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Bits & Pieces

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Bits & Pieces

Swedish American of the Year: Lars Lerup

Every year the two District Lodges in Sweden of the Vasa Order of America. after consultation with the Swedish Foreign Office, elects the Swedish American of the Year. This year Professor Lars Lerup of Houston, Texas, has been elected. Dr. Lerup was born 1940 in Växjö, Sweden, and is an architect and since 1993 Dean of Rice School of Architecture at Rice University in Houston. In 2002 he received an Honorary Doctorship from Lund University in Sweden and has been working on improving the contacts between the Lund Technical College and NASA in Houston, as regards industrial design. Dr. Lerup will probably take part in some of the Swedish American festivities in Sweden during the summer. (The Bridge 2004:1)

Summer Events in Sweden

- June 24 Bishop Hill Day, Biskopskulla
- July 18 Öland-Amerika Day, Runsten
- July 24, John Ericsson Day, Filipstad
- Aug.1 Sweden-America Day, Kalmar

Aug. 8 The Minnesota Day, Växjö

The Göteborg Emigrant Museum

Plans were made to open an Emigrant Museum in Göteborg this summer, but so far it has not materialized.

Swede Finn researcher on the Pacific

Swede Finn researcher *K.G. Olin* of Jakobstad, Finland, is a prolific writer on the old Swedish-speaking Finlanders and their emigrations. He has so far written 11 books about them, starting with their contributions at New Sweden in Delaware in 1630s onwards. He has written about the period when Alaska belonged to Russia, but was ruled by Finlanders, and much more.

Recently he has started to research the Swede Finns and Finns that ended up in the Coos Bay area of Oregon, starting with a shipwrecked crew in the 1840s. (GenealogyBlog May 20, 2004).

Stockholm City Archives to open again

The Stockholms Stadsarkiv (City Archives) has been closed for rebuilding for about two years. The new facilities were to open again last November, but just a week before they found mold in the offices. So they have spent all winter and spring getting rid of that, and will now open again on 28 June, if everything goes as planned.



New Emigrant CD may be out by New Year

The Sveriges Släktforskarförbund (Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies) and the Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö, have recently signed an agreement on working together to make the database Emibas available to the public.

Emibas is a long-time project where volunteers all over Sweden have combined efforts and excerpted emigrants from the clerical surveys and removal records of many parishes. Then they have computerized the data and sent them to Växjö, where they have been added to the main database. This one covers about 1.3 million individuals.

The best thing about *Emibas* is that it is usually possible to search for a person by parish of birth or date of birth, something that is impossible with the Passenger lists database *Emihamn*, on the CD *Emigranten*.

The partners in the project hope that the first version will be ready by 1 January 2005.

A New Index to Some Old Books

A student at Augustana College, but also working for the Swenson Center, *Kate Saul*, has been doing an Index to the following four books:

- Svenskarne i Illinois by Eric Peterson and C.F. Peterson (1880)
- The Swedish Element in Rockford, by O.M. Nelson (1940)
- Swedish Settlements in Iowa and Western Illinois, by O.M. Nelson (1938)
- The Swedish Blue Book of Chicago 1927, by the Swedish-American Publishing Company (1927).

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The link is on the Web site page, p.30.