

12-1-2004

The Last Page

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Recommended Citation

(2004) "The Last Page," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 24 : No. 4 , Article 17.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol24/iss4/17>

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The Last Page

Dear friends,

Again I wish to thank you for all encouraging e-mails, which is very important for me, sitting so far away from most of you.

Someone suggested recently that SAG should print a list of all the genealogical societies in Sweden. But that is not very practical, as such a list is never totally correct, addresses change, people move or die, etc.

To find the most updated list of the societies you can go to the web site of the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, and click on *Medlemsföreningar* in the lefthand column (www.genealogi.se). If you don't have a computer, you may have a friend or grandchild who can help.

During the fall I had the pleasure

of visiting the Swenson Center and learned a little of the treasures there. During the visit I also took part in the Letters Conference (see p. 9) where I met some SAG readers and authors.

A week in California came later; staying with Swedish-American relatives during the election was quite educational.

I visited the museums of Modesto and Turlock. I was a little bit sorry to see that the contributions of the Swedes to the settling of the area did seem to be mostly forgotten. The exhibition of the Scandinavians in Turlock Museum was a bit odd. It is all done by volunteers, and if there is nobody interested in that subject, the result can not be better.

Formerly SAG had an index in the December issue every year. We have now decided to do it otherwise. The index of articles can always be found on the Swenson Center's website, where it is easy to search for old articles by a certain writer.

The usual name and place indexes will be compiled as a 5-year index, and published separately after the end of the 5-year period, probably in 2009.

This change was made as it was felt that 12 pages of articles were more interesting than an index, and I hope most of the SAG readers agree!

So until next, I wish you all the best!

Elisabeth Thorsell

H. Arnold Barton is 75!

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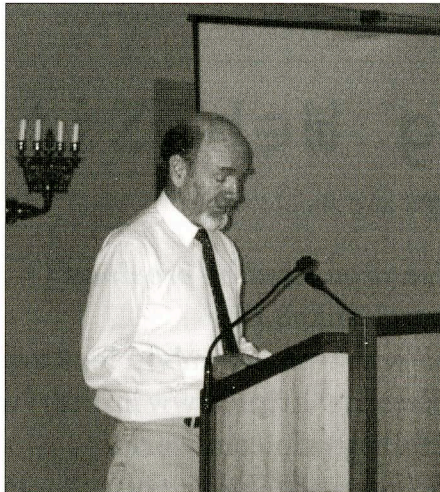
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Professor H. Arnold Barton, well-known immigration historian, turned 75 in November 2004 and SAG also wants to offer its congratulations!

I first learned Arnold's name in 1981 when his book *The Search for Ancestors, A Swedish-American Family Saga* (1979) first appeared in Swedish as *Släkten. En svensk-amerikansk krönika*, which was fascinating. Arnold's Swedish ancestors

came from northern Småland and southern Östergötland, an area where I had done some work myself. Then I became a member of the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Society* (now Swedish-American Historical Society) and by reading the *Quarterly* learned to appreciate Arnold's insightful articles on the emigrants' "divided hearts."

Another of his works, which should be mandatory reading for all descendants of the immigrants, is his *Letters from the Promised Land - Swedes in America 1840-1914* (1975), which also has been translated as *Brev från löftets land - svenskar berättar om Amerika 1840-1914*. It gives a good view of what was seen as the topics of the day by the immigrants, their worries and their joys.

SAG hopes that Arnold and his wife Aina will have many more years to write more on the immigrants and their conceptions of the new world and their daily life.

Hjärtliga gratulationer på födelsedagen!

Elisabeth Thorsell