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The Last Page

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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 Järfälla, 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



Dennis and LaVonne Johnson and their Norwegian Elkhound Njord.

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!