CONTENTS

Abraham Lincoln's Swedish Photographer ........ 1
  by Nils William Olsson

Listening to the Prairie .................................... 5
  by Dennis L. Johnson

News from the Swenson Center ......................... 9

Brooklyn Daily Eagle .................................. 10
  by Elisabeth Thorsell

A Summer Tour ........................................... 12
  by Elaine Larson Neuhaus

Children with Swedish Parents in Omaha .......... 15

A Swedish Alphabet ...................................... 16
  by Elisabeth Thorsell

The Old Picture ........................................... 18

The Swedish Archives: Vadstena ..................... 19
  by Elisabeth Thorsell

An Emigrant's Different Life Story ................. 20
  by Kerstin Jonmyren

Bits & Pieces ............................................. 22

Swedish-American Organizations: SAHS ........... 23
  By H. Arnold Barton

Ahnentafel XLIX: Richard Bong ....................... 24
  by Elisabeth Thorsell

Book Reviews ............................................ 26

Interesting Web Sites .................................. 29

Guidelines for SAG Writers ........................... 30

Genealogical Queries ................................... 31

The Last Page ............................................ 32

Cover picture:
This is Carl Otto Gumaelius and his little daughter
Esther Doris, born 1904. Carl Otto was born in
Sweden in 1863, became a sailor, and ended up in the
U.S. during the 1880s. Later he participated in the
Spanish-American War, and lived in Jamaica, NY.
One of the earliest photographs of Abraham Lincoln was taken by a Swede, but who was he?

BY NILS WILLIAM OLSSON

Early photographs of Abraham Lincoln, before he became the thirteenth president of the United States (1861-1865), are quite rare. The earliest picture, of which we have a record, is a daguerreotype taken by a photographer in Springfield, IL, in 1846, by the name of N. H. Shepard.

Lincoln was 37 years old at this time and had just been elected to the U.S. Congress. The second photograph was taken in Chicago 28 Feb. 1857 by Alexander Hesler. Lincoln, a one-term congressman, had gone back to Springfield in order to practice law, but could not resist the lure of politics and in 1856 ran for the U.S. Congress and was defeated.

At the Republican Convention in Philadelphia the same year he was nominated for the vice-presidency and garnered 110 votes, but not enough to get on the ticket. The third picture was an ambrotype, probably taken 28 April 1858 by S. G. Alschuler of Urbana, IL. The fourth likeness was another ambrotype on 7th May 1858 taken by A.M. Byers of Beardstown, IL (Lorant).

In the summer of 1858 Lincoln was back on the campaign trail, vying for a seat in the U.S. Senate against the incumbent, Senator Stephen A. Douglas, his Democratic rival. The debate was held in Chicago, where Douglas opened the campaign.

Abraham Lincoln, July 11, 1858. Photo by Polycarpus von Schneidau. (Chicago Historical Society)
on Friday night, 9 July, lambasting Lincoln before a huge crowd. The latter returned the political salvos on Saturday night, 10 July, speaking from a balcony of the Tremont House. Though the crowd was smaller than the night before, it was said that “the enthusiasm was four times as great” (Lorant).

On Sunday, 11 July, Lincoln joined two friends for dinner, Isaac N. Arnold and George Schneider, after which the three strolled down Lake Street, passing a daguerreotype studio owned by Schneider’s Swedish friend, Polycarpus von Schneidau. Schneider, the editor of a German anti-slavery newspaper, the Staat Zeitung, suggested that Lincoln pose for his friend. Lincoln did, holding in his hand a copy of the Chicago Press and Tribune, a newspaper friendly to Lincoln and his ideas. Von Schneidau’s (sometimes spelled erroneously von Schneider) daguerreotype was to become the fifth known photograph of Lincoln. The picture shows a different Lincoln from earlier photographs. “There is a look of craftiness in the half-closed eyes and the slightly twisted lips, as though the campaigner has just scored a clever point. This is the intellectual Lincoln, his features alert and intense and his mind sharpened by the clash with Douglas” (Rinhart).

Who was Schneider’s Swedish photographer friend?

He was born Carl Johan Fredrik Polycarpus von Schneidau in Skeppsholmén Parish in Stockholm 29 Feb. 1812, the son of Johan Henrik von Schneidau, a Swedish army captain, and Antoinetta Elisabeth, Baroness Cronhielm (SSA). He was the scion of an old family whose earliest ancestor had immigrated to Sweden from Austria during the Thirty Years War (Beerstahl). After a promising beginning in the Swedish military service, being assigned to the elite Svea Artillery Regiment, he was appointed aide-de-camp to Sweden’s king, Carl XIV Johan. He advanced to a lieutenancy and moved in the highest circles, including Crown Prince Oscar.

But fate was to intervene. He met a young Jewess, Carolina Elisabeth Jacobsson, the daughter of a Stockholm merchant, and it was love on both sides. Convention prohibited an officer of an elite regiment to marry someone of a different religious faith and young von Schneidau saw no other solution but to resign his commission and emigrate to America (Samuel Clarke).

The year was 1842 and Stockholm newspaper had carried accounts, written by Gustaf Unonius, who the year before had emigrated to the United States. With his young wife he had settled in Pine Lake, Wisconsin, where he had organized a Swedish settlement named New Upsala. Von Schneidau and his intended wife, having read the newspaper dispatches, now decided to follow suit and depart for Copenhagen, where they were married. Then they continued on to Hamburg, where they boarded the vessel Stephani and arrived in New York City 26 July 1842 (Olsson-Wikén).

Life in the wilderness

Inspired by Unonius’s reports they eventually reached Pine Lake in Wisconsin, a wooded tract some distance west of Milwaukee. Here they hoped to carve out for themselves a new destiny. The rigors of frontier life suited them ill, however, as they had been to the comforts and amenities of urban life in Stockholm. When a shipboard injury to von Schneidau’s foot flared up and made it impossible for him to carry out the chores of farming, he was forced to use his meager financial resources to hire help.

At this desperate juncture of his life an event took place which was to revolutionize his life. One day in 1843 the American author, Sarah Freeman Clarke, on a visit to Milwaukee, heard of a Swede, living in the wilderness, who possessed a collection of Rembrandts. Curious to learn more about this cache of valuable art in the Wisconsin woods, Clarke decided to investigate. She arranged for transportation and soon found herself in the log hut of the von Schneidaus. When she inquired about the Rembrandts, von Schneidau pointed to sketches on the wall, “remembrances” of friends they had left behind in Stockholm.

Sarah Freeman Clarke was nevertheless impressed by the gentility of the couple and when Mrs. von Schneidau confided in her telling her of the disappointment and hardships of frontier life, she decided to do something about it. Through connections to some of the leading citizens in nearby Chicago she was able to arrange for the von Schneidau couple to move to that city in 1844, where Polycarpus von Schneidau found willing pupils interested in his classes in French, German, gymnastics, fencing, and dancing. The city was too small to offer permanent employment in these subjects, however, and his Chicago sponsors then urged him to learn the newly discovered art of producing daguerreotypes and shipped him off to New York to learn the technique as well as to purchase the necessary equipment.

A modern craft

Upon his return to Chicago, von Schneidau opened the second daguerreotype studio in that city. He became a successful entrepreneur and as a craftsman he was highly considered by the citizens of Chicago. Although not the first daguerreotype photographer in Chicago, his products were considered superior to most of his competitors.

In 1851 he was awarded a gold medal by the Chicago Mechanics Institute claiming the art, if not the man, as his own. His studio was located at 45 Lake Street, over H. O. Stone’s Store. The advertisement for his studio ran in the Chicago Daily Tribune 23 April 1849.
cago and shepherd the fledgling congregation. Unonius had been graduated as the first ordained Anglican priest from the Episcopal Theological Seminary at Nashota, near Pine Lake.

In 1852 von Schneidau became Swedish-Norwegian vice consul in Chicago and two years later Denmark asked him to assume the same role as Danish vice consul. By this time his health had begun to fail. Sources are not consistent as to the cause of his ailment. According to one version he was the victim of a severe arthritic attack (Freeburg). Others claim that the mercury vapors associated with his daguerreotype work was the cause (Samuel Clarke). The first version which suggests a case of arthritis is probably the correct diagnosis insasmuch as we possess a letter from him to his old friend, a Mr. McCagg in Chicago written in Berlin, Germany, 15 October 1857, stating that he was confined to bed “unable to move or turn myself.”

He returned to Chicago in 1858 and resumed his work as a photographer. His health did not improve, however, and he died 27 Dec. 1859 in his 47th year.

His production was small but he left us a legacy of beautifully composed portraits of some of the residents of Chicago a century and a half ago.

**Sources**


Clarke, Samuel to Paulina Jerome, née von Schneidau, dated Marietta, GA 1 May 1893.

Clarke, Sarah Freeman to Paulina Jerome, née von Schneidau, dated Marietta, GA 2 May 1893, *passim*.


Von Schneidau to McCagg, 15 October 1857, McCagg Collection, Chicago Historical Society.

Skeppsholmen Parish Records, Stockholm City Archives (SSA).


---


The author is Nils William Olsson, Ph.D., F.A.S.G., editor emeritus of SAG. His address is The Mayflower, 1620 Mayflower Ct #B 117, Winter Park, FL 32792.

**Error in SAG 2003/4**

Unfortunately an error crept in and made the December SAG less than perfect. The articles by Sten-åke Petersson and Hal Bern switched places at the last minute, and this was not altered on the cover, nor in the index. So references to pages 211-225 are wrong.

So sorry! The editor.
Swedish census

At www.arkion.se you will find the decennial censuses as searchable databases:
- 1890 is complete and contains 4,800,000 individuals
- 1900 - 3,000,000 individuals
- 1880 - 281,000
- 1870 - 170,000
- 1860 - 12,000
A total of 8,263,000 posts and constantly growing.

You will find information on family status, occupation, place 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.arkion.se there is a database of released prisoners during the period of 1877-1925. The information on each prisoner contains information on his name, place of birth, current sentence and previous convictions, personal description (hair and eye color etc) and a photograph.

www.arkion.se is constantly growing

Find your ancestors

Where do you find it all? www.arkion.se

The databases are in English, still need help, look at our translation help, still need help?

Contact support@arkion.ra.se and we will do our best to guide you right.

Arkion Storgatan 77 881 31 Sollefteå Sweden +46 620 259 10

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:1
The Prairie silence gave way to the sound of hundreds of birds singing in the trees surrounding the old farmhouse. I continued walking up the gravel farm road toward the farmyard, a clearing within the woodlot of perhaps an acre, where the now empty farmhouse stands. The weeds have grown tall around dozens of abandoned cars from the 1950's. The old barn, chicken house, and sheds are slowly falling apart, with no one left to maintain them. The creaky steel windmill near the barn, there a few years ago, has disappeared.

Like hundreds of others in nearby townships in Nicollet and Sibley County, Minnesota, these woodlots mark the homesites of the pioneer farms of the 1850's and 1860's, when this township was settled. Many stand alone, others still have the pioneer's houses present, empty black windows silently looking out through the trees onto the cornfields of modern, mechanized farms. For the pioneer, planting the woodlot was almost as essential as building a first shelter, usually a sod house. The woodlot would give refuge from the relentless prairie winds, shade in summer, wood for burning and building, and nuts or apples to eat.

For over five generations, the few remaining farmers have slowly consolidated the original 160 acre homesteads into larger and larger holdings, until the typical farm is more likely to be 2,000 or more acres. The woodlots mostly still remain, the scant few acres to be gained by clearing them not worth the effort involved in doing so. Or perhaps there is a lingering respect for these remnants of earlier days. The original houses are disappearing one by one, as fire and vandalism take their toll on these once white, vertical, and proud, if modest, dwellings. Modern ranch style houses now appear, more widely spaced, and built by the latest generation of high technology farmers.

As I continued to approach the old homestead, built by my great-grandfather Jonas Jansson and his wife, Stina, in about 1870, I began to snap some photographs of the farmyard and the house. My thoughts rambled about with each new camera angle, wondering about so many unanswered questions I had. I knew that my grandfather, Otto William Johnson, was born and grew up here. He was the first natural-born American in the family, born in 1867 in the family's first year in America. This farm was the only home he knew, until he married and settled in St. Peter, about 20 miles to the East. Was he born in the usual temporary sod house? As a toddler, did he watch his father and older brothers build their first farm house, the four-room house which is now the front part of the old homestead?

**To America**

Jonas Jansson was 46 years old, his wife Stina Jacobsdotter 43, when they arrived with four children from
Sweden in 1866. They had left a small rented farm, only one or two acres, in Dalsland, Sweden, near Brålanda, the year before to make the long voyage to Minnesota and claim a 160-acre homestead in Bernadotte Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota. Also on the voyage was their oldest son, Lars Johan, twenty years old, his sisters Wilhelmina, 16, Mathilda, 14, and another brother Ephraim, ten years old. Little Anders Johan had died in 1864, in Sweden, at the age of 4 years. The baby Johannes, born 1863, left with the family but did not appear in Minnesota. The two-year-old may have died on the long voyage. A new baby brother, Otto William, would be born less than a year after their arrival in Bernadotte. Otto was my grandfather.

Life in Bernadotte

The township had quickly been filling with homesteaders, the first only a short ten years before. To the west was only prairie. Native Americans, few in numbers, lived nomadically as hunters and were slowly being pushed westward and onto reservations. Just a few years before, these badly treated people had risen up in anger and killed many homesteaders while many of the settlers’ young men were away to fight in our great Civil War. More than two dozen leaders of the uprising were hanged at Mankato, the rest were pushed further westward. The “New Ulm Massacre” as it was to become known, was fresh in the minds of Jonas and Stina as they listened to the stories from those who had survived. Was it now safe?

My thoughts turned to the arrival moment, when this family first set eyes on their new prairie homestead. They arrived possibly on foot, or by a horse drawn wagon hired in St. Peter to carry them and their few possessions a long day’s journey by a jolting Indian trail. They headed northwest from the safety of the small but thriving town of St. Peter on the Minnesota River, past the new homesteads of their predecessors in Norseland and New Sweden. They were greeted by their fellow Swedes, perhaps with a welcome drink of water or a bite to eat? Then they faced the vastness of the lonely prairie stretching ever westward, almost unbroken, and perhaps met a few neighboring settlers who had arrived shortly before. There was a silence, only the sound of the wind and the calls of a few prairie birds. How to spend the first night, with no shelter? Did a neighbor take them in for a few days? Did they build a lean-to or a makeshift tent? What dangers and adventures awaited them? Where to begin?

The beginning

Awakening to an early May dawn, Jonas pondered his first steps on his first day on his own farm, vastly larger than any even his wealthiest neighbors had owned in Sweden. He and his sons no doubt traced the boundaries of the farm marked by the land surveyor, (equal today to about 145 football fields in area), and then looked for a place to locate their new home. It should be near the center of the farm, to be able to see and reach all of it easily on foot, and to see anyone approaching in time to sound an alarm and gather the family. Then they gathered the tools; an ax first, perhaps some carving knives brought from Sweden, possibly some borrowed tools.

The house

The thick prairie sod, older than time, must be cut into square blocks and laid up to form the first walls. The earth floor was sunken where the sod had been cut out. Then they needed to find wood for roof rafters and lintels for the openings. They also needed curtains for the windows thrown open in the daytime and closed at night. It took a week of hard labor for the father and sons to build a one room dugout house, while Stina and the two girls prepared food, set up primitive housekeeping, and perhaps started a vegetable garden with seeds brought from town. Water was hand-carried from a small stream some distance away, or possibly given by a helpful neighbor who had already dug a well. Still it was a long carry for the girls with buckets across their shoulders. Then they needed a privy, a hole dug in the ground with a makeshift toilet seat and a screen of branches orrushes for a little privacy. They also needed a fire to boil water and cook food,
some brought from town, some borrowed, perhaps some game caught in snares or traps by the boys. Prairie chickens were still abundant and good eating. Sometimes a farmer would shoot a deer, and some even reported seeing a buffalo now and then.

**Differences**

I glanced back along the farm road to our motor home parked on the gravel main road and wondered at the self-contained comfort we now enjoyed. My wife LaVonne was making sandwiches with lunch meats from our refrigerator, boiling water for tea on the propane stove, while listening to Beethoven on our satellite radio. It was a cool day, but air conditioning was available powered by a generator if needed, and a microwave was at hand for any serious cooking. A cellular phone offered instant connection to almost anywhere from this lonely place. There had been only four generations for such changes, when before that change was measured in centuries and scarcely noticed in one lifetime.

Resuming my picture taking, I approached the old farmhouse more closely. It was in bad condition, with the weather and vandals taking their toll. Windows were broken out, the roof was worn, the interior was a shambles. With an architect’s eyes, I tried to reconstruct how and when it was built and took note of the approximate dimensions. This, plus my photos, would enable me to make sketches of the house at a later date. It seemed apparent that the house was built in two main stages, a two-story four-room house first, then a later addition at the rear to add two downstairs rooms and a third bedroom upstairs.

**Pioneers**

A new wood house could not be built until there was enough money for materials and for a hired carpenter. The dugout would have to do for a few years until more important needs were met; a team of horses, a barn, a plow, a well, and many other necessities. The Jansson family, like most fellow immigrants, had brought little with them in either money or goods. Farming must begin the first season, to raise cash for any more improvements to the farm. Decisions must be made about many things: what to grow, how much land can be plowed the first year, where to get seed and how to pay for it, and so on. There were no horses, no plow, little else with which to begin. Jonas’s new neighbors, nearly all from Sweden and even some from his home parish in Dalsland, would certainly help. Several had been there a few years already, and all were learning fast about farming the Minnesota prairie.

The May weather was bright, with puffy clouds marching across the sky from west to east. Frightening thunderstorms would crash and flash now and then, when the clouds built up to menacing blackness. Then the birds would become silent until the rains swept across the prairie and the storm ended. It was warmer for this time of year than in Sweden, and more given to sudden changes in temperature, winds, and cloud. The grass grew green and tall, and with his shovel Jonas learned the sod was thick and the soil was black. Plowing would not be easy; in Sweden a horse and plow turned earth that had been plowed for centuries. The first plowing of this thick prairie sod would take a team of four or even six horses or oxen, his neighbors told him. They no doubt pooled their horses to help each newcomer, or possibly hired a roving plowman with a team of oxen, who made the first cut. The plow blade had to be sharpened at least twice a day. It was back-breaking work and the first year few homesteaders were able to till more than part of their land.

**The first crop**

Then they planted. Wheat was the crop most likely to bring in cash, Jonas’s neighbors said. The rough plowing must be made smooth, going over the field again and again with harrows and rakes behind sweating horses. Finally, it was time to sow, probably by hand or a borrowed seed spreader pulled by borrowed horses. And then they prayed for only moderate, gentle rain until the seed caught hold and wouldn’t wash away. Once planting was finished, Jonas could turn to other chores with the help of his two older boys. They fixed up the hut, maybe put in a wood floor and lined or whitewashed the inside walls, built a better outhouse, made furniture, and dug his own well to save the long trek for water.

**Household chores**

Meanwhile, Stina and the girls set up housekeeping and fell in to a routine of cooking, mending, fetching water, planting a vegetable garden, borrowing a few laying hens and a rooster to get a flock going, and trying to make a sod house more livable. A table was acquired first and a few chairs to be able to sit for meals. Then they made rough-hewn beds to raise the straw mattresses off the damp floor. And then they took a long trip into town by borrowed horse and wagon to buy a few necessities: kerosene and a lamp, fabric for clothing and bedding, sewing materials, tools, maybe even a newspaper in Swedish from Minneapolis to learn what was going on in the world and in Sweden. Then they stopped at the post office to see if any mail from relatives had made the long voyage, and perhaps sent a letter home to Stina’s mother Maja Lisa, age 66, or to her brothers in Sweden, or to Jonas’s father Johannes Larsson, still alive at age 75. Letters were rare in 1865; the postage for a letter to Sweden cost 36 cents.

**Planting trees**

Looking around at the unkempt woodlot with its aging trees and undergrowth, I imagined Jonas and his family collecting saplings from along the streams in the area or in other scattered places where trees grew, and bringing them back to the farm to plant around the house. At least twenty years would be needed to get much shade and shelter from these trees, but there had to be a
Travel now and then
I glanced up and saw several vapor trails in the sky, the airplanes themselves too small to see at their great altitude. New York to Seattle in 4 hours? Dallas to Minneapolis in 2 hours? That would be a shorter time than it took Jonas and family to travel to St. Peter on foot or by wagon. Their journey from Sweden had taken at least two to three months, traveling by wagon to Göteborg, then by ship via England to New York, by canal boat or train to the Midwest, up the Mississippi to St. Paul, then up the Minnesota River by barge to St. Peter. Their descendants can now fly to Sweden in seven or eight hours, nonstop from Minneapolis. But for Jonas, there was no thought of return to Sweden. Their future was here on the Minnesota Prairie and Sweden was just a memory, never to be seen again.

Midsommar
(Midsummer’s Day)
As the wheat began to sprout, the summer nights were long, but not as long as at this time of year in Sweden. The longest day, June 20, was a time in the old country for the ages-old midsummer festival, celebrating with dancing and music the longest day of the year. Did these Swedes join with their neighbors in this ancient ritual? It had stayed light much later in Sweden, only a few hours twilight until the sun again rose in those north latitudes. Here, midway between the pole and the equator, the sun set earlier and more quickly into the blackness of the prairie night. Then new stars and constellations could be seen, many unfamiliar to the Jansson family. The North Star was in its expected place, however, and so was the Big Dipper, but lower in the night sky. The prairie fell silent at night, with only the occasional owl or coyote’s bark to break the stillness. In the distance, there was the faint light of a lamp or candle in the window of a neighbor’s house. A light moved as the neighbor checked on his animals, or someone made a last trip to the outhouse before going to bed.

Founding the church
On the day after midsummer that year, Jonas interrupted his work to walk to a meeting in a log house down on the farm of John Magnus Peterson. The meeting had been called among all the new farmers in the area, possibly growing out of ideas exchanged at the midsummer’s gathering. At that meeting, the decision was made to organize a new Lutheran congregation for the people in the area. There were now several hundred immigrant families in the area, and it was too far to travel east to the Norseland church. The new congregation would meet for several years in the new schoolhouse built about a mile west of Jonas’s farm, on land donated by a neighbor, Oscar Gustafsson. Or sometimes they would gather in the homes of one of the members, until money could be raised for a church building. The church would be known as the New Sweden Church until 1890, when the name was changed to the Bernadotte Church.

By 1872, the congregation had pledged enough money to build the first church of wood; it measured 50 ft. long, 36 ft. wide, with a ceiling 16 ft. high. A wood steeple marked this first church, and inside there was a high pulpit in the center raised 7 or 8 steps above the floor. A big chandelier hung over the center aisle, and on either side of the altar two smaller chandeliers. A straight communion rail divided the altar area from the nave. There were four tall windows with pointed arch tops on either side of the pews. Jonas was listed as a founding member of the church, as having donated $20.00 (an average amount) toward the construction. The church was less than a mile away and this new landmark on the prairie horizon could now be seen from Jonas and Stina’s farm. A new bell in the steeple was rung every Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. in the winter) to remind farmers to stop their work and prepare for the Sabbath day. On Sunday, the bell rang for five minutes before the start of Sunday school, and again for five minutes before the start of church. This bell could be heard at Jonas’s farm. It would also toll the age at death of a member on the morning after a death.

(to be continued)
News from the Swenson Center

The Dagmar and Nils William Olsson Fellowship

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, 2004.

The address is Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, 639 38th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201-2296

The Immigrant Letters Conference

The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center will host an academic conference in October 2004 on the topic of Immigrant Letters.

The Immigrant Letters Conference will take place at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, on Friday and Saturday, October 15-16, 2004.

The Conference Keynote Address will be on Friday evening in Wallenberg Hall, with lectures on Saturday during the day by invited guest speakers.

Watch the Swenson Center's web site or the next issue of the Swenson Center's annual newsletter, Swenson Center News. More details and application information will be available at a later date.

If you are interested in attending the conference but do not have Internet access, send us your name and address and we will add you to a postal mailing list to receive application information as soon as it is available.

Welcome! We hope to see you in October!

Swenson Center
Augustana College
639 38th St
Rock Island IL 61201-2296
USA

Phone 309 794-7204
Fax 309 794-7443
E-mail sag@augustana.edu

AUGUSTANA COLLEGE
and THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A CHRISTIAN Educational Institution for the Young People of Our Congregations

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:1
The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* gives glimpses of life back then

**BY ELISABETH THORSSELL**

Founded in 1841 by Isaac Van Anden and Henry Cruse Murphy, the *Eagle* was published as a daily newspaper for 114 consecutive years without missing a single edition. The newspaper, which was originally conceived as a temporary political forum for the 1842 election, ironically lived the longest and absorbed all other Brooklyn daily papers except the *Brooklyn Citizen*. At one point the *Eagle* actually became the nation’s most widely read afternoon newspaper. Unusual among major metropolitan daily newspapers of that time period, the *Eagle* chronicled national and international affairs as well as local news and daily life in Brooklyn. As a result the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* provides a window into Brooklyn’s past, as well as documentation of national and international events that shaped history.

The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* was scanned for the period of 1842-1902 and published on the Internet about a year ago by the Brooklyn Public Library, and is a really marvelous web site. The address is [http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/](http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/) Just click on "log in" and then you can start reading or do a search, as there is a very powerful search engine. It is possible to search for just about any word or phrase. So I entered “Swed” and got 8952 hits, from 1841 onwards. I have not read all of those hits, but have picked a few, which gives a vivid picture of how life could be in those long-gone days.

**Monday, June 14, 1869**

*The Swedish Colonists in Kansas Waterville, Kansas, June 12*

A mail carrier from Salt Marsh reports one Swede and a boy killed by a small party of Sioux on Wednesday. The settlers are generally well armed, but more trouble is apprehended. The Superintendent of the New York Colony was here today. He says the colony, with the exception of some twenty men who have enlisted, have come in as far as Washington, most of them taking homesteads in that vicinity.

**Thursday, Feb. 8, 1877**

**WANTED – to do general housework**

A good Protestant girl; German, Swede, Scotch or American; wages $10 per month – best of references required. Apply, for two days, at 111 Johnson St.

**Friday, July 13, 1877**

*A man hurt on the new road*

A Swede, Charles Conach, who is employed on the Long Island Railroad, while engaged repaving the track near the Atlantic Avenue depot, was severely injured on the head by being struck by the cowcatcher of a passing engine. He also had his left arm bruised. He was attended by Dr. Adolphus Ott, and then sent to the City Hospital in an ambulance.

**Sunday, Aug. 1, 1880**

*A Swedish Scandal*

John A. Peterson, aged 20, a tailor, residing at 302 East Twenty-third Street, N.Y., was held for trial in the Yorkville Police Court yesterday for an assault on Eliza Engstrom. Three months ago Eliza landed at Castle Garden from Sweden. She was employed by Peterson and his brother to work for them as a tailoress. She was also to act as housekeeper. While acting in this capacity the other brother took advantage of her ignorance and assaulted her. She claims to have been perfectly helpless, because she could speak no English, and it was only through the good offices of a country woman who keeps an employment agency that she was finally able to get away from the brothers, who, not content with the injury they had already inflicted, had also stolen her watch and clothes and pawned them. The Petreasons are also Swedes.

**Thursday, March 17, 1881**

*Attempted Suicide – A Swedish tailor tries to drown himself from a Ferryboat*

Andrew F. Peterson, a Swedish tailor, aged 38, married, and living with his family at No. 184 Pacific Street, attempted to commit suicide yesterday afternoon by jumping from the stern of the ferryboat Winona, while on its way from Brooklyn to New York. One of the deckhands saw him
jump overboard. The engines were stopped and a life boat launched—the would-be suicide being helped out of the water by a deckhand named Lewis Cano. Peterson was placed on board a passing tugboat and brought to this city, being removed to his residence in the ambulance. This morning he had entirely recovered. His family are unable to assign a cause for the rash act.

Saturday, Oct. 27, 1883
A Swedish Divorce Suit.
Married Abroad and Now Seeking a Divorce

Hannah Ahlquist has commenced a suit in the Supreme Court against Carl G. Ahlquist for absolute divorce. The parties are natives of Sweden and were married on March 19, 1871, at the city of Jönköping, in that country. They came to this country a few years ago. The plaintiff alleges that her husband acted improperly with a woman unknown to her, at a house on the Bowery. There is no issue in the marriage. It is said that Carl lives at No. 8 Woodbury Street, Ruysburg, Massachusetts. An order was entered yesterday directing the service of the summons and complaint by publication. For plaintiff, Edward J. Swanstrom.

Sunday, Dec. 19, 1886
Heartlessly Swindled.
A Swede Emigrating to This Country defrauded of His Saving.

Boston, Mass., December 18
Some time ago a New York paper published in its columns a clever advertisement of its own circulation, partly in the form of a U.S. bond for $1,000 and including pictures of Cabinet officers and in one corner figures as to the number of the bonds of the paper’s circulation. On November 21 Martin Ohlson, a young Swede, started from Glasgow with his bride. All his money, 3,750 crowns, he exchanged at a broker’s in Glasgow for what he supposed to be a certificate of equal value to be cashed in this country: He intended to settle here as a farmer. This morning he required some ready money, to pay his board bill and went to a broker’s office on State street to get his certificate cashed. The broker pronounced it worthless, it being evidently the advertisement that had appeared in the New York paper.

Friday, March 9, 1888
A Swedish Girl’s Claim
Nellie Says that Tunis Bergen Burr broke a Promise

Nellie Danielson, a Swedish girl, came to this country in the summer of 1884, and subsequently was employed as a servant in the family of a Mr. Burr, on Long Island. The girl claims that she was led astray under a promise of marriage by Tunis Bergen Burr, a son of the family. She sued for damages, and the case came up for trial this morning in the Circuit Court. The plaintiff’s counsel, W.C.B. Thornton, wanted to offer evidence as to the alleged betrayal, but General Catlin, for the defense, objected, on the ground that the only claim set up in the complaint was an allegation of breach of promise. The case went over until April to allow the complaint to be amended in that particular. The defense is a general denial.

Young Burr is a law student, and his family are well-to-do.

[Nellie later retracted her complaint against being paid $500 for herself and the baby.]

Monday, Oct. 8, 1888
A Swedish Girl Disappears

Annie Jansen, a Swedish girl 18 years of age and unable to speak English, disappeared from 385 Fifth street, South Brooklyn, on Friday afternoon. She is dark complexioned and when last seen wore a green and brown plaid dress, a black sack and hat and had with her two paper bundles. Her friends, at 107 Huntington Street, have notified the police.

Sunday, Feb. 8, 1891
Swedes in Brooklyn
They Are Frugal, Industrious and Very Well Behaved, Worthy of Confidence and Held In High Esteem by Employers Their Societies Beneficial and Otherwise, and Their Habits.

Like most foreigners who live in American cities the Swedes congregate and dwell together in a certain locality which they seem to look upon as their own. In Brooklyn the Swedes have chosen as their quarter, Atlantic Avenue, Pacific Street, Fourth Avenue and Dean Street. It is estimated that nearly twenty thousand Scandinavians live here, and the number is by no means diminishing. For when a Swede has once established himself anywhere he is likely to be followed by his neighbors and relatives, and in this way a colony is formed and enlarged.

The Swedes devote themselves to almost every kind of occupation. They continue the same business they have carried on in their own country, and unlike most immigrants, do not come here with a vague idea of realizing a large fortune without having learned a trade. They very soon become Americanized, though remaining in some way distinct from the remaining population. They have their own churches, charitable organizations, friendly societies, political clubs and newspapers. The rising generation, however, endeavor to acquire a good knowledge of English, as they recognize that Swedish is not of much value in this country. Many young Swedes do not even know their own language. In the churches Swedish is used exclusively, as those who have become wholly Americanized attend churches where English is used. There are several Scandinavian churches in this city. There are two in Atlantic Avenue, the Baptist Church having the Rev. O. Hedeen for its pastor and the Pilgrims’ Church, where the Rev. A. L. Anderson preaches. There is a Swedish Presbyterian Church at 301 Pacific Street, with the Rev. A. Rodell for pastor and the Methodist Episcopal Church in Dean street, having for pastor the Rev. Dr. A. J. Anderson.
A Summer Tour in the Tracks of the Ancestors

BY ELAINE LARSON NEUHAUS

In June 1996 my husband, Carl, and I took a 10-day bus tour originating in Rapid City and ending in Salt Lake City. While there we were able to spend half a day at the Family History Center Library. After learning how many records they held with family history, we became interested in searching for our ancestors. Since my father's "delayed" birth certificate contained the names and place of birth for my farfar and farmor, that was the beginning of my search.

My Larsson Side

My paternal grandfather was Carl Wilhelm Larsson born in Ankarsrum, Hjorted, Sweden, and my paternal grandmother was Alma Desideria Säker, born in Grythyttan, Sweden. I posted my first query on a Swedish website and the first reply I received was from Robert Samuelsson of Gagnef. He told me that he lived very close to the archives in Leksand, Sweden, and that he had found some of the records for my grandparents. For the next few months, Robert and I corresponded and he would send me any new information that he found for my Larsson side.

My Säker Side

Grythyttan, just northeast of Karlskoga, is where my great-grandfather (farmors far) Gustav Jonsson Säker was born. Next I received an e-mail from Kjell Nordkvist, a volunteer who works in the Karlskoga Emigration Center. By coincidence, Kjell had a good friend whose wife was also a Säker and a distant cousin of mine (fourth cousin). Her husband had researched the whole family back to 1570, and he made copies of all the ancestor records for me.

Connecting with Sweden

About a year before our planned trip in 1999, I received a letter in the mail postmarked "Sweden." Since I did not know anyone in Sweden and had been corresponding with both Robert Samuelsson and Kjell Nordkvist by e-mail, I was very anxious to open the envelope and learn "who was sending me a letter?" It turned out to be a second cousin named Birgitta Larsson Fluch, living just north of Stockholm in Märsta! Her grandfather Johan Petter Larsson, born 1868, and my grandfather Carl Wilhelm Larsson, born 1870, were brothers, two of twelve children. Birgitta had received a phone call from Robert Samuelsson about our plans to visit Sweden the following year. In the letter, Birgitta wrote that the family in Sweden did not know there were living relatives in the U.S. and said that she would like to begin corresponding with me.

Birgitta and her husband Rudi invited us to stay in their home for several days and visit other cousins living in the Stockholm area. This alone should have been the biggest thrill of my lifetime, but then the following week I received an e-mail from yet another Larsson. Kerstin Gardner was the granddaughter of the youngest of the twelve Larsson children, Helga Eleonora Larsson, born 1897, and she invited us to spend several days visiting her home in Västervik, which is about a four-hour ride by bus south of Stockholm.

Birgitta and Kerstin never knew each other so I was able to introduce them "via" the Internet! Birgitta and I were closer in age, and both of us were retired. Kerstin being the youngest was still working and a schoolteacher.

Kerstin sent an interesting request. She said her headmaster had asked that when we visited the school, would Carl and I spend some time with one of his sixth grade classes. In Sweden the children are taught English as a second language but they use audiotapes. He wanted them to experience hearing the language spoken orally with someone from America. I had a good friend who was a sixth grade teacher in one of our local schools. I asked her if it was possible for the class to each write a letter to a student in Sweden and we would deliver them. She was excited about the project. In addition to the students' letters, my husband Carl went to the school to take photos of the class and included other areas of the school including the library and the lunchroom. He thought the students in Sweden would be interested in seeing schools in our country. When we visited the school in Västervik, we discovered their students had already written letters for us to take back to our school. After reading them we found that there were very similar to the ones we had brought from the U.S. So it shows that children are the same everywhere. Carl also took pictures at the school in Sweden and had them developed into slides for a presentation when we returned home.
Arriving in Sweden

Finally the day arrived when we left the Atlanta airport heading for New York, changed planes, and landed the next day at the airport in Stockholm. Waiting for us with a large sign so that we would recognize them were Birgitta, her husband Rudi, another cousin, Torbjörn, his wife Irene, and cousin Gosta. I don’t know who were the most excited, Carl and I, or the cousins and their spouses. They had never known that they had any living relatives in the United States and, of course, I had never known of their existence. While we now live in the state of Georgia, fabled southern hospitality does not hold a candle to Swedish hospitality!

During the months of corresponding with Birgitta and Kerstin via the Internet, another relative had also contacted me. He is the son of my cousin Torbjörn and his name is Björn (which means bear in Swedish). Björn was a law school student in Stockholm. We wrote frequently, and became good friends. We were both avid readers and enjoyed many of the same authors such as John Grisham and Clive Cusslar. Carl collected all the hard-covered books (about twenty) by these two authors that we had already read, put them in a spare suitcase, and took them to Sweden with the other gifts.

While we arrived in Sweden “bearing gifts” we were equally surprised with also being recipients of gifts. I presented Birgitta with a framed counted cross-stitched picture, and she had also made one to give to me! While we traveled to Sweden with an extra large suitcase to bring gifts, we were to return home with the suitcase replaced with the gifts we received.

During our first week in Sweden, as houseguests of cousin Birgitta, we first took a bus tour of Stockholm. We also visited the Vasa Museum and its famous ship, and walked through Gamla Stan (Old Town). We visited the church and the little shops. The first Sunday in Sweden, Birgitta took us to the lovely old church where she sings in the choir. The churches in Sweden are very old and ornate with its members so faithfully preserving their beauty. Even the church cemetery grounds, with its walkways of crushed stone, are raked every day. The stones are those from old graves, no longer rented (like the ones owned in the U.S.) by the families of the deceased, who had died so very long ago. We visited Sigtuna, the oldest town in Sweden dating back to 980 A.D. In the evenings, Birgitta prepared many of the typical Swedish meals for us to experience. Some evenings we played card games and ate ice cream that is so typical in the U.S. And we played Saturday night Bingo via the television, which is broadcast throughout the whole of Sweden!

To Västervik

After the first week the cousins put Carl and me on a bus. From Stockholm, we traveled the four hours to the seaside town of Västervik, where we were cousin Kerstin’s guests for the next week. She and her husband Rolf had a unique home located on the outskirts of town. It had once been a combination of a one-room schoolhouse with the living quarters attached for the teacher. The main floor with the large classroom contained many pieces of antique furniture. Across the road from their home is the church where Kerstin is the organist.

The second week, when we were with Kerstin, we were able to visit the place where my farfar Carl Wil-
New Internet friends

The year before, I had met a young fellow on the Internet by the name of Roger Olofsson. He read my query for my ancestor search on one of the Swedish websites. Roger offered to help me search for my ancestors in Sweden in exchange for my helping him to find living relatives in the U.S. Roger and I became Internet friends and it was not until the weeks before our planned trip that I shared our itinerary with him and found that he also lives in Västervik. We made plans to meet in person, and one evening, Kerstin, Rolf, Carl, and I met with Roger and his girlfriend Elisebet at a local restaurant. We had a delightful evening and have kept in touch.

On the last day we were guests of Kerstin and Rolf, we visited the glass factory in Orrefors and afterwards had afternoon coffee with an aunt of Rolf’s before traveling to the Emigration Center and museum in Växjö. It was a surprise to see a recreated street of Chicago in the early days about the time when my grandparents had first arrived in the U.S. The street map on display was the identical one that I have showing where my maternal great-grandparents, the Samuelssons, had lived.

And to Karlskoga

At the end of the week Kerstin and Rolf put us on the bus for Karlskoga. The second morning at the hotel the desk clerk said she had a message that we would be picked up at 4 p.m! It was a real mystery of who knew we were here and who was picking us up. A nice young man, Jan-Erik Öhrn, in his 40’s, arrived with his wife and his mother, Sonja Säker Öhrn, who was another distant cousin of mine. She had also learned of my existence and that we would be in Karlskoga to visit the birthplace of my farors far, Gustav Jonsson Säker, who was the brother of Sonja’s farors far. She did not speak English so her son was not only our chauffeur but also our translator. Jan-Erik drove us around the area to show us all the places where our ancestors had lived including the farm where Sonja’s and my great-grandfathers were born and lived. The couple that now owned the house had several photos and copies of documents concerning our ancestors that they gave to us. The following day, we were able to meet with Kjell Nordkvist, the volunteer at the emigration center, and able to thank him in person. From there we walked to the Karlskoga kyrka to see the church where my farors far, Gustav Jonsson Säker, was baptized as an infant.

Visit in Grythyttan

The next day we rented a car and traveled north to Grythyttan, the town where my faror was born. It is the “home” of a famous restaurant and culinary school. We had a delightful meal and then visited the cemetery. My farors far, Gustav Jonsson Säker, died in 1904 and a couple of months later, my faror came to Chicago. At the cemetery, the caretaker told us about the cemetery plots being rented for only twenty-five years and if the fee was not renewed, it was then used for another burial. If there had been a grave marker at the time, it would have been removed and crushed for gravel used for the walkways. To help us, the caretaker asked for my ancestor notes as he thought maybe he would be able to find a family name for me. When he saw the name Jacob Finne who arrived in Grythyttan in 1570, the gentleman became quite excited. He told me “you have a very famous ancestor!” It seems that Jacob Finne was born in Finland and the Swedish government at that time offered land in Sweden to people in Finland (which was an integrated part of the kingdom). These men would come to Sweden and start a village. Because they could not pronounce his Finnish name, Jacob was given the surname of Finne.

Soon going home

After our stay in Karlskoga, we again traveled by bus to Uppland and spent the night in a hotel. The next morning Birgitta and Rudi took us to the archives to show us where Birgitta had been researching her ancestors on her mother’s side of the family. Then we traveled back to their home in Märsa where we spent the rest of our stay in Sweden. During that week we visited another glass factory, which was interesting. While the glass pieces created there were nice, they were not quite as beautiful as the ones in Orrefors.

Visiting a large department store in downtown Stockholm was another experience, especially the meat market, the toy department, and the music department. Clothing and houseware departments were very similar to the U.S. but fun to visit. Our last Sunday in Sweden, the cousins hosted a smörgåsbord for us at the Ulriksdals Wärdshus just outside of Stockholm. There were twenty-six relatives in attendance with the cousins, their children, and their grandchildren. We dined in the special room where the queen of Sweden dines and I had never seen herring prepared in so many different ways. I still prefer our traditional pickled herring in cream sauce or wine sauce, though.

If I had not become interested in searching for my Swedish ancestors, I would never have found these living and loving relatives or had this wonderful and memorable experience. We plan to return again some day to Sweden for another visit and hopefully one day they will visit us so we are able to share our home and country with them.

Elaine Larson Neuhaus lives in Blairsville, GA, and can be contacted at <elanau@dnets.net>
There are many treasures in the huge collections of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, a place that is so full of information that it is almost overwhelming. It is a pleasure just to walk the aisles on the ground floor, where the books in the U.S.-Canadian collection are kept, and read all the titles on the spines and wonder what is hidden there. I do this sometimes and then keep looking and reading the sections for states, where I know many Swedes settled, and now and then something very interesting is found.

There was a midwife in Omaha, Nebraska, Mrs. Louise Mohr, who kept her own records of the babies she delivered from 1879 until 1902, and for several years she also noted the nationality of the parents. There is a copy in the library of the list she kept, and I have excerpted all the “Swedish” babies for 1891.

[The call number for the book is 978.2254/01 V2m, and there is also a microfilm of it: FHL US/CAN Film 1320740 Item 2]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1891 Mar. 15</td>
<td>twin boys, to Emma and Frank Lind, 2312 N. 27th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Apr. 17</td>
<td>girl, to Tinne and Peter Forstlund, 21st Str. and South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 May 27</td>
<td>boy, to Mary (American) and Geo Wheeler, 27th Str and Patrick Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Jun. 4</td>
<td>girl, to Cicilia and Sam Nichols, 27th and Grant Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Jul. 11</td>
<td>boy, to Ella and John Green, 28th and Dodge Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Jul. 23</td>
<td>boy, to Mary and Richard Sardien, cabinet maker, 40th and Nelson Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Aug. 1</td>
<td>boy, to Anna and Nels Lenstadt, 26th and Douglas Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Aug. 14</td>
<td>girl, to Louise and Herbert Lindquest, Mason and 22th Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Aug. 27</td>
<td>girl, to Selma and John Hutgreen, 3713 N. 19th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Oct. 7</td>
<td>girl, to Emma and Charly Karlson, 28th and Dodge Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Oct. 17</td>
<td>boy, to Mary and Anton Larson, milkman, Florence Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Oct. 31</td>
<td>girl, to Berta and Herman B. Engstedt, 1017 N. 23rd Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Nov. 16</td>
<td>girl, to Anna and Herman Larsen, tailor, 16th and Leavenworth Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891 Dec. 26</td>
<td>boy, to Amanda and Peter Nelson, 27th and Burt Streets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A Swedish Tradition: the semla**

A *semla* is a bun made of ordinary coffee-bread dough, preferably with some cardamom in it. You make round buns and bake them as usual in the oven. Then, when you want to make a *semla*, you slice off the top, dig out some of the inside, mix that with ground almonds and a drop of milk. Then you put it back into the bun, top it with whipped cream and then the sliced-off piece is put on top, as a hat, and finished with a sprinkling of finely granulated sugar (*florsocker*). Then it is ready to eat, either as it is or in a bowl with hot milk.

The *semlor* (pl.) are to be eaten on the first Tuesday in Lent and each Tuesday until Easter. Traditionally you first eat fried salted pork in slices and brown beans, and then a *semla*.

Lots of bakeries can’t wait until Lent, but start selling them directly after Christmas, which is cheating the tradition. The *semlor* are known since the 1700s, when King Adolf Fredrik died in 1771 after eating too many.

*This year you are supposed to eat your first semla on Tuesday Feb.24.*
A Swedish Alphabet from the 18th Century

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

The alphabet on the lefthand page was written by Jonas Jacob Wallberg, born 1762 in Östergötland, and died there in 1810. His father was a surveyor, Mathias Jonas Wallberg, and as was common in those days, the son was educated to follow his father's footsteps and also become a surveyor. An important part of the job was to make maps of villages, to show who owned what fields, which also meant that he had to have a good handwriting, and probably had to start at a very young age to acquire a good hand.

We do not know, but perhaps can assume that this alphabet is one of Jonas Jacob's youthful exercises. It is written in German script (tyska stilen), which was very common in Sweden during the 1700s.

In the first row we have all of the small letters, from a to o, but there seems to be too many of them? This is because Jonas Jacob has also written some of the more common combinations, like ~ (ff) and the several types of s

where the last one is a double ss.

There are also some common combinations with s and t, like these:

They are tt, sk and st. Always when you see a letter that looks too large, remember these combinations.

Next comes the capital letters, and there is nothing exceptional there, except perhaps the S, which does not look like an S.

The long text is a citation from the Bible. It is from the Book of Job, chapter 14, and it reads like this:

Menniskan af Quinnro född, lefver en liten tid och är full med / orolighet; Waxer upp som ett blomster, och faller af, flyr! / bort som en skuggge, och blifver icke. Och öfver en sådana! / upplåter Tu Tin ögon, och drager mig för Tig i rätten! / ho will finna en renan när them, ther ingen ren är.

In King James Bible the text goes like this:

1: Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.
2: He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.
3: And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?
4: Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

There are a few things to note in the text. The letter u has a squiggle on top to show that there is a vowel there, otherwise it might get lost in all the other undulating letters. Jonas Jacob also writes th, where modern Swedish writes d (ther = där).

It does not show in this text, but it was common to write double letters like mn as just one letter with a squiggle on top (my computer will not do this). So always put some importance on the squiggles.

Do not think that all old Swedish is difficult to read like this one. Usually the researcher works with records where you can almost guess what is in them. In a Birth record you expect to find information on the baby, his parents, their home, and the sponsors, and not much more. The format is easily learnt, and that goes for Marriage and Death records also. The difficulties are usually met when you try to decipher people's titles, but an old dictionary will be a good help.

Probates are more of a challenge, as farming tools and houseware have many names, but we will try them later on.

There has already been studies in old hand-writing published in SAG, but the new format makes better pictures possible. Reading handwriting is also something very basic, that you need to practise all the time. Even an experienced researcher has to sit down and take a close look, when a parish gets a new clergyman and the script changes.

A good tip

When you are reading old script, take out a notebook and write down the text in your own hand, preferably in print.

When you come to a word that you can not read, try to figure how many letters there are in this word, and then leave empty spaces for those letters, then go on with what you can read.

Next, put away the notebook for the day. When you take it out again, and look at the text, then you say "of course, that word is Åseda" or whatever it was. The brain keeps working on this problem and might come up with a solution after having had some rest.
The Old Picture

On this page we intend to publish old pictures, sent in by our SAG readers. If you have a picture you want to see on this page, either send a digital copy, scanned in no less than 300 dpi and saved as a jpg or tif file, or send a good paper copy to the editor at the address shown on the inside cover. Do not send any originals, as we can not accept the responsibility for them. Neither can we promise to publish all pictures.

The first picture is sent in by Johan Lövehed, Torekovsgatan 23, S-214 39 Malmö, Sweden, who also writes:

"On March 15th 1923 my grandfather Lambert Lundström emigrated to the United States. He departed from Gothenburg in Sweden on Kungsholm I on its first voyage with the Swedish-American Line. He arrived in New York on March 28th 1923, and then settled in Clifton, Newark, New Jersey.

In 1932 he went back to Sweden for a short visit. However, there he met my grandmother and remained in Sweden. He died in 1982, and left a wife, three children, 9 grandchildren, and a brother and a sister in United States.

After 75 years in a wardrobe in my mother's house, I found a number of negatives contained in several envelopes. New technology and the Internet have made it possible for me to scan the pictures and put them on a homepage.

The children on the photos must be about 80 years old. My grandfather's friends are probably dead. Are the people in the pictures Swedish immigrants? Where are the pictures taken? Perhaps their children or grandchildren will recognize them and can tell me who they are and some of their stories."

Regard Johan

Johan's web site is found at http://w1.401.comhem.se/-u40122319/ and there are many more pictures there

Johan's e-mail: lambert-1925@comhem.se

A happy group of people in the 1920s, somewhere on the Atlantic seaside. But where, and who are they? Do you know, then contact Johan Lövehed at the address above.
The Swedish Archives

1. The Regional Archives at Vadstena

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

The mainstay of Swedish genealogical research are the church records from the various parishes. This is where you can find the birth record of your grandfather, the marriage of his parents, when he emigrated, and much more.

This was true for centuries, from the early 1600s until 1 July 2001, when church and state were divided, and the record keeping was taken over by the tax authorities (Skatteverket).

Church records are considered as local government records, and are thus to be found in the various regional archives (landsarkiv), each responsible for its part of the country.

The Vadstena Regional Archives are situated in the old castle, which was first built by King Gustaf I (Vasa) in 1543, in the little town of Vadstena, on the northeastern shore of Lake Vättern.

The Vadstena Regional Archives are the repository for records from the counties (län) of Östergötland, Jönköping, Kalmar, and Kronoberg, which means that they have the records for the most emigrant intense areas.

The research room is open to everyone for free. There are 42 researcher's tables, all with microfiche readers. All church records are instantly available in the room in microfiche format. There are also very helpful indexes to the clerical surveys (husförhörslängder), and to the probates, (bouppteckningar). There is also a small reference library, and a card catalog to the proper archive library, where you can find books on different parishes and many other things. There are also a few computers with some of the more popular Swedish databases and some that are specific for this archive, for instance the Linköping Historiska Databas, where you can search the church records for more than 20 parishes in the Linköping area.

The staff is pleasant and very helpful, and used to overseas visitors, but appreciate if you have good information when you come to the archive.

An archivist told me many years ago that church records make up about 10% of the contents of a regional archive. This means that 90% are other records, that can be interesting and helpful as well. First we have the records of the legal districts (häradsrätter), which is where you may find that absconding father, or the probate for your great-grandmother. Then we have the county government (länsstyrelse), where you can find tax records (mantalslängder) back to the early 1600s. Then we have the diocesan records (domkapitel) where you might find out that the great-great-grandparents were divorced. And there are many other kinds of records too.

The problem might be that these other records are not as easily available as church records, court records, and probates that have been microfilmed. The other types of records are hand-written in old script in huge books, and you need to read Swedish to get the best from them. But it is certainly worth the effort.

Facts:
Mailing address: Landsarkivet, Box 126, S-592 23 Vadstena, Sweden.
Visiting address: The Castle
Phone: +46 143 753 00
Fax: +46 143 753 37
E-mail: landsarkivet@landsarkivet-vadstena.ra.se
Web site: www.ra.se/vala
Opening hours: Mon-Fri. 9 am to 4 pm. Tuesday 9 am to 9 pm. Saturday 9 am to 1 pm. Shorter hours in the summer, check the web site for exact info.
An Emigrant’s Different Life Story

From Gotland to Kansas – what happened?

By Kerstin Jonmyren

In my line of business as a professional genealogist I have come across many different life stories of Swedish-American emigrants. Many of them, maybe most of them, tell about honest people, who in their new home country managed to achieve decent living conditions primarily by hard work. Still, now and then, hard-working people could change their lives in unexpected ways. A few years ago I got a letter from Arizona. A Swedish-American named James wanted help in finding his roots on Gotland, which is the largest island in the Baltic Sea. An emigrant called Johan Gottberg once left from there for America. Gottberg was presumably born 1821 in Visby, the island's main city.

This was the descendant’s scarce information on his great-grandfather from Gotland. The limited information made this case difficult, although I have specialized in Gotlandian genealogy for decades. As could be expected, Gottberg was not born in Visby, but instead in one of about one hundred smaller rural parishes surrounding the city. From experience I know that many emigrants, once they reached America, named the closest city to their home parish as their place of birth in records and censuses. Normally, at least to a Swede, city names are more well-known than the name of rural parishes.

As far as tracking Johan Gottberg was concerned, the rather uncommon surname was a clear advantage. There are a few Gottberg families residing on Gotland today, but very soon I concluded that this man was not related to them. Then I realized, the name itself could be the solution. The vowels o and ö, which look similar to a non-Swede but are pronounced rather differently in Swedish, could be the key. And that is how I found Johan Göthberg with an ‘ö’ and an ‘h’ – in a parish called Grötlingbo in the southern part of Gotland. Johan Göthberg’s life was quite fascinating and divided into two separate phases – Grötlingboudd, Gotland, Sweden, and Denmark, Kansas, U.S.A.
Grötlingboudd, Gotland, Sweden

Grötlingboudd is a long and narrow peninsula belonging to the parish Grötlingbo on Gotland. Some parts of Grötlingbo have very fertile soil and the area has probably been populated since the Stone Age, with archaeological remains from the Viking Age. Until the 18th century, the peninsula of Grötlingboudd was mainly used for grazing sheep, because the soil was poor. During the 19th century the Scandinavian population grew rapidly, causing overpopulation, which forced people to cultivate less fertile soil. Primarily farm laborers and sailors settled down at Grötlingboudd.

In 1821, in a house at the uttermost point of the peninsula, Johan Niklas Göttberg was born, son to a sailor and saltpeter boiler. At the age of 25, Johan married Brita Friberg, a sailor's daughter. A couple of years earlier Brita's father had drowned in a storm at sea, thus she lived alone in a small house with her mother. Johan was very needed in the house. Brita gave birth to four children in the years to come, and Johan had to accept all kinds of work to provide for the family. Sometimes he was a farm laborer, sometimes a shepherd and field guard (in those days there were not many fences in the Scandinavian landscape, instead grazing cattle had to be guarded and protected). Primarily, though, Johan Göttberg made his living from being a fisherman.

The fisherman's trade is not always very safe and Johan had, according to family tradition, faced danger a couple of times. At one point his small fishing boat sank at sea, and he survived only because of his strong constitution and stamina. Family tradition also describes Johan Göttberg's personality as rather harsh and erratic. For a couple of years Johan deserted his family and nobody knew where he was. However, much of this changed when Johan found salvation in the Baptist Church.

In the middle of the 19th century the Baptist movement reached Gotland. The movement was promoted intensely by preachers all over the island, and its new and progressive religious ideas were well received, and soon many people were affected. The Baptist Church contrasted with the conservative Swedish Lutheran Church, with its strict and sometimes lofty ministers. Baptist congregations were founded all over Gotland, and attracted members also among poorer people. The Göttberg family was one of them, and they remained Baptists all along.

In 1875, Brita Göttberg died. In the following year the grown up son Lars left the house to get married and move to another parish. The older son Olof was married already in 1870 and had become a farmer. Since one daughter had died as an infant, there were only two people left in the Göttberg household – Johan and his 23-year-old daughter Catharina.

Denmark, Kansas, U.S.A.
The story of Johan Göttberg could very well have ended there, but instead it was just about to enter another phase. In 1879, at the age of 58, Johan decided to leave his routine life in Grötlingboudd and emigrate from Sweden to America together with his daughter Catharina. The fisherman Johan ended up in Kansas, very far from the any sea. Instead he became a farmer, at first in Concordia, but rather soon he moved to Denmark County – a Danish-Swedish settlement in Kansas.

There, at the age of 64, Johan, who had changed his last name to Gottberg, married a 27 year younger woman from Sweden. She was Sofia Bergman from Närke province in Sweden, a teacher's daughter, who had emigrated together with her young illegitimate son. Sofia and Johan had four children together – Berta, Catherine, Margaret, and Andrew. The fate of Johan's daughter Catharina is unknown, but probably she died rather soon after arriving in America, since one of Johan's younger children was also called Catherine. All the children of the American Gottberg family lived good and long lives. They all got married and today they have a great number of descendants.

I have seen a photo of Johan Gottberg's American children. They are all slim, tall, and look industrious – just like their father, I have been told. The descendants still know of many stories about Johan Gottberg, mainly about his straightforward and talkative Gotlandian manners. Apparently, he never learned any English, but he was still able to manage quite well, surrounded by mainly Danish and Swedish immigrants.

Gottberg, who became Gottberg, had lived a great part of his life being a fisherman at sea. In his late fifties he ended up being a farmer on the Kansas prairie, far away from any sea, and obviously he was satisfied by it. Among his neighbors in Kansas, he was known to be a gifted farmer and a handy repairman of tools, carriages, and carriage wheels. He lived to be 87 years old. When he died in 1908, he was surrounded by children and grandchildren on his own prosperous farm. Well done, to say the least, by a 58 year-old and very poor immigrant from Gotland, Sweden!

Grötlingboudd revisited

Johan Gottberg never returned to Gotland, although he had both children and grandchildren there. Instead in 1999 his great-grandson James came to visit with his family, only to find that the Swedish family had done very well too. It was a nice family reunion, more than one hundred years after Johan Göttberg emigrated. The old Göttberg home had been torn down long ago. The Grötlingboudd, populated by the poorest people of the parish, which Gottberg left behind, has changed considerably since then. The Grötlingboudd of today is a very attractive area for exclusive homes, populated primarily by the rich and famous.

Kerstin Jonmyren lives at Ljungbyholm, Sweden, and can be contacted at <swedgenco@home.se>
Swedish Genealogy Days
The annual Swedish Genealogy Days (Släktforskardagarna) will be held in Östersund in Jämtland 14-15 August. Details about the program and other info can be found at www.slagforskardagarna.nu
This is usually the meeting point for many of the societies, as the Annual General Meeting of the Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies is held in conjunction with the event. There are several lectures and exhibitions also.

Passenger Arrivals to New York
The formerly unindexed Passenger Lists for New York have now been indexed by Ancestry for the years 1850-1891 (when Ellis Island records start). These indexes and many other lists form a special subscription database at Ancestry. The subscription is $19.95 for a month and $79.95 for a year.

42,000 Smiths on a CD
Kjell Åberg of Mellerud, Sweden, has been studying smiths for many years. The smiths’ families can be difficult to trace as they move much more than other people, and tend to move longer distances, for instance from iron works in Värmland to Småland to Uppland. So Kjell has joined forces with the old smiths’ expert Sven Myhl of Göteborg and digitized Sven’s collections and also added his own research to a cd, which costs about 300 SEK incl. postage, and is easily navigated in IExplorer or Netscape. Kjell’s e-mail is <kjell.aberg@swipnet.se>

Woodcarvings in Minneapolis
If you have the possibility, do visit the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis before May 30, as they have a new exhibition: Stories in Wood: Scandinavian Master Carvers. More than 300 exhibits of Swedish woodcarving of both Swedish and Swedish-American artists with a focus on Scandinavian-style flatplane carving.

Vikings in Philadelphia
The American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia and the Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc. are the sponsors of an all-day seminar on the Vikings, entitled The Viking Legacy: A Symposium About Viking History, Culture, and Contributions to World Civilization, that will be held on the 24th of April. More information is to be found on the Museum web site: www.americanswedish.org/index.html

Do you have some piece of news or anything else that might interest the SAG readers? Contact the editor at <sag@etgenealogy.se>

Chisago Lake Lutheran Church’s 150th Anniversary
On 12 May 1854 Pastor Erland Carlsson organized the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, 150 years ago. This is celebrated throughout the year, but the big day will be Sunday 9 May, when there will be a Anniversary Celebration Sunday with prominent guests.
More info can be found at www.chisagolakelutheranchurch.org/

Swedish Genealogist Got a Huge Scholarship!
Assistant Professor Anders Winroth of Yale University was named a MacArthur Fellow in September, an honor which also includes a scholarship stipend of about $500,000 for his studies of medieval history. Dr. Winroth, who was born in Ludvika in 1965, got his doctorate at Columbia University as a Fulbright Scholar, and now has an assistant professorship at Yale.
Dr. Winroth is an ardent genealogist since his youth, and was one of the founders of the Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies. He still spends time on untangling his Swedish roots, from Värmland, Dalarna, and other areas in Sweden.
Swedish-American Organizations

SAG plans to present various Swedish-American and Swedish organizations that can be of interest to the SAG readers.

Here comes the first:

The Swedish-American Historical Society

In 1948, following the Swedish-American Pioneer Centennial celebration, the organizers in Chicago followed it up by establishing the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, “to record the achievements of the Swedish Pioneers.” The Society soon found its main focus in publishing. In 1950 the Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly began publication. It became the Swedish-American Historical Quarterly in 1982 and is now in its fifty-fourth year. The Society was renamed the Swedish-American Historical Society in 1983. The change of name reveals a change of emphasis, from celebration and commemoration of the Swedish pioneers to objective study of the whole history of the Swedish emigration and of the Swedes in North America.

In 1967 the Society brought out the first volume of Nils William Olsson’s Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, to be followed by more than twenty-five books in its field published or sponsored with leading university presses. It also has a periodic newsletter.

The Society’s archive at North Park University in Chicago contains valuable Swedish-American organizational records and other materials primarily for the Greater Chicago area. It works closely with Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Rock Island and other depositories.

Among its activities, the Society holds conferences and symposia on Swedish-American topics, sometimes in collaboration with other organizations like the Swenson Center. It organizes excursions to places of Swedish-American historical interest, such as the Delaware Valley, Lindsborg, Kansas, Rock Island and Bishop Hill, Illinois, Minneapolis-St. Paul, or Worcester, Massachusetts. Its annual meetings in Chicago or elsewhere are both social and cultural occasions. The Society’s Swedish branch organizes events of its own.

Membership categories with their annual dues include: Regular ($25.00), Sustaining ($50.00), Donor ($100.00), Benefactor ($250.00), and Life ($1,000.00). All include subscription to the Quarterly and newsletter. Members in the Sustaining and higher categories also receive bonus books. Regular members may order books at discount from the Society’s extensive list.

Our address is: Swedish-American Historical Society, 3225 West Foster Ave., Box 48, Chicago, IL 60625; Tel. 773/583-5722; e-mail: <info@swedishamericanhist.org>

To find out about membership in Sweden, please contact the Chicago office.

Welcome to our website at www.swedishamericanhist.org

H. Arnold Barton

Members of the 1997 SAHS tour to the old Swedish places in the Philadelphia area listen to the guide at the Lower Swedish Cabin at Drexel Hill. (Photo: B. Thorsell.)
Ahnentafel XLIX.
Flying Ace Richard (Dick) Bong
– a Work in Progress

BY ELISABETH THORSSELL

1 Richard Ira (Dick) Bong. Born 24 Sep 1920 in Poplar, Douglas Co, WI, USA (Sv Flyghist Tidskr. 6/01:20). Died 6 Aug 1945 in Burbank, CA, USA (R Bong Heritage Center website).

He shot down 40 enemy planes over the Pacific Ocean. He died during a test flight in California.

Ref: Svensk Flyghist. Tidskrift 6/01:19. (Father 2, Mother 3)
Married 10 Feb 1945 (R Bong Heritage Center website) to Marjorie Ann (Marge) Vattendahl. Born 1924 in North Dakota, USA (US Census 1930).

Generation I


Moved 1897 from Islingby 79, Stora Tuna, W to Poplar, Douglas Co, WI, USA (Emibas).

Served in WWI: Wisconsin CPL Co E 318 ENGINEERS WWI. He was a “road contractor”. (Child 1, Father 4, Mother 5)
Married to the following ancestor.


Generation II


Moved 25 Jan 1893 from Hässjö, Y to Islingby 79, Stora Tuna, W (St Tuna AI:25j:128). Moved (with a ticket for Marinette, WI) 1 Jul 1896 from Islingby 79, Stora Tuna, W to Poplar, Douglas Co, WI, USA (Emibas, Emigranten (Child 2, Father 8, Mother 9)

Married 21 Jan 1888 in Näs, W (SCB-E) to the following ancestor. Marriage records: he a tenant farmer’s son from Laknäset, she a homestead owner’s daughter from Närren.


Generation III


Moved 1855 from Säfsnäs, W to Näs, W (Näs AI:15d:96). Laborer, first lived with his family at Kölaråsen, and moved later to Laknäset, both places in Näs.

Ref: Näs AI:15d:96. (Child 1, Father 16, Mother 17)
Married 14 Nov 1862 in Näs, W (Näs AI:15d:96) to the following ancestor.

9 ff m Anna Gustafsdotter. Born 26 Apr 1840 in Järna, W (Näs AI:15d:96). (Child 4)

Generation IV


Moved in 1824 from his parents to Ulriksberg. Enlisted as a soldier and was given the name Bång. He lived with his family at Fredriksberg in Säfsnäs.

Ref: Säfsnäs AI:10:214; AI:8:108. (Child 8, Father 32, Mother 33)
Married 31 Dec 1834 in Säfsnäs, W (Disreg) to the following ancestor. Marriage records: he a soldier from Safsbyn, she a servant girl from Västansjön.

17 ff fm Maja Lena Bruse. Born 24 Jan 1813 in Västansjö, Säfsnäs, W (C). (Child 8, Father 34, Mother 35)

Generation V

32 ff ff f Mats Matsson. Born 10 Jun 1780 in Säfsnäs, W (Säfsnäs
Lived in Säfsnäs village, Säfsnäs. Ref: Säfsnäs AI:7:142. (Child 16, Father 64, Mother 65)
Married 1802 (Säfsnäs AI:7:142) to the following ancestor.
Sharecropper at Granberget on Fredriksberg lands, Säfsnäs, W. Ref: Säfsnäs AI:7:127. (Child 21, Father 84, Mother 85)
Married 15 Nov 1789 in Säfsnäs, W
(Disreg) to the following ancestor. 
Marriage records: She a widow from Säfsen, he a farmhand from Granberget.
43 fm fm m Kerstin (Cathe­rina) Sig­fridsdotter. Born 10 Apr 1764 in Säfsnäs, W (C). (Child 21, Father 86, Mother 87)

Generation VI
Charcoal burner at Säfsnäs village, Säfsnäs. (Child 32)
Married 2 Jul 1767 in Säfsnäs, W (Disreg) to the following ancestor. 
Marriage records: both from Säfsen.

Sharecropper at Skåthöjden, Gås­born. (Child 33)
Married 22 Jun 1766 in Gåsborn, S (VigReg) to the following ancestor.
67 ff ff mm Catharina Petersdotter. Born 1747 (Gåsborn AI:1:107). 
Died about 1790 (Gåsborn AI:1:107). (Child 33)

68 ff fm ff Jan Bruse. (Child 34)
Married to the following ancestor.
69 ff fm fm Stina Nilsdotter. Born 1750 in Kroppa, S (Säfsnäs AI:7:110). (Child 34)

70 ff fm mf Jan Olofsson. 
Charcoal burner at Hösjöberget, Säfsnäs. (Child 35)
Married to the following ancestor.
71 ff fm mm Catharina Jansdotter. (Child 35)

Married to the following ancestor.

84 fm fm ff Henrik Larsson. Born 1727 (Säfsnäs AI:7:127).

He lived at Granberget on Fredriksberg lands, Säfsnäs. (Child 42) 
Married to the following ancestor.

85 fm fm fm Kerstin Zachris­dotter. (Child 42)

86 fm fm mf Sigfrid Jansson. 
He lived at Frössäsen, Säfsnäs, W. (Child 43)
Married to the following ancestor.

87 fm fm mm Catharina Zach­risdotter. (Child 43)

-0-0-0-0-

Comments: 
This Ahnentafel (antavla) is not complete, there are still many dates missing. The idea was to show how an antavla could be documented.
Sources: 
Notes like Säfsnäs AI:10:214 means the clerical survey volume AI:10, page 214, for Säfsnäs. The Family History Library film number is not shown, as the research was done in Sweden, where those numbers are not known.
Notes like (Disreg) refers to a printed index of marriages in Säfsnäs, available in libraries. Note (VigReg) refers to a private index of marriages in Gåsborn. Such secondary sources should always be checked in the proper church records.
The parish names is followed by a letter (Säfsnäs, W). That letter is the code letter for the county, see the inside back cover of SAG for the whole list.
Letters like (C), (E), refers to the Birth and Marriage records. If the letter is preceded by “SCB” the info is taken from the Civil Vital Registration after 1860, from the archives of the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics (Statistiska Centralbyran).
Letters f and m refers to the Swedish words far = f (father) and mor = m (mother), which helps to point out who the ancestor is. Ancestor #67 here is Richard Bong’s farfars farfars mormor, which is far more exact than just 2nd great-grandmother.
Citing Swedish sources will be discussed in a future article in SAG.

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:1
A Scandinavian Guide


Countries sharing the common Scandinavian heritage, generally referred to as the Nordic countries, have all been the source of people migrating to the United States, Canada, and other lands in past centuries. These Nordic lands, referred to collectively by Art Jura as Norden, include not only Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, but also Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Åland, and the lands of the Sami. It is the purpose of the author of this book to highlight the similarities and to distinguish some of the differences in migration, people, and genealogical research between and among these various lands.

For example, some migrants from Sweden may be Finns. Sami migrants may be listed in records as from Norway, Sweden, Finland, or even Russia. Greenlandic migrants may be Danish or Inuit. For those seeking their roots in only one of these countries, this book may not be the best guide. But for those with a broader curiosity, or those who find an ancestor at some point in history who has been blended by Nordic migration or ethnic patterns, the book may be helpful. For this purpose, however, the book is broad but not deep. For each chapter, the author, a Finnish-American, includes in the Bibliography a listing of references, both books and websites, for those wishing to obtain more information about a particular country.

After a brief summary of the history and culture of the Nordic people, Art Jura has assigned a chapter to each of the lands making up Norden, beginning with Sweden. The chapter on Sweden is the longest since Sweden is the largest country in population with the greatest number of emigrants. Also, much of the information common to most of the countries is covered in the chapter on Sweden, in order not to be repetitive in the other chapters. Each chapter contains the addresses of websites of special relevance to research in each of the countries, with additional websites listed at the end of the book. There is also at the end a Nordic word list. Commonly used words found in various records are listed in each of five languages and in English, to assist the researcher.

Current residents of Sweden or one of the other countries may already be quite familiar with most of the distinctions and nuances encountered in doing research and seeking roots in their own and other Nordic lands. To Scandinavian-Americans, Canadians, and others a few generations removed from the history and culture of their countries of origin, this book presents many useful insights into the variations in customs, record-keeping, ethnic minorities, and Internet sources among the lands making up Norden.

For those whose interest is primarily Swedish genealogy, this book is not a detailed "how-to" guide, such as the incomparable Cradled in Sweden, by Carl-Erik Johansson. It is better viewed as an introduction to all the Nordic countries to serve as background for further research in one or more of the other lands, with many useful and interesting nuggets of information about each.

Dennis L. Johnson

A Swedish Life in America


It was at one of my first SAG Workshops I heard the late Carl-Erik Johansson of Salt Lake City speak. What he said that afternoon continues to echo.

He responded to a question. Someone asked why the Swedes had immigrated to America. His reply was quick, strong, and with loud fervor. As he thrust one fist into the other hand's palm, he shouted, "They were hungry."

This was true of the vast majority of the Swedish immigrants in the 19th century. However this cannot be said for Ingrid, the immigrant of this book. And yet it can.

When Ingrid left Sweden in 1947, she and her husband, Gösta, were not hungry for food as were the early immigrants. Instead they had a
hunger of another mode. They were hungry for opportunity, for success, for challenges.

Before they left Sweden they managed and owned a small café in Stockholm. With this they were successful, but they knew their opportunities were limited. The Sweden of the late 1940’s did not afford the same upward mobility to unschooled individuals or members of the working class. Ingrid and Gösta had a hunger to try their wings and fly higher than Stockholm and Sweden’s social system of 1947 permitted.

This is Ingrid’s story. It is a folksy story of a very smart and gutsy and kind woman. It is told in Ingrid’s own words. This is not an academic tome. Instead it is a very sincere account of how two people with wonderful attitudes, strong work ethic, and definite loyalty were successful as Swedish immigrants in the 20th century.

Like the Swedish immigrants of a century earlier, Ingrid and Gösta never lost their deep love of their native land, but they thrived with the opportunities of the new land. Like the Ingrids and Göstas of earlier periods, they put their shoulders to the wheel and forged persistently on. Just like our Swedish immigrant ancestors, Ingrid and Gösta made better lives for themselves. Some things remain the same.

Karna Olsson

Midwestern Swedes


The author and her late husband, Lennart Setterdahl, came to the U.S. from Sweden in 1959, settling in Cleveland, OH, until 1971, when they moved to the Moline, IL, area. Their hobby became a lifetime career, following their interest in the “great migration.” Working together until Lennart’s death in 1995 and then independently, Lilly and her husband have published 11 books on Swedes in the U.S. They also collected information on Swedish-American publications, conducted innumerable interviews, and have taken thousands of oral histories and photographs. Their work is now held in the archives of Augustana College, The Emigrant Institute in Växjö, the National Archives in Stockholm, and elsewhere.

As with most of Lilly Setterdahl’s previous books, this volume focuses on a particular locality with a strong Swedish immigrant influence, and chronicles the history of the Swedes in that community. Previous subjects include Scandinavians in Alabama, in Rockford, IL, and two volumes on Swedes in Minnesota. Swedes in Moline is quite comprehensive, including not only many individual and family histories, but also a great deal of information on businesses in the community, local periodicals and newspapers, churches, Swedish organizations, and excerpts from letters and diaries of many immigrants.

The history of Moline from the early settlement days of the 1850’s through the Civil War period, the development of Moline as a center of industry, and the growth of the city through the First World War and the Great Depression is outlined in the introduction. How this history affected, and was influenced by, the Swedes is the focus of the sections on political and civic leaders and the growth of businesses in Moline. This city is the home of the John Deere and Company, Minneapolis-Moline, several furniture and cabinetmakers, and numerous small businesses. These companies became the basis for employment of most of the Swedes who came to Moline in the 19th century and later. The section on Businesses lists in detail the variety of trades existing, from architects to wagonmakers, and their Swedish proprietors, founders, and workers.

Fascinating to read are the 18 pages of ‘Documented Impressions’, excerpts from letters and diaries of some fifteen Swedish immigrants who wrote down their thoughts to relatives in Sweden, or recorded them in their diaries, about their trip to America or their lives in Moline. Most are from the time period of the 1880’s to 1940, and a few are about trips back to Sweden by these immigrants.

The entire latter half of the book contains over 120 brief histories of individual immigrants or families in Moline and vicinity. Most are accompanied by a photograph of the person or family and give their dates and places of birth in Sweden, their occupations, children, and dates of death. For most individuals, an oral history interview exists and is listed as being available either at the Vasa National Archives in Bishop Hill, IL, or at the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, Sweden.

Taken as a whole, this book provides a good general picture of the influence of the Swedish Immigration on one Midwestern community in the U.S., and the influence of that community on the Swedes who settled there, not only in their individual lives and livelihoods, but in how these Swedes brought their churches and created their social organizations to build a complete community for themselves and their descendants in Moline.
For the serious researcher who is seeking information on a particular business, family, or organization in Moline, this book will serve as a reference and guide leading to much additional material. The book gives many details, dates, street addresses and other information of value, and is well documented with indexes of all persons or contributors included. The Bibliography will lead to many additional sources, directories, microfilms, newspapers, and other materials.

Dennis L. Johnson

A European Guide


It feels bad to start this review by saying “Don’t buy this book!”, but that is my true opinion. This book contains a number of articles on doing genealogical research in Europe, and have mostly been published in Family Tree Magazine in some earlier version. The articles have been updated and provided with tips for further reading and addresses to archives and other institutions, and web addresses too.

That is fine, but can you trust the information? Judging from the chapter on Scandinavia I am doubtful. This was written by David A. Fryxell, a man with a good Swedish name and with ancestors from Västergötland, which we discussed last year, when we happened to meet. So he has done some Swedish and Scandinavian research, but missed many important points.

The first thing that catches the eye is the strange map; in Sweden Lake Mälaren has become a bay in the Baltic, and there are no towns in southern Sweden. In Denmark there are only Copenhagen and Vejle, where are cities like Odense and Århus? And in Finland we miss Åbo (Turku).

But that is not so bad, compared to other things. If this book was to help budding Scandinavian genealogists, why start with the Vikings? And then spend pages on telling stories about the exploring spirit of the Norse peoples?

Then we come to the steps to follow to find the Scandinavian ancestors, where the author constantly mixes references to all four countries. It would have been much better to first discuss the Danish and Norwegian systems of record keeping, as they are based on their joint history, and then the Swedish and Finnish system, which is based on the Swedish Church Law of 1686 (as Finland then was part of Sweden). Anyway, he starts with the emigration records, and mentions web addresses for Denmark and Norway, but seems unaware of the CD Emigranten for Sweden. Then he discusses the name systems, and gets the patronymic names fairly right, but all other names are supposed to come from farm names or the military, which is not correct.

And now, the proper records, where I will only comment on the ones for Sweden (and Finland). The husförhörslängder are just mentioned, as where “you may also be able to learn more,” when to me it is one of the most important records there is, the one where you get to follow a family and its members in detail from birth to death, in a way no other record allows you to. In this section many dates are mentioned that are quite new to me, like that the government started to keep its own vital records in 1950, when I always thought that did not happen until 1991!

Next we come to “other records” and for Sweden the author mentions something called “census records,” which I think must be the mantalslängder, and then he says they start in 1650, and I have always believed that they start around 1628. In a special chapter on these records he gives all kinds of examples of exemptions from being listed in them, and in total evidently thinks they are much more important than the clerical surveys, which is wrong. Mostly you only use these “censuses” for periods way back in time, before the church records starts or when those are missing for some reason. He also suggest that interested readers should get hold of a special book, in Swedish, which is quite difficult for Swedes to read, very academic prose.

The important legal records, court minutes and probates, are not mentioned except very superficially.

I will not quarrel with his book list, as one of my own books is listed, but find it noteworthy that he does not list Swedish American Genealogist nor the Swedish-American Historical Quarterly, where he ought to have learnt a lot about Swedish genealogy. Instead he lists two Swedish language journals, both heavy reading for English language researchers: Personhistorisk Tidskrift and Släkt och Hävd. The list of addresses for the archives is outdated; for instance the author still places the records for Värmland in Göteborg, when they have been in Karlstad for about 10 years. Among web sites he mentions Rötter, but not its English language sibling Swedish Roots.

Anyone who is serious about Swedish research will learn much more and correctly by reading Carl-Erik Johansson’s Cradled in Sweden.

Elisabeth Thorsell

Book Reviews

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:1
Interesting Web Sites
(All links have been tried in February 2004 and should work)

Transcriptions of Manifests, St. Albans Border Crossings. Ships coming into the Great Lakes at the mouth of the St. Lawrence are listed, just now only 1895:
http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/glpassengers/trans.asp

Galveston, TX, Immigration Database: http://www.tsm-elissa.org/immigration-main.htm

Various information from Henry County, IL: http://www.iltrails.org/henry/index.html

Index of names in Columbia Cemetery, Boulder, CO (many Swedish names):
http://www.rootsweb.com/~bgs/columbia_intro.html

Scandinavian emigration before 1869: http://www.horlacher.org/genarticles/scandem.htm

Index to Ernst Skarstedt’s book about California and the Swedes there (1910):
http://sfhs.eget.net/lookup_sv_in_cal2.html


Several transcriptions of records from Chisago County, MN:
http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mn/chisago/chisago.html

Finding Your Swedish Roots: http://www.genealogi.se/roots/

The Swedish National Archives and their branches: http://www.ra.se

The Swedish Emigrant Institute: http://www.swemi.nu/eng/

Emigrantregistret/The Kinship Center (Karlstad): http://www.emigrantregistret.s.se/

Swedish Church records online: http://www.genline.com


House of Migrants (Alfta): http://www.migranternas-hus.x.se/everksamhet.html

Research Center of Kyrkhult: http://www.arkivcentrum.nu/forskaeng.htm

Images of Swedish Heritage: http://www.raa.se/kmb/indexe.asp

Swedish Prime Ministers in History (English link at bottom): http://members.chello.se/dier

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

I, Amanda, by M. Johnson Hopkins, 1stBooks, 2003, 129 pp., paperback. Fiction, but based on the life of the Author’s grandmother who left Sweden in 1883. The people, places and events are real but this is a fictional account of the life of a Swedish girl’s journey to America to settle in Nebraska.

America’s Backdoor, by Vernon Alfred Holmes, Ivyhouse Publishing Group, Raleigh, NC, 2003, 195 pp., hardcover, $21.95 Similar in genre to the above book, this is the fictional account of the author’s grandfather, Erick Alfred Holm. Erick left Sweden with his family in 1886 to settle in Chicago. Based on real events, the book includes the author’s family tree, and family photographs.

In the Swedish-American Historical Quarterly 4/2003 there is a long and interesting article by Roger McKnight about a murder at Kansas Lake, Watonwan County, Minnesota in 1872. The background of the victim, Lars Johnson (Lars Fredrik Johannesson) and the entire neighborhood is discussed, and one waits eagerly for the second part of the story, which will come in the January issue.
Guidelines for
Swedish American Genealogist writers

Articles
Articles should be of general interest and well documented.
Articles can be submitted typewritten on paper or by e-mail (or by diskette), in a Windows-format.
Do not indent or use tabs, leave an empty line between paragraphs.
Do not use abbreviations, all capital letters, or underlining.
Manuscripts should be furnished with subheadings, otherwise the editor will add them.
Length between 1,000 and 3,500 words, including endnotes.
In dates, the name of the month should always be given in full (November, March)
Author's identity: Name, address, and e-mail should be stated on the manuscript.

Documentation
Documentation should be done by endnotes. You should state if you worked with church records or not.

Dates from other records than church records should be explained in endnotes.

Photos or other graphics
Photos and graphics should be scanned in 300 dpi and saved as TIF-files. They should be accompanied by accurate captions.

Ahnentafels
Numbering: The usual style is followed: the starting person is #1, his father #2, mother #3, paternal grandfather #4, paternal grandmother #5, maternal grandfather #6, and maternal grandmother #7, and so on in consecutive generations.
Names are normalized according to modern Swedish spellings; Kerstin (not Cherstin, Kierstin), Per (not Pehr, Pär, Peer), Arvid (not Arffue, Arfwid).
Place names are normalized according to modern Swedish spellings: Vetlanda (not Hvetlanda), Gränna (not Grenna).
Data provided by other researchers should be acknowledged.
Years of birth, that have been calculated by help of death records or otherwise, should be explained in endnotes.

Something very obvious
Only write facts that you are certain are correct. Do not guess about relationships. Be content with the facts you can prove.

In general
Swedish American Genealogist reserves the right to edit all articles according to space limitations and style; however, you will receive a copy of the edited manuscript before publication for your approval. Swedish American Genealogist does not accept articles and book reviews already published or under consideration by other publications, unless more than 100 years old.
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.

Nilsson, Nelson, Björk

My grandfather, Carl Johansson, lived in a little croft in the northern part of Skåne. The name of the croft was “Lilla Ryd” in Villands Vånga parish, on the lands of Mjönäs manor, owned then by Baron von Düben.

My grandfather’s uncle, Carl Nilsson, born 30 November 1829 in Villands Vånga, emigrated 5 May 1857 from Vä (Skån.) to Denmark, and is supposed to have continued on to America.

Nobody ever heard from him again. We have not been able to find any authority who has any records about him in America. We have been searching for him for 60 years, please help, if you can.

Two of his cousins, Sissa, born in 1834, and Karl, born in 1828, left Sweden for Chicago in 1867, and it is not unlikely that they joined their cousin in the U.S.

Carl Nilsson might have changed his surname to Nelson, or started to use the name Björk, which can be found in earlier generations of his family.

Nils Johansson, Stallvägen 57, S-269 38 Båstad, Sweden. E-mail: <mats.johansson@right.com>

The Question Chest

The Question Chest is a new department in SAG, and the idea is that you, dear SAG reader, will send in your questions about anything BUT your ancestors to this page.

Questions can be like, a “spiksmed – what did he do?” Where are “The Allmänna Barnhuset” (orphanage) records kept? “What did it cost to buy a cow in 1850? How much did a hired farmhand receive in wages in 1882? How did my grandfather’s mother get to Göteborg in 1877? What is a “huldra?” What is a nameday?

We will try to get good answers to these questions, and will try get them together as fast as possible, but if it is a complicated matter, it might take some time.

Write or e-mail to the SAG editor, Elisabeth Thorsell, Hästskovägen 45, S-177 39 Järfälla, Sweden.

E-mail: <sag@etgenealogy.se>

Search DISBYYT

Find Swedish Ancestors and Genealogists

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

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


DIS Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden

A non-profit organization founded in 1980.
Now 19700 members.

www.dis.se

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:1 31
The Last Page

Welcome to The Last Page!

This is where you will find comments on SAG, genealogy in Sweden and the U.S. and some deep reflections by the editor, maybe.

The editor? Who is that? That is me, Elisabeth Thorsell, who lives in Järfalla, just outside Stockholm in Sweden.

As a child I remember the mysterious parcels that came in the mail from someone in the U.S., filled with interesting, different things, maybe even candy or chocolates. My father had been visiting the cousins in the U.S. in 1946, and kept writing to them for years. My own interest in them grew as well as my interest in genealogy, and in 1978 I started to work with Swedish-Americans, helping them to find their roots in Sweden and sometimes their living relatives. In the early 1980s I made the acquaintance of a nice elderly gentleman, Nils William Olsson, on one of his many visits to Sweden. At the same time I was involved in the start of the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (Sveriges Släktforskarförbund), where I was the Secretary for years. I left that job to have more time for being editor of the "Släkthistoriskt Forum", the Federation journal, a position I kept for nine years, up to 2002.

In 1989 I made my first trip to the U.S. First a couple of days in St. Paul and the N.G.S Conference, then a first visit to those cousins in Duluth and Upper Michigan. This trip has since been followed by many more, and since 1992 the yearly week in Salt Lake City with the SAG workshop is a must, the peak of the year!

My husband Bengt, retired from Handelsbanken, and I have three sons, and three grandchildren, and all of them are, of course, the most excellent youngsters there are!

I hope my experience both of Swedish genealogy and of being editor to a genealogical journal will help to make SAG even better and more interesting.

Elisabeth Thorsell

The Book Review Editor

Book Review Editor Dennis L. Johnson grew up in Minnesota, great grandson of a Pioneer family who came to Bernadotte, MN, from Dalsland, Sweden, in 1866. Three other grandparents also came from Sweden in the 1880's. He attended the University of Minnesota, the University of Pennsylvania, and has been an Architect and City Planner in Philadelphia since 1961. He and his wife LaVonne have been active members of the American Swedish Historical Museum for many years. In 1995, Johnson founded the Genealogy Club at the ASHM, and has researched many generations of his Swedish ancestors. In 2003, he and LaVonne were jointly given the Amandus Johnson award for voluntary service at the ASHM. Now retired, they divide their time between Limerick, PA, near Philadelphia, and "Myggebacke" near Deer River, MN, where they have a lake home designed by Johnson. They have five children and ten grandchildren.

Dennis Johnson may be reached at <j2vikings@att.net>

Editor's note: In a SAG article years ago I noticed familiar names in Dalsland, and concluded that the author, Dennis L. Johnson (whom I did not know then), and I were 5th half-cousins. He is descended from the klockare Anders Persson's in Gestad son Per, born 1790, from the first marriage, and I from the son Anders, born 1809, in the second marriage. Anders was my farfars morfar. Which goes to show that Sweden is a small place!
### 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>Värmland</td>
<td>Värhm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halland</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Väbo.</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>Dalarna*</td>
<td>Dlrn.</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td>Södermanland</td>
<td>Söd.</td>
<td>Södm.</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotland</td>
<td>Gotl.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
<td>Uppsala</td>
<td>Upps.</td>
<td>Upps.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gävleborg</td>
<td>Gävl.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Värmland</td>
<td>Värm.</td>
<td>Vrm.</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halland</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Vbn.</td>
<td>Vbn.</td>
<td>AC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmar</td>
<td>Kalm.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
<td>Västra Götalandc</td>
<td>Vgöt.</td>
<td>Vg.</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kronoberg</td>
<td>Kron.</td>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
<td>Örebro</td>
<td>Öre.</td>
<td>Öreb.</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrbotten</td>
<td>Nbrtn.</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>Ög.</td>
<td>Östg.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skåneb</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>Ög.</td>
<td>Östg.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

The Provinces (landskap)

Sweden 2004