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Cover picture:
John August Asp, wife Hannah Elisabeth “Libbie”
Carey and son Henry Aden Asp, ca 1883. See story
on p. 25.
Christmas as Celebrated in My Childhood

As told by Nils William Olsson
to his grandchildren and other listeners

Introduction
I have been asked to relate something about the celebration of Christmas of my childhood and I shall try to depict how this holiday was celebrated in my village of Killeberg in northern Skåne at the beginning of the 20th century. Bear in mind that we resided in a rural area, where there was no electricity, and where we used kerosene lamps for lighting. TV and radio were non-existent and life as a whole was rather primitive, without indoor plumbing. We had six miles to the nearest pharmacy. If we needed a prescription filled we had to send it to Almhult via the morning train and fetch the medicine via the afternoon southbound express.

Preparations
Preparations for Christmas began early. The first thing was to pick out a suitable Christmas tree. Since we lived near the forest, partly owned by my uncle Anthon, we had his permission to choose our tree early. About the middle of November we purchased the Christmas delicacy lutfisk, which consisted of sun-dried cod, hard as a board. It had to be softened to be edible and was placed in a pan of water laced with lye. Every evening my parents would exchange the water, so as to keep the water fresh. Later in November and early December mother would make preparations for Christmas food.

She baked many types of cookies and the high point was when we siblings were all given a slice of dough to make our own pepparkakor and to name our creations. I have forgotten what I made, but I still remember what my sister Lillie named her cookie vovvåxing. Mother also made a special rye bread for the holidays.

Next came the preparation of meatballs, pork and potato sausage, the fresh Christmas ham, head cheese made from a bought half pig’s head and a special veal concoction called kalvsylta. Herring was bought and made into all types of herring delicacies, such as ättikssill, kryddssill, etc.

A specialty of Swedish Christmas was the publishing of special Christmas magazines, which came out about the first of December. All publishing companies, church groups, and many non-profit organizations had their own version of the Christmas publications, jultidningar, aimed at children, youth, and adults, usually filled with original Christmas stories, poems, cultural articles, puzzles, and sometimes including art reproductions which ultimately ended up festooning the outhouse. At the age of eleven I became the agent for one of these publishers and made the round of the village, taking orders, collecting money, and delivering the magazines in time for Christmas. Needless to say I also made a little pocket money.

Celebration
As the days of December sped by and we came closer to the holiday, we children began a countdown, usually five days before Christmas Eve. I
should mention that at noon on Christmas Eve the holiday was ushered in by all of us gathering in the kitchen, beginning the ceremony by singing “Fröjdas vart sinne, julen är inne,” [All rejoice, Christmas is here].

Then we all took a slice of rye bread and dipped it into a pot of boiling ham stock made from cooking the Christmas ham. As we consumed the bread we wished each other Merry Christmas. Because of this annual ritual, Christmas Eve became known as dopparedan [dipping day]. Thus we counted the days before dopparedan by reciting as we arose “Today is the fifth day before dipping day,” [dan före dan före dopparedan] counting down each day until we awoke on the morning of the magic day Christmas Eve.

After having “dipped in the pot” [dopp i grytan] at noon, we children became impatient with how slowly the time passed before the evening’s event. In desperation mother went up into the attic and brought down the Christmas magazines of the previous year which she wisely had saved. This maneuver silenced us and restored a certain sense of tranquillity.

**Julaftons middag**

At six o’clock we gathered for the Christmas Eve dinner, when the goodies mother had prepared over a period of weeks made their appearance, beginning with the smörgåsbord, continuing with lutfisk served with boiled potatoes and melted butter. Then came the climax: rice porridge [risgrynsgrot], served with half-and-half cream, sugar, and cinnamon. Mother had hidden a blanched almond in the porridge and there was great merriment when we discovered who was the lucky finder. Finally came the last of the feasting: klenor or klenätter served with strawberry jam. These cakes were made of the same dough as doughnuts and fried in hot grease.

Then came the main event of the day, the gathering around the Christmas tree, which was lit by live candles [we did not worry about the tree catching fire since it was freshly cut and impervious to flames]. Since father was in the U.S. over two Christmases, attempting to save money for our passage to the United States, it was up to mother to read the Christmas story from St. Luke. I have to admit that my attention flitted from mother’s reading the Gospel to the pile of packages beckoning under the tree. The reading finally over, we opened the presents. We noted that there were two types – soft and hard – the former consisted usually of mittens, sweaters, socks, underwear, and while appreciated, they were put aside in favor of the hard packages, which contained such exciting things as books, Christmas magazines, and toys.
A very special Christmas

The Christmas of 1921 is most vividly etched in my memory. Most of December had passed and we had not heard from father, who usually was a good correspondent. Noting mother's sad face from worrying, after the distribution of the presents, I volunteered to run down to the post office in the railroad station to check the mailbox. Mother objected, saying it was of no use, we had already picked up the day's mail. I insisted and donning my brand new pullover sweater I ran down the railroad track, breathing a prayer "Good God, let there be a letter from father." I opened box Number 76 and lo the prayer was answered. There lay a letter from father with the well-known U.S. stamps. I literally flew home and we all rejoiced that that Christmas Eve had ended on a very joyous note.

Notes:


2) According to a 1968 survey, only 49% of the participants in the survey had lutefisk on their table. See Bringeus, op.cit. p. 136.

3) The person who found the almond was going to get married during the next year. See Bringeus, op.cit. p. 137.

4) A recipe for "klenätter":
   3 tablespoons butter
   5 egg yolks
   4 tablespoons granulated sugar
   grated rind from half a lemon
   2-3 cups ordinary wheat flour

   Melt the butter and let it cool. Mix egg yolks and sugar, and then mix in the other ingredients until it makes a firm cookie dough. Let it sit in the fridge overnight.

Välkommen hem!

Welcome home to your Swedish roots!

A road-map will make your travels in Sweden a lot easier.
A family-map of your roots will add other kinds of values to your travel.
Maybe your long-lost relatives are waiting for you where it all started?

Or perhaps you are just curious about where and what kind of life your old folks lived in that little country far up north, on the arctic circle.

The House of Genealogy, non-profit but professional, can help you discover your Swedish roots. Our experienced researchers have access to church records from all over Sweden. We have all the necessary databases. We have a nationwide network that makes the search more effective.

Within 2 weeks from your first request you will have a first answer from us. If you wish to continue working with us, you will have an answer as complete as possible within 2 months.

Our research fee is 25 USD per hour + expenses.
Read more about us at www.genhouse.sweden.com Contact us for further information.

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Swedish American Genealogist 2005:4
**Swedish Church Records 1860 – 1905**

The Swedish church records for the counties of Kalmar, Kronoberg, Östergötland, and Jönköping are now online on our website. We are in the process of scanning the records for the counties of Uppsala, Södermanland, Örebro, Västmanland, and Dalarna. The database is updated with more than 10,000 and up to 15,000 digitized documents.

**Swedish Censuses**

You can search in the whole Swedish population in the 1890 and 1900 Censuses. A great part of the 1880 census is ready, and we are working on completing it.

In these databases you will find information on family status, occupations, places of birth, other members of the household with different names, and much more. In the 1900 census most posts are linked to images of the original pages.

You may add your own information for other researchers to see, or find information others have added.

**Released prisoners**

At [www.svar.ra.se](http://www.svar.ra.se) there is a database of released prisoners (fängförteckningar) during the period 1876–1925. The information on each prisoner contains information on his name, place of birth, current sentence, previous convictions, personal description (hair and eye color, etc.), and a photograph. See example to the right.

**The Swedish Tax records (Mantal) 1642–1820**

The Tax records are now online at [www.svar.ra.se](http://www.svar.ra.se) They list all able-bodied people from age 15 to age 62, household by household.

**Other databases**

At [www.svar.ra.se](http://www.svar.ra.se) there are many other databases of interest to genealogists. We have databases with seamen (sjömanshus) and much, much more. The number of databases are constantly growing.

**How do I get access to all these resources?**

By contacting SVAR and getting a subscription. You can subscribe for just a single visit or anything up to a whole year.

Contact us at [kundtjanst@svar.ra.se](mailto:kundtjanst@svar.ra.se)

SVAR, Box 160, S-880 40 Ramsele, Sweden.

Phone + 46-623-725 00. Fax + 46-623-726 05.
So much mythology has grown up around Jacob Fahlstrom that we have lost sight of him as a real person. He is well-known as the first Swede in Minnesota. Not so well publicized are the seven years he lived and worked in the area that became Canada. In fact he holds two Canadian records, one as the first Swede in Manitoba, and the other as the first Swede to enter the country through Hudson Bay. This essay attempts to look beyond hearsay, and to consider documents that shed light on his life in Canada and the turbulent times he experienced at firsthand.

Considering his importance to both Minnesota and Manitoba, it is surprising that nothing is known about his early life in Sweden. We do not even know his birthplace or date of birth. Hopefully two new developments will help solve this riddle—increasing online accessibility to Sweden’s church records, and the discovery in Canada of previously unexplored documents. One of these documents gives the date four days prior to sailing for Hudson Bay, and the other gives his age at the time of embarkation, so that we have, at long last, an approximation of his birth date based on contemporary documents.

“A List of Servants on the ... Eddystone for Hudson Bay ... 22 July 1811” includes Jacob Fahlstrom as number 27.

Credit: Hudson’s Bay Company Archives, Archives of Manitoba, C.1/294 (end).
"Passengers on the Eddystone voyage to Hudson Bay, 1811." Line 23, shows Jacob Fahlstrom's age as 17½ and the conditions of his contract with the Hudson's Bay Company. Credit: Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Archives of Manitoba, C.1/294 fo. 1d.
“Jacob Falstrom, Boy” is included in a list of twenty-seven men who sailed on the Hudson’s Bay Company’s ship Eddystone in 1811. The designation “Boy” indicates that he served as cabin boy for the voyage. His age – 17½ – and the details of his five-year contract with the Hudson’s Bay Company are included in the second document which is a list of twenty-nine passengers – six from London, twenty-two from Scotland’s Orkney Islands, and “Jacob Falstrom” from Sweden. The names on both documents are the same except for two writers from London. The Eddystone left Stornaway, Scotland, on 26 July 1811, and anchored near York Factory on 25 September, after a journey of 61 days.

Travelling on the same ship was Miles Macdonell, newly appointed governor of Assiniboia, a huge block of land granted by the Hudson’s Bay Company to Lord Selkirk. Assiniboia included the proposed agricultural settlement at Red River, near the present site of Winnipeg. Unfortunately the Eddystone arrived too late in the season to attempt the long journey to Red River, and York Factory, the principle depot from which furs were shipped to England, could not accommodate so many unexpected guests. The men had to spend the winter in log huts several miles up the Nelson River.

The twenty-two men from the Orkney Islands had been hired as an advance party to prepare the property at Red River to receive settlers. Macdonell and his party set out for Red River on 6 July 1812, poling or sailing along the waterways and portaging around rapids and waterfalls. It took them thirty-seven days to cover the 417 miles (671 km) from York Factory to the north end of Lake Winnipeg. From here they sailed 265 miles (427 km) across Lake Winnipeg to Red River, a total of 682 miles (1,098 km). This is the same route that the Red River settlers would follow.

Jacob’s contract
Jacob Fahlstrom’s contract bound him for five years as a laborer, earning £12 a year to start, £15 the third year, then £20 annually for the
final two years, ending in July 1816. He is named, and sometimes called "Swede Boy," in York Factory's daily journal for a period of 1½ years, from 8 February 1813 to 9 July 1814, performing tasks in support of the fur trade. During this time Red River settlers were arriving at York Factory and setting out for Red River, workmen were upgrading the route as far as Lake Winnipeg, and a schooner was being prepared to provide transportation across that lake.⁴

**Jacob in Canada**

Jacob Fahlstrom lived in what is now Canada for seven years, first under contract with the Hudson's Bay Company, then signing on with its rival, the North West Company. During the first five years, the two fur trade giants had squabbled over the issue of the Red River colony, which lay along the latter's trade route to the west. The controversy culminated on 7 June 1816 with the bloody Incident at Seven Oaks, which left 21 people dead, most of them connected with the Red River colony.⁵ Whether Jacob Fahlstrom took part in any of these conflicts is not known, but he certainly would have heard about them. When his contract expired in July he hired on with the North West Company, whose headquarters were in Montreal.

He promptly travelled the 450-mile fur trade route eastward to the company's main depot at Fort William, on Lake Superior, arriving 10 August 1816. Was he still there three days later when Lord Selkirk, Miles Macdonell, and a group of mercenaries captured the post and occupied it for the winter, in retaliation for the Incident at Seven Oaks? If so, did they recognize him? Was he imprisoned? All we know is that the seizure left the North West Company in such a sad state of disarray that it was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821.

"Jacob Falstroff (a Swede)" left the company's service in 1817 at St. Mary's post, the site of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario,⁶ and crossed into what became the United States where he started working for the American Fur Company, married, and later became Minnesota's first convert to Methodism.

**Who was Jacob?**

The Methodist minister Alfred Brunson wrote about a personal interview with Jacob Fahlstrom, published in the 16 September 1837 issue of *Christian Advocate and Journal*. This, the only available contemporary record, poses more questions than it answers:

> At nine years of age he was shipwrecked on the coast of England and fell into the hands of an officer of the Hudson’s Bay Company, who took him to that Bay.

> While there, a friend gave him a Swedish Bible, Testament, and hymn book, he having learned to read before he left home, his parents being pious.

The "officer of the Hudson’s Bay Company" could not have been Mr. Miles Macdonell, because he lived in Canada, not England. Could it have been Lord Selkirk himself who befriended Jacob Fahlstrom c1804, several years before he became involved with the Hudson’s Bay Company? Hardly likely, since he lived in Scotland. If Jacob had lived in England for eight years and therefore spoke fluent English, then why did the person in charge of York Factory call him “Swede Boy" in his daily journal? Is it possible that the shipwreck happened much later, in the Outer Hebrides, and in that way Jacob became acquainted with Mr. Robertson, the hiring agent at Stornaway?

Jacob Fahlstrom is beginning to take shape as a real person, a young man whose life's journey was changed dramatically by the vagaries of chance. First, his arrival in a strange country as a youth, not knowing the language and probably alone and penniless. Then his journey to Hudson Bay and seven-year apprenticeship in the Canadian fur trade during the most volatile period in its history. Clearly, Jacob Fahlstrom was a survivor.

Finding genealogical information offers a real challenge to anybody with the time and expertise to take on the task. The date of his birth has been narrowed down to a single month – February 1794. His birthplace is likely on or near a harbor, because the only way to get to Stornaway is by boat. All available documents show Sweden as his country of birth, and his name as Jacob Fahlstrom, with variations in the spelling of his surname. Of course, the possibility of a patrilineal surname cannot be ruled out.

Is anybody out there willing to take on the Jacob Fahlstrom challenge and find his birth record?

**Notes**

1) Lord Selkirk's land grant covered 780,000 square miles (300,000 sq.km) and included parts of what is now Manitoba, Saskatchewan, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

2) Library and Archives Canada, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online, "MACDONELL, MILES" by Herbert J. Mays.

3) Exact distances from Surveys Branch, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, via Ted Simonson, Winnipeg.


5) A concise account of the controversy can be found at http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com under "Red River Colony."

Hunting for American Relatives

Here we see the hunt for relatives from the other side of the Atlantic

BY ANITA CARLSSON

Together my husband Arne and I have been hunting for his American relatives ever since we got the probate from the Daga håradsrätt for his paternal grandmother (farmor) Anna Albertina Gustafsson, a widow, born 5 Feb. 1859, who died 24 Oct. 1935 at the Gryt Ålderdomshem (retirement home) in Södermanland.

She left the following heirs, all of age:
1. son Oskar Karlsson, living on Gotland
2. son Gustaf Karlsson, living at Hyltinge, Södermanland
3. son Axel Karlsson, living in Minneapolis, U.S.A.
4. daughter Matilda Karlsson, living in Minneapolis
5. daughter Klara Karlsson, living in Sunne, Värmland
6. son Gottfrid Karlsson, living at the Gryt Ålderdomshem, Södermanland.

Then comes the total inventory of her estate. Gottfrid and Klara were twins. Oddly enough my husband's father, Erik Georg Carlsson, was not mentioned on this list. It is quite possible that he was already at sea, but there was still an omission; there were already two siblings living in the U.S.

I followed the daughter Anna Mathilda in the clerical surveys (husförhörslängderna) and found that she had moved to Södertälje, and then emigrated from there to the U.S. She left in April 1906.

On a visit to the Kinship Center [Emigrantregistret] in Karlstad, we found her in the Emigrant Index:

Surname: Carlsson
First name: Mathilda
Age: 16
Removal date: 1906 04 18
Parish of removal: Södertälje
Destination: New York
Ticket number: 80:425:1342
County: B

Most of this information tallied with what I had before, but some things were new. I got to know what port she was going to and what her ticket number was. Most immigrants coming into the U.S. had to go by Ellis Island, where everyone had to pass through a number of control stations to be allowed to enter the U.S.

In 1994 I wrote to the House of Emigrants [Svenska Emigrantinstitutet] in Växjö and asked about her. There they checked a computer listing of all members of the Swedish congregation in New York, and also looked for her on the CD of the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), but did not find anything about her.

Later on we went to Göteborg and visited the provincial archives there, where we could search the original passenger lists, where we found Mathilda Carlsson on one of the lists. It says "List of emigrants, who will be sent by the undersigned on the railroad 18 April 1906 from here to Copenhagen." There are different columns: Contract Number, Profession of the Emigrant, Name of the Emigrant, Domicile by county and parish, Age, Sex, Total number of persons leaving together, and Destination.

Under the Contract Number 1342 we found Mathilda Carlsson from Södertälje, age 16, with a destination of New York. She took the train to Copenhagen and went from there.

Another quest

Some time later my sister-in-law visited, and as she is somewhat interested in my finds, I showed her my genealogy files.

She looked at the names of the siblings and said "Axel Wilhelm. I have never heard of him!" And that started my interest in him. I just had to follow him from one parish to another in the southern Södermanland area. In those days I had to write to the parish offices for information; now the records are in Uppsala.

The Trosa-Vagnhärad parish told me that he had been registered in the Nyköping Seamen's Registry (sjomanshus) on 24 April 1919 as #850. He is listed in the Book of Missing People (obefintlighetsboken) during the period of 1923-1935. From 1935-1939 there is a note "said to be dead." In 17 July 1942 he is crossed out from the Nyköping Seamen's Registry, and from 1960 he is no longer listed in the Obefintlighetsboken.

A year later I went to the provincial archives in Uppsala and looked for Axel Wilhelm. The records of the...
Nyköping Seamen's Registry are kept there and I ordered a book called “Index of Sailors” [Dld:3], and found the following:

Axel Wilhelm had mustered on the vessel Macedonia on 25 June 1919, and left it on 19 August 1919 in Öviken [which can be short for the town of Örnsköldsvik]. Macedonia was a steamship sailing European waters.

On 25 September 1919 he mustered on the vessel Ludvig Peyron, and left it 9 December 1919 in Dunkerque (probably France).

Evidently he worked his way to the U.S. and kept in contact with his sister Mathilda.

What next?
I asked Elisabeth Thorsell for advice and she gave me the e-mail address of Phyllis J. Pladsen, who then was the president of the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, as my “lost ones” were in Minneapolis by 1936. We wrote to her with the information we had and she searched for Anna Mathilda and Axel Wilhelm in the 1936 phone book for Minneapolis, but found nothing. She also searched the 1920 Census in vain; the 1930 was not yet available.

We do have a wedding picture from the 1910s, which might be from Mathilda’s wedding. My husband remembers that his mother kept writing to Mathilda, but all the letters were lost when his mother died.

In 2001 the Ellis Island database opened to the public, and proved so popular that the computers crashed. But on Midsummer Eve that year Arne and I were finally lucky and found his aunt, Anna Mathilda Carlsson, age 16. She was travelling to her uncle Clas Gustafson, Route 4, Box 69, Buffalo, Minnesota, and he had also paid for her ticket. She had $13 in her pocket, was able to read and write, and had never been in prison. We felt that we found out quite a bit about her.

We found out that Buffalo was in Wright County, Minnesota. The next time we went to Stockholm, we bought maps of the U.S., of Minnesota, and a city map of Minneapolis.

When we found out that Mathilda was going to her uncle, Clas Gustafson, we had to find out about him. He was born Claes August Gustafsson 24 Aug. 1861 in Helgesta parish, Södermanland, and he emigrated from Lunda parish, also in Södermanland, on 25 June 1887, and left the port of Göteborg on 1 July 1887 with a ticket for St. Paul, Minnesota.

Misleading information
Around 1997 we asked the wife of one of my husband’s uncles, if she knew the married name of Mathilda? There is a big problem with women in the U.S.: when they marry they lose their maiden name and it is impossible to guess their married name. She told us that she thought Mathilda had married a Jonsson, a story which later turned out to be wrong.

As a member of the regional society, Kronobergs Genealogiska Förning, I get their newsletter in which they once published a list of members living in the U.S. who might help
Swedes with some research there. We contacted a person named Lois Anderson, and she told me that she had her roots in the parish of Algotsboda, so I could help her with information from there, as that is one of “my” parishes. We told her about the information we had on my husband’s aunt and her uncle. Lois promised to get in touch with the local Lutheran church in Buffalo, and see if they had any information.

Uncle Clas is found!

After a while she reported back that Clas and his family had been members of the church! He had been married and had two sons. This was a sensation for us, to be able to find the right people in this vast country! They lived in a small town called Marysville outside Buffalo. Finally something we could start searching for, with the intention of finding something about Mathilda.

The name of the uncle was Clas/Claes August Gustafsson, but in the U.S. it was Gustafson, with just one s, as is the American custom. His wife was Carin (Karin) and the sons were Alfred Albin, born in 1893, and Algot Emil, born in 1894. We have also seen Clas being named Chas (Charles), so you have to look for variations.

We wrote to various addresses in Marysville and Buffalo, without any result.

In April of 2004 we went with a group of researchers from Eskilstuna to the House of Emigrants in Växjö, and decided to look for the 1900 census of Marysville. We found both Marysville City and Marysville Village, and it did not take us long to find Claes August Gustavson and his family. Here we found the birthdates (month and year) of the sons, how long Clas and Carin had been married, and that Claes was a farmer. They also had a daughter, named Sally Mathilda, born in May 1896. Next we searched the 1910 census and found the family there also.

When we had returned home we started writing to the Minnesota Health Department to try to get the complete marriage date for the parents and the full birthdates for the children. You will have to pay a small sum for the search and then some for the postage of the answer, a “non-certificate” one. After two weeks we got the answer that they did not have the information we wanted, but that we should contact Wright County.

So we went through the same procedure again, but were lucky this time. In two weeks time we got certificates with the dates we asked for, except for Karin Pettersson, the wife of Claes, who we only knew was born in Sweden, but not when.

No luck with Mathilda

During the summer we visited the House of Emigrants again, and spent a whole day searching the census for Ramsey County, where we hoped to find Anna Mathilda, but found nothing.

The next day another researcher asked us what we were doing, so we told him, and then he told us to get hold of the SAKA [Svenska Amerikanska Kyrko Arkiven] index, which we did not know about. It is an index to the records of the Swedish American churches that have been microfilmed and are available for research in Växjö, Karlstad, and Rock Island, Illinois. Soon we found the microfilm we needed to find Anna Mathilda and Claes and his family.

Marriage!

After some reading of the microfilms I found the marriage notice for Anna Mathilda and who she married. She married Paul Larson in 1912 when she was 22 years old. This marriage took place in Sherburne County, Minnesota, not in Ramsey County with the date 3 March 1912 from the Swedish American church records, but on the copy of the marriage certificate I could see that the date was really 6 April 1912. Paul was from Hennepin County, but for Anna Mathilda only Minnesota was recorded, and the marriage took place at Big Lake, Elk River, in Sherburne County.

In October 2004 I also wrote to Iowa to get the birth information for Paul Larson, but my letter was returned with the note that I was not entitled to that information, as I was not related to the person in question.

But I printed out an English version of the family file from my genealogy program, and wrote a new letter that my husband signed, and also included a copy of the marriage certificate that we had just received.

This worked; after three weeks I received the information that Paul’s full name was Paul Martin Jonathan, born 31 December 1888 in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, son of Andrew Fredrick Larson and his wife Bertha Anderson.

Perseverance pays off!

Anita Carlsson lives in Eskilstuna, Sweden, and her e-mail is <info@caritakonsult.se>
Church Anniversary Booklets and Church Histories

Are you wondering what to do with old anniversary booklets from historically Swedish-American congregations? The Swenson Center's library collection now holds more than five hundred anniversary booklets from Lutheran, Covenant, Methodist, and Baptist congregations. The booklets document the history of the congregations, provide clues in genealogy searches, and often contain great photographs. You may find them useful in your research and can request them through interlibrary loan through your local library. Search our online library catalog called ALiCat at www.augustana.edu/library for congregations that interest you. We lend them with the restriction of in-library use, which means that you can not check them out and take them home, but you can use them at your library and even make photocopies or scan the pages you need.

We will gladly accept your anniversary booklets as donations and add them to the collection. Important to remember before sending any library donation — please contact Anne Jenner at <swjenner@augustana.edu> or by writing or calling the Swenson Center with any titles you may have and she will check to see if it is one that we need. We cannot accept duplicates of titles that we already have or any publication in poor condition (smells musty, mildew and/or mold infested, has missing and/or torn pages). For more information about how to make a donation of material, please go to our library web page www.augustana.edu/swenson/library.html and follow the donation link.

Anne Jenner
NÅGRA AF VÅRA NUVARANDE MEDLEMMAR, HVILKA VORO MED I FÖRSAMLINGEN NÄR KYRKAN INVIGDES.


No Memories are Dearer Than Those I have from Vespers.

BY CONRAD BERGENDOFF (1895–1997), PRESIDENT OF AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

(Previously printed in Hägkomster och livsintryck till minnet av Nathan Söderblom (1934))

TRANSLATED BY JOHN E. NORTON

Is anything more difficult than giving a picture of a personality in words alone? But despite the impossibility of describing what it is that separates a personality from the masses, one knows immediately when one stands before such a person – one who, lifted above others, retains the uniqueness of his being. And when one has stood together with such a soul, one often returns to the land of memories, where the light of that shining visage still lives.

It was at the new sanctuary of Salem Church in Chicago that I first became personally acquainted with Archbishop Nathan Söderblom. He had been invited to plant a tree next to the church, and gladly accepted the invitation. Later he said to me: “I have inaugurated churches, but this is the first time I’ve planted a tree.” After his return home to Sweden, he took time to write a letter, including these words:

“At the planting of that tree on that chilly evening, I had an experience of the inner warmth of a first love between you and your congregation. It was one of those moments which showed me something of the best in America – Sweden’s soul. I noted that the power of the old pilgrim fathers’ simple faith still lives in children and grandchildren. Please express my thanks to the members of your congregation, and thanks for the hearty time.”

My next meeting was in the Archbishop’s residence in Uppsala. Through the auspices of the Archbishop, I was able to continue my studies at Uppsala, and the universities of Lund and Berlin. Many treasured memories pour out when I think back to his study, dining room, and reception rooms, where the light of intellect and the warmth of friendship one experienced in the presence of the Archbishop and his wife put a glow into their home. “Sit at this table,” Mrs. Söderblom said one day at lunch, “visitors will soon come from all corners of the world.” Like a magnet, the Archbishop attracted the spiritual leaders of the world to Uppsala. A few days later, I was together with a group being shown through the Cathedral by the Archbishop. The others were Canon Woods from England, Prof. Romadha from Prague, and President Hibben from Princeton University in America. They came from the ends of the world to Uppsala to see and hear the Archbishop.

But no memories are dearer to me than those I have from vespers, as the day ended, when we assembled around the organ, where the Archbishop himself presided. Hymns, Bible reading, prayer – everything so simple and yet so gripping. In a nearby room were the thousands of books he knew so well. Here in the bosom of his family, with one or another guest present, it was not education one admired, but the genuine child-like faith which made an indelible impression.

I experienced his remarkably easy way of associating with every kind of person, even the less fortunate, when I followed him as notary on a visitation trip to a parish in the Uppsala diocese. In the language of a child he spoke with eight- and nine-year-olds in the elementary school, spoke with them about their forefathers’ names and faith. In the Church, filled to capacity for the service, he walked up and down the aisles, talking with the old, with the teacher, or the newly-confirmed. As the eye turns towards a shaft of light, the congregation followed his path. Nothing was without interest for him. In the village they had talked about an old woman who cured illness by laying her hands on clothing brought from the sick. “Be sure to note that,” he said to his notary.

But this church leader was at home not just in the rural church. I followed him as secretary when the Archbishop went to Bern, where the Ecumenical Continuation Committee – or Ecumenical Council as it is now called – was meeting. He was its chairman. The committee included members from France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, America, Switzerland, and other countries. In discussions and as chairman he spoke equally comfortably with everyone in the various languages used – German, French, English, Swedish. Among the learned, the highest figures in Christianity, he walked with sure, purposeful steps. Wherever he was there was energy and Gemütlichkeit.

I think of him most often as he prayed on his knees before the altar of Uppsala Cathedral for the unity of the Church and peace between nations. There he expressed the deepest longings of his heart. If nothing else, he spoke so often and
at so many times about the church’s common witness before the world. This witness was not just for individuals, but for all peoples and nations. The world should understand the unity which already existed in a divided Christianity. For me and many others, there’s something great in that thought, that there, in the far north, a burning soul lay before the alter of Uppsala Cathedral, praying that the Church, the Church in the world—might become one, as Christ himself is one.

Did he set his goals too high? Lesser souls could not follow him. They saw only the risk, only the dangerous obstacles lying in the way. He saw something else. He saw the goal, and it drew him onward. On the mountain top he found few. But that was where the road led. There he went.

The English poet Browning’s words in “The Grammarian’s Funeral” were written for one like Nathan Söderblom:

Here—here’s the place, where meteors shoot, clouds form,
Lightnings are loosened, Stars come and go! Let joy break with the storm,
Peace let the dew send! Lofty designs must close in like effects;
Loftily lying. Leave him—still loftier than the world suspects,
Living and dying.

On Both Sides of the Atlantic


(Previously printed in Hägkomster och livsintryck till minnet av Nathan Söderblom (1934))

TRANSLATED BY JOHN E. NORTON

Among Swedes in America and their descendants there has always been a significant number who, because of their direct or indirect relationship with Sweden, have followed, with more or less lively interest, developments in their old homeland. It was thus with some surprise that they found about 20 years ago, that a relatively young professor from Uppsala University had been named Archbishop of Sweden; more so because the other candidates were well-known and powerful men, known both for their education, practical abilities, and fear of God. Among the so-called right-thinkers in both America and Sweden, there were not a few who had their doubts about the orthodoxy of the chosen one.

It did not take long before the new archbishop began both to speak and act in his new capacity. Then it soon became clear to the doubtful and questioning where the Archbishop stood in relation to the fundamental truths of salvation. There was an immediate shift of opinion among many, and soon he won everyone’s confidence and fast friendship. It was soon understood, both at home and abroad, that a new day had dawned for the Church of Sweden.

He took up his duties in times of utmost gravity. The great World War had broken out only a few days earlier. No one had any idea how many lands would be pulled in, what frightful results might befall them, and when it would cease. The young archbishop threw himself into the confusion, firmly determined that whatever happened to him, he would seek mightily to bring an early end to the fighting, and above all, retain the neutrality of the Scandinavian countries. He contacted leading churchmen everywhere in Europe with the goal of uniting them in an attempt to quickly bring war hysteria to an end. National forces were however too strong to accomplish any such end. But the Archbishop became known quickly throughout all Europe, and was shown respect everywhere.

A new day dawned at the same time for the Augustana Synod, concerning the Church of Sweden’s appreciation for, and evaluation of, the synod. In a surprising way, the archbishop approached the Augustana Synod and let them understand that he saw it as a true limb of the greater Lutheran church body. He also invited the Synod to be represented at his inauguration. The invitation was accepted with joy and thanksgiving, and a representative was sent.

I will never forget the good will he showed me when I, in January of 1922, visited Germany on behalf of our heathen mission, and returned home through Sweden. My visit in Sweden lasted only two weeks, but the Archbishop saw to it that they were well filled with sermons, lectures, and meetings of various kinds. I was naturally well aware that this

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was invited to speak. He came, and just like one of ours," was heard Bishop von Scheele when he stopped suddenly, then continued by singing one of Sanker's revival songs. [Editor's note: "The Ninety and Nine," translated into Swedish and proposed for the 1920 supplement to Svenska Psalmboken]. Nothing like that had certainly ever been heard by his audience. For the Archbishop, it worked to permit such a surprise. If anyone else had tried a similar maneuver, his reception would have been different.

As guest of the Augustana Synod during his American tour, Soderblom should certainly head for the Synod's seat in the city (Rock Island) where its theological seminary is located. A large, beautiful building complex, consisting of lecture rooms, library, and chapel, as well as dormitories for the students, had just been completed. Inauguration would take place on 6 November. At that time, the Archbishop held a speech mentioning that:

"The Augustana Synod, the Swedish Church in America, makes up the largest community of Swedes outside our borders. In this, we sense the breadth of the call which for 80 years has brought Swedish men and women to this country. Later generations shall, with possibly greater surprise and admiration, hear the true story of your community's growth from the first poor immigrant dugouts, sod churches, and schools with small beginnings, into the strong, youthful seat of higher education which spreads out across one of Rock Island's beautiful hills, and which, by the building we dedicate today, increases the college and gives worthy space to the theological faculty which draws its students from the many Swedish schools in this land. Our times require the goal-oriented sense of empowerment within your students, and their fearless Christian trust."

As vice-chancellor of Uppsala University, he brought its good wishes, expressed as follows: "In sincere appreciation for what this seat of higher education, in a short time and from small beginnings, has been able to accomplish, Uppsala University awaits with lively anticipation the growth of Augustana's faculties to an institution of university status, meeting the highest demands of scientific research."

As Archbishop, he continued: "In my capacity as Archbishop of the Kingdom of Sweden, I, the Christian Church, and its congregation in the homeland, ask God's blessing upon this expanded educational institution at this solemn time, upon its President, its Deacon, its professors and other teachers, its administration and those who here benefit and shall benefit from education in the highest of all subjects, God's will, counsel, and actions for the salvation of mankind, and upon the Augustana Synod, its newly-installed President."

Such warm, confident, and heartfelt words had never before been spoken to the Augustana Synod by any of the highest officials of the Church of Sweden. No one can deny that we were greatly pleased.

In the summer of 1923 I attended the first Lutheran World Conference in Eisenach. The trip went via Sweden, with a short stop at the Archbishop's home. There I was met by the same hearty friendliness as during my first visit. At that time, January 1922, there were many visitors in the Archbishop's home. One evening, a group of 125 unemployed men had been invited for supper. Afterwards was a joint vespers service. Those who have had the pleasure of participating in vespers at the Archbishop's know what it means. Even now, in the middle of the summer, there were many visitors. At our table sat a Catholic bishop, a U.S. senator from Utah, a couple of other strangers whose name and position I've forgotten, and
the president of the Augustana Synod.

The Archbishop was naturally part of the Eisenach meeting, and played one of the main roles, as one might expect. Certainly there were those who were not at all pleased that he had come. Quiet attempts had been made to close the door to him. The American delegation made it clear, however, that nothing such could happen. Opposition evaporated, and the general feeling was that the Archbishop was more welcome than anyone else.

He also attended the 1929 World Conference in Copenhagen. Despite his poor health, he took an active part in the discussions. Not satisfied with that alone, he appeared during the conference at places outside Copenhagen. It seemed impossible for him to spare himself, despite all pleas that he not strain himself.

And finally there was the celebration of Christianity's introduction to Sweden in 830, with construction of Ansgar's Chapel at Björkö. During his own life, Nathan Söderblom had experienced the insurmountable power of Christianity. He recognized its importance to past generations, for today's, and those generations to come. For that reason he worked towards celebrating the 1100th anniversary of St. Ansgar's coming to Sweden in an appropriate way. The people of Sweden supported him, and the memory of that celebration will remain a clear, shining point of light in the history of Sweden and its Church.

Finally, I hope it may be permitted for me to cite a speech the Archbishop held on 4 December 1923, just before his return from America to his homeland, at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York:

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I am a guest in this country of our American daughter church, the Augustana Synod. A dearly missed brother in the episcopal service of Sweden (Bishop von Scheele) visited the Augustana Synod three times before the World War. It has now been my longed-for pleasure to travel from the Atlantic to Pacific, under the warmest guidance possible, to see how wonderfully our daughter Church, the Swedish Church in America, has grown during the past two or three generations in every area of the Church's religious work, education, and charity. I have thanked God from the depths of my heart, as I have witnessed how living, how praying, how full of daring and love and action the Swedish Church is in this land, and how much God has already let her carry out. - Now our Church in Sweden has a true daughter as a result of the Swedish immigration, which according to God's call makes its contribution to the continued building of your universal nation."
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The Archbishop deeply understood the Augustana Synod's character, efforts, and situation, truthfully and completely. Certainly none of his predecessors saw in the Augustana Synod what he saw, and he had the will and courage to say straight out what he felt he had found.

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A Handwriting Example #VIII

This records is from the Bobergs Häradsrätt, Östergötland, 1856, series E Inneliggande handlingar (loose papers). Original record kept in the Regional Archives of Vadstena, Sweden. Transcription and translation will be found on page 24.
The Old Picture

Edward H. Bergstrom, (6711 Embassy Blvd., Apt. 209, Port Richey, FL 34668-4740) found this picture after his wife Anne Shelton Bergstrom had died. He knew that the picture was of her maternal grandparents and their children. He knows their names, but who is who?

The photo is probably taken in the early 1900s in Warren, Pennsylvania.

The grandfather is Karl Gustaf Svensson Wetterbrandt, born 1838 March 28 in Örberga, Östg., who in America changed his name to Waterbrandt. Karl Gustaf was a shoe-maker in Sweden, according to “Emi-bas.”

Karl Gustaf and his family immigrated in 1881 July 1 from Kasta Ägor, Örberga, to North America. The family consisted then of his wife, Maria Christina Jonasdotter, born 1850 Oct. 10 in Strå parish, Ostg., and their children, all born in Örberga: Carolina Albertina, born 1878 Sep. 27; Emma Maria, born 1880 Jan. 10; and Karl Gustaf Albert, born 1881 Apr. 28. Later more children were born in the U.S.: Peter, Elizabeth, Selma, and Hulda. Hulda later became the mother of Mrs. Bergstrom.

Karl Gustaf was the son of Sven Öberg and his wife Anna Greta Larsdotter. Maria Christina’s parents were Jonas Peter Jonsson and his wife Lovisa Andersdotter.

Anyone who can identify the children can reach Edward H. Bergstrom at the address given before, or by e-mail <skelberg2@yahoo.com>

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Kyrkhult is Closing
The microfiche research center in Kyrkhult, Blekinge, will close its doors forever on April 27th.
This sad event is caused by a decreasing number of visitors and growing costs.
Unfortunately, this important information is lacking on its English-language web page, but found on the Swedish pages.
It is possible that the microfiche collection, which was rented from the Swedish National Archives, may be placed in the Regional Archives (landsarkivet) in Lund, and thus available to researchers in southern Sweden.

Canadian Passenger Lists to Be Available in March
The National Archives Canada originally planned to start placing digitized images of passenger lists online by the end of 2005. The project has slipped to March. It will include almost every port of entry for the years 1865 to 1921. Currently there are no plans for the Archives to include a name index to these records. The Nanaimo Family History Society of British Columbia plans to index all passengers at Halifax and Quebec (Montreal is included in the Port of Quebec) from 1900 to 1921. (Nu, What’s New? 22/1-06)

A Wise Man
Thomas Overbury, 1581-1613 said: The man that hath not anything to boast but his illustrious ancestors is like a potato: the only good belonging to him is underground.

A New CD Database
Just before Christmas many genealogists finally got the CD:s they had long been waiting for. The Person- och Lokalhistoriskt Forskarancentrum Oskarshamn (PLF) has for many years had volunteers all over Kalmar län who have been transcribing births, deaths, and marriages into a huge database. This database has now been released on four CD:s: one for northern Kalmar län with some parishes in Östergötland, one with the middle Kalmar län, one with the southern part of the län, and the fourth with the parishes on Öland. The database is a wonderful help, as long as one remembers to check everything in the original church records.

Swedes in Franklin’s Time
The American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia presents the exhibition Becoming Americans: Swedes in the Time of Franklin. This exhibition explores some of the many ways in which the Swedish settlers adapted to their new environment, rapidly changing governments, and the evolving social expectations of the new American society taking shape around them. The exhibition opened on 9 March and ends 27 August.

The Swedish Genealogist’s Days
The yearly Släktforskardagarna (Genealogist’s Days) will take place in Nacka, just outside Stockholm on 12-13 August. For the first time there will be an entrance fee of about $5 (40 SEK). There will be lectures and exhibitions from societies, archives, and commercial vendors.
Lars Ljungmark in Memoriam  
1927–2005

Dr. Lars Ljungmark, Göteborg, has passed away at age 78. He spent a large part of his academic career as an associate professor of history at Göteborg University, from where he also earned his Ph.D. in history in 1971. Ljungmark was one of Sweden's leading historians of the migration of some 1.3 million Swedes to the U.S. and Canada during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Already in 1965 he wrote and hosted the very successful radio series “Den stora utvandringen” (The Great Emigration) for which he also wrote a book with the same name. This very useful one-volume survey of the history of Swedish migration to America was translated as Swedish Exodus in 1979, and reissued again in 1996.

His 1971 study For Sale – Minnesota: Organized Promotion of Scandinavian Immigration 1866-73 dealt with ways in which Minnesota became one of the premier destinations in the New World for Swedish immigrants. He also studied Swedes in Canada, as is evident in his Svenskarne i Winnipeg. Porten till prårien 1872-1940 (The Swedes in Winnipeg: The Gateway to the Prairie, 1872-1940) from 1994. In recent years he was heavily involved with the research project “Göteborgsemigrant- en” (The Göteborg Emigrant) in which a multitude of perspectives on the history of emigration from Göteborg were presented in numerous publications.

Lars Ljungmark was a well-known and greatly admired scholar, teacher, and friend. He made numerous trips to North America and was a frequent guest and lecturer in many contexts in the U.S. and Canada. His generous nature and sense of humor were remarkable, and he will be greatly missed by friends and colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic.

Dag Blanck  
Director of Swenson Center

The cradle story – what happened next

As was told in SAG 2005:3, a man came into the House of Genealogy in Leksand carrying a huge cradle in his arms and asked “Am I related to this cradle?”

There were many initials and dates carved into the back of the cradle and the family could easily be identified in the Ål church records. The owner was not related to that family, but later donated the cradle to the House of Genealogy.

But what happened to the original owners? They were Björ Mats Matsson and his wife Kerstin Andersdotter from Ål parish in Dalarna. They had 12 children, but infant death took its toll, and only two survived until adulthood. Among the children were four Anders, two Karins, two Annas and two Mats.

One Mats and one Anders grew up. Anders became a carpenter and had no children.

Anders married and had three children, of which son Olof, born 18 May 1836 in Ål, survived. He became a soldier in the Gagnef company of the Dalregementet and used the surname Hedberg. He married and had four children.

In 1859 he was sentenced to two years of hard labor and lost his honor, as he was proved to be a counterfeiter of coins.

Ten years later, 15 Nov. 1869, he leaves his home in N. Heden 1 in Ål for America and never comes back. If the intention was that the family should come later, the plans were never realized.

In all the later clerical surveys the husband is recorded as “living in America.”

The children grew up and the family spread out. What happened to Olof is not to be found in Swedish sources. There was no legal divorce, but he could still have started a new family in the U.S.; but where? Did he have new children who knew little or nothing about their siblings in Sweden?

The old grey cradle tells a piece of our history, but the wheels of history keeps rolling and we can only pick up small pieces of the puzzle and put them together into new stories.

Stenåke Petersson
Genomics: A New Tool for Genealogists

BY DENNIS L. JOHNSON

Recent advances in DNA analysis offer impressive new tools and resources in the quest for researching our family origins. This was the thrust of a presentation on DNA in family history research by Thomas H. Roderick, Ph.D., to the Swedish Genealogy Club of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia on October 15, 2005. Dr. Roderick is Senior Staff Scientist, Emeritus, at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. Among his other distinctions, Dr. Roderick is credited with establishing the use of the term "Genomics." This term is used to describe this general field of study.

Dr. Roderick’s presentation outlined the basic principles of DNA research and techniques, and how these advances aided in confirming or disproving a relationship established by usual family history records searches. He illustrated this application with several anecdotes about the relationships between many of the royal families of Europe, and by the recent revelations confirming descendants of Thomas Jefferson through a slave girl in his household, Sally Hemmings.

DNA is a component found in the cells of all living organisms and, usually, in their dead remains. Through new techniques in the analysis of DNA, researchers have learned a great deal about the relationships of humans to each other and to other living things. Humans are alike in 99% of their genes, only 1% account for the many differences in appearance between individuals and groups. In fact, all mammals are alike in 97% and differ in only 3%. It is in this small percentage, however, where our origins can be examined and traced.

**Two methods**

The most advanced research into DNA use consists of two different methods, one used in tracing the male line and one used in tracing the female line. This is most useful in following the continuous male lineage only using the y-line DNA found in the y chromosome in men, and in following the continuous female lineage found in the m-line mitochondrial DNA found in women. Following other lines in your family tree is more difficult, for example through your grandmother’s great-grandfather, because of the differing tracing methods needed. This more complex tracing is not yet well developed, and awaits further research and data accumulation. Several organizations are collecting DNA samples in the form of cheek swabs from many individuals to further the charting of human origins and migrations.

**A single African ‘Adam’**

Research into human DNA has already led to several conclusions now generally accepted by geneticists and human geographers. All non-African men living today, as studied through the y-lines of people throughout the world, can be traced to a single African ‘Adam’ who lived about 90,000 years ago. From this individual sprang all the peoples who migrated across Eurasia to populate all the other inhabited continents of the world. Similarly, all humans living today can be traced through their m-lines to a "mitochondrial Eve" who lived about 100,000 years ago.

To illustrate how this can apply to a single individual today, I recently received the results of y-line testing of my own DNA from a cousin, with whom I share a great-grandfather, and I am of all Swedish descent. I learned that my cousin and I belong to Haplogroup N(LLY22G). The results indicate that “this marker originated in Siberia and is found today in southern parts of Scandinavia as well as NE Europe. Many Russians and the reindeer-herding people of northern Scandinavia have this marker today.”

The results go on to say that this marker came from the M9 marker which originated in Iran some 40,000 years ago, which in turn came from M89 appearing some 45,000 years ago in northern Africa or the Middle East. M89 came from M168 some 60,000 years ago from approximately Kenya. This description generally fits with other descriptions of the origins of most Scandinavians in other references, humans who migrated from central Asia into present-day Scandinavia after the great ice age of some 10-15,000 years ago.

**Ordinary genealogical research still lives**

While these findings are certainly of general interest to most people, they do little for the specific ancestral search for your family origins in recent times. This search will continue to rely mostly on written records of births, marriages, deaths, and family records followed in the usual way. There are a few specific applications of DNA testing that may apply to the search for your family tree, however.
These would include confirmation or disproving of a connection to an unproved but suspected ancestor. DNA of a deceased ancestor is usually hard to obtain, but sometimes inferences can be drawn by looking at the y-line or m-line of that person’s descendants.

Another way in which DNA testing might be useful is if you find a person who you strongly suspect is a relative, but cannot verify this through written records. This might be the case if you run across a person with an unusual surname similar to yours, and other circumstances suggesting common ancestors. Testing could verify whether you are indeed related, or not. Other examples would be to verify whether an adopted or illegitimate child is in fact related to one or both parents. Other uses would be in verifying the ethnic ancestry of certain groups, or verifying the ancestry of persons for membership in societies claiming common descent from certain ancestors or groups.

Scandinavian pitfalls

For those pursuing Swedish, or other Scandinavian, relationships relying on common surnames, there are special pitfalls not found in most other nationalities or groups. The common use of the patronymic naming system through the 19th century (for example, Olaf Peterson, or Karin Larsdotter) meant that the surname changed with each generation.

A few families, such as the nobility, generally kept a common surname over many generations but most did not. In addition, many Swedes changed their surnames when the government required selection and adoption of a family surname at the end of the 19th century, often opting for nature-names and the like. Others changed their surnames or the spelling of them when they migrated to North America or became citizens.

There are several sources available for obtaining results from testing of your own DNA for those who are interested. In the U.S., you can contact Dr. Roderick at The Jackson Institute, e-mail thr@jax.org or the National Geographic/IBM Genome Project. Other DNA testing companies include:

- **www.dnaheritage.com** in Britain
- **www.familytreedna.com** in Houston, TX,
- **www.relativegenetics.com** in Salt Lake City, UT, and others.

The costs can vary from $100.00 to $450.00 or more, depending on the number of markers requested. Most experts recommend that you request at least 25 markers for the most useful results. Your DNA test results will take 4-6 weeks after forwarding a cheek swab sample and your payment.

For those who wish to read further on the subject, Dr. Roderick has provided the following list of recommended references: (for an excellent first book, I would suggest DNA and Family History, by Chris Pomeroy, listed below).


The Journal of Genetic Genealogy (JOGG), on line, contact http://www.jogg.info

The above article is based partly on the presentation and notes of Dr. T.H. Roderick given at the American Swedish Historical Museum, Swedish Genealogy Club meeting, on October 15, 2005, together with other sources used by the author.

The top list of children’s names in Sweden 2005

**Girl’s names**

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<th>Name</th>
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**Boys’ names**

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<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Viktor</td>
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All according to Statistics Sweden (www.scb.se)

Old male names like Carl (25), Erik (17), Anders (not in top 100), Per (not in top 100) are losing ground to newcomers like William (2), Pontus (50), Neo (82), and Melvin (41). Names that were popular around 1900 are also strong: Theodor (49), Alfred (50), Gustav (14), and Ludvig (23).

The same tendency is clear among the girls’ names. Anna (46), Lisa (43), Maria (82), and stina (58) are on their way out. In comes names like Tindra (23), Jasmine (63), Nova (44), and Tuva (37).

Actual names from today’s (Feb. 26) morning paper are Elsa, Sofia, Greta, Antonia, Fredrika, Sigrid, Hermine, Julia, Linnea, Zoe, Clara, and Dina for girls.

New baby boys are Lowe, Marcus, Caspar, Erik, Gustaf, Ian, Axel, and Wiggo.

*Swedish American Genealogist* 2005:4
The Solution to the Handwriting Example #VIII

Transcription

N:o 1

Förpantningsegaren Joh. Pet. Andersson i Nybygget på Kommorps ägor war­
der härmed stämd till Bobergs Härads instundande lagtima Win­
terTing, som börjas i Husbyfjöl den 2nd nästkommande Februarii,
for att genmäla undertecknad Åklagares påstående, att Swaran -
den, som den 22 förliden October, enligt angifwelse, skall haf­
wa slagit och bitit Snickaren And. Blomqvists i Nysätter
på Kommorps ägor hustru Karin Andersdotter, så att blå­
nader i hufwudet och 3 blodwiten händerna följt,
måtte derför fallas till laga answar. Skolande icke allenast bemälda
hustru Karin Andersdotter i egenskap af angifware och måls­
egare, utan åfwen Pigan Lisa Samuelsdotter hos Landgrens
på Fornåsa prestegårds egor samt förpantningsegaren Carl
Petter Carlsson och hans hustru Maria Köhl på Fornås Rust­
hälls ägor i egenskap af wittnen åfwen komma tillstädés å sam­
ma tid och ort for att i målet höras.

Stämningen hörsammas wid laga påföljd

Boberg den 13 December 1856

Enligt DomareEmb etets förordnande

Translation

N:o 1

The mortgage owner Joh. Pet. Andersson in Nybyget on Kommorp lands is
hereby summoned to the approaching ordinary Winter meeting of the Boberg District
Court, which will start in Husbyfjöl on the 2nd of February next, to answer the allegation
by the undersigned prosecutor, that he, the defendant, on the 22nd of October last, according to
an accusation, did hit and bite wife Karin Andersdotter, married to the carpenter
And. Blomqvist of Nysätter on Kommorp lands, so that bruises on the head and three bleeding
wounds resulted, and may he therefore be held responsible according to the law.
Is supposedly not only wife Karin Andersdotter in her capacity of accuser and plaintiff, but also the
servant girl Lisa Samuelsdotter, [living] by the Landgrens on the lands of Fornåsa
Prästgård and the mortgage owner Carl Petter Carlsson and his wife Maria Köhl on
the lands of Fornås Rusthäll in their capacity as witnesses to be present at the same
place at the same time to be heard in the case.

The summons is to be obeyed on pain of legal consequences.

Boberg the 13th of December 1856

By virtue of the Judge’s Office
I Found the Needle!

My search for the immigrant Asp Family in America and Sweden. Part I

BY JAN SOKOXY ASP

The needle was the Asp Family; the haystack was the 2600 parishes in Sweden.

To this day, my search has been the most challenging, frustrating, and gratifying experience of my genealogy hobby. It is extremely difficult, almost impossible, to research a family in a foreign country when all you know is the name of the country and the name of the family.

I hope that you will enjoy reading my story. I also hope you will gain the knowledge and desire to begin or continue with perseverance your research, not only in Sweden, but wherever it may take you. Perhaps my story will be an encouragement, not only to beginners who learn from experienced genealogists, but to researchers who may have a dead end line over which we often spin our wheels and go nowhere. Remember, some lines may only be found when vital records have become available through the Internet. Some of the family may never be found if parish records have been destroyed or last names have been changed.

In the beginning

I do not remember when I learned that “Asp” was a Swedish name. It may have been the spring of 1957 when a blond-haired, blue-eyed fellow introduced himself from across the card table in the college lounge. “Asp” is a non-patronymic name. It is listed in Carl-Erick Johansson’s Cradled in Sweden (page 26) as a soldier’s name, translated from the aspen tree. To avoid confusion among so many men with the last names of Andersson, Carlsson, Swensson, and Johansson, troops were issued new names along with their clothing and weapons.

In the spring of 1974 my cousin called to tell me about a genealogy group meeting at our Elgin public library. A high school classmate had formed the group. Pat Lose invited me to her home where I learned about family group sheets, lineage charts, and genealogy libraries. The group held one morning and one evening meeting each month. I joined.

In the fall, I attended a series of beginner and advanced classes offered by the group in our local library, taught by a woman from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). Our last class in December was at the Wilmette LDS Branch Genealogical Library now called a Family History Center (FHC), where I learned films of the vital records of foreign countries could be ordered for a fee. I was hooked. Germany, Hungary, and Sweden were my countries of interest.

As a young girl, I always had a natural affinity for family history. Now it had a name. GENEALOGY.

Research on backburner

On 3 Jan. 1975, my son, Charles Jon-Paul (called C.J.), was born and joined his sister, Janna Charlynn, who turned 4 on 12 Jan.; thus, research on my new hobby had to be sporadic. I attended evening meetings, wrote letters, and began filling out charts. Trips to the Wilmette FHC were put on the “to do in the future” list.

The immigrant names

My search began by contacting the eldest family member, a great-aunt, Katharine Asp, in Muscatine, Iowa. She was the adopted daughter of the immigrant son, John August, and had done some unsuccessful daughter of the immigrant son, John August, and had done some unsuccessful research on finding the family in Sweden. The incentive for Aunt Katy’s research was a family story about an inheritance available to anyone proving relationship to the Asp family. From her I learned about the immigrant family consisting of four people.

The immigrant father, John Henry Asp, was born in Sweden. He owned a blacksmith shop in New Boston, Illinois, located on the Mississippi River in Mercer County, south of Rock Island County. In 1856, the family moved across the river to Toolesboro, Louisa County, Iowa, on the Iowa River near the confluence of the Mississippi. He was a Civil War soldier. He died in 1863 at Vicksburg and is buried in the National Cemetery there.

The immigrant mother, Christina, died in 1856.

The immigrant daughter, Anna Charlotta, was called Annie. She married Martin Pease and moved to
Looking for ages, birthdates, birthplaces, & immigration year in America

I began searching the U.S. census records taken every ten years. The 1860 census, Iowa, Louisa Co., Toolesboro taken on June 1st lists:

**John H. Asp** 44 Blacksmith b. Sweden (b.c. 1815/16)

**Charlotte** 15 " (b.c. 1844/5)

**John** 12 " (b.c. 1847/8)

**Henry E.** 5 b. Illinois (age does not compute with birth year)

The 1870 census, Iowa, Louisa Co., Grandview shows:

**Asp, Jno 20 Farm Laborer Sweden**

The 1870 census, Iowa, Louisa Co., Wapello shows:

**Asp, Charlotte 23 Hired Girl Sweden**

The age discrepancies began. (The 3 year difference between sister & brother is consistent, but the ages from 1860 to 1870 are not.)

The 1855 Illinois state census shows John Henry in New Boston as head of household but all other family members are not named. They are marked in columns by gender and age groups.

The obituary for John August shows he was born November 12, 1850 in Stockholm, the son of John August and came to America when 3 months old, settling in Illinois. (Im. c. 1851) The name of the father and the age do not agree with the 1860 census. He married Hannah Elizabeth Carey in Aledo, Illinois, on September 24, 1879. His age on the marriage certificate is 28 years. An Assessment Roll for 1899 shows his age as 49. (b.c. 1850/1851)

The Naturalization Certificate for John Henry Asp issued on October 22, 1860, shows that he was a native of Sweden. An *Iowa Soldier Book* (page 149) reads:

**Asp, John**. Age 44. Residence Toolesboro, nativity Sweden. Enlisted Sept. 21, 1861, as Artificer. Mustered Oct. 31, 1861. Died of disease Sept. 20, 1863, Vicksburg, Miss. (b.c. 1816/1817)

Sixteen Civil War letters written in English with Swedish overtones sent to his three children do not reveal any information. However, when Nils William Olsson read two of the letters he assured me they were written by a Swede.

I wrote to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., for the Civil War packet of John Henry Asp. The copies of paper work included three pages of affidavits sent to prove a pension claim for his youngest son, Henry Edward.

The affidavits

**#1 Anders Westerbla** was well acquainted with John H. Asp, a soldier in the army who formerly lived at Toolesboro, Louisa Co., Iowa. He became acquainted with him in the year 1854 at New Boston, Ill. That he was told that John H. Asp and his wife Christine were married in Sweden. That he knows that they lived together as man and wife from 1854 until Sept. of 1856 when the wife died. That Henry E. Asp was born at New Boston, Ill. about Jan. 1, 1856, and his parents removed to Toolesboro, Iowa, a few months afterwards.

That the mother died at Toolesboro, September, 1856. The affiant was a blacksmith and worked for John H. Asp and boarded at his house and was working there when the said Henry E. Asp was born.

**#2 John Sprouse** was intimately acquainted with John H. Asp who was a Private in Company I, Engineer Regiment of the West. That he became acquainted with him in the spring of 1856, when Asp and his wife and children came to Toolesboro. That his wife, Christine, died in the fall of 1856. That the said John H. Asp did not again marry. That John H. Asp and said Christine lived together as man and wife and Asp always acknowledged Henry E. Asp as his true and lawful son. The affiant was a near neighbor while he lived in Toolesboro, enlisted with him in the same company, and knew him well until he died.

**#3 Margaret Peterson** was well acquainted with John H. Asp and Christine Asp, his wife, who lived with her in the same house in New Boston, III.

That she attended Christine Asp at the birth of said child as midwife.

The originals

While on a family vacation to Washington, D.C., I ordered and looked at the Civil War packet for John Asp at the archives. I did this because I had heard that the complete packet is not always sent. In the packet was a slip of paper that had not been included in the papers sent to me. It was a note that read, “No one could read the page from the family Bible so it was sent as proof of their marriage.” Unfortunately, the Bible page was not in the packet. I wonder if that page would have held the answers to all my questions of “when and where” in Sweden.
County papers
Louisa County guardianship papers dated January 21, 1864, show Charlotte Ann to be 17 years and John A. Asp to be 16 years. (b. c. 1846/7 and c. 1847/8)
Now there is a one-year age difference.

Henry's career
Henry E. Asp became a lawyer and migrated to Kansas, and finally Oklahoma, where he prepared the draft of a complete state constitution. For his efforts to secure lands for schools, there is a street on the University campus named "Asp" and also a crossroads north of Oklahoma City designated as "Asp." The histories of Oklahoma have many pages written about him. In one history his parents are listed as John August and Christina Asp, both natives of Sweden. His mother died in 1857 when he was an infant of one year. Is contradiction a part of doing genealogy?

Toolesboro today
The day after our 1983 Thanksgiving, with plat and state maps in the car, I drove from Geneseo, Illinois, to New Boston and Toolesboro. In New Boston I was able to find where the blacksmith shop had existed. A kind lady from the historical society sent me a copy of the 1856 newspaper ad for the sale of the shop. There were no burials in the cemeteries with the last name of Asp.
Toolesboro was an unexpected experience. On the map it is shown on the highway between Wapello to the west and Oakville to the southeast. Driving from the west to the east, when I got to Oakville I knew I had missed Toolesboro. There were no signs to indicate the town limits. Driving back to the west, I asked a teenager washing his car where it was and he indicated right there and to the west. Next, I asked a lady taking groceries out of her car in a parking area of a school building, now turned into apartments. She told me to drive down the big hill at the next street and go to the only house at the bottom left side where a man who knew the history of Toolesboro lived. Guy Brown and a friend began to talk about Toolesboro of the past and I learned that an old cemetery had been at the top of the hill along the highway but it no longer existed. We walked on the land, now a cow pasture, where Toolesboro had been along the Iowa River. He pointed out the shards in the water, remains from a ceramic factory, and the cistern where the blacksmith shop had been. He did extend an invitation to bring the family and camp along the river. There are no cemetery records to show where the immigrant mother was buried.

More unexpected information arrived with the birth certificate of John August's first child. Henry Aden, (later, Henry Wilbur) born September 20, 1880. Henry is the father of my father-in-law, Charles Arthur Asp. The father's age was 28...
years and his birthplace was listed as Nevada! I had not found John and his wife on the 1880 census so I looked forward to the 1900 census being available because it was the first to list an immigration year. The family was living in Muscatine, Iowa.

The census line for John Asp shows: head of household, born in the month of Nov., year 1847, age 49, b. Nevada, parents b. Sweden, carpenter. No immigration year was listed. Next I looked for his sister, Annie, on the Washington State 1900 census and found her to have been born Nov. 1843, 56 years, b. Sweden, and immigration year as 1860. That information did not seem to be correct. Not wanting to wait for the 1910 and 1920 census, I ordered them in 1980, sending the required fee and proof of relationship. On the 1910 census, John was born in Nevada and was age 58. On the 1920 census it lists Illinois as his birthplace and 65 years of age.

With all the discrepancies in the secondary sources in the U.S., I decided to look at records in Sweden.

To be continued.

Jan Sokody Asp, a retired art teacher and a volunteer at the Schaumburg FHC, lives at 441 Adams Street, Elgin, IL 60123, and can be reached by e-mail: <jsasp441@aol.com>

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Bovey Town Hall

I ran across something this summer which may be of some interest to you, I know it is to me and has me doing some detective work.

About 35 km east of Grand Rapids, MN, on the main highway to Hibbing and the rest of the Iron Range, is a small town called Bovey, population about 800. We pass through Bovey now and then on our way to Hibbing and other local destinations. (Hibbing was the location where Carl Eric Wickman founded the Greyhound bus company in 1914).

A building in Bovey caught my eye because of the definitely Swedish character of the architecture. One day I stopped to check on the building and its architect. I learned that the Town Hall was built in 1936 under a public works program enacted during the Depression to help provide jobs in towns around the U.S., by President Franklin Roosevelt.

The photograph was taken soon after construction of the building as evidenced by the car parked nearby, a 1938 Pontiac, I believe. The main street is on the left, and the car is parked on a side street. Now the building is almost obscured by tall trees in the front. It is on the National Register of Historic Buildings, a designation reserved for buildings of special historic or architectural importance.

I also learned that the architect was Mr. William A. Ingmann, who designed a number of college and other buildings in the 1930's, including buildings at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN, at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, and elsewhere. I am now researching his biography and background mainly to satisfy my own curiosity but possibly for an article about him if I find enough information.

I am convinced that Ingmann was either a native Swede or a Swedish American that had traveled in Sweden. The style of the building is very Swedish and many details remind me of the Stockholm Town Hall, and other buildings I have seen in Sweden. Note the shape of the upper floor windows, the detailing in the brickwork, the grouped windows on the main level, and the special pediment and ornament above the main entrance. The brickwork is even almost the same color as the Stockholm Town Hall. It is an unusually fine building for this remote part of northern Minnesota.

I will continue seeking information on Ingmann and the building, but I thought you might be interested in seeing this bit of Sweden in the north woods of Minnesota.

Dennis L. Johnson

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Swedish American Genealogist 2005:4
Two Interesting CD:s

Surfing on the Internet I suddenly ended up on a web site, where the web master said he sold out-of-print genealogy books. That sounded interesting and I followed the links to "Other genealogy" and checked to see if there was anything of Swedish interest.

I found one book mentioned there, "History of Swedes in Illinois - 1908," originally published by E. Olsson and M. Engberg in 1908 in three volumes. Total number of pages was almost 1,500, and a great number of individuals were listed with biographies.

The first volume covers the general history of the Swedes in Illinois, and the second volume the Swedes in Chicago, with biographies like the one to the right. The third volume covers the various counties of Illinois, with similar biographies, mostly also with a photo of the person in question. There are even a few women listed.

All this has been scanned and made into pdf-files, and organized with hyperlinks, so it is fairly easy to navigate the CD. The indexes are also hyperlinked, so just click on the person you want to read about, and he/she will soon be on your screen.

The web site where you can find this CD, and others of local interest is http://geneo.sales.home.insightbb.com/.

The price of the CD was $15 + postage, which was reasonable and the delivery very fast. The same book in paper format is more than $100.

The Letters to America

The other CD I would like to present is called "Breven till Amerika" [Letters to America] and is based on letters that Håkan Bergström found in a box, belonging to a distant cousin in Tennessee. All these letters have been scanned and transcribed and put on this CD. Håkan has also translated them, which gives you an opportunity to catch a glimpse of life in Sweden in the old days.

Among the letters, Håkan found a total number of 12 letters sent from the common forefathers in Sweden. The rest of the letters were written from other friends and relatives in Sweden and from friends in U.S.A.

All the letters were addressed to Anders "Andrew" Wahlström or to his daughters in Mobile, Alabama, U.S.A., where the family lived. They were all written in 1912 to 1931.

Anders Wahlström was born 13 Feb. 1841 in Film, Uppl., and died 3 March 1931 in Mobile, Alabama. His wife was Maria Kjellström, born 28 May 1839, also in Film, and she died 2 July 1918 in Mobile. Anders and his family immigrated in 1870, and their story is told on the CD.

These letters make fascinating reading, and the CD is well done and easy to navigate with Internet Explorer™ and Adobe Reader™.

Håkan Bergström has a nice web site, but as the address is very long, it is on the link page, p. 35.

E-mail: <hakan.mg.bergstrom@swipnet.se>

Elisabeth Thorsell
Swinglish or what?


It is fairly well known that most people identify others as much by their speech as by any other characteristic. Those of us who are third generation Swedish-Americans are quite familiar with the evolution of speech among our immediate ancestors, which has affected our own speech. My grandparents were born in Sweden and spoke only Swedish when they arrived in this country. English was picked up as a second language, their degree of facility with English varying with their age when they migrated and whether they lived in rural areas among other Swedes, or in urban areas with much more contact with English speakers. They were usually most comfortable speaking Swedish among fellow Swedes. Their children mostly spoke Swedish until they went to school, and then began to learn English with greater facility than their parents. Swedish became their second language and was only used in the family and among other Swedes.

The first generation, and to some extent the second generation, often adopted a sort of Pidgin dialect which intermixed English and Swedish words and speech forms. This has been variously referred to in terms such as “Swinglish,” “Fargo talk,” or “mixat språk.”

The third generation was raised on English, and the parents mostly felt that there was no point in teaching their children Swedish, except possibly a few words or songs as part of certain traditional occasions. It was unusual for the third generation to develop enough skill with Swedish to use it in conversation, but their English was increasingly proficient, depending on their level of education and occupation. Certain characteristics of speech, and often a discernable accent, remained among this generation to indicate remnants of the ancestry of their speech. By the fourth generation, their speech would be more similar to their school, neighborhood, and occupational peers, and little trace of their particular heritage would be apparent.

[Note: In Minnesota and in Minneapolis (my home town) the “Minnesota accent” lives on, easily recognizable by those from other regions and by those like myself who have lived elsewhere for many years. This is not addressed in Karstadt’s book, but my own view is that the high proportion of Swedes and other Scandinavians settling in the area has affected the speech of not only their own descendants but of the population at large even into the 21st century. (Unlike Chicago, a center for “Standard English,” which had as many Swedes but not as large a proportion in the total population consisting of many groups. This tended to homogenize the English spoken there.)]

In her book, Angela Karstadt seeks to illuminate in great detail the general patterns of speech among Swedish Americans, using studies from two principal locations. The first is Minneapolis, MN, an urban area in which many Swedish immigrants settled, and Lindsborg, KS, a small town in a predominantly rural setting. Minneapolis received an almost constant flow of immigrants from Sweden between the Civil War (1865) and World War I (1918). Lindsborg, on the other hand, was settled in only a few years in the 1860’s. Karstadt conducted over seventy recorded interviews among residents of both locations, and also listened to hundreds of taped interviews conducted by other researchers as part of her study. She has attempted...
to look at variations between locations, among generations, and even examines the evolution of speech in the same person from an early age to late in life. Case studies and many examples of dialogues between interviewer and person interviewed are included in the text.

Ms. Karstadt grew up in Lindsborg, KS, in close contact with many Swedish Americans, although she herself is not. She developed a strong interest in linguistics, and studied at the University of Minnesota. She received her Ph.D. in English at Minnesota and later studied and did research at Uppsala University in Sweden. She is now senior lecturer in English linguistics at Gävle University College in Gävle, Sweden. This book is an expansion of Karstadt's doctoral dissertation which she prepared at the University of Minnesota.

For the lay person who has an interest in the language experience of Swedish Americans or a curiosity about the origins of the patterns of speech of their own relatives or friends, this book is heavy reading with marginal satisfaction. The chapters are heavily laced with the jargon of scholars of linguistics, and drawing simple or generalized conclusions from the abundance of data presented is far from easy. A sample excerpt from one of the chapters: (Chapter 3, Relatives in Contact, page 93):

Tokens of 653 syntaxicised relative clauses are analyzed quantitatively, after which I turn to a discussion of how discourse-governed structures compensate or counterbalance strategies from the syntactic plane (Section 6). My purpose in the qualitative section is to illustrate how some elderly immigrant speakers mobilize pragmatic particles – specifically discourse markers and deictic particles – to boost a syntactic arrangement that is more coordinating than subordinating. Thus the chapter presents some preliminary evidence for investigating the crossroads of syntax and pragmatic particles between Swedish and English. Though the focus . . . ."

Most of the author's text is much like the above. A welcome relief is to read some of the many transcribed interviews of the many subjects of the study, to read their actual words and expressions. I turned to Chapter 7, Conclusions, to see what it was the author learned from her study.

This chapter was equally difficult to digest and I found mostly a summary of the work described in other chapters, little in the way of useful conclusions, and an ambitious program of further study. Among the conclusions I was able to extract were: Language evolves over time, speakers adjust their speech to better suit the person being spoken to or to better show their identity, speech among Swedish-born speakers varies from that spoken by Swedes born in the U.S., and so on. The reader longs for simple conclusions simply stated.

For the linguistics scholar, this work no doubt adds substantially to the previous work and to the literature of Swedish-American English. Karstadt documents her work thoroughly and gives credit to those upon whose work she has drawn, including Folke Hedblom, Einar Haugen, Nils Hasselmo, and several others. There is an extensive bibliography and a complete index to assist users.

Dennis L. Johnson

The Chicago metropolitan area has a population of over 8 million people, two-thirds of the population of the state of Illinois. It has the greatest number of Swedish-Americans of any state. If your roots are in the Midwest, chances are you have an ancestor or relative who lives or at one time lived in Chicago – it was a destination for many immigrants from Sweden from soon after its beginnings in the 1830's until the second decade of the twentieth century. The famous Swedish American poet and writer Carl Sandburg (1878-1967), born in Galesburg, IL, lived and worked in Chicago from 1913 to 1928. While there, he immortalized the growing city with his poem "Chicago," (1916) which begins with these well-known lines: "Hog butcher for the world, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler; Stormy, husky, brawling, City of the Big Shoulders: . . . ."

My mother's mother (Mormor) first lived in Chicago for a few years soon after she immigrated as a girl of 18 from Småland. There she worked as a maid for a wealthy doc-
tor in the 1880’s until she met my grandfather, an immigrant railroad worker from Dalsland. They moved to Nebraska, and later Minnesota, as farmers. My wife was born in Chicago, where her parents were living in the mid-1930’s. One of my uncles attended North Park College in Chicago, and there are other family connections with that great city.

Finding Your Chicago Ancestors is a very complete and useful guide to searching for ancestors or other relatives in and around Chicago, written by family historian and experienced researcher Grace DuMelle. The book is well organized into two parts, the first being “getting your questions answered,” and the second is practical advice in doing research and using various types of sources of information. Checklists of points to remember are included at the end of each chapter making this volume one to bring along with you as you visit various archives, libraries, and sources of records. Samples of many resource documents are reproduced in the book, with tips on how to read and interpret them for all useful information.

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Included among the Swedish sources are the Swedish American Museum Center at 5211 No. Clark Street, the Swenson Center Immigration Research Center in Rock Island, IL, and the F.M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections of North Park University, 3225 West Foster Avenue, in Chicago. The latter documents the history of Swedish immigrants in Chicago and holds the Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago.

Dennis L. Johnson
dish Baptists, August Johnson, felt that his days soon would be over. He gave all the money he had, about $100, and then became the first guest at the Sunset Home. An important donation was also made by Olof Anderson and his wife from the Gotland community north of Concordia, as they donated their farm, which gave some financial stability to the home.

The first home was located in Clay Center, but also open to Concordia residents.

When the need for an expansion became apparent, the Home was moved to Concordia, as the local businesses there offered better support than Clay Center, both in cash and in reduced rates for water and electricity.

So the story goes on, told first in a 25 year chapter and then decade by decade. The story is well illustrated by many photos and newspaper clippings. In the early years the Home had two dining rooms, a Swedish one and an American one, so the old folks should feel at home.

In the 1930s and 1940s Mr. L.R. Graves recorded both staff and guests in his special notebook, where he notes characteristics of people and their duties, if any. He writes about himself: Empties trash cans at both buildings. Works in the American dining room after each meal, taking dirty dishes to kitchen and returning them clean for next meal. Helps with laundry and repairs broken furniture and other necessary work requiring his attention.

Interviews with both staff people and guests adds interesting insights in the Home life. There are notes on elephant collections, dust storms, and much more.

I like this book very much, and I just hope that there are very many retirement homes like this one.

Elisabeth Thorsell

New and Noteworthy
(short notes on interesting books and articles)

Window on the Past, the Harris, McBride, Russell, and Bivans Families, by Lila Harris Kikwood and Wendy Ruth Kirkwood, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, MD., 2004, Softcover, 121 Pages. Available from L. Kirkwood, $17.00 plus $3.00 shipping, contact <dkirkwood@maine.rr.com> One of the four families traced in this book, the Harris family, has Swedish roots. Includes a genealogy, photographs and an index of names of related persons. The author traces her roots through six generations to one Adam Johansson, from Gammelgarn, Gotland. See also SAG 1996:4, and 2000:4.

The Swedish Ancestry Research Association (SARA) of Worcester, Mass., <www.sarassociation.org/> has a monthly newsletter, but also publishes a journal, The SARA Journal, which appeared recently with issue VII (2005). The focus this time is on the province of Östergötland, which is presented by a map, some general information and a number of postcards in color or b/w, some rather old and some quite new. Then there is an article about the “Swedish National Federation of Worcester”, which tells a lot about the Swedish life in Worcester. Another article, “Hälsning från Sverige – The Mjölby Nybergs” is of a more genealogical nature, based on a collection of postcards in the possession of a member, Bob Cumming.

When reorganising a part of her library, your editor found a long forgotten little book, Stockholm Cemeteries, Wright County, Minnesota, printed in 1995 by the Park Genealogical Books. These 32 pages lists several hundred burials, most of them with Swedish names, from 1869 onwards. Many inscriptions mention the place of birth, sometimes rather garbled, but still... Park Genealogical Books <http://www.parkbooks.com/> has a nice catalog with more cemetery transcriptions from other counties in Minnesota.

The newest issue of Family Tree Magazine (Feb. 2006) lists 365 tips for tracing and improving your genealogical searches, tips that will keep most of us busy for another year.

A Colleague


This issue of SAHQ has two major articles, When Fredrika Bremer Came to Charleston, by Rev. Lennart Pearson; and Scandinavians in Washington Politics, by George W. Scott.

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.

**Petersson, Petersdotter, Svensson, Svensdotter**

We are writing my wife's family history, and we are trying to locate her Svensson family from Vetlanda, Sweden.

Father: Sven Jonas Petersson, b. 25 Sep. 1843 in Vetlanda, Smål., d. 10 August 1913 in Peterslund cottage, Vetlanda. Mother: Fredrika Charlotta Petersdotter, b. 27 April 1841 in Backseda, Smål. Sven Jonas and Fredrika Charlotta had nine children, and six of the children immigrated to America. We have only been able to trace them to New York and need help in locating them. They were:

1. Ida Mathilda Amanda Svensdotter, b. 8 Nov. 1869 in Backseda, immigrated 16 Aug. 1887.
4. Anna Emilia Svensdotter, b. 5 August 1877 in Vetlanda, immigrated 21 March 1890 with her brother Arvid.
5. Sofia Lovisa Svensdotter, b. 4 April 1880 in Vetlanda, immigrated 28 Sep. 1901.

Burton R. Lundquist, 6960 E. Morning Vista Lane, Scottsdale, AZ 85262. Phone: 480 502 1964.
E-mail: <BurtonRLundquist@aol.com>

**Andersson, Bennett**

I am looking for my maternal grandfather's (morfars) brothers, who left from Kungsholmen in Stockholm, and we do not know where they ended up. There are rumours about Duluth, but we do not know. Another brother is said to have spent some time in England and assumed the surname Bennett, which the brothers also might have used.

The parents were Carl Gustaf Andersson, b. 22 Aug. 1853 in Lidingo, Uppl., and his wife Charlotta Amalia Zetterberg, b. 29 Oct. 1858 in Jakob, Stockholm. Their sons were:

1. Albert Nikolaus Andersson, b. 29 Aug. 1891 in Kungsholm, Stockholm, immigrated 6 June 1910 from Stockholm with a ticket for Boston, Massachusetts, (Emihamn). He was first going to Providence, Rhode Island, but in 1917 he is found in Ingomar, Rosebud Co., where he is a farmer. In 1920 he is still there, now married to Alice B., age 23, who is a teacher from North Dakota.
2. Knut Henning Andersson, b. 22 May 1894 in Kungsholm, Stockholm, immigrated 15 Feb. 1913 from Stockholm, not found in Emihamn. When he filled out his draft registration card in 1917 he was a farmhand at the Herman Olson farm in Munster township, Eddy Co., North Dakota. Not found yet in the 1920 Census.
3. Erik Wilhelm Andersson, b. 24 May 1899 in Kungsholm, Stockholm, immigrated 23 April 1917 from Stockholm, with a ticket for New York, NY, (Emihamn). According to the Ellis Island records he is on his way to brother Albert in Montana, not found after that.

Ylva Thorsell, Matsjans väg 14, S-776 70 Vikmanshyttan, Sweden. E-mail: <mattias.thorsell@telia.com>

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**Farwell Tours – Swedish Sojourn 9–19 August 2006**

Carl O. Helstrom, a longtime participant in the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City, has now started a new venture, **Farwell Tours**.

He offers a guided tour to Sweden in the late summer, starting out from Copenhagen, and then proceeding in a leisurely manner in a luxury coach through Sweden, via Halmstad and the Halland Coast, Växjö, House of Emigrants and the Minnesota Day, The Kingdom of Crystal, Vadsten, Linköping, Biskopsskulla, and Upplands. From Upplands there will be tours to Österbybruk (Walloons), Skokloster, and Gripsholm, and more. The tour ends with some of the attractions in Stockholm.

For more information, contact Farwell Tours, c/o Carl O. Helstrom, 1107 Allen Street, New Cumberland, PA 17070. Telephone: 717-774-1063
Interesting Web Sites

(All links have been tried in Feb. 2006 and should work)

Old and complete scanned Nordic books: http://runeberg.org/
About the hospital in Filipstad (one of the oldest in the country, in Swedish):
  http://hem.spray.se/akha/hasse/index.html
Download of Adobe Reader 7.0: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html
Håkan Bergström’s web site (much Värmland):
  http://www.hosserudkullen.se/forskning/index_eng_slakt.html
Where are the Swedes? http://www.epodunk.com/ancestry/Swedish.html
Tom Lundeens Swedish Roots (Östergötland and South):
  http://www.lundeen.org/genealogy.html
More immigrants to Canada:
  http://www.dcs.uwaterloo.ca/%7Emarj/genealogy/thevoyage.html
Comprehensive web site for Minnesota: http://www.dalbydata.com/user.php?action=cemsearch
Palmer List of merchant vessels: http://www.geocities.com/mppraetorius/
Comprehensive web site for St. Louis County (Duluth), Minnesota:
  http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnstlouii/
Maps, and more maps: http://oddens.geog.uu.nl/index.php
Transcriptions from various British 18th Century Newspapers:
  http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dutilleul/index.html
Latin for beginners:
  http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners/reference/default.htm
Various digitized old newspapers (USA, Canada, Mexico etc.):
Passenger Lists: http://members.aol.com/rprost/passenger.html

Stockholm from the Baltic Sea side in 1862. From Ny Illustrerad Tidning 1862.

Swedish American Genealogist 2005:4
Dear Friends,

This issue concludes the 25th year of publishing the Swedish American Genealogist, and we are happy to see that this little baby has grown up to an eager youth, ready for new directions as new technology offers new challenges.

SAG was founded by my dear old friend Nils William Olsson, and it is a pleasure for me to present another article from his hand in this issue.

When going through all the articles and other things found in the Index, that starts on the next page, it was impressive to see the width and breadth of Nils William's writings. But for that matter, during the years many valuable articles have been found on the SAG pages, for instance by Erik Wikén, former editor James "Fritz" Erickson, John Norton, Peter Stebbins Craig, just to mention a few.

New writers, both from "Amerika" and Sweden are most welcome. Stories about working life, doing household chores in new, unknown surroundings, working in factories in New England, etc. are most welcome.

We also want your old pictures, not just Grandpa and Grandma's wedding, but also Grandpa changing a tire on his new car, and Grandma working on that magnificent quilt, that is now a prized heirloom in the family. Stories and pictures about all aspects of life in the New World. At the same time we welcome stories about those that stayed at home, and kept Sweden going.

In my vision SAG helps us to understand the conditions of life that more or less forced many to leave their homes, to start a new life in the new country, and how they adjusted.

But it is also important to understand and know more about the old country, how that changed with the times and became the country it is these days.

I have good hopes for the future of SAG, and I hope you will keep me company forwards, and perhaps even help to increase the number of SAG readers. We are just about 1,100, and there are almost 4 million in the U.S. that claim Swedish heritage – what a challenge to get those to subscribe!

Elisabeth Thorsell

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You can buy back issues of old SAGs from Jill Seaholm at the Swenson Center. Just send an e-mail to <swseaholm@augustana.edu> and tell her what you want!

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SAG Workshop
Salt Lake City
15 – 22 Oct. 2006

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!
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This annual fellowship is designed to help defray costs for one person doing research for an extended period of time at the Center and was established by Nils William Olsson, a leading authority in the field of Swedish-American studies, and his wife Dagmar.

The fellowship, which is in the amount of $1,500 (taxable income), is open to anyone doing academic research on any aspect of Swedish-American history.

It is not intended to be used for research on a person's individual family history. We particularly encourage graduate students and younger scholars to apply.

The minimum stay required at the Swenson Center is three weeks, and the fellowship must be used within one year of notification.

Anyone interested in applying for the fellowship should submit a two- to three-page proposal to the Swenson Center outlining the proposed research topic. The proposal should also include a current curriculum vitae, as well as a statement showing how the resources of the Swenson Center are appropriate for the particular project.

The deadline for applications is May 1, 2005.
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## Abbreviations

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Län (County)</th>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
<th>Län (County)</th>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halland</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Vbn.</td>
<td>Vbtm.</td>
<td>AC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrbotten</td>
<td>Nbtm.</td>
<td>Nbtm.</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>Ög.</td>
<td>Östg.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skåneb</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

*c includes the former counties (*län*) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).*
The counties (län) as they were before 1991.

The provinces (landskap)