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Genealogical Queries

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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.

Grill, Davis, Walker, Ogren

My great-grandmother, Nellie Louisa Grill, daughter of Nils and Hannah Green Grill (pronounced Greeley), was born in Sweden on October 5, 1858. In 1872 at the age of fourteen, she immigrated to New Sweden, Maine. The only information my family has is that she may have been from the northern part of Sweden, come with a family as a child care provider and that she was running away from her stepmother. In 1878, she married William Henry Davis in the Hammond Street Baptist Church in Bangor, Maine. They had two children: Llewellyn M., born in New Sweden, and a daughter, Louisa Berniece, my grandmother, born in Brewer, Maine. William Henry, who went by Henry, was a sailor who fell overboard on a trip to Boston, Massachusetts, and died in 1890. In 1892, Nellie married Frank Walker and moved to the Walker Farm in Garland, Maine. She died in 1898 and is buried in East Bradford, Maine.

Nellie may have had relatives who arrived in New Sweden in 1871. In 1977, while my family was visiting in Sweden, I did some research in the Malmö Archives. I found Nils and Margareta Grill who immigrated to New Sweden, Maine, in 1871, listed in the church records of the New Sweden Baptist Church. My father, who was born in 1898, had spoken of visiting Uncle Nils's farm but did not have any other memories. Nils and Margareta did have a farm in Perham, Maine, the town next to New Sweden. They had two children: Hannah, born in Sweden in 1871, and Nils, Jr., who was born in 1872, in New Sweden. Nils Jr., ran the farm after his parents died and was also known as a gifted jeweler. They are buried in the New Sweden Cemetery along with Nils Jr.'s wife, Louise Ogren of Caribou, Maine.

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New and Noteworthy

(short notes on interesting books and articles)

Finding Answers in U.S. Census Records, Loretta Dennis Szucs & Matthew Wright, 2002, MyFamily.com, Inc., Orem, Utah, soft cover, 163 pages, \$16.95. A guide to U.S. Census records, with general information about the census, tips for using each census from 1790 through 1930, Census Indexes and Finding aids, and information on various supplemental schedules and special censuses. A very useful reference for those unfamiliar with research using U.S. census information.

The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*) publishes every year a Yearbook (***Släktforskarnas Årsbok***) with very varied contents; family histories, court cases, transcribed lists of released soldiers, Middle Age genealogy, craftsmen's families, and much more. The articles can be very long or just a few pages but are all in Swedish. In the 2004 issue there is an interesting article called *Svenska arméofficerare i blått*, by Per Iko, MA, major. In this article the author tells about a number of Swedish army officers who obtained leaves of absence to seek positions in the Union army. Their number seems to have been about 20 and most of them that survived, returned to Sweden.

The October 2004 issue of **Family Tree Magazine** has a very nice article by David A. Fryxell about how to break through brick walls, and as the author also has Swedish roots, some of his tips refer to problems with the patronymics of Sweden.

Tidningen, Summer 2004 (Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota) has a long article about the Church of Sweden by John von Walter. In this he starts way back in Viking times and progresses through the Reformation and, in this issue, ends with the conflict between king Sigismund and his uncle, Duke Carl, in the late 1500s and the consequences for the country, when the clergymen met in Uppsala in 1593.