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In Memoriam – Phyllis J. Pladsen

Phyllis J. Pladsen, 71, of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, passed away at her home on April 11, 2004, and will be missed by her family and many, many friends both in the U.S. and in Sweden.

Phyllis was devoted to searching for her Swedish roots, and while doing so learnt a lot about Swedish genealogy, and how to do it. She became known for her knowledge and helped many fellow Minnesotans to find their roots in Sweden, both by teaching classes at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis and by freely giving advice.

Phyllis was cofounder and president of the *Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota*, which grew in numbers during her years. She also was associate editor of the society's newsletter *Tidningen*, which is even to be

found in some libraries in Sweden.

My own contacts with Phyllis started in 1989, at the NGS Conference in St. Paul, and then we kept in contact, lately more often as e-mail made life easier. I also remember some good meetings with her and her society members at her home. A few years ago she also came to the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City, but health problems kept her from coming again. Last spring she invited me and my husband for an evening meal during our visit to Minnesota and Wisconsin. It was a good evening and we had many things to discuss. We had hoped to see her and Warren in our home some day, but that is not to be.

In cooperation with Joseph C. Huber, Phyllis compiled the "Swedish Genealogical Dictionary", now in its 4th edition, which has been a big help to many genealogists. Her

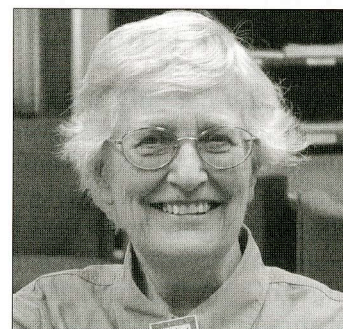
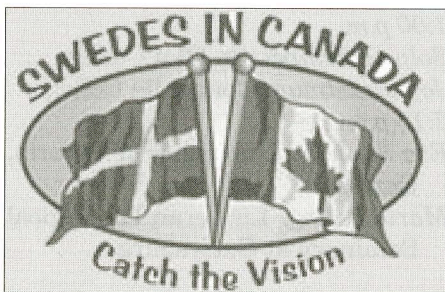


children will continue to sell the Dictionary, see the SAG Web site page (p.30).

Donations in her memory can be made to "Friends of ASI Archives and Library," 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Elisabeth Thorsell

The Swedes in Canada – a worthwhile project



The Swedes in Canada project, which was first mentioned in SAG 2002:1 is progressing according to plan.

The researcher, *Elinor Barr*, has recently spent time at the Swenson Center in Rock Island to find data in their rich collections about the elusive Swedes. During the summer she is visiting Sweden and doing research at the National Archives (*Riksarkivet*), The Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, and the Provincial archives at Lund and Göteborg.

The project has now been going on

for a couple of years and much material has been collected, but Elinor Barr suspects that much more might be hidden in private homes. She is interested in letters, diaries, obituaries, etc, anything that gives an insight into the lives of the Swedes and how they experienced life in a new land.

More information can be found on the web site of the project:

<http://www.swedesincanada.ca/>

There is also a newsletter that informs on the progress of research

and also mentions some of the finds during the research.

Elinor Barr regrets that she is unable to assist people looking for lost relatives in Canada.

The project leader can be reached at

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