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Bits & Pieces

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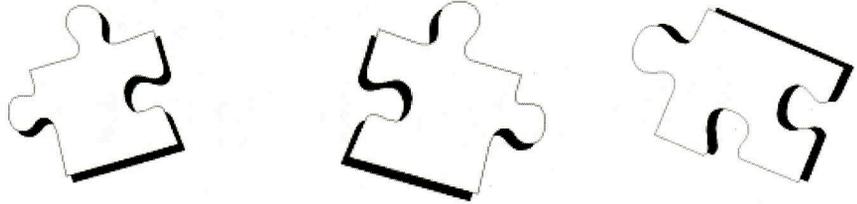
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America's Swede of the Year is selected

The *Swedish Council of America* has given its *America's Swede of the Year* award to His Excellency *Jan Eliasson*, the Swedish ambassador to the United States. Mrs. *Agneta Nilsson*, the Founder of SWEA (Swedish Women's Educational Association International, Inc.) was awarded the *Great Swedish Heritage Award*. SWEA has since its start in 1979 grown to 75 chapters in 33 countries around the world. These awards were presented at a gala dinner in Philadelphia in late September 2005.

On 1 October 2005 six well-qualified persons were awarded the Council's *Award of Merit*. Among those honored the SAG editor was very pleased to see SAG's contributing editor *Peter Stebbins Craig*. (SCA Update Oct. 2005)

Benny Andersson's Orchestra comes to Minnesota

A *Midsummer Night's Dream* with Benny Andersson, former ABBA member and composer of *Kristina from Duvemåla* will be held in Bloomington, Minn., Saturday, March 18, 2006. It is a benefit for the American Swedish Institute. More details on the ASI web site at www.americanswedishinst.org

In Memoriam: Alvalene P. Karlsson

Alvalene P. Karlsson, former editor of *Nordstjernan* and the *Vasa Star*, and active in many New York Swedish activities, passed away, at age 86, in late November 2005. A memorial service was held in New York on 3 December 2005.

Conference in Karlstad 2006

The *Swedish Council of America* will hold its next biannual conference in Karlstad 27 September – 1 October 2006 in co-operation with The Kinship Center and the Swedish Local Heritage Federation (*Sveriges Hembygdsförbund*). There will be a number of banquets and workshops and excursions to various areas of Värmland. The conference fee is 2,600 SEK (about \$325) + travel and lodging.

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In Memoriam: William H. Rehnquist

Chief Justice William Rehnquist of the United States, born 1 Oct. 1924 in Milwaukee, Wisc., died 3 Sept. 2005 in Arlington, Virg.

Mr. Rehnquist was of Swedish origins on his father's side, and his Swedish ancestors have been published in SAG IX:2, p. 49-59 (1989), and in *24 Famous Swedish Americans* (1996). His roots were on his *farfar's* side from Värmland, and on his *farmor's* side from Östergötland.

Swedish roots for British princes

The princes *William* and *Harry* of Great Britain have a very well researched background. According to various publications, some by *Gary Boyd Roberts*, they even have a little Swedish root. This root is *Anna Oxenstierna of Korsholm och Wasa*, born in 1620, who married Count *Christoffer Delphicus von Dohna*. The *Oxenstierna* family goes way back in time and is connected to the family of King Gustaf I and most important people in the Middle Ages.

The most common Swedish names in the U.S.

The following list is compiled from a list of surnames found on the U.S. Census Bureau's web site:

www.census.gov/genealogy/names/

Name	Rank
Johnson	2
Anderson	11
Nelson	39
Peterson	68
Olson	175
Larson	241
Hanson	244
Carlson	253
Pearson	255
Benson	331
Swanson	383
Erickson	390
Jacobson	773
Gustafson	1433
Person	1680
Swenson	1725
Bergman	1870
Paulson	1891
Kruse	1929
Lind	2059
Mattson	2101
Nielson	2417
Holm	2587
Monson	3460
Lindberg	3462
Strand	3473
Lundberg	4087
Bergstrom	4141

It must be remarked that names like Johnson, Anderson, and Nelson probably are used by many of English or Scotch heritage, as well as Peterson and Hanson.

However, nobody but a Swede would have a name like Gustafson or Lundberg. The list is not complete, but still gives an idea of how frequent the -son names are even in America.