Ulla, or Priscilla. Chris says his father imbued him with a love for all things Swedish and he has found that sharing this with others is a satisfying thing. Today it takes two Olssons, Karna and Chris, to carry on the work of their father.

Karna Olsson is den mother, the guiding light, the coordinator, mother confessor, handholder, problem solver and anything else she needs to be. Karna is there when a participant needs an extra pillow, recommendation of a place for dinner, and to issue a reminder about making a reservation for the airport shuttle. But she didn't get involved this year when the water line broke and noisy plumbers kept Jill awake all night. Karna reads Swedish but like Jill and Chris there are times when she too has to send for the experts and the last word.

I find it interesting to ask each of our experts the same question; the answers are always individualistic, each one puts their own spin on it. Afterwards I pick the one that ap-

peals to me and will make the best story. Genealogy can really be fun when you do it with this incredible group of people.

Fran Paulson lives in Chicago and can be contacted by e-mail: <FCPaulson@aol.com>



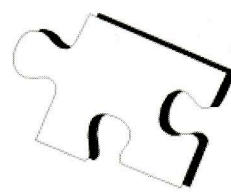
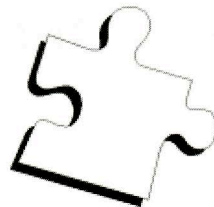
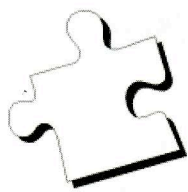
Fran Paulson. 2003.

News from Salt Lake City

According to information discussed on the mailing-list of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), representatives of the Family History Library are now scanning documents, instead of filming them. They have recently been working in the collections of an historical society in Ohio, scanning funeral home records and several other types of records. It seems that the records are scanned at a very high resolution, so the sharpness will be exceptional.

This is still a test going on, so it will be quite some time before one can find scanned records in Salt Lake City.

Bits & Pieces



New version of PAF in the works

A message on a Germans to Russia mailing list recently told that the LDS church has been working intensively on the next version of Personal Ancestral File (PAF). Their goal is to make the program more user-friendly, so it will encourage more LDS members to do their own genealogy, more graphics, time lines, personal stories, etc. To make the program available to as many as possible, it might be based on some kind of a web browser, which should work on Windows PCs, Macs, and Linux machines.

(Thanks to Ruth Schultz for sharing this info!)

Fryksdal Court Minutes

Gunnar Almqvist was a diligent researcher who devoted his life to the study of the records of the Fryksdals *häradsrätt* (district court) in central Värmland. He transcribed short excerpts from court records from 1602 to 1740 that have been published in three volumes in Swedish.

Now there are plans to publish a fourth volume for the years 1741 to 1750, which will be an excellent source for anyone with ancestors in the Fryksdalen area. This will also be in Swedish with an index of people mentioned and also of villages and farms.

The publishers, the local historical society of Östra Emtervik (*hembygdsförening*), needs a number of subscribers before they can have this volume printed.

The cost is 300 SEK + postage. Contact Matts Nilsson, Södra Ås, S-686 96 Östra Ämtervik, Sweden. E-mail: <lilian.mattsnilsson@swipnet.se>

The Day of the Folk Costume

The International Day of the Folk Costume (*Folkdräktens Dag*) will be celebrated at Skansen in Stockholm, Sweden, on August 21st.

Anyone who is dressed that day in a Swedish costume or a costume from any other country will have a free entrance to Skansen that day, a saving of 60 SEK.

There will be a parade, dances and craftsmen working in the various houses.

New Genealogical Society in Sweden

The genealogists of Norberg in Västmanland, Sweden, have started a new genealogical society, *Släkt- och Bygdeforskarföreningen Engelbrekt, Norberg*.

You can reach the society by e-mail: <gagnati@spray.se> or write the president Gustav Gustavsson at Industriegatan 6 H, 738 31 Norberg, Sweden.

Summer festivities in America

The Swedish American Museum Center in **Chicago** arranges *Midsommarfest* on both June 11 and June 12, in connection with the Andersonville street festival.

The American-Swedish Museum in **Philadelphia** are arranging its *Midsommarfest* on June 25th.

In **Minneapolis** the American-Swedish Institute arranges its *Midsommarfest* on June 18th.

The Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard, just outside **Seattle**, will celebrate *Viking Days* on July 9 and 10.

Swedish American Heritage Society of West Michigan will also have a *Midsommarfest* on June 25th in **Grand Rapids**.

Ulla Eriksson gets the prize

The *Swedish Bishop Hill Association* had their Annual General Meeting on April 16th, 2005, in Enköping. At the end of the meeting it was announced that the *2005 Olov Isaksson Prize for outstanding emigration research* had been awarded to *Ulla Eriksson* of Söderala, Sweden.

The motivation reads "She is a person who for many years has worked to preserve the memory of the emigration and its significance for the home area (*hembygd*). She has with untiring zeal for general education, through her own research, exhibitions, articles, and writings, carried her knowledge forward."

The prize will be handed over to the awardee at the Bishop Hill Day in the early summer.

The John Ericsson Day

The customary *John Ericsson Day* will be celebrated in Filipstad on *July 30th*, which is a Saturday. The program is not yet finished, but the customary re-enactment of the *Battle of Hampton Roads* will be performed with several bangs on the waters of Kyrkviken in Filipstad in the afternoon.

Other Sweden-America Days

In **Kalmar** there will be celebrations at the castle on *August 7, 2005*.

In **Skåne**, at Önnestad, there will be celebrations of Hans Mattson Day on *August 21st*.

The Minnesota Day will be celebrated at the House of Emigrants at **Växjö** on August 14.

The Solution to the Handwriting Example #V

Transcription

N[umer]o 14

Pigan Johanna Jonsdotter från Smitterstad i denna församling är född i Hallingebergs Socken den 12^{te} martii år 1818, ankom hit från Hallingeberg år 1847, upgift om dop-dag och föräldrars namn är inte hit inlemnad, äger försvarlig christendoms-kunskap. har under sitt vistande härstädes ordentl[igen] bevistat förhören, och med vördsamt bruk af Salighets-Medlen, sednast den 26^{te} nestl[idne] September, format en christelig vandel, är härstädes för innevarande år mantals skriven, är vaccinerad, enligt pålysning till Äkten-skap hinderlös, afflyttar nu till Hallingeberg, attesterar Odens-svi d. 6^{te} October 1852

Joh. Ol. Liedholm
p. l.

Translation

number 14

The maid Johanna Jonsdotter from Smitterstad in this parish is born in Hallingeberg Parish on the 12th of March 1818, came here from Hallingeberg in 1847, information on day of baptism or parent's names has not been delivered, has a reasonable knowledge of religion, has during her stay here been properly present at the examinations, and has reverentially used the Means of Blessedness [Holy Communion], most recently on 26th of September last, shows a Christian conduct, is officially recorded here for taxation for this year, has been inoculated [against smallpox], according to reading of the banns free to marry, now moves to Hallingeberg, is testified, Odensvi the 6th of October 1852.

Joh. Ol. Liedholm
p. l.

p. l. = pastor loci = minister of this parish



A new Swedish CD – Sveriges dödbok v.3



A few weeks ago the third version of the *Sveriges dödbok* was released, and it was an instant hit. Since then more than 2,000 CDs have been sold. So, what is new with this version? It now covers the period 1947–2003.

One important aspect is that now it is bi-lingual, just click on the American flag in the upper righthand corner, and it speaks English. On the CD there is also a detailed manual in pdf-format in English, which is mandatory reading to get the best out of the database.

The new version has an increased

number of people, more than 5 million, some 123,000 from the later 1940s and some 375,000 from the 2000s have been added. About 1.2 million from the 1950s and 1960s have been given their names back, due to immense efforts of many volunteers, who have gone through the death records page by page, and copied the information for the database. A bonus is that married women during this period also have their maiden name listed.

To use the database you need a PC with Windows 98 or later, high color

graphics, 64 MB RAM, and about 600 MB free space on your hard drive (you can also do a mini installation, which requires 115 MB free space).

The database is produced by *Sveriges Släktforskarförbund* (Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies), and sells for 595 SEK + postage and handling. Contact them at <info@genealogi.se> to get the correct price.

Hopefully Gensline's e-shop at www.gensline.com will also soon sell the CD, as they take credit cards.

A Letter to the Editor

In *SAG* 2004:3 the new book *Your Swedish Roots* by Per Clemensson and Kjell Andersson was reviewed. We have received the following comments and clarifications from *Per Clemensson*, one of the authors

Your Swedish Roots – Some Comments

As a writer it is always valuable to get a review, even when it includes many corrections. It is, however, a bit frustrating when a review is almost entirely filled with corrections and comments on details.

Personally, I feel that it is remarkable that there are not more errors in *Your Swedish Roots*, as the book contains hundreds of facts and has been produced directly in a foreign language in cooperation with a publisher in another country. Given these circumstances, I am very proud of a book of such high quality, and I would like to give credit to my colleague, Kjell Andersson, who did the writing, and to our graphic designer, Nina Sonesson, who is responsible for the layout.

I would like to comment on the purpose of the book, which I think may have been misunderstood by the reviewer, Elisabeth Thorsell. We do not intend to present a complete manual for Swedish genealogical research. It would not be possible to give a full introduction to the mysteries of Swedish genealogy 1686-2000 in 222 pages to a Swedish-American audience, which, by and large, lacks knowledge of the Swedish language. This more ambitious undertaking is a subject for a later book. This time we limited ourselves to providing an introduction to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Because of the language problem, we excluded sources where an acquaintance with the Swedish language is necessary, such as estate inventories and legal records. Instead, we have focused on sources that are easier to read and

interpret, most notably the church records.

The purpose of the book is thus to provide assistance in finding ancestors a couple of generations back in time, and in finding relatives in the old country. The book is not a manual for genealogical research in the United States, Canada, or Australia, more than giving certain clues for further research. Many excellent genealogical books exist for those countries, and we cannot compete with them. We started with a gravestone in Connecticut and the first logical step was to see what records we could find in the local Swedish-American church archives, now indexed and easily accessible through the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö.

Let me now comment on some of the more specific remarks in the review:

1. First, the criticism that Gensline gets too much attention in the book. It is true that Gensline took the initiative in producing the book. But we, and others, have evaluated Gensline and other ways of gaining access to the source materials, and we would give the same attention to Gensline, even if the book had been brought out by another publisher. It is surprising that Swedish-American publications have not paid more attention to Gensline, as it opens up a fantastic new opportunity for genealogical research. In order to do genealogical research on the Internet, however, the kind of information that we try to give in our book is necessary. The fact that Gensline has not yet published all parishes is true, but beside the point. The company hopes to have all Swedish church records available within a fairly short period

of time, and we hope that our book will have a longer life than a year.

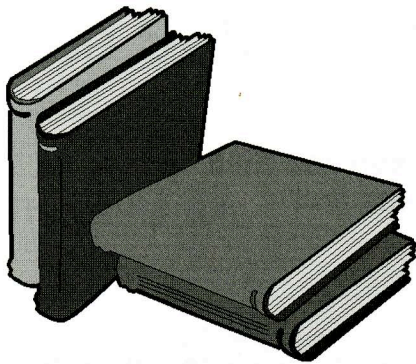
2. Elisabeth Thorsell suggests that I am not fully aware of the tremendous work done by Nils William Olsson. Nothing is more wrong. It is impossible to present all the work he has done in a fair way, and his archival materials and books are available at the Swenson Center to the public. Our comment in *Your Swedish Roots* that he built his research on the List of Fees from the Swedish Navy Fund is based on my own recollection. I had the opportunity to follow his work at the Regional Archives in Göteborg, where I helped him with many difficult cases.

3. We regret the erroneous information about the availability of microfilms of Swedish church records at the Swenson Center, which had to be corrected by the Center on page 32, and we hope that this has not been the cause of too much trouble. As they note, microfiche of Swedish church records can be ordered from SVAR through the Swenson Center. This, and other errors, will of course be corrected in the second printing of the book, which is already underway.

4. I agree with Elisabeth Thorsell that *Cradled in Sweden* was a very valuable book for its time. However, I do not think it is a sufficient book today, and that in some ways it can be misleading.

Finally, I would like to compliment the editor on the new design of *Swedish American Genealogist*. It is now a very attractive product.

Per Clemensson



Book Reviews

Here you will find information about interesting books on the immigration experience, genealogical manuals, books on Swedish customs, and much more. We welcome contacts with SAG readers, suggestions on books to review perhaps. If you want to review a book yourself, please contact the Book Review Editor, Dennis L. Johnson at <djohnson@2vikings.com> or 2407 Hunsberger Drive, Limerick, PA 19468, so he knows what you are working on.

Along the River

Upper Mississippi, A Wilderness Saga, by Walter Havighurst. Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., New York, 250 pp., Illustrated by David and Lolita Granahan, 1937

While prowling the nethermost shelves of the Library at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia recently, I happened across this older book. The title caught my eye, and the green fabric covered binding reminded me of books I had read as a boy in Minnesota. The author's name meant little to me, but curiosity caused me to flip the pages and then to read the table of contents. It was written during the depression years just before World War II, and described the lands where I had grown up. I was only five years old when Walter Havighurst completed this historical work, part of a planned series by various authors on the rivers of America.

Older books often fascinate me, because they not only tell you about the world, but the world as seen through eyes of another time, another generation. I proceeded at once to read this book; no, I devoured it from cover to back almost without pause. I have never yet read such a beautiful, poetic description of a place and a time. The place was the upper basin of the Mississippi, including the present states of Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, all west of the Great Lakes. The time was the period from the first pioneer settlements to the time when land settlement by im-

migrants was largely complete, from about 1830 until the first years of the 20th century.

Swedes and Norwegians are the principal characters chronicled in this volume, although the author makes it clear that many other groups also took part. He talks about the first to arrive, such as Norwegian Cleng Peerson (born Klein Pederesen), who tramped most of the country alone, then returned to Norway to recruit settlers to bring to America. In 1825, on the little sloop *Restaurationen* by way of Rochester, N.Y., he led some 50 people to the Fox River settlement in Illinois. More Norwegians were led in groups to Koshkonong and Muskegon, Wisconsin. Groups of Swedes, Danes, and Finns soon followed, to begin other settlements in the territory. By 1846, Eric Jansson brought his first 400 followers to found Bishop Hill in Illinois, and in 1850, the wealthy Norwegian Nils Otto Tank brought his followers to found Ephraim ('very fruitful'), on another Fox River in Wisconsin. These visions, like many other Utopian communities of the 19th century, were soon to dissolve in discord. Their disillusioned members left for independent family owned homesteads, free of communal and doctrinal restrictions.

Havighurst then turns to the flood of individual homesteaders who struggled to establish themselves on the great prairies where no roads existed; only the rivers served for travel. These settlers fought loneliness, grass fires, locusts, and blizzards, building communities, roads, churches, railroads, grain elevators, schools, and even colleges for their

descendants. The author paints vivid word pictures of individual settlers and families to describe their struggles and their accomplishments, their songs, poems, dialects and slang, weddings, and funerals.

The Epic of Lumber is the next subject, describing how mainly Swedes and Norwegians worked the big pine woods north of the prairies "to the world's end" to supply timber for a growing America. From the winter logging camps where the white pine was cut and dragged to the water's edge, to rollicking nights in the bunkhouses, the colorful slang of Bull Cook, Sky Pilot, Logging Berries and Ground Hogs, the spring drive of logs to the great sawmill towns downriver, danger, mutilation, or death in working the big timber; all are woven into a word picture of this era. The Epic of Lumber spanned barely 60 years, until the big woods were cut over completely and the lumberjacks who survived became farmers, or moved west to Washington and Oregon.

In his last section, Havighurst describes "The Prairie Mind," the idea that the people who struggled and conquered this unmarked wilderness gave a new harvest of people with the imagination and determination to make new conquests in later challenges; men such as John Muir, naturalist, Thure Kumlien, expert on birds, Charles Lindbergh, aviator, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, arctic explorer, Carl Sandburg, poet, Sinclair Lewis, novelist, Ole Rølvaag, novelist, Thorstein Veblen, economist, and many others. These were all men with the Prairie Mind, each finding their own frontiers to conquer, an

Book Reviews

overwhelming number of these men being Scandinavian.

By today's standards, this book would be judged sorely lacking in political correctness, with little mention of women, Native Americans, social concerns, or conservation of resources. What it lacks can be forgiven, for it is the beauty of the prose and the vividness of the descriptions of pioneer days which gives this book its worth. This is not the work of a historian, a scientist, or a scholar of migrations. It is the work of an artist in words, who uses words like colors to paint a picture of a world gone by, but still deeply embedded in the memories of so many sons and daughters of the Upper Mississippi's pioneer days.

This is the third book written by Walter Havighurst, author of nearly 40 books between 1935 and 1982, most of them essays in American history. In 1954, he wrote *Annie Oakley of the Wild West*, the basis for the musical and movie, *Annie Get Your Gun*. Havighurst was born in 1901 and grew up in Wisconsin and Illinois, son of a prominent academic family. After an early life as a seaman on the Great Lakes and the oceans, he studied at Ohio Wesleyan, the University of Denver, and at King's College, London. He received a master's degree from Columbia University in 1928, and spent most of his career on the faculty of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Havighurst retired in 1989 and died in 1994. He left \$6 million to the University to establish a charitable trust "to fund and promote educational projects for building cross-cultural understanding" between the people of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Note: This book may be hard to find, although it may still exist in some public libraries. I saw a used copy listed on www.alibris.com, for \$3.75. Other used book sites may have it. For students of literature,

and of America, it is well worth the search.

Dennis L. Johnson

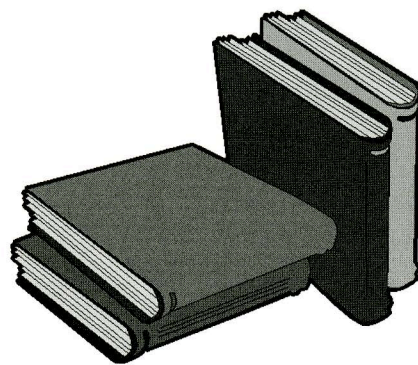
Swedes of Today

Modern-Day Vikings, A Practical Guide to Interacting with the Swedes, Christina Johansson Robinowitz and Lisa Werner Carr, Intercultural Press, Yarmouth, ME, 2001. softcover, 197 pages. Available at Amazon.com, \$17.13 plus shipping.

Despite half a lifetime of involvement in Swedish American organizations and events, six trips to Sweden in the past 30 years, and quite a bit of contact with friends and relatives in Sweden, I still have much to learn about the cultural differences between "them" and "us." I have all Swedish ancestors: three grandparents were born in Sweden and the fourth was born in the U.S. a year after his parents came from Sweden. When we fly SAS, the flight attendant usually speaks to me in Swedish first, then quickly shifts to English when I reply, so I obviously look like a Swede. Yet the differences are great, as I have slowly been made aware over the years.

I wish I had read *Modern Day Vikings* years ago. Then I would have made fewer mistakes and understood better the differences between Swedes and Swedish Americans like me. This book is not only for those interested in tracing their roots in Sweden, but for tourists and other visitors. Business people especially, who in today's global economy may find themselves living and working in Sweden for a time, will find it very helpful. The authors are a good team for this work, one having been born in Sweden and the other Swedish American, both now living and working in the U.S.

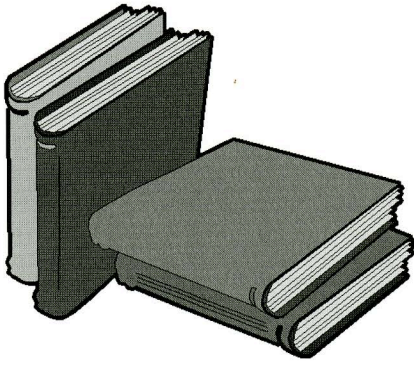
After explaining the history of



Sweden from the Vikings to the welfare state, a brief explanation of the Swedish Model helps the reader understand Sweden today and the attitude of Swedes toward government and toward each other. Subsequent chapters debunk widely held stereotypes about Swedes (such as the four S's; spirits, sex, suicide, and socialism), help explain Swedish national pride, and relations between the individual and the group. The historic notion of "*lagom*" is explained, the idea of just enough and not too much in all things. Revealed also is the concept of "*jantelagen*," or an attitude of keeping people in their place, an idea which seems to be lessening in the younger, more global generation. The obsessive quest for equality above all among Swedes, only dimly understood by most Americans, is given its due. The Swedish penchant for non-verbal communication and their reverence for silence, nature, and holidays is brought into focus by numerous anecdotes and insightful examples.

Swedish customs that may be misunderstood or improperly observed by Americans are explained with humor and perception, especially the many unwritten rules that deal with the wearing of shoes in private homes (or not), toasting and the customs of social occasions, even the rules of coffee, dining, and drinking. Swedes are far too gracious and polite to point out to you any violations, but you can be sure they will be mentioned after you have departed.

A final chapter dealing with customs in the workplace should be read by all Americans who plan to work



Book Reviews

in Sweden. Competitiveness must be repressed, at least outwardly, and take place only in the more subtle Swedish ways. You will learn that consensus rules, how to be a collaborative manager in a flat organizational structure, attitudes toward deadlines, and many tips on communicating and getting things done. American workplace methods will often be received in an other than gracious manner or, at best, misunderstood.

The authors have made this book not only very informative, but also highly entertaining and a pleasure to read. It became apparent to me after reading *Modern-Day Vikings* that while vestiges of many Swedish cultural characteristics remain subliminally imprinted in my own personality, two generations of life in America have made me much more American than Swedish. I am not sure that this has been an improvement.

Dennis L. Johnson

A Pastor and His Wife

Pioneer Missionary, Lars Petter Lundgren and His Wife Alma, by Bruce William Anderson, 2004, 282 pages. (For ordering information, see end of review).

Most immigrants from Sweden began new lives on a clean slate when they settled on the prairies of the Midwest in America. No services were available, but they were free to create new lives and new commun-

ities with few constraints on their dreams. Basic needs came first: food, water, shelter, and planting crops. Next came a schoolhouse for the education of their children, and soon after, a church. Pastors and missionaries followed close in the tracks of these pioneers, seeking to tend to their spiritual needs. Initially they came from Sweden, but soon new colleges and seminaries founded in America began to be the source of these pastors. They were primarily Lutheran, but sometimes Free Church or Mission Covenant pastors with roots in Sweden.

This book is the story of one of these early Lutheran pastors, born in Sweden, but one of the early graduates of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, and of the Augustana Lutheran Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois. Lars Petter Lundgren, grandfather of the author, was born in Sweden in 1851, in Essunga parish, Skaraborgs län. He was orphaned at age 6, and in 1867, at age 16, decided to come to America. His goal was Carver County, MN, where some of his cousins lived. After a dozen years working at various jobs, he enrolled at Gustavus Adolphus College in 1880 and later completed seminary in Rock Island, IL. He was ordained in 1892, and took up his first parish in Kittson, MN, in the Red River Valley of northwestern Minnesota, in July of the same year.

Many Swedish Americans have traced their roots in recent years, and quite a few have written and published their family history or a biography of one or more of their ancestors. Most are of limited general interest, primarily to the direct descendants or relatives of their subjects, and are not widely read. *Pioneer Missionary* is exceptional in its portrayal not only of the life of Pastor Lars Petter Lundgren, but in the rich detail with which it describes pioneer life on the prairies

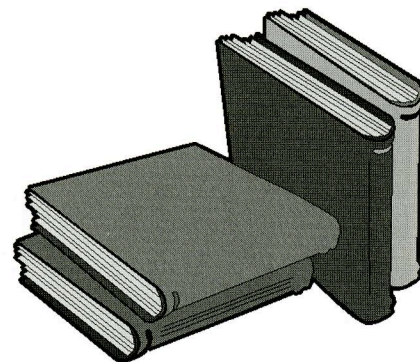
and in the small towns of the Red River Valley of Minnesota. The flat farm lands and rich soil of this area, once the basin of the great glacial Lake Agassiz at the end of the last ice age, were quickly settled by immigrants in the 1870-1900 period. The Red River flows north through Lake Winnipeg and into Hudson Bay, and the rich land extends into Canada west of present day Winnipeg. These lands today are some of the most productive in North America, despite harsh winters and frequent spring floods.

The first chapter of the book consists primarily of family histories of the author's grandparents, their family, and Lars Petter Lundgren's education and family life. Included with this section are several autobiographical sketches which Lars, as a pastor, had occasion to write to further his career. These are given in both the original Swedish and in English, and provide an insight into his life not usually available. Most immigrants did not write their own autobiographies, and their lives must generally be reconstructed by their descendants from other information.

Pastor Lundgren, after a long pastorate in the Red River Valley, retired due to ill health at age 72, moving to Minneapolis where he died in 1926. His widow and family moved to Chicago to live with a daughter, where the author was born. Bruce Anderson grew up on the south side of Chicago, studied at IIT and at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. After a career as a mechanical engineer, he is now retired and lives in Niles, Michigan.

After a brief chapter about Northwest Minnesota and the Red River Valley, the author goes on to describe the early parishes in the area where his grandfather played an important role in founding, organizing, and reorganizing over fifteen parishes. From his home base, Grace Lutheran Church in Hallock, MN, Pastor

Book Reviews



Lundgren helped organize, founded, and even designed churches in surrounding communities, including in Kennedy, Strandquist, Newfolden, Roseau, Lancaster, Lake Bronson, Argyle, Karlstad, and other towns. Each location and its history is briefly profiled, and vivid descriptions of the hardships of winter travel to serve these scattered congregations by horse and buggy help create an image of the life of a frontier pastor.

The final chapter deals with the role of Pastor Lundgren in the Red River District and Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church, the synod of most Swedish Lutherans in the upper Midwest. Pastor Lundgren also served several missions in North Dakota across the Red River, and in southern Manitoba, Canada.

The entire book is rich in historic photographs, documents, and descriptions of the communities served by Pastor Lundgren, and with articles and testimonials written about him by church leaders and friends over the years. The author has done a thorough job of documenting and footnoting all his sources, and a complete index makes it easy to locate references to particular places and people.

Pioneer Missionary not only presents the life of this truly exceptional church leader, but gives to readers a broad view of the settlement of the Red River area, the religious life of the pioneer Swedish immigrant families, and conditions of life on the prairie at this point in the history of these Swedish American settlements. Researchers interested in these particular communities will find a wealth of information in the material compiled by Bruce Anderson and in the sources that he has provided. And above all, the reader will come to appreciate the strength and importance of the church in the settlement of these new communities as the Lutheran Church reinvented itself in the new land.

This book may be ordered from the author, contact Bruce W. Anderson, 1213 Lykins Lane, Niles, MI 49120, e-mail <andersbj@mindspring.com> \$20.00 including handling and U.S. shipping.

Dennis L. Johnson

Rev. Björk and his wife

The Faces of New Sweden, Erik Björk, Christina Stalcop, & America's First Portrait Painter, by Hans Ling, Swedish Colonial Society, Philadelphia, 2004. 86 pages, Softcover, \$20.00 plus postage and handling. (See end of review for ordering information.)

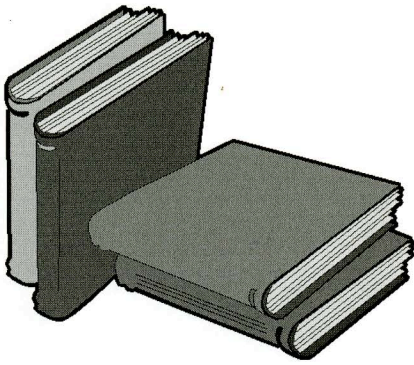
In 1638, the sailing ship *Kalmar Nyckel* brought the first group of Swedes and Finns to the New World, landing in what is present-day Wilmington on the banks of the Delaware River. Further voyages by the *Kalmar Nyckel* and the ship *Örnen* (*The Eagle*) in the next few years increased the settlement to over 400 Finns and Swedes. This was the first European colony on the Delaware, established two generations before the arrival of William Penn.

For the nearly 100 years of its existence, the Swedish Colonial Society has been dedicated to charting the history of this settlement and of the descendants of these colonists in America. A number of books about New Sweden have been published by the Society, including several by the distinguished Dr. Amandus Johnson, founder of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia.

The Faces of New Sweden is the product of persistent research by Hans Ling of Uppsala, Sweden, in tracing his own family history and attempting to unravel the mystery of a tiny silver cup made in 1720,

which he had inherited. The cup bore an inscription in memory of Christina Pettersdotter Stalkop, who died in 1720 in Falun, Sweden. Christina Stalkop, born in Pennsylvania in 1685, was his *mormors mormors mormors farmor*. Ling contacted the Swedish Colonial Society by e-mail in 2001. He was seeking the location of two paintings of Christina and her husband, Erik Björk, which he thought might still be in the possession of Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington, DE. The paintings were not at the church, but the Colonial Society did put him in touch with another descendant, Larry Stallcup of Virginia Beach, VA, who is an expert on the Stallcup family genealogy. Through the assistance of Peter Craig, Colonial Society Historian, he was also able to confirm in the records that the paintings he sought had at one time been given to the church in Wilmington, but their current whereabouts were unknown.

Hans Ling turned his search for the paintings to Sweden and soon found two pairs of paintings of the couple, one in the Nordic Museum and one other pair in private hands. Subsequent research in tracing the chain of ownership of these paintings and under what circumstances they were painted resulted in the findings chronicled in this book. Erik Björk was one of three newly ordained pastors sent by Karl XI to serve the Swedes on the Delaware, arriving in June, 1697. Most of the colonial Swedes had been in America for over fifty years, and their children and grandchildren now made up most of the settlement. Erik set about to hold services, organize the by now somewhat neglected congregation, and



Book Reviews

build a church. This he completed in July, 1699. He also assisted in the construction of Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia, completed soon after in 1700.

Erik Björk became good friends with Peter Stalcop and in 1702 married his daughter Christina. They lived for a time on Peter Stalcop's farm, and in 1710 moved into a newly completed pastor's house near the church. By 1708 Erik Björk had petitioned Karl XII for permission to return to Sweden but it was 1714 before Erik and his family could return to take up a new pastorate in Falun, where he served until his death in 1740. He was buried next to his wife Christina, who had died at age 34 in 1720. The couple had six children in America, and four more in Sweden, six of whom survived. Before leaving America, Erik and Christina in 1712 received three visitors from Sweden who stayed with them in their newly completed parsonage. Rev. Andreas



Erik Björk.



Christina Stalcop.

Hesselius had been sent to replace Björk as the second pastor to New Sweden and Rev. Abraham Lidenius was to be his assistant. Accompanying them was Gustavus Hesselius, younger brother to Andreas, an able portrait painter trained in Sweden and London. Within two years, Eric Björk and Christina, with their children, returned to Sweden and his new pastorate in Falun.

Research by Hans Ling, assisted by Peter Craig and Larry Stalcup in America, confirmed the remarkable story of the origins of the paintings of Erik Björk and his wife Christina now in the Nordic Museum (*Nordiska Museet*).

The book also establishes that Gustavus Hesselius was the painter of these portraits and that he was the first portrait painter in the Philadelphia/Wilmington area. Hans Ling in this book details the ancestry of the subjects of the paintings and their lives in America and Sweden and a great deal about the paintings themselves. Further, he describes the ancestry and life of Gustavus Hesselius, the painter, and of the remarkable Hesselius family in Sweden. Illustrations in color are included of the now restored paintings, the silver cup linking Hans Ling

with his American colonial ancestor, and the people who were involved in this quest.

Hans Ling is currently the Legal Advisor to the National Heritage Board in Stockholm, and lives with his family in Uppsala. The book was translated and edited by the Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams of West Chester, PA, Archivist and Senior Deputy Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society. There are two introductory articles by Dr. Peter S. Craig of Washington, D.C., Historian of the Swedish Colonial Society. Sources are thoroughly documented in the Bibliography, and an Index of People and Places makes the book easy to use as a reference.

This fascinating book illustrates well the rewards of patient, dogged research and inquiry as well as the interweaving of the lives of the colonial Swedes with their contemporaries in Sweden. While doing so, the book also portrays the conditions of everyday life in New Sweden and contrasts them with the lives of many of the clergy and the educated class in Sweden at the time of Karl XI and Karl XII. Students of the history of New Sweden and of this time period will find this book a useful and welcome addition to their collection and many others will find this story a valuable lesson in historic research.

To order: contact American Swedish Historical Museum, 1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19145, e-mail address:

<shop@americanswedish.org>

Dennis L. Johnson

Interesting Web Sites

(All links have been tried in April 2005 and should work)

Information on all Augustana churches in Chicago:

<http://www.elca.org/archives/chicagochurches/chicago.html>

New blog with interesting articles: <http://www.davidlambertblog.com/>

What happened today in Massachusetts history: <http://www.massmoments.org/>

Guide to Chicago Church and Synagogue Records:

<http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/L3gabout.html>

Guide to Chicago Neighborhood Research:

<http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/L3gabout.html>

The rich and famous in the Census: <http://www.rootdig.com/famouscensus.html>

About Charles and Camilla: <http://www.notablekin.org/camillabowles.html>

Dictionary of Canadian Biography: <http://www.biographi.ca>

Database of people buried in Veteran cemeteries in the U.S.:

http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

Lots of interesting articles:

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/ancestornews/previous.html>

Database of Swedish soldiers in the Allotment system (indelningsverket): <http://soldat.dis.se/>

Database of victims in San Francisco earthquake: <http://www.sfmuseum.org/perished/index.html>

English-language Finnish message board: <http://finlander.eget.net/index.php>

Deceased people in New York City until 1929: <http://www.italiengen.org/NYCDeathSearch.stm>

Marriages in New York for early 1900s (not complete): <http://www.italiengen.org/NYCMarriage.stm>

New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)

There is a new book about tracing people in Chicago! Order *Finding Your Chicago Ancestors*, by Grace DuMelle, librarian at the Newberry Library in Chicago, for \$16.95, plus \$2.50 p/h, from many online booksellers and directly from the publisher, Lake Claremont Press, at www.lakeclaremont.com or call 773-583-7800.

Alberta Anderson Finke is a lady who lives in California, but has Swedish roots. A cousin of hers found a number of old letters in her attic, some 50 letters that Alberta's great-grandfather wrote to his family in Småland in the 1860s. Other letters were found in a trunk in Chicago, as well as lots of pictures and poems. So Alberta decided to put together a family history book based on this material and the Swedish records. The book is very interesting, it is called *In Their Own Words* (1990, ISBN 0-945037-04-X), and can be bought for the modest sum of about \$20 from the McHenry Museum Store, 1402 I Street, Modesto, CA 95350, phone: 209-491-4347. Parishes mentioned are Linderås and Marbäck in Småland, and Hulterstad and Segerstad on Öland.

A growing series of books is the *Images of America*, published by Arcadia Publishing. An example is the volume that is entitled *Swedes of Greater Worcester*, by Eric J. Salomonsson, William O. Hultgren, and Philip C. Becker (2002, ISBN 0-7385-1089-0). The book starts with some pictures from the Old Country, and then from various important parts of the immigrants' lives, like church, work, family life, parades, and political meetings. The pictures are surprisingly sharp, so it might be possible to identify even the ones on the furthest benches in the view of the congregation of Salem Covenant Church.

If this kind of books interests you, check out their catalog at <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/>

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.

Blomqvist / Blomquist / Bloomquist and Andersson / Börgesson / Börjesson

1) I am searching for information on my 2nd great-grandparents Jonas Peter Blomqvist (b. 23 Sept. 1823, Åseda Parish) and Hedvig Kristina Jonsdotter (b. 10 May 1827, Lemnhult Parish), their ancestors and descendents. Jonas, Hedvig, and 3 of their children left their residence in the city of Visby in Gotlands *län*, and departed Göteborg on 4 September 1880 with a destination of Jamestown, New York. They arrived on 29 September 1880.

The three children that Jonas and Hedvig Blomqvist traveled with to America were:

Johan Algot, b. 19 Dec. 1858, Hejnum Parish; Claes Wilhelm, b. 2 Nov. 1865, Etelhem Parish; m. Judith Marie Anderson; Hildur Josefina, b. 28 Jan. 1873, Etelhem Parish; m. Edward E. Burch.

Other children of Jonas and Hedvig Blomqvist: Peter, b. December 1849; m. Anna L. Swanson, Mary J. Swanson; John M., b. August 1851; Oscar, b. August 1855; Otto L., b. August 1863, m. Jennie B. Daily; Alice, m. George Eckloff; Frank.

2) I am also searching for information on my 2nd great-grandparents Alfred J. Andersson (b. 3 March 1851, Skärstad Parish) and Augusta Börgeson/Börjeson (b. 14 Oct. 1849, Göteborg), their ancestors and descendents. Alfred's mother died when he was an infant. Alfred came to America in 1866 to Beaver, IL, with his older sister (name unk.) and her husband (possibly Edward Elming). Augusta is the daughter of John B. and Mariana Borgeson/Borjeson.

Children of Alfred and Augusta Anderson: Judith Marie, b. 19 Sept. 1876, IL, m. William Claudius Bloomquist; Victor H., b. 2 Sept. 1879, NY; A. Garfield, b. 13 April 1882, IL, m. Hattie Peterson; Naomi A., b. 16 Oct. 1884, IA; Ruth Augusta, b. 16 Oct. 1884, IA, m. Nels Peter Glemaker; Raymond Anderson, June 1892, IL

Margot McBath, 1724 Brookdale Road, 14, Naperville, IL 60563, <uscmargot@aol.com>

1253

Johnson, Swanson

I am looking for the origins of my great-grandfather Charles Samuel Johnson, born 18 May 1853 somewhere in Sweden. On his marriage on 28 Feb. 1880 in Fairfield, VT, his father is listed as Sven Johnson and his mother as Maria. Charles Samuel also had brothers Oscar and John Swanson living in Minneapolis, but no dates are known for them. They were supposedly tailors. One had a daughter, Anna, who kept in contact with my great-aunt Hattie. Great-grandfather went to visit his brothers in 1896 and then he died in an accident in Vermont in 1898.

After his immigration he first worked for the railroad in Vermont, and then bought a farm in Bakersfield, VT, and married Alma Jones. They had the following children (all born in Fairfield, VT): Hattie Augusta, born 14 June 1881; Lillian Mae, born 28 April 1883; Oscar James, born 12 Nov. 1886; Charlie Augustus, born 18 Sept. 1887; Willie Oliver, born 8 May 1893; Grace Maude, born 28 July 1897.

Two more things are known about Charles Samuel's family in Sweden: his father Sven is supposed to have drowned in Lake Vättern (possibly Vänern) while skating across to get a doctor for a sick child. His widow Maria, her married daughter and her husband are also supposed to have immigrated, but stayed in New York.

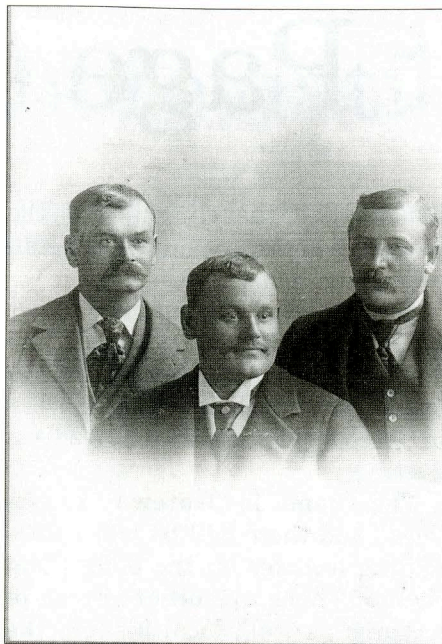
Jane Macomber, 13 Hideaway Road, Nashua, NH 03060-1133. <jmacomber1@msn.com>

1254

[Pictures for Jane Macomber's question on next page]



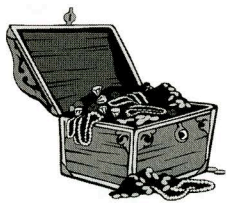
Daughters of one of Charles Samuel Johnson's brothers.



Charles Samuel Johnson and his brothers. Photo taken in Minneapolis in 1896.



One of Charles Samuel Johnson's brothers and his wife.



The Question Chest

This time there was only one question:

Q: My question would be, "Was there any kind of legal age requirement for people who wished to emigrate from Sweden during the late 1800s?"

In my family, my grandfather and his three brothers all left Luleå Parish within days after they turned 18 (in different years of course, between 1880 and 1890). My grandmother followed her childhood sweetheart as soon as she turned 21. Actually, she applied for permission to emigrate the day after her 21st birthday. Are these things simply coincidences?

A: Many young men emigrated as soon as they turned 18 to evade doing their National Service. From 1884 you had to have a proper *flyttningsbetyg* to be able to buy a ticket to emigrate. Young men of military

age (21 to 32 years) also had to apply to the King to get permission to emigrate, which was usually granted.

The national service (*värnplikten*) from 1885 consisted of 42 days, 27 days the first year and 15 the next year. In 1892 the military age increased to from 21 years to 40 years of age, and the men had to train for 90 days, 68 days the first year and 22 the next year.

In 1901 the old Allotment system (*indelningsverket*) was abolished and the army was now based on the draft, and the training time increased to 240 days.

At least before 1901, many considered doing national Service as a complete waste of time and preferred to emigrate.

Sources: *Nationalencyklopedien, Svenska knektar*, by Lars Ericson.

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

**Swedish Elderhostel
October 16-21, 2005**

**"Sweden and Swedish:
The Sjölund Experience"**
Program Number: 6800-101605

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

**1-800-450-2214
Email: civevent@cord.edu**

Website: www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org



**CONCORDIA
LANGUAGE
VILLAGES**

A program of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, USA

The Last Page

Dear friends,

Now spring has come to Sweden, and I hope so is the case in your part of the world also. We have little blue flowers (*blåsippor*) in the garden, and already the next stage, the white starry ones (*vitsippor*), have shown their faces on a sunny day. People are busy in the gardens, and boat-owners are preparing for the Big Day, when the boat is put in the water again, after having spent the winter under a tarp on land. Then there are many things still to do, but the vision of a breezy day under sail is getting closer.

Genealogists start planning the trips to the archives during the summer, and also visits to ancestral areas to look for that little cottage, or that

tombstone, or that church where the ancestors sat every Sunday for untold generations.

At the end of the summer comes the Genealogist's Christmas – the annual *Släktforskarlagarna* (Genealogy Days), which are held this year in Göteborg. The dates are 27-28 August.

The theme is "Gateway to the West" and there will be many interesting lectures on the emigration theme. There are other tracks of lectures as well, local history, the East India Company, and more. At the same time local societies from all over the country will show what they are working on, and they will sell books and CD:s with local databases. Some of the archives will also exhibit, as well as computer program vendors

and printers, etc. Everything is free to the public, and you do not have to sign up to attend. On Saturday evening there will be a Gala Dinner, for which you have to sign up. The same is true for the guided bus tours in the area.

The drawback is, of course, that everything will be in Swedish! But for those of you who understand some Swedish and have plans to come to Sweden in August, you might find this a fun thing to attend.

There is a web site that gives information on booking dinners, etc:
<http://www.slaktdata.org/gbg2005/>

And if you don't intend to go to Göteborg, come here anyway – Sweden is best in the summer!

Till next time!

Elisabeth Thorsell

SAG Workshop

Salt Lake City

25 Sept. – 2 Oct. 2005

Welcome to join our happy group of researchers at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City!

The SAG Workshop is the highlight of the year – a fun learning experience and a chance to do your Swedish genealogy with hands-on help from experienced Swedish genealogists.

The social side includes welcome and farewell receptions, a buffet dinner & entertainment, Swedish movies, etc.

Contact Karna Olsson at 207-338-0057 or e-mail: sagworkshop@yahoo.com

Limited number of spaces!

Search DISBYT Find Swedish Ancestors and Genealogists

8.9 million records of Swedes who lived before 1911. Disbyt is the biggest genealogical database in Sweden. The information is submitted by members of DIS society.

To search Disbyt and find ancestors is free. As a member you will be able to contact the submitters and also to submit Gedcom extracts from your family history program.

Join DIS at the US web site digibuy.com. Annual fee: \$17.



DIS
Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden

A non-profit organization founded in 1980.

Now 22.300 members.

www.dis.se

Abbreviations

Table 1. Abbreviations for Swedish provinces (*landskap*) used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (as of March 2000) and *Sveriges Släktforskarförbund* (the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, Stockholm [SSF]).

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

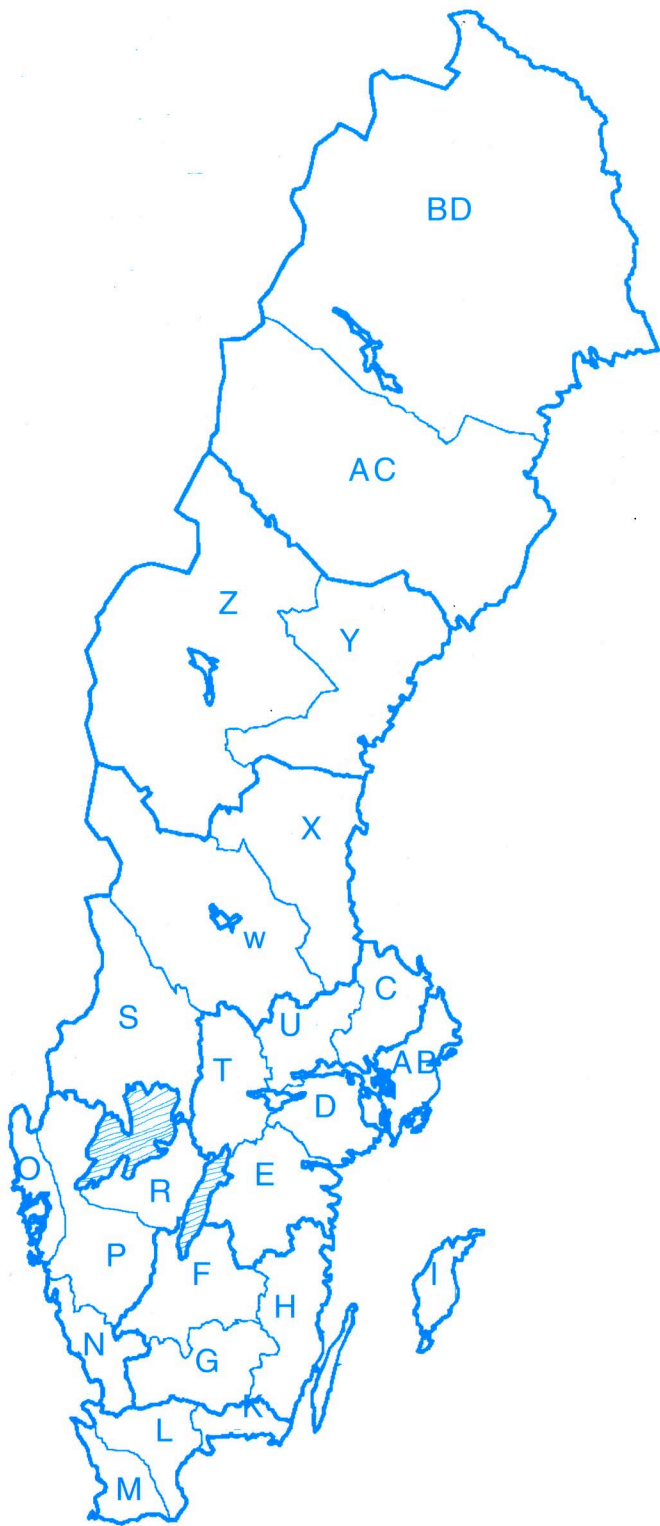
Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

Län (<i>County</i>)	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>	Län (<i>County</i>)	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Blek.	K	Stockholm	Stock.	Sthm.	AB
Dalarna ^a		Dln.	W	Södermanland	Söd.	Södm.	D
Gotland	Gotl.	Gotl.	I	Uppsala	Upps.	Upps.	C
Gävleborg	Gävl.	Gävl.	X	Värmland	Värm.	Vrml.	S
Halland	Hall.	Hall.	N	Västerbotten	Vbn.	Vbtn.	AC
Jämtland	Jämt.	Jmtl.	Z	Västernorrland	Vn.	Vnrl.	Y
Jönköping	Jön.	Jkpg.	F	Västmanland	Väst.	Vstm.	U
Kalmar	Kalm.	Kalm.	H	Västra Götaland ^c		Vgöt.	O
Kronoberg	Kron.	Kron.	G	Örebro	Öre.	Öreb.	T
Norrbottn	Norr.	Nbtn.	BD	Östergötland	Ög.	Östg.	E
Skåne ^b		Skån.	M				

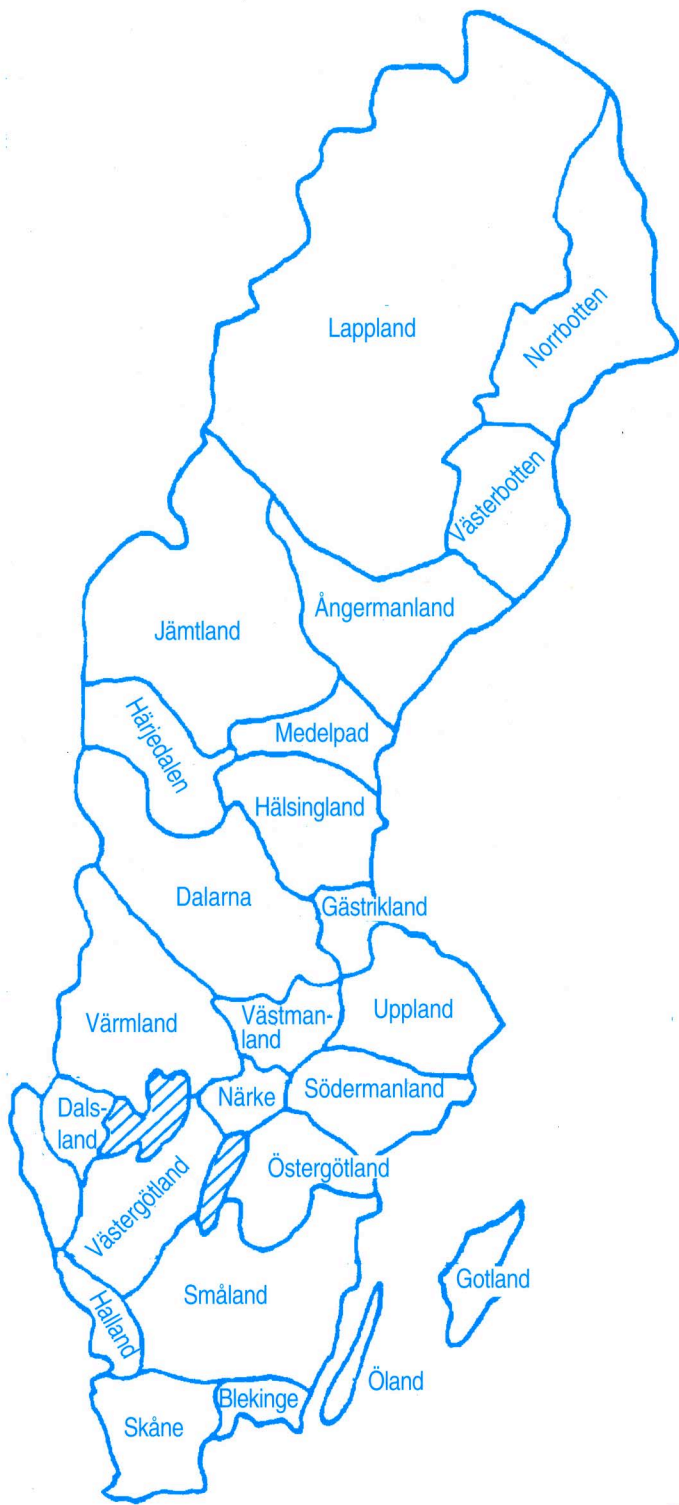
a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

b includes the former counties (*län*) of Malmöhus (Malm.; M) and Kristianstad (Krist.; L).

c includes the former counties (*län*) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).



The counties (*län*) as they were before 1991.



The Provinces (*landskap*)