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Swedish American Genealogist

*A journal devoted to Swedish American
biography, genealogy, and personal history*



Swedish American Genealogist



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Swedish American Genealogist

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Cover picture:

The Stockholm Castle, called Three Crowns, with a view towards the city. To the left the spires of Jacob church, and to the right St. Nicholas church (*Storkyrkan*). From the *Suecia Antiqua*, engraving by Jean Marot on commission from Erik Dahlbergh, dated before 1667. *See article on p. 20.*

The Lindblom Letters. Part 2.

The story of an immigrant family in Iowa, continued from SAG 2016/1

TRANSLATED BY PASTOR ROYAL F. PETERSON

SUBMITTED BY CAROL FEJFAR

E-mail: <cfejfar@mchsi.com>

The seventh letter

Davenport, December 10th, 1882

Your letter, my beloved children, of November 20th, we received on the 6th of this month, in which we see how the merciful God gives you health, which brought us gladness. And we also thank God for the same divine gift. I want to tell you that Anna was here this morning so she could read your letter.

We talked about how we should work it out so that we could have you with us. We wondered if we should send you a ticket, if you could scrape together enough money so that one of you could make the trip. It would be so pleasant both for you and for us if we could live together. I know very well that you have it nice where you are, but you could earn more money (here) if you were in America.

Anna has already earned for herself more than one hundred crowns; and if you think about it, if I could lay aside as much it would be well. But I have to pay for Otto and Oscar. That takes around fifty or sixty crowns a year. And then I must buy clothes for them. That is another expense. And you would not have any outlay such as this, so it seems to me that you would do better, besides the fact that you are younger. You need not suppose that you will be here forever. You could travel back to Sweden after a few years. But consider how it would be if you could not do that, then we would never see each other again. But I hope that you would never regret your travel, you that are so young. What you plan in

this regard should be done before you have a family.

Here are two Swedish shoemakers who have their families in Sweden. They earn 10 dollars a week. Think what money they could send home when a dollar becomes almost 4.50 (in Swedish money). But in the beginning one gets dishearted, before learning the (English) language, but you do not have to do that as you will have your home with me and all your siblings. Anna was a bit homesick first she came, but not anymore.

As you do not have fiancées, then you have nobody to long for, and you Emil can have Selma for your fiancée, she is not married yet, and she talks a lot about you. But if you listen to my advice there is no hurry with those matters. I saw in your letter, my dear Emil, that you had been disappointed in Tina, but that could turn out to be a good thing.

Thus my dear children our dearest wish is that you should come to us, but you should come here early in the springtime, the earlier the better, then you are certain of getting jobs in the summer, and then you would earn a nice sum of money during the summer.

We could see about sending you a ticket so you could come in February. Now you answer me right away on this letter.

It was good that you received Mother's picture. I thought that sending them that way was best, as a letter would be too heavy. Now I might mention that Adolf and Hjalmar are here with a couple of Swedish farmers. They are not far from each other, but they are ten English

miles from us, but they have it good enough there. I should mention that Oscar can't speak any (English) yet, but Otto can speak English, and he goes to school.

Now I must close writing for this time, with hearty greetings from all of us, both big and small.

Your affectionate father,
C. W. Lindblom

And my dear boys, what a great happiness it would be if it could possibly come to pass that we may meet again. I will not have any peace until you come here, as I have not forgotten my only support, namely, my wife and your mother. But I must thank God that I have not done as Andersson in Hydinge, it has been so sad and lonely sometimes, you would not believe. Now adieu for this time, my beloved children. God be with you and all of us.

Let Johan read this letter too.

The eighth letter

Davenport, Feb. 25, 1883

Beloved Emil and John, may you both be well.

I shall try to write a short letter and let you know that I received a letter from Stockholm eight days after I received your letter. Now I can tell you that I have an extremely nice sum of money from my brother-in-law. He writes to me that Thilda had 14,000 kronor in cash, as well as her loose possessions that he thinks to give to me, as he likes. He has offered to give me only 5,000 kronor, and wants to keep the rest for himself.

This is good for us to have, but I was not satisfied with his proposal. I have to leave this in the hands of the law, as I should be entitled to at least half of her money in cash. If the loose possessions were to be used to pay the debts, this will anyhow not be just half of the estate.

[text missing for two lines]

... in the case you Emil have my will, which I think I remember giving to you. In this it is stated that I and my mother and Thilda's husband each were to have a third of Thilda's estate. As my mother now also is dead, it may happen that the will is understood as if I was to have two thirds and my brother-in-law one third. Thilda never told her husband that I had this will. Now I have written today to him that I am not satisfied with his offer, and that I will send you a power of attorney to guard my rights. As soon as you have received this letter you will write immediately to my brother-in-law and ask which day you can come to him to guard the probate.

Now, when you get to my brother-in-law, ask to talk to the trustee, who has been chosen to guard my rights. To him you should show the will and ask to be permitted to check the list of property, if there is any value there. Now when you have examined all the papers, ask if you cannot take care of the cash sum that will come

on my part, and after having excluded the sum necessary for your needs during the travel here, then you leave the rest in a bank in Stockholm, under the condition that they give you a receipt, or as they call it here in America, a draft, that we can cash at the National(?) bank here in Davenport. Then we are sure they (the money) are not lost during the journey. Then you are to start your journey here as soon as possible. But now, my dear Emil, it is necessary that you be on guard and not let yourself be duped, because then I will be in big trouble.

Perhaps it does not hurt if you let my trustee speak in Stockholm.

Then you will find out how soon I will get information about the other valuables, as from the loose possessions but my brother-in-law or my trustee will probably inform me. It may take some time to untangle all the personal estate.

Yes, now, my dear Emil, you know very well how this business stands. I must close for this time with a tender and dear greeting from us all, both large and small. Signed by your loving Father.

C. W. Lindblom

(Thilda [Auntie] was Carl Victor's sister; she was born 18 September 1841 in Tjärstad. See note 5 in SAG 2016/1).

The ninth letter

Davenport, March 27th, 1883

I received today your letter of the 6th of this month, which I will answer in great haste, in case it reaches you before your journey. It is so distressing, my dearest Emil, that there are so many obstacles in the way of your travel. Has there become such a shortage of laborers now in Sweden that you cannot leave? Well, that matter I do not think is the problem, and then regarding money you must already have got that which Andersson owed you. Can you give the rifles to Svärd in Svängen, so he can get payment for what Anna owed him?

You write, dear Emil, that you have enough heart for us; then why don't you have some heart for your brother Johan also? But you want to let him travel alone such a long way. You are the only one that I could have some support from during my old age.

You should greet Anderson that he need not be displeased that you want to travel to us, and it is fitting that you travel together.

Now I am not going to write much about that matter, as this letter may not reach you while you are still at home.

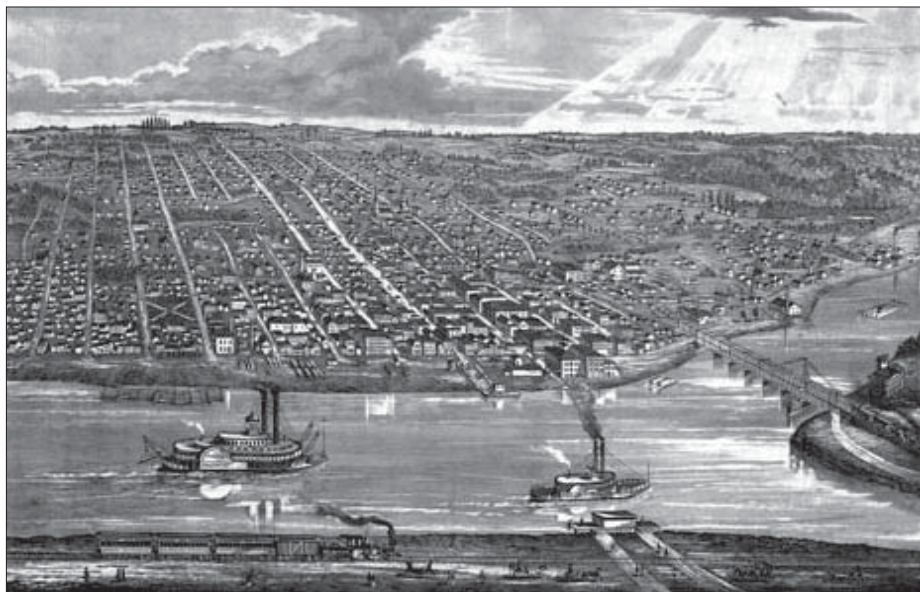
If you get this letter, there is a Swedish shoemaker who wants you to bring two or three good stones(?) to sharpen knives on, and you can also bring some tools.

I close this time as I believe that you have made your plans long ago, and maybe already are travelling.

Thus I will just wish you a happy journey.

Your affectionate Father

BUT: the poor worrying father did not know that in a few weeks he would be gone too, and his children become orphans. Luckily the oldest were just grown up and could take care of the youngest, but still...



Davenport, Iowa, in 1875.

DEATH FROM ACCIDENT.

At his home on Hook Island Street, between Third and Fourth Streets, at 6½ o'clock Sunday evening, died Carl V. Linblom, from the effects of an injury received in the forenoon of Tuesday, the 22d inst. The deceased was a teamster for Charles Lindwald, dealer in kindling wood, and was engaged on the Tuesday named in loading his wagon at a wood chute at Renwicks, Shaw & Crossett's mill—standing on the step of one side of his vehicle placing pieces of board to hold the load—when a slab came down the chute at a rapid rate and one end of it struck him in the abdomen, just below the navel. He thought little of the matter at the time, as the pain caused at first died away. But in the course of a couple of hours he became so ill that he was obliged to go home and take to his bed. Dr. J. W. H. Baker was called next day, and found it very evident that the injury was an internal one of a very dangerous character. The organs of the stomach seemed incapable of performing their functions, inflammation set in of a kind that foretold death, and the end came as above stated.

The deceased came to Davenport from Sweden about two years ago, with wife and eight children, and went to work as a laborer until he found employment with Mr. Lindwald, a teamster. His wife died in a year, and now the children are bereft of their father. Fortunately all the children but three are of an age and size to care for themselves so far as earning a living is concerned. Mr. Lindwald was 48 years of age. His funeral occurs this afternoon.

Davenport Democrat 23 May 1883. (Copy from microfilm.)

Transcribed text of the obituary

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(Courtesy of the Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center / klr, Davenport Public Library, 321 Main Street, Davenport, IA 52801.)

What happened to the children?

In the 1885 Iowa State Census the small boys Otto and Oscar are living in Davenport with a Danish family, Peter Danielsen and his wife Johanna (Iowa State Census 1885, Scott Co, Davenport, page 421).

A family story also tells that *Otto* for a time lived with his sister Anna, and he is recorded in her family in Burt Co., NE, in the 1900 Census.

Oscar lived with several families until he was grown up. In the 1900 Census he is recorded as a farmhand in the family of his future wife, Flossie Hill, in Greeley, Audubon Co., IA.

The older siblings seems to have managed fairly well, and soon married and started their own families.

1) Carl Emil (called *Emil*) was the oldest, born 4 Sep. 1859 in Sankt Lars (Östg.) stayed in Sweden, and became a shoemaker. He died 9 Apr. 1947 in Harmånger (Gävl). He was married on 28 Nov. 1884 to *Matilda* Charlotta Andersdotter, born 9 Feb. 1864 in Sya (Östg.), died 31 Aug. 1941 in Rogsta (Gävl.).

2) Anders Johan (*Andrew J.*), born 10 Nov. 1861 in Rystad (Östg.). He worked as a millwright in Rock Island, but lived in Davenport. He died on 4 Mar. 1944 in Davenport. He married on 15 Nov. 1884 to *Mathilda* G. Samuelson, born 17 Sep. 1861, who died 17 Apr. 1925.

3) *Anna* Lovisa, born 26 Mar. 1864 in Rystad, died 27 Nov. 1941 in Oakland, NE. She married 21 Feb. 1884 to *Frederick* Peterson, born in 1844 in Sweden, died in 1926. He and his wife farmed in the Oakland, Burt Co., NE area.

4) *Gustaf* Adolf, born 12 Apr. 1867 in Östra Harg (Östg.). He worked as a street car operator in Rock Island, IL. He died on 22 Feb. 1936 in Rock Island. On 12 Apr. 1899 he married *Thilda* Larson, born 1865 in Sweden.

5) *August* Hjalmar, born 12 Apr. 1870 in Östra Harg. He was adopted as a young child by a family named *Bischoff*. He worked as a farm manager in Moline, Rock Island Co., IL. He died in 1939 and is buried in Moline. He married *Anna* Swanson, who was born around 1868 in Sweden, and died in 1950.

6) *Elin* Josephina, born 7 Jan. 1873 in Vånga, (Östg.). She died 12 Jan. 1955. On 2 Aug. 1894 she married *William R. Bohman*, born 25 May 1873.

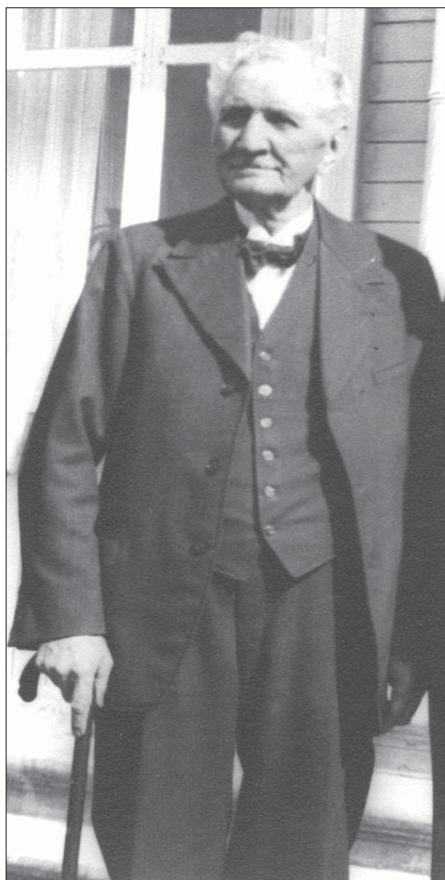
7) *Selma* Augusta, born 26 May 1875 in Västra Harg (Östg.), died the same day.

8) *Otto* Leonard, born 28 June 1876 in Västra Harg, died 25 Jul. 1950 in Lyons, Burt Co, NE. He was a farmer in Burt Co. NE. He married 27 Feb. 1907 to *Dorothy Lydia (Dora)* Lindgren, born 27 Feb. 1885 in Minnesota.

9) *Oscar Leander*, born 28 Nov. 1878 in Västra Harg, and died 27 Dec. 1967 in Atlantic, Cass Co, IA. He worked on farms, but later changed to carpenter and house painter. On 8 Mar. 1906 he married in Anita, Cass Co, IA, to *Flossie Hill*, born 28 Nov. 1887, died 28 Jan. 1984.



Anna Lindblom Peterson, her husband Fredrick Peterson and their children, Elin and Albin.



Emil Lindblom, the brother that stayed in Sweden. His descendants are keeping in contact with their American family.



The five American Lindblom brothers. From left: Oscar, Otto, August, Gustaf, and Andrew.

A Little Poem and History on the Grandest and Oldest Family on Earth Today

by
August Lindblom-Bischoff

The Lindblom Family, which
once were nine,

Selma passed away, leaving us
eight behind.

Emil was oldest and the first
to appear,

Is living in Sweden and the rest
are here.

John has retired and is staying
with his boy,

Made his money at shoe mak-
ing which he now can enjoy.

Anna lives in Oakland and has
a nice farm nearby,

A nicer widow you could not
find, no matter how hard you try.

Gustaf is now retired and has
a beautiful home,

Lives in Rock Island and has
money to loan.

August has an orchard and a
garden spot, too,

With a cow and some chickens,
he has all he can do.

Ellen lives in Rock Island and
has an elegant home,

And has very fine furniture in
every room.

Otto farms in Nebraska and is
very well known,

And has in Wisconsin a farm
of his own.

Oscar has at farming his mon-
ey made,

And also at working at the car-
penter trade.

Our parents passed away when
we were small,

Leaving us stranded, with no
thing at all.

Now we own our homes and
have money to let,

What more can you from Us
Orphans Expect?

Some new information on Oliver Wendell Holmes

Just after the publishing of SAG 2016/1 *Susan Dalhed* of Eagan, MN, sent the following information:

"I enjoyed the article on Oliver Wendell Holmes in the most recent issue of SAG.

"You may not remember, but I have been researching the two "Ben Benson families" in Houston County for many years. I am related to both of them (one directly; one through marriage). So, Oliver is hanging off a branch of my tree.

"For genealogical purposes, it might be helpful to know that Henry and Charlotte (Benson) Holmes had no biological children.

"Oliver Wendell Holmes was their adopted son. His birth information is correct. He was born 2 February 1902 in Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota at the Women's Christian Home to a woman of German descent named Bertha Stechmann. There is no other identifying information about his mother. His father is not named on the birth certificate."

Later Susan Dalhed added this information:

"My great aunt (my grandmother's sister) was Ella Vanda (Benson) Benson. Ella's husband, Charles Benson, was Charlotte Holmes's brother. So, Oliver Wendell Holmes was Ella's nephew. Ella is the one who told me Oliver was adopted during one of our genealogy discussions. The note in my file says the information is from a conversation in 1985. Apparently Oliver's adoption was common knowledge among my relatives and never treated as a secret. Oliver was well loved and accepted in the family. And, he had great affection for the Swedish community in which he grew up.

"Attached is a picture of the Oliver Wendell Holmes birth record. I found it in the Minnesota Historical Society Birth Certificate Index, which led to the actual record. The record was not sealed, as adoption records sometimes are, and was available as a public record. The

record number for the certificate is 1902-MN-36781. It shows Oliver was the illegitimate son of Bertha Stechmann (of German descent) and was born at the Women's Christian Home in St. Paul.

"Oliver's adoptive name was added by affidavit to the birth certificate in 1935 or 1936 by Oliver W. Holmes himself (according to a note on the back of the certificate). This probably happened when Oliver went looking for his birth certificate so that he could apply for a Social Security number. Another family member believes he needed a copy of his birth certificate in order to apply for a passport. He traveled extensively during his life, so this explanation is also making sense".

Ed's note: The only Bertha Stechmann found on Ancestry was born 1872 in Germany, and came in Sep. 1900 from Bremen, Germany, to Baltimore, MD, and was going to Pennsylvania.

8818-5-9-35-1034

PLACE OF BIRTH INDEXED

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Division of Vital Statistics

CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

1902

1. County of Ramsey

2. Full Name of Child (Baby Boy Stechmann) Oliver W. Holmes

3. Sex Male

4. Twin, triplet, or other

5. Number, in order of birth

6. Premature

7. Legitimate

8. Date of birth February 2, 1902

9. Full name of Father

10. Residence (usual place of abode)

11. Color or race

12. Age at last birthday

13. Birthplace (city or place)

14. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as farmer, bookkeeper, etc.

15. Industry or business in which work was done, as factory, office, bank, etc.

16. Full maiden name of Mother Bertha Stechmann

17. Residence (usual place of abode)

18. Color or race W

19. Age at last birthday

20. Birthplace (city or place) "German"

21. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as housekeeper, typist, nurse, clerk, etc.

22. Industry or business in which work was done, as own home, lawyer's office, factory, etc.

23. Number of children of this mother (a) Born alive and now living (b) Born alive but now dead (c) Stillborn

24. If stillborn, period of gestation

25. Cause of stillbirth

26. Was 1% silver nitrate used to prevent infant blindness? Yes No

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child who was (Born Alive or Born Dead) nt M., on the date above stated, and that the above facts, as given are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

(Signature) Harry P. Ritchie

PHYSICIAN, MIDWIFE, PARENT OR INFORMANT

Date JAN 18 1936

Address 7-35

BUREAU OF HEALTH

19. Nationality stated as German on Women's Christian Home record now in custody of State Board of Control.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR ENDING

WRITTEN SEPARATELY, WITH UNFADING INK--THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

IN CASE OF MORE THAN ONE CHILD, A SEPARATE RETURN MUST BE MADE OF EACH, AND THE NUMBER OF EACH, IN ORDER OF BIRTH STATED.

A place to visit in Sweden: The Trelleborg

During a recent visit to Trelleborg in Skåne, on the southernmost tip of the province, one day we visited the Trelleborg Viking Museum, which we found very interesting for anyone who likes to learn about the Vikings.

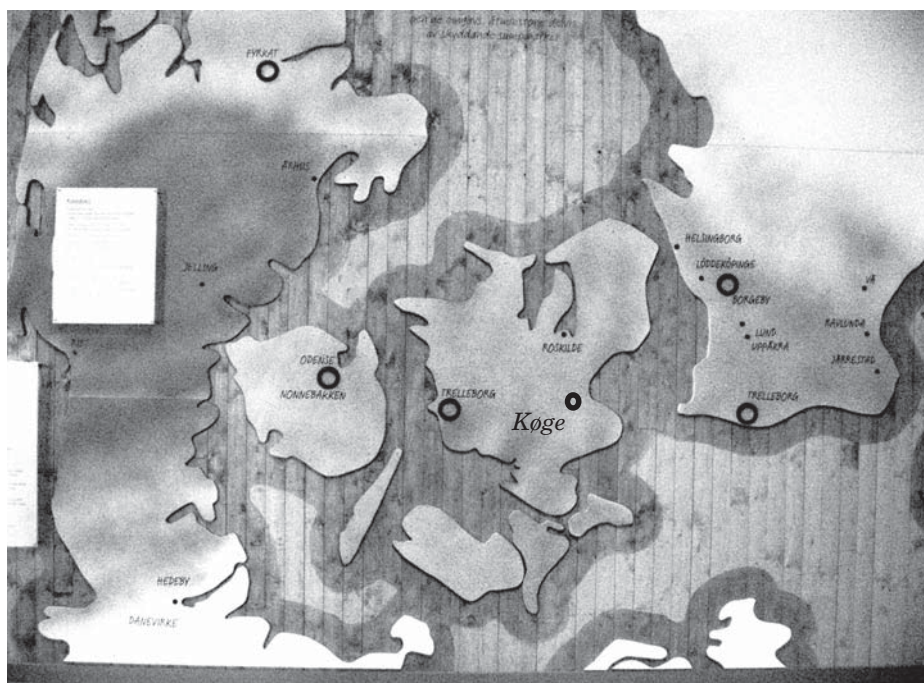
The city is named for the giant Viking fortress Trelleborg, which had namesakes in many other places in then Denmark (Skåne did not become Swedish until the Peace of Roskilde in 1658). There are at least five known ones, and possibly some more that have not yet been found and excavated.

A “trelleborg” was a round open space of roughly a diameter of about 125 meters (410 feet), or larger. It had a high wall made of earth and sod, and was strengthened by high wooden poles. Those were called *trällor*, which explains the name. Outside there was a shallow ditch. There were usually 4 entrances in the four directions, guarded by portcullises. The fortresses are always close to a waterway.

The oldest are dated to the 700s, but most of them were built during 980s by command of *King Harald Bluetooth*, a very powerful ruler. On his memorial stone at Jelling it says “he made the Danes Christians.” He is also supposed to be the one that introduced taxation in his realm, for which he needed many soldiers and clerks to collect the taxes, and also easily defended places to keep the “income.”

Inside the “trelleborg” the garrison lived in thatched wooden houses, built in a square. They also had cookhouses, forges, and other necessary buildings.

The “trelleborg,” in Trelleborg was found in 1988 when the city expropriated an old block in the town. It was excavated in 1988–1991. The fortress was, when it was built, around 200 meters from the shore of the Baltic, but nearby was a lagoon, that made it possible for Viking ships to anchor by the “trelleborg.” A quarter of the old fortress has been recon-



Map showing the Danish trelleborgs. Now a new one has been found close to Køge on Sjælland. The two now Swedish ones are Borgeby and Trelleborg.

structed and is now a nice museum.

The new “ringborg” in Denmark

In 2014 Danish archeologist Søren Sindbæk of Aarhus University and *museumsinspektør* Nanna Holm of the Danish “Borgcenter” found the 5th known “ringborg” [a term preferred by the Danes] in Denmark, west of the city of Køge and is called *Vallø Borgring*. It has not yet been excavated, except for some very preliminary digs.

The Danish “ringborgs” were placed about a day’s march from each other, and this indicated that there was a fortress missing in eastern Sjælland. The newly found one had a strategic location where the major roads from Ringsted and Roskilde met. By using modern technology, laser measuring etc, it was found that the archeologists’ assumptions were correct, which was proved by the first research dig.

(Source: Wikipedia)

Elisabeth Thorsell



Models of the houses.



Entrance with portcullis.

News from the Swenson Center

Collection Feature – John Ericsson Republican League of Illinois records

By LISA HUNTS
ARCHIVIST/LIBRARIAN

Given that it is a presidential election year here in the States, it seems fitting to feature the John Ericsson Republican League of Illinois records. This collection was recently reprocessed and is a good example of the type of political activities undertaken by Swedish-Americans.

The John Ericsson Republican League of Illinois (it was first named the Swedish-American Republican League of Illinois) was organized and incorporated in 1894 in order to exert a Scandinavian-American influence on American politics. On December 4, 1894, after numerous advisory meetings, a meeting was held in Chicago of leading Republicans of Swedish descent from the counties of Cook, Henry, Knox, Rock Island, Will, and Winnebago. First officers were Edward C. Westman of Chicago, president; Hjalmar Kohler of Moline, vice president; Will S. Hussander of Chicago, secretary; A. L. Anderson of Andover; treasurer.

The League held an annual convention and banquet on or around March 9 in celebration of John Ericsson Day.

This day was to honor Captain John Ericsson, Swedish-American engineer and inventor best known for his creation of the Union ironclad warship *U.S.S. Monitor*, which battled the Confederate ironclad warship *C.S.S. Merrimack* in a naval battle on March 9, 1862. The use of ironclads by the Union was an important factor in securing a Union victory in the Civil War. The first League convention was held on March 9, 1895, in Chicago.

Over the years, leading Republicans have attended and addressed League conventions and banquets, including President William Howard Taft in 1912, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Warren L. Wood, Illinois Governor William G. Stratton, United States Senator from Illinois Everett M. Dirksen, and Secretary of the Navy Charles J. Bonaparte.

These materials were likely accumulated by George C. Lofgren of Galesburg, IL. Lofgren was born February 22, 1900, and died December 1962. He was elected president of the League in 1956 and served during 1957.

Of note in the collection is a letter from King Gustaf V of Sweden

written to the League on the 50th anniversary of the 1862 Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack, in 1912.

The collection also contains many programs from the League's annual conventions and tickets, flyers and ephemera, particularly during the 1950s. Also represented are newspaper clippings that are related to the League's and Republicans' activities, photographs of conventions, and photographs from Prince Bertil's visit during the Swedish Pioneer Centennial of 1948.

Watch the Swenson Center's Facebook page to see these items in an upcoming exhibit this fall!

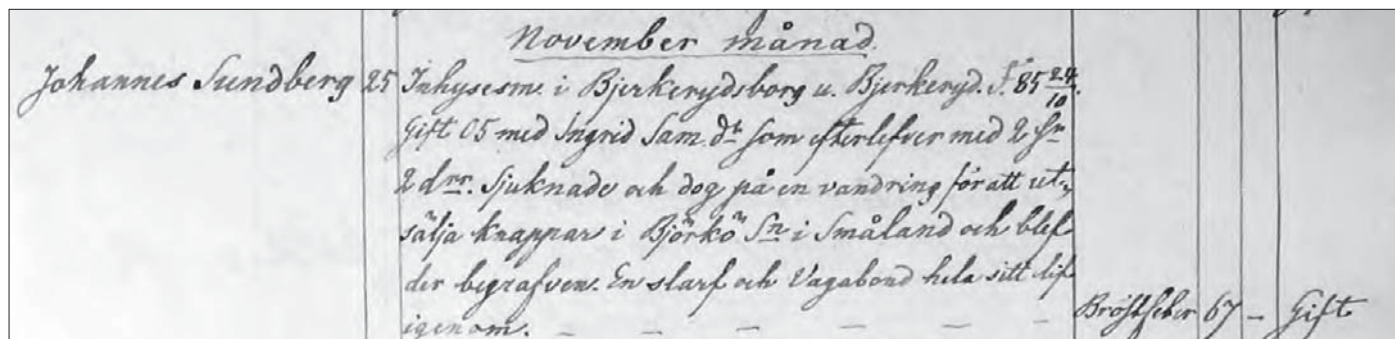
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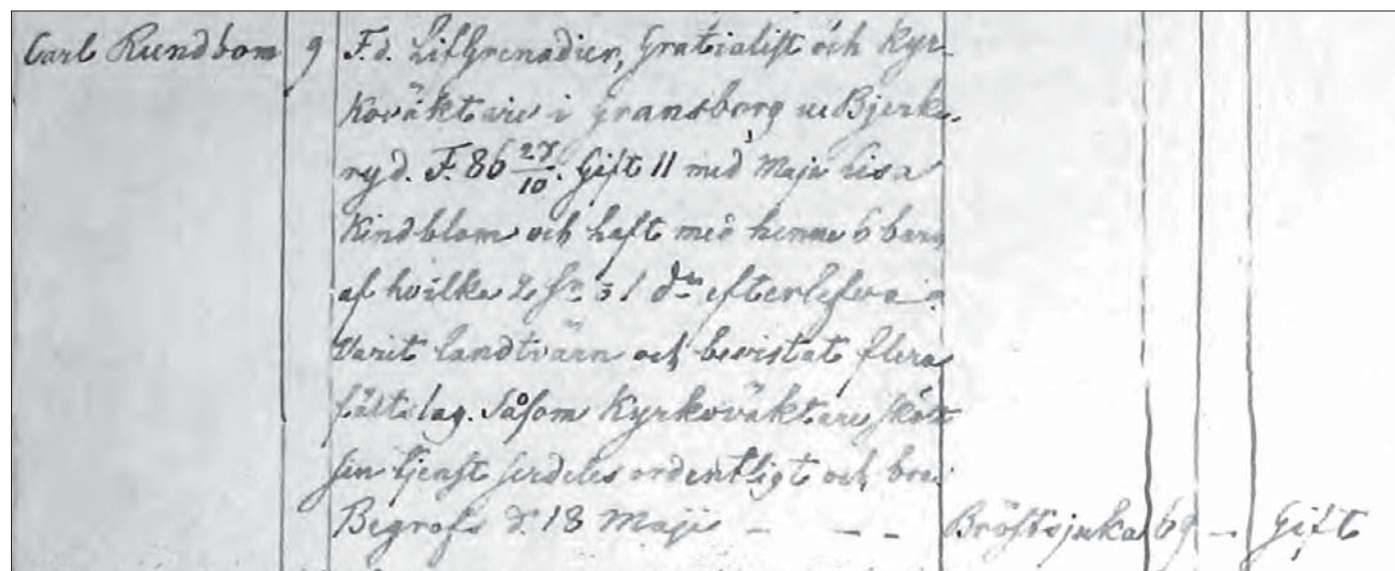
Hotel Custer, Galesburg, Illinois. 1957 Annual convention of the John Ericsson Republican League of Illinois.

Handwriting Example 47

Here are two examples of what you may find in a parish death record.



Kisa (E) C:9 (1852-1860) Image 67 / Page 125 (Arkiv Digital).



Kisa (E) C:9 (1852-1860) Image 78 / Page 147 (Arkiv Digital).

Usually the clergymen who wrote the death notices did not write anything personal about the deceased persons, except when they were born and died, when they married, how many children they had, and how many of those that were still alive. They also usually noted where the person had been born, and when they died, of what illness, and where they had lived.

If you are extra lucky you might also get the names of the parents and their occupation. If the deceased had been an important man in the parish you may also find out if he had been

a permanent juryman (*nämndeman*) or even a member of Parliament (*riksdagsman*), something that can lead you to other sources such as the minutes of the *Bondeståndet* (Peasant estate) where you can see if he took part in any debates, or just kept silent all the time.

If you have your ancestors from the provinces of Dalarna and Västmanland, both in Västerås diocese, you are lucky. Early on the clergymen in that area were ordered to write long death notices (*personalier*) that were to be read in church on the Sun-

day when the person was buried. In these you can get more details, even the last words uttered before dying.

The above examples were written by the rural dean (*prost*) Anders Gustaf Loenbom of Kisa in Östergötland, and as you will see he sometimes expressed his feelings about the deceased person, sometimes good, and sometimes not so favorable.

Transcription and translation on
p. 22.

Allt för Sverige 2016



The happy contestants in the 2016 season of *Allt för Sverige*, or the *Great Swedish Adventure*, are right now filming in Sweden.

The participants:

Anna Lopinto, 25, from Nashville, TN. She grew up in “Little Sweden,” MN, and now works with horses and rodeo in Tennessee, Montana, and Wyoming.

Erica Andersson, 65, from San Francisco, CA. She was born a male, but about 20 years ago she changed to a female. She is a professor of psychology and head of the psychological institutions at one of the California universities. Her paternal grandparents spoke Swedish, and she feels close to her Swedish heritage.

Patrick Glass, 30, Spokane, Washington. Patrick is a chef who knows French cuisine. He started in the kitchen at age 5 and spent time there with his Swedish granny. His passion is fishing that he enjoys most days. He has always wanted to meet his Swedish relatives.

Jason Blohm, 49, Los Angeles, California. Jason grew up in Los Angeles with a single mother. He loves everything Swedish. When he told his Dad that he is gay, his father just said “I’m glad you are happy, son.”

Erik Seaholm, 38, Austin, Texas. Erik is a special education teacher and loves music. He is married with two kids. He is proud of his Swedish heritage and has several Swedish tattoos. He is also interested in soccer, likes the Malmö Football (soccer) club, and is a fan of Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Inger Romero, 44, Temecula, California. She is deeply religious, married, and has two children that she is home-schooling. Her husband works from home, so the family is always together, which she finds fantastic.

Micka Cain, 34, Cincinnati, Ohio. She grew up in Puerto Rico with parents that were missionaries. She later attended Columbine High school in Colorado, where the school shooting occurred in 1999, and one of her best friends was killed. She is married and has children.

She hopes to find stories about strong women in her background.

Sarah Steinman, 30, Minneapolis, Minnesota. She works as a wilderness guide for children with a problem background. She rides motorcycles, and is also a caring person. Her father has done genealogy, but only found lots of stories about the men. Sarah wants to find stories about the women, “there must be some that did bad things also!”

Steven Swanson, 35, Palm Springs, California. Steven is an avid mixed martial arts fighter. His father, who was the Swede in the family, died when Steven was a little boy.

John Burt, 45, Herriman, Utah. John is a lawyer and has his own business. He is a Mormon and married for the 2nd time. In his youth he determined to become successful, and sees himself now as the personification of the American Dream. He is a good talker, which is an advantage in court.

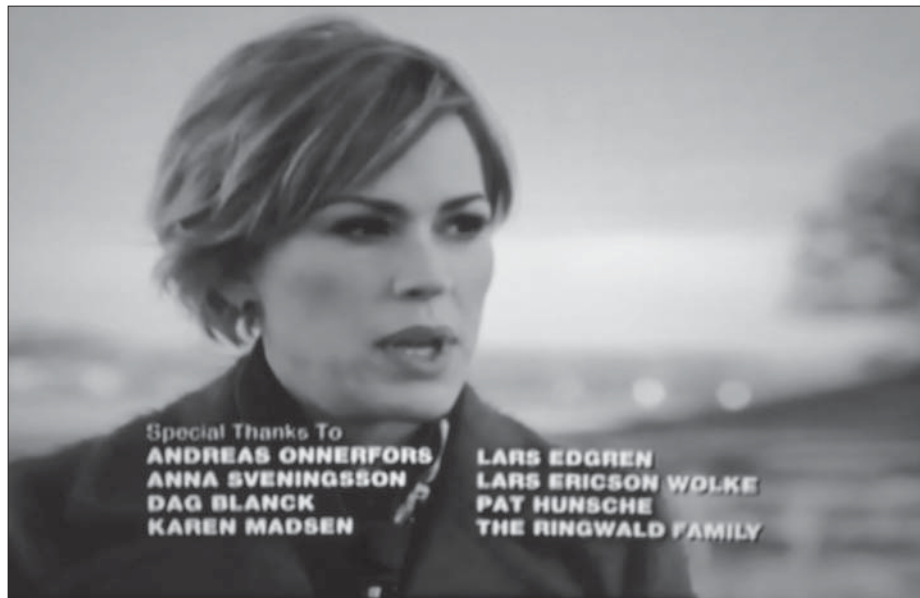
(Facts from *Swedish Television* [svt.se].)

Who Do You Think You Are?

For the first time this well-known TV program featured somebody with Swedish roots. This person was actor *Molly Ringwald*, whose *farmor's far* immigrated in 1887 from Höganäs in Skåne.

Her episode went on air on 24 April 2016, and was anticipated with great interest by the Swedish-American viewers, especially those with roots in Höganäs.

The producers had the good sense to enlist the help of the Swenson Center, as seen by the name of *Dag Blanck*, the director, in the credits for the show. Another well-known name in Sweden is *Lars Ericson Wolke*, who has been an archivist at the Swedish War Archives for many years.



The credits for the program. (Photo by David Garner).

Ancestors of Edvin Gottfrid Gustafsson Jönsson

Research by Kay Sheldon and Elisabeth Thorsell

- 1) *Edvin Gottfrid Gustafsson Jönsson*, born 28 Feb. 1885 in Höganäs, M, died 20 Oct. 1963 in Roseville, Placer Co., CA.

In the U.S. he called himself Edwin G. Jensen.

Generation I

- 2) f *Gustaf Jönsson*, born 23 Apr. 1855 in Höganäs, died 18 Aug. 1930 in Arlington, Washington Co., NE, U.S.A.

After the death of his mother he is listed as a pauper, and lived for some time with other paupers. In 1867 he is listed as worker #668.

He moved 20 Oct. 1876 from Höganäs, to Bjuv (Skån). He moved to the U.S. around 10 June 1878 and came on 14 Nov. 1883 from the U.S. to Höganäs, where he worked as coal miner #147.

Moved with his family 27 Jun. 1887 from Höganäs, M, to Blair, NE, U.S.A.

He was called Gust/George Jensen in the U.S.

Married 23 Apr. 1884 in Helsingborg Maria to the following ancestor.

- 3) m *Carolina Grip*, born 18 Jul. 1857 in Höganäs, died 20 Feb. 1935 in Arlington, Washington Co., NE, U.S.A.

Generation II

- 4) ff *Jöns Svensson*, born 11 Sep. 1813 in Måarp, Väsby, died of consumption 12 Jul. 1860 in Höganäs. He was miner #414.

Married 7 Apr. 1843 in Höganäs, Väsby, M, to the following ancestor.

- 5) fm *Ingar Persdotter*, born 6 Oct. 1815 in Höganäs, Väsby, died of stomach inflammation 28 Oct. 1866 in Widow's dwelling # 13, Höganäs.

After the death of her husband she moved with her children to Widow's dwelling #13.

- 6) mf *Carl Johan Grip*, born 19 Jul. 1830 in Höganäs, Väsby, died (crushed in the mine) 26 Jan. 1857 in Höganäs, Väsby. Miner #303 in Höganäs mine.

Married 26 Dec. 1852 in Höganäs, Väsby, to the following ancestor.

- 7) mm *Kjersti Johnsson*, born 17 Jan. 1834 in Väsby, died 23 Feb. 1917 in Höganäs.

Generation III

- 8) ff f *Sven Jönsson*, born 15 Nov. 1766 in Väsby, died of old age 13 Jan. 1839 in Måarp, Väsby. When he died he is listed as a "förre åbo" former tenant farmer at Måarp 2.

Married 29 Dec. 1812 in Väsby. to the following ancestor. He from Måarp, she from Danhult, both in Väsby.

- 9) ff m *Boel Olofsdotter*, born 13 Jan. 1788 in Väsby, died (no cause of death listed) 22 Aug. 1849 in Måarp 2, Väsby.

- 10) fm f *Per Rasmusson*, born 17 Oct. 1784 in Väsby, died 4 Apr. 1841 in Höganäs, Väsby.

He lived in Höganäs with his family, and is listed as a fisherman and a sailor.

Married 22 Nov. 1814 in Väsby to the following ancestor.

11) fm m *Sissa Nilsdotter*, born 16 Mar. 1789 in Höganäs, Väsby.

12) mf f *Johan Grip (Gran)*, born 3 Sep. 1794 in Vrigstad (Smål), died (crushed in the mine) 12 May 1836 in Höganäs, Väsby.

He came in 1819 from Vrigstad to Guthult in Norra Sandsjö (Smål.), where he served as dragoon #58 of the Life Company of the Småland Light Cavalry. In 1822 he was discharged and moved to cottage Övrarp and then to Guthult, all in Norra Sandsjö, from where he moved in 1826 to the coal mine in Höganäs. He was then miner #304 in the Höganäs mine.

Married to the following ancestor.
(The marriage records for Norra Sandsjö have burned.)

13) mf m *Anna Maria Magnidotter*, born 18 Jan. 1795 in Näsby (Smål). (She is sometimes called Jepps-dotter)

14) mm f *Gustaf Johnsson*, born 19 Nov. 1810 in Väsby, died (no cause listed) 15 Aug. 1855 in Höganäs. Miner #344 in Höganäs.

Married 6 Jul. 1833 in Väsby to the following ancestor.

15) mm m *Boel Liljegren*, born 9 Aug. 1810 in Väsby, died 9 Jan. 1903 in Höganäs.

Notes:

- 1) Parishes mentioned here are all in Skåne, except Vrigstad and Norra Sandsjö that are in Småland. Höganäs was before 1852 part of Väsby, but became its own parish then.
- 2) The letters before the name of an ancestor are **f** and **m**. F means father (*far*), and m means mother (*mor*).
- 3) There are no sources in the article, but all information is from the church records. Anyone interested in the sources, contact the SAG editor.

Höganäs 200 year ago

Two hundred years ago, Höganäs, a town situated in the northwest part of the county of Skåne, about 20 km north of the city of Helsingborg, had no local pottery tradition. Höganäs was then a tiny fishing village that even lacked a harbor. Coal had now and then been quarried from an opencast mine and the local inhabitants had collected it from the beach at low tide for their personal needs. When the mining industry started in 1797 and, with time, even the production of earthenware (in 1832), capital, labor, technology, and pot designs were typically fetched from elsewhere, as well as customers. Nothing of this was to be found in Höganäs.

The capital came from parties interested in the mining, earthenware, and brick industries. Here, in particular, Erik Ruuth, the Minister of Finance in Gustav III's parliament, was engaged. In 1786 he had bought the privileges for mining coal in northwest Skåne, and at the same time established the earthenware factory, Ulfsunda, outside Stockholm where clay from the mining in Skåne was used. In 1792 large amounts of clay were found between thin seams of coal in Höganäs and Ruuth hired the mining engineer, Thomas Stawford, from Newcastle, in view of the coal mining that was the focus of interest. Stawford brought with him not only mining technology to Höganäs from his native country but also something that resembled a town plan, including prototypes for workers' dwellings.

Coal mining in Höganäs was not a successful venture; the coal was difficult to mine and of poor quality and in the end attempts were made to save the enterprise by starting to use the clay for the production of bricks and roofing tiles as well – and from 1832 even earthenware. The kilns were fired with coal from the mines.

The mines closed in 1961.

(Excerpt from *The Pottery of Höganäs Company 1832-1926*, by Ann-Charlotte & Torsten Weimarck (published in 2005).

Obituary for Carolina Grip Jenson

MRS. GUST JENSON

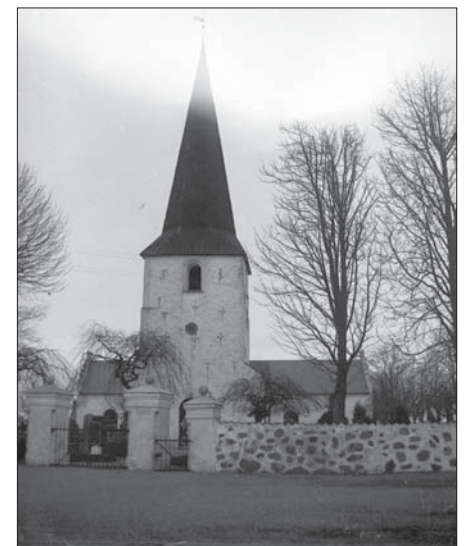
Pneumonia was fatal Wednesday morning when it claimed Mrs. Gust Jenson, 78, a resident of Arlington for thirty years.

Caroline Griep was born in Sweden, July 18, 1857. She was united in marriage to Gust Jenson on May 3, 1884, in Sweden and to this union were born seven children, all living and as follows: Edwin G. of Roseville, California; John G. of Herman; Fred W. of Loveland, Ohio; Mrs. Jess Laughlin of Tekamah; Carl G. of Arlington; Mrs. Oscar Anderson of Arlington; and Albert J. of Oakland. Twenty grandchildren also survive the deceased. Her husband passed away on August 18, 1930.

She was confirmed in the Swedish Lutheran Church at the age of 15 years. Mrs. Jenson came with her husband to Washington Co., Nebraska, on July 25, 1888, and engaged in farming until March, 1904, when they moved to Arlington and made their home until the end.

Mrs. Jenson had always stood for the right and taught her family the meaning of truth, justice, and mercy. A kind and loving wife and mother who will be greatly missed and mourned by her children.

(Published in *Arlington Review Herald*, February 21, 1935. [Findagrave.com]).



Väsby church, Skåne.

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Barn födde i Gäddede församling 1847.		
Födelsedag	Barn	Föräldrar:
Jan. 17.	Johan August } Lovisa Charlotta	Torparen A. Johan Lettervall och Hustru Johanna Cath. Lindöter i Öra Fryntorp.
— 27.	Gustafva	Soldaten Johan Grand och Hustru Ulrika Larssdotter.
— 28.	Henrik Jakob.	Hemmansegaren Bonden Lars Larsson och Hustru Anna Catharina Andersdotter uti Hjelminge.
Febr. 4.	Maria Lovisa.	Rättaren Emanuel Sjöberg och Hustru Hina Lisa Andersdotter.

Source: Gäddede (Church birth book) C:5 (1847-1859) Image 6

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Bits & Pieces



Swedish American of the Year 2016:

Nils Lofgren

Nils Hilmer Lofgren has been selected for this honor by the two Swedish lodges of the *Vasa Order of America*.

Nils Lofgren was born 21 June 1951, in Chicago. He is an American rock musician, recording artist, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Along with his work as a solo artist, he is a member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band since 1984. Lofgren was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the E Street Band in 2014.

Nils Lofgren's grandfather August *Hilmer Löfgren* immigrated to the U.S. in 1911 from Lysvik (Vrml.).



Water color painter *Lars Lerin* has been given a royal medal

Lars Lerin, who just had a very successful exhibition of his art at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN, was among the people honored with the royal medal *Litteris et Artibus*, for his contributions to painting and literature. The medal was instituted in 1853.

A new Swedish saint

A Swedish nun who rescued several Jews in Rome during World War Two is set to become the Nordic country's second saint – more than six centuries after her predecessor Saint Bridget (*Heliga Birgitta*).

Pope Francis on 5 June canonized *Elisabeth Hesselblad*, whose portrait already hangs in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. She will be following in the footsteps of Saint Bridget (*Birgitta*), who was canonized in 1391.

Maria Elisabeth Hesselblad was born in 1870 and died in Rome in 1957. She was beatified – the first step before sainthood – by Pope John Paul II in 2000. She worked as a nurse in the United States when she converted to Catholicism. She founded a new form of life of the Bridgettines known as the Bridgettine Sisters. She continued to dedicate her life to ecumenism and the poor.



The Jenny Lind scholarship 2016

Mezzo soprano *Karin Osbeck* from Stockholm, Sweden, has received the 2016 Jenny Lind Scholarship, which includes a singing tour in America. She has already performed at Augustana College.



New photo exhibition at ASI

The famous Swedish chef *Magnus Nilsson* from the Fäviken Magasinet Restaurant in Jämtland exhibits his photos of Swedish nature at the ASI in Minneapolis from **2 June** through **14 August**.

The project is called "Nordic – A Photographic Essay of Landscapes, Food and People."

Magnus Nilsson has recently also written "The Nordic Cook Book" with all kinds of tantalizing recipes.

Swedish Council of America (SCA) has awarded three Proclamations

Since 2012 SCA has recognized significant milestones in affiliated organizations' histories or outstanding achievements made by public figures in Swedish-North America. This award is called a SCA Proclamation. At the meeting in Seattle in April SCA Proclamations were given to three different recipients: *Swedish Club* in Seattle for their twenty years of having given opportunities to individuals interested in learning Swedish; to *Nordic Heritage Museum* of Tacoma, WA, for having during almost four decades of spreading the knowledge of Nordic culture; and to the *Swedish American Historical Museum* in Philadelphia for their 90 years of devotion to the Swedish cultural heritage in the Delaware Valley.

A journey across the Atlantic in 1908

A story from the 1907 – 1914 Swedish Emigration Survey

TRANSLATED BY ELISABETH THORSELL
AND CHRISTOPHER OLSSON

I arrived in Gothenburg on the morning of 9 April (1908) and was met at the station by an agent for the Scandinavia America Line from whom I had ordered a ticket. He escorted me to a hotel and said I should come to his office.

On the way to the hotel I asked the agent if there were many who traveled over now. He shook his head and said no, and he said there were a couple of big reasons why people did not travel now. First of all, the bad times, "and now they begin to do so much in this country so that people will not travel."

In the line's office I could pay for my ticket, but could not receive it until we reached Christiania, because I only had a testimony of conduct (*frejdebetyg*) and not a moving-out certificate. The shipping lines are always helpful in cases like that.

To Christiania

In the evening we received train tickets and were escorted by the agent to the train. Upon arrival at Christiania at 7 o'clock in the morning on April 10 there was nobody there to meet us. We found the way therefore to the line's office, and on the road we are overtaken by a valet who should have met us, but had overslept. He took us to *Nielsen's Hotel* on Skippergaden. It was a hotel of about the 7th grade. We got a room where we would stay that day. We were four: my brother, a man from Västerbotten, and a man from Bohuslän. The room was filthy and unpleasant. On the floor in the commode was vomit from someone who had apparently been seasick before the trip started. The maid pretended not to notice anything, but began to set up food for us on the table. Then I showed it to her and asked

her if it was not possible to clean it up and also remove the dirty slop bucket that stood there. She looked at me as if she wanted to say that I had more demands than what they were accustomed to. She cleaned the floor, but we got to keep the slop bucket. Even the tablecloth was poor, in tatters and dirty.

At 10:30 a.m. we were to go to the office and get our tickets. When we entered we were told to stand in line and go in to the doctor. When we came in to him, we had in turn to sit down, and so began the investigation. The doctor said, "Show your hands," and so he looked at the inside of the hands. Then he said, "Open your mouth! say 'A'," as he looked on the inside of the eyelid, and so it was done. When we came back to the office, we were asked to come at 2 o'clock to get our tickets. We did so, and at 4 p.m. we were finally allowed to board. The steamer *Oscar II* had come to Christiania already at 9 o'clock in the morning and was now loading bundles of wood pulp. It

looked like to be the principal load from Christiania.

Finally onboard

When we came onboard, the quartermaster met us, looked at our tickets, and the waiters took our suitcases and guided us down to our cabins. I got my berth in the cabin No. 50. It was for 4 people, but we were only 3 in it.

In Christiania about 200 people boarded the ship, including many Swedes. In addition, many Swedes had boarded before, those who had boarded in Copenhagen. A year ago, they used to send twice as many passengers from Christiania, said the office there.

Exactly at 9 in the evening of 10 April, we left Christiania. There was then a little rain and a light mist.

On April 11, between 8 and 9 a.m. we anchored outside Kristiansand to board passengers there. We got about 100 new passengers. At around noon we left Kristiansand, and so began the actual voyage.



The menu for the journey looked like this:

The 11th. Breakfast: meat and potatoes, bread and butter and coffee. The bread, abundant, like everything else, was always good. It consisted of fresh wheat bread and coarse, soft bread. Loaves reminiscent in appearance of the Swedish "ankarstockar". *Dinner:* soup (some sort of meat soup), bread and butter, meat and potatoes, and a small dry pastry for dessert. At 3 coffee with wheat flour buns. *Supper:* meat and potatoes and bread and butter and tea.

The 12th. The same as the 11th except for dinner when the dessert consisted of apples.

The 13th. The same as the 11th.

The 14th. Breakfast: meat sausages; the remainder being like the 11th. *Dinner:* sweet soup, meat and potatoes, and for dessert apples. *Supper* as the 11th.

The 15th. Breakfast: raw herring and potatoes, butter, bread, and coffee. *Dinner:* cabbage soup, fish stew (potato and fish stewed together) and as well the dry pastry. *Supper:* meat, cabbage and potatoes, tea.

The 16th. The same as the 12th.

The 17th. Breakfast: fishballs and potatoes. *Dinner:* sweet soup, meat and potatoes, and apples. *Supper:* beef stew and potatoes.

The 18th. Breakfast: meat sausages and potatoes as well; for those who so desired, porridge of oatmeal. The milk to it was poor. At dinner we were given the best of the whole trip, consisting of rice pudding with cinnamon and sugar and beer in a glass. After some discussions we were given a fraction of the bad milk instead of beers. Also, fish and potatoes; pastry. *Supper:* fish stew and potato, tea.

The 19th. Breakfast: two eggs and hot oatmeal, served with the bad milk.

Dinner: broth with dumplings, meat, potatoes, and for dessert an orange.

Supper: meat, potatoes, and stewed pickles.

The 20th. Breakfast: meat and potatoes, coffee. *Dinner:* sweet soup, meat and potatoes; pastry. *Supper:* lapskojs [a stew of potatoes and salted meat, bayleaf, a little pepper and butter], tea.

The 21st. Breakfast: potato and beef stew; coffee. *Dinner:* peas, pork and browned cabbage; pastry. *Supper:* potato, meat, and pickles concocted.

mately equal to what you get on the English lines, though it was better served on *Ivernia*, the Cunard Line's old boat, which I traveled with in 1905, despite the fact that they had so many emigrants that they had to set the table completely four times for every meal.

The trip became quite lengthy because the boat is so slow. There was a map in our dining room and in one in the families' dining rooms. It was shown every day how many miles the steamer had passed from noon on one day to noon on the second day.

Here are the figures from our map in English miles:

11—12 april	354 mil.
12—13 ,	349 ,
13—14 ,	330 ,
14—15 ,	330 ,
15—16 ,	330 ,

16—17 april	335 mil.
17—18 ,	332 ,
18—19 ,	342 ,
19—20 ,	342 ,
20—21 ,	350 ,

In New York Again

Upon our arrival in New York, the Cunard Line's new steamer *Mauretania* left for Liverpool. She has done this journey (as fast) as 579 miles in (24 hours).

In general, there was pronounced dissatisfaction with the Danish boat because it was so slow. We figured out that you can make the journey across England and then on to America in less time this way than by taking the "direct" route.

I spoke with some returning Swedish-Americans of conditions in Sweden and America. One day I said that, within a few years, we will have our own Swedish line that will go directly to New York.

"Not in 1,000 years," said Mr. Swanson from New York. "Why not?" I asked. "They are too slow at home. I think I have seen in the papers a discussion of such a thing, but I do not think it will be more than a lovely thought.

"How happy we Swedish-Americans would be if it were successful.

Some of us found it hard to eat. The food containers were dirty. I gave our waiter 2 kr. That had a good effect. When the coffee was served at 3 p.m. he first had just as many cups as was enough for everyone at our table except for my brother and me. He went after two additional cups, and these got an extra thorough drying. This was repeated often.

The meal times onboard were: breakfast at 8 a.m., dinner at 12, coffee at 3 p.m., and supper at 6 p.m.

On the "tween" deck there were four different dining rooms. In the dining room where families and unmarried women ate, the tables were quite nice. But where we should eat it was dirty. The oilcloths were poor and often poorly dried. The

towel, which the waiter had, was used for almost everything. With them I saw that they both wiped the bench which we were sitting on, the table cloth, and if you made comment about it, also the food vessels. And behind me was a large metal box for refuse. It stood uncovered even during meals. When the meals were finished and tables cleared, we used to sit there to read, write, or play. It was the only place we had to be at. But when they came with the tubs of washing water and poured it out in a corner of the dining room, the smelly splashing water made it at times almost impossible to be down there. The food was almost always the same.

The food on board is approxi-

If Sweden could have, say, three boats of about 15,000 tons each, modern and fast, with only a Swedish crew, so that everyone could travel on this line. Even if the boats went just every three weeks, they would wait and travel with it. How much Sweden needs this line! Aside from that we rarely see the Swedish flag in New York harbor. How much cheaper would things be that are now taken over via England, Hamburg, or Copenhagen! I have traveled for many years for a major U.S. export company which exports, in particular, fruit and cheese to England.

"Once when I took a shipment over to England I was promised by the company to take three weeks for myself to travel to Stockholm and visit. When I got there I was, of course, interested to see how things were done in that business, a business that I understood. I went and looked around. Imagine my surprise when I found my fruit boxes there. I asked where they were purchased. I was told, England or Hamburg. They were considerably overpriced by these intermediaries. I have spoken to several others since then and they have said the same thing."

Views on shipping lines

Among my tablemates on the boat was a tall, stately Swedish former noncommissioned officer of a Guards regiment. He was traveling now for the thirteenth time across the ocean. He had been in Scandinavia and Finland and sold farms in New York State. He had traveled on the *Oscar II* three times before, but always as a 1st or 2nd class passenger. One day when we sat down to table, the captain was on board and went through the dining room. He sees the Swede, goes up to him and greets him, and calls him by name.

According to what the Swede himself said, the captain asked him why the Swedes were beginning to abandon the line. The Swede replied that it was largely due to the Danes openly siding with the Norwegians in 1905 [Ed's note: at the dissolution of the union between Sweden and Norway].

And that, he said, was something we Swedes will not easily forget.

However, many Swedes still travel with the Scandinavia-America Line. I asked one day at the office where they get most of their passengers? The clerk said that Norway came in first place, Sweden in second, and Denmark third. Despite this, they have only Danish waiters. It is impossible for many Swedes to understand what they say. So the advantage they had of a Scandinavian crew that spoke "Scandinavian," was minimal. It works out nearly as well on the English lines because there are now so many Swedish-Americans who travel back and forth that you can always get someone to translate.

Why go on a slow boat?

I asked many, including Mr. Swanson from New York, why he had not traveled with a large, rapid English boat. "Well, you see," he said, "I have my family with me and it is both for me and my family more convenient to travel by this line. When you board you need not switch ships until you have arrived."

The Scandinavia America Line's big trump card is that it runs directly. That was the reason all the Swedes I spoke with went by it. But still, there were many who said that, rather than lying on the ocean for twelve days, they will travel with a faster boat via England.

The boat's office told me that the journey usually takes about eleven days.

To Ellis Island

We received a pilot on board at 11 p.m. and at 1 o'clock at night dropped anchor at Staten Island, the quarantine location. At 5 o'clock in the morning we were told to go up on deck to be examined by the doctor who was just then expected on board. A moment later an old man came on board. We had to stand in line and march past him in double rows. He just looked at us. Many who did not notice him when they passed him asked when the examination would begin.

The exam over, the boat began to move and at 8 o'clock in the morning we were at the dock in Hoboken. There we could leave the boat after being on board for almost twelve days. When our trunks were taken ashore, we were called by the customs officers, who were always kind. At about 11 o'clock we were taken on board a boat to be transported to Ellis Island, the last station.

When we got there, we had to stand on the boat for close to an hour before we were allowed to go ashore. Then we were ordered to take our suitcases and go to the building where the last test would be administered. We stood in line on the stairs and, with hat in hand, marched on. We went down a wide aisle where two men looked in the eyes of every one.

At the end of narrow passages, each numbered 1 through 12, was an interpreter and a man with lots of paper. They only asked me how long I had been in America previously, if my brother would travel with me, and how much money we had. It was not even necessary to show our cash. I was going to stay and see and hear how the others did, but I was not allowed, so we went to the waiting room that said "To New York" to await the ferry for Battery Park.

Down in the waiting room I met several who said that there seemed to be fairly many who seemed to have difficulties getting admitted into the country. It was said that the examination was very strict.

Conditions onboard

Our trip had been favored by good weather. On only one evening was there storm. The cabin we had was pretty good. The iron bedstead consisted of a mattress of an approx. 4" thick cushion. The pillow was similar to the cushions on a Swedish second class railroad carriage. The fabric of both the mattress and the pillow were of coarse, blue fabric, as was the blanket.

On the first night on board, it was so cold that we froze, but we got a blanket the next day. The next night was so hot that it was almost im-

possible to sleep. At about 6 in the morning a boy came with a wet cloth and went over the floor. A little later a woman came who filled our water carafe and dried our wash basin. Then the boy returned and emptied the wash water. It was similar on the Cunard Line, only if I remember right, we also got towels. Here we didn't get any.

Comparison with other shipping lines

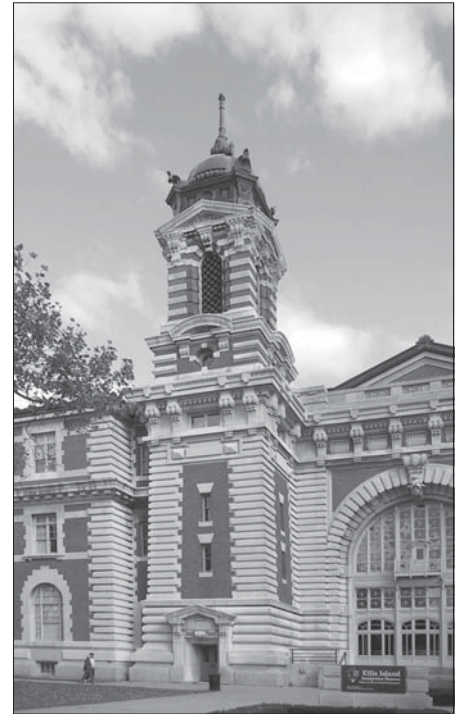
On board the *Oscar II* it appeared that they had better cabins than on the English lines I had traveled before. I saw no large bunks divided by sackcloth like I saw on the *Ivernia*. How it is on the big boats, I do not know, but I would like to travel home on the Cunard Line's new sister ships *Mauretania* or *Lusitania*. The difference in price between a 2nd class cabin for travel between New York and Stockholm on the *Mauretania* vs. *Oscar II* is about 22 dollars. The *Mauretania* costs \$84.60; *Oscar II* costs approx. \$62.50. But I could then do a better comparison. The treatment on the *Oscar II* was like that on other boats. They listened to our wishes, shrugged their shoulders – nothing more. Our view was that Danes were favored. I had a cabin without daylight and when I asked a steward for a change I was told there were no cabins available.

One day I saw a memo that announced that Mr. Mickelsen would speak on "My travels through America and Europe, especially Russia." The man, a Dane, had lived in America for forty-two years. He began by describing his home in Southern California and spoke about what a paradise it was, and how he thought it was a shame that people "at home in Denmark" must have snow and ice and cold when (in California) you could go out to a pasture and pick the most delightful flowers. He lamented that the press and leading figures in the old country spoke so poorly and falsely about America, etc. I went up to him after he stopped and asked if it was easy to get land in California and if it was cheap.

"No," he answered, "it is taken. Land now costs \$200 to \$250 an acre." "That is something for the poor immigrants there" I said. He just tossed his shoulders and smiled. He claimed in his speech that there is enough space for half the European population today. One day I met the man as he was going to his cabin. I asked to follow him and see how he lived. He had a light, nice four-man cabin alone, the best I had seen on the boat. It was just below the stairs to the second class.

[The writer is anonymous, and just known by his signature K. H-n.

[His purpose for travel to America was for his own business, but he was traveling on a emigrant ticket, so he could report on the conditions for the emigrants back to the Emigration Survey (*Emigrationsutredningen*, a Swedish state survey).]



Ellis Island – main entrance.



The Great Hall in Ellis Island's main building, which was, in the old days, filled with immigrants, awaiting their examination.

Ellis Island opened in 1892 as a federal immigration station, a purpose it served for more than 60 years (it closed in 1954). Millions of newly arrived immigrants passed through the station during that time – in fact, it has been estimated that close to 40 percent of all current U.S. citizens can trace at least one of their ancestors to Ellis Island.

A New Way to Discover Chicago's Swedish Heritage:

A Guide to Using the St. Ansgarius Episcopal Church Records Digital Collection

BY CHARLES HEINRICH

St. Ansgarius Episcopal Church was founded by Swedish and Norwegian immigrants in the year 1849 in the city of Chicago, Illinois. St. Ansgarius was the first ethnic Swedish church in the city. The city was not even 20 years old, yet enough Swedes had settled in Chicago to make such a parish feasible.

While the Norwegian contingent would eventually break away to form their own parish, St. Ansgarius functioned as a center for Swedish-American life in Chicago throughout much of the city's early history. In Chicago's Near North Side, the neighborhood around St. Ansgarius came to be known as "Swede Town" (present-day River North) with over 10,000 Swedish-born immigrants living in the area by the 1890s.¹

Thanks to grants from Swedish Council of America and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, North Park University's F.M. Johnson Archives has digitized the records of St. Ansgarius. Genealogists and historians can now discover a wealth of information through the church's baptismal, marriage, death, and parish records. Using the collection, you will be able to trace the members and activities of this important Swedish-American church.

The following guide will help you navigate the parish records to aid in your own genealogical research.

1) Accessing the Collection

You can find the collection on North Park University's archives website:

<http://library.northpark.edu/archives>

If you click on the "Swedish American Archives of Greater Chicago"

button on the bottom of the page, you will be taken to a page that displays a button to the St. Ansgarius records and two other related collections.

Alternatively, if you type into Google "St. Ansgarius records," the collection will be the first link displayed!

2) The Home Page

You can use the *Browse* menus to narrow your search.

The "Browse all items in the collection" link will display all 10 surviving St. Ansgarius record books for you at once.

The "Browse by decade" menu will display records that have information covering that particular time-period: for example, selecting "1860" will show all the documents that have records for the 1860s (such as the 1849-1865 Parish Register).

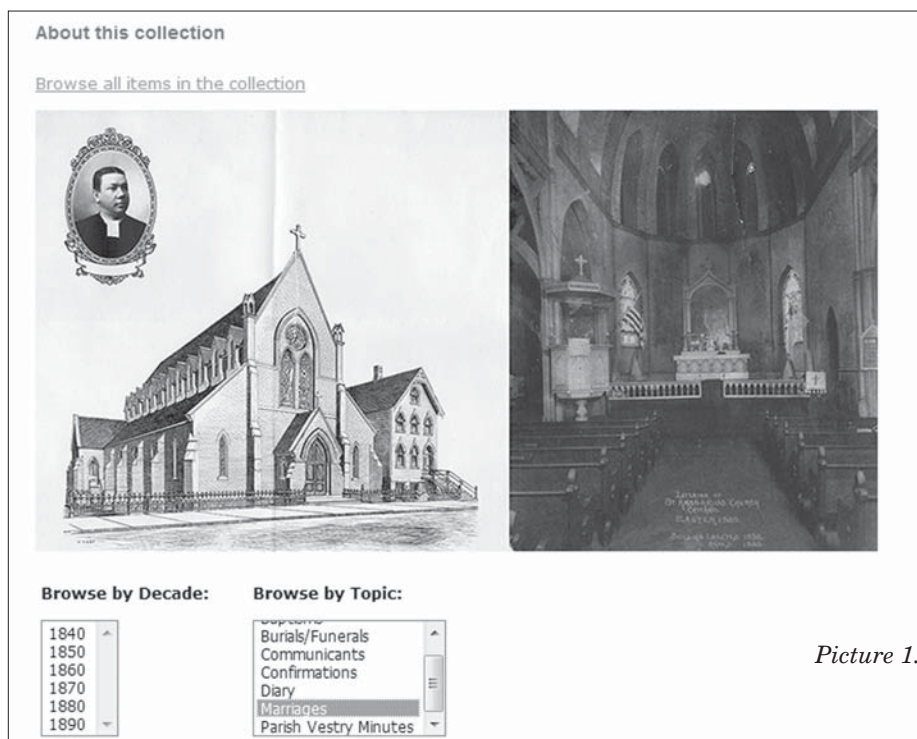


The "Browse by topic" menu allows you to focus on one type of record that you are interested in. For example, if you are curious to see who was a member of the parish at a certain time, clicking on the "Communicants" option will show you all of the records containing lists of parish communicants (documented parishioners who had received the sacrament of Confirmation). Likewise, "Baptisms" will display baptismal records, "Burials" will display burial and funereal records, and so on.

See picture 1.

3) Reading a Digital Document

Once you have selected a document you wish to read, you can move the image within the display window with your mouse, either by clicking and dragging on the image itself, or



Picture 1.

the red square in the upper-left corner. You can enlarge the display window using the arrows underneath the image.

Here is a quick guide to some of the functions on the reading page:

- A: Previous/Next Page:** Use these buttons to turn the pages of the digital document.
- B: Zoom Bar:** Click on the + or – buttons, or drag the blue square, to your desired zoom level.
- C: Full-Screen:** This makes the page take up the entire computer screen.
- D: Fit to Height/Width:** These buttons will automatically zoom in to fit the height or width of the display window.
- E: Download:** This brings up a menu to download the document to your computer. You can either download a single page at various sizes, or the entire document as a PDF through the “All” option.
- F: Thumbnails/Content:** By default, a document displays thumbnails of two-page “spreads.” Clicking on a spread will take you to that image (you can turn pages this way also).

Clicking on the “Content” tab reveals the structure of the document. Each object has its own structure depending on the makeup of the document: that is, lists of names might be organized alphabetically (as in this picture), or baptisms might be arranged chronologically by year.

We hope you are able to make use of and enjoy the St. Ansgarius Records. By publishing them online, we hope that more people will have a new avenue to explore the life of Swedish-American immigrants in the city of Chicago.

Endnote:

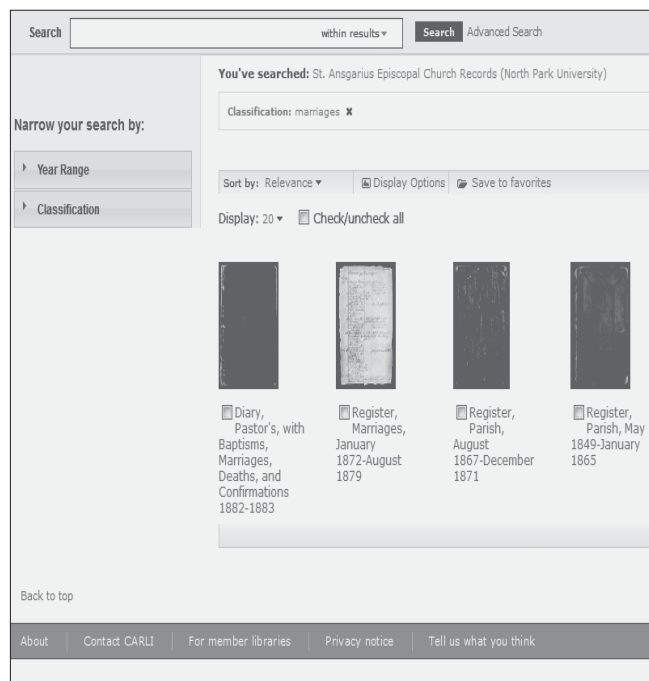
- 1) Ulf Beijbom, “Chicago’s ‘Swede Town’: Gone but Not Forgotten,” *Swedish Pioneer Historical Society*, XV:4 (October 1964): 144.



Mr. Unonius's Memoirs are well worth reading.



Gustaf Unonius (1810-1902). He immigrated to the United States in 1841, eventually settling at Nya Upsala (Pine Lake), Wisconsin. Unonius was the first graduate of Nashotah House Theological Seminary. Bishop Jackson Kemper ordained him to the Diaconate on May 14, 1845, and he was subsequently advanced to the priesthood. He served a number of parishes in eastern Wisconsin and Illinois, and was founding rector of the Swedish Episcopal Church of Saint Ansgarius, Chicago. He returned to Sweden in 1858, but was not accepted as a priest by the Church of Sweden. Instead he became a customs officer and retired in 1888. He died on October 14, 1902, in Hacksta, (Uppl.).



Picture 2, shows an example of the “Browse topic” search.



Picture 3 shows an example of the shortcuts, described above.

Pictures of Sweden from the 1600s

Erik Jönsson Dahlbergh (1625 – 1703) possessed one of the more individual dispositions and personalities in Sweden during its age of imperial greatness. Born into a modest background, raised as a foster child, he transcended his social background and climbed the occupational and social ladder in a career of ever-expanding administrative authority.

His primary field was military, but he demonstrated a broad cultural agility. He is most renowned for his richly illustrated topographical survey *Suecia antiqua et hodierna* (Sweden past and present), to which he devoted the greater part of his life. It contains more than 350 etchings

based on his original drawings of sites of historical and contemporary interest in Sweden. Admired and criticized by his contemporaries and successors, Dahlbergh singlehandedly created the first systematic visual record of Sweden. Before his *Suecia*, Sweden's visual image was veiled in shadows.

By 1693, he had held a variety of positions invested with great influence, including those of chief administrator of Bremen, Verden, and Livland, all recently annexed territories. He requested to be relieved of his duties in 1702, nine months before his death on January 16, 1703.

The *Suecia*, as it is called, was not

completed in Mr. Dahlbergh's lifetime. The material for the intended work was preserved, and has now been digitized by the *Kungliga Biblioteket* (Royal Library), which is the national library of Sweden. This work contains 353 engravings with 469 motifs of different kinds: manorial estates, gardens, cities, antiquities, churches, provincial heraldry, maps, and portraits. There are also a number of drawings by various artists.

All pictures are free to download as jpgs or tiff files. There is some information on the web site in English, but more will come.

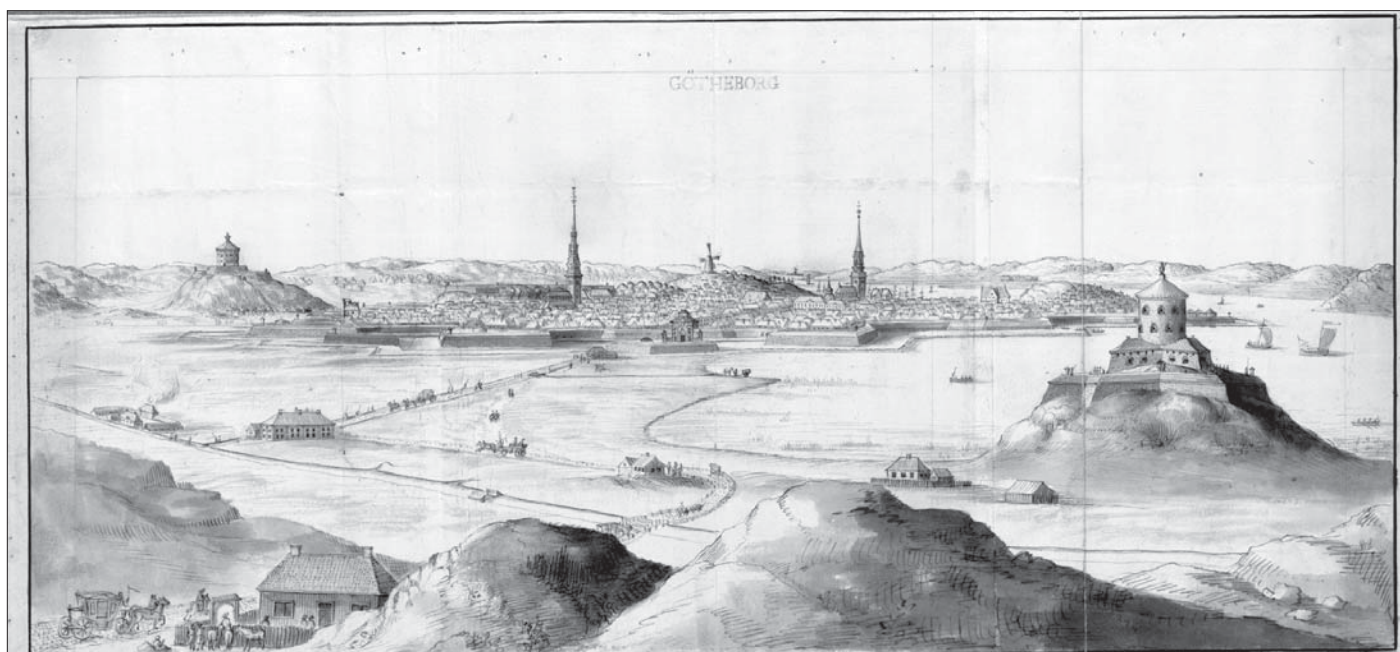
See link on page 30!



Jönköping, engraved by Willem Swidde in the 1690s on commission from Erik Dahlbergh.



The Falun great copper mine, engraved by Johannes van den Aveleen in 1701.



This pen and ink drawing of Göteborg was made by Johan Litheim after 1708, but on commission from Erik Dahlbergh. Note the two small, round fortresses, called Kronan (The Crown) and Lejonet (The Lion). The churches are Domkyrkan (the cathedral) and Tyska kyrkan (the German church).

The solution to the Handwriting Example 47

Transcription

Johannes Sundberg afled 25 Nov. 1852.

Inhyssesman i Bjerkerýdsborg u[nder] Bjerkerýd. F[ödd] [17]85 Oct. 24. Gift [18]05 med Sigrid Sam[uels]d[otte]r som efterlefver med 2 s[öne]r och 2 d[öttra]r. Sjuknade och dog på en vandring för att utsälja knappar i Björkö S[ocke]n i Småland och blef der begravnen. En slarf och vagabond i hela sitt lif igenom.

Afled af Bröstfeber. 67 år. Gift.

Carl Rundbom afled 9 May 1856.

F[öre] d[etta] LifGrenadier, Gratialist och Kyrkoväktare i Gransborg u[nder] Bjerkerýd. F[ödd] [17]86 Oct. 27. Gift [18]11 med Maja Lisa Kindblom och haft med henne 6 barn af hvilka 2 S[öne]r och 1 d[otte]r efterlefva. Vari Landtvärn och bevistat flera fältslag. Såsom kyrkoväktare skött sin tjenst serdeles ordentligt och bra.

Begrofs d. 18 Maji.

Afled af Bröstsjukdom. 69 år. Gift.

Translation

Johannes Sundberg died 25 Nov. 1852.

Lodger in Bjerkerýdsborg on Bjerkerýd lands. Born 1785 Oct. 24. Married in 1805 to Sigrid Samuelsdotter who is still living with 2 sons and 2 daughters. Fell ill and died during a walk to sell buttons in Björkö parish in Småland, where he was buried. A careless person and a vagrant all his life.

He died from a chest fever. 67 years. Married.

Carl Rundbom died 9 May 1856.

A former Life Grenadier, a pensioner and church verger of Gransborg on Bjerkerýd lands. Born 1786 Oct. 27. Married in 1811 to Maja Lisa Kindblom and had with her 6 children of which 2 sons and 1 daughter live. He was in the Militia and took part in several battles. As a church verger he served very carefully and well.

Was buried on 18 May.

He died from chest illness. 69 years. Married.

The Militia (*Lantvärn*), where Carl Rundbom served for a short period, was raised in 1809 to increase the number of soldiers, as Sweden was at war with Russia and Denmark. However, the new soldiers were very badly equipped, and died in great numbers.

The Militia was abandoned in 1811, except for a new one during the summer of 1812. Carl Rundbom must have enlisted in the 1st regiment of

Life Grenadiers around 1810, and served there until 1839, when he was discharged. He served as soldier #32 for Folkinge in Kisa of the Ydre Company, and afterwards received a pension of 12 *riksdaler*/year. The pension was called a *gratial*.

Carl was born in Norra Vi parish on the above date, son of soldier Nils Rumbo. In the general muster rolls he is always called Petter, but in the clerical surveys always Carl, and this

is a bit strange.

Old soldiers were often given the job of church verger (*kyrkoväktare*), as they usually could read and write, and sometimes also functioned as teachers. It was their military training and orderly conduct that made them important persons in the parish.

It seems that Mr. Loenbom valued Carl Rundbom, but not Johannes Sundberg.

What's New with ArkivDigital?



Exciting new functions in this popular genealogy program

BY KATHY MEADE

ArkivDigital has recently released its new software program 2.0 to all customers. The new software offers powerful name searching features that ease one's research.

The *Base* version allows one to search in the *Population of Sweden 1950* register and the premium version, or *All-in-One* version, offers all the features in the *Base* version as well as two additional databases: *Population of Sweden 1880-1920* and *Population of Sweden 1960*.

ArkivDigital 2.0

ArkivDigital 2.0 offers index searching or name searching, a feature that will speed and simplify your research. Additionally, your search history will be saved and software changes will be automatically updated.

Old and new programs can both be used

You can leave the current version of the software on your computer; new and old software can coexist easily.

The new program only works with higher OS

Please note that the new software only works with Windows 7 or higher, Mac OS X 10.6 or higher, as well as the Linux operating systems. Unfortunately, it will not run with Windows Vista, Windows XP, or other older operating systems.

To download the new software see link on p. 30!

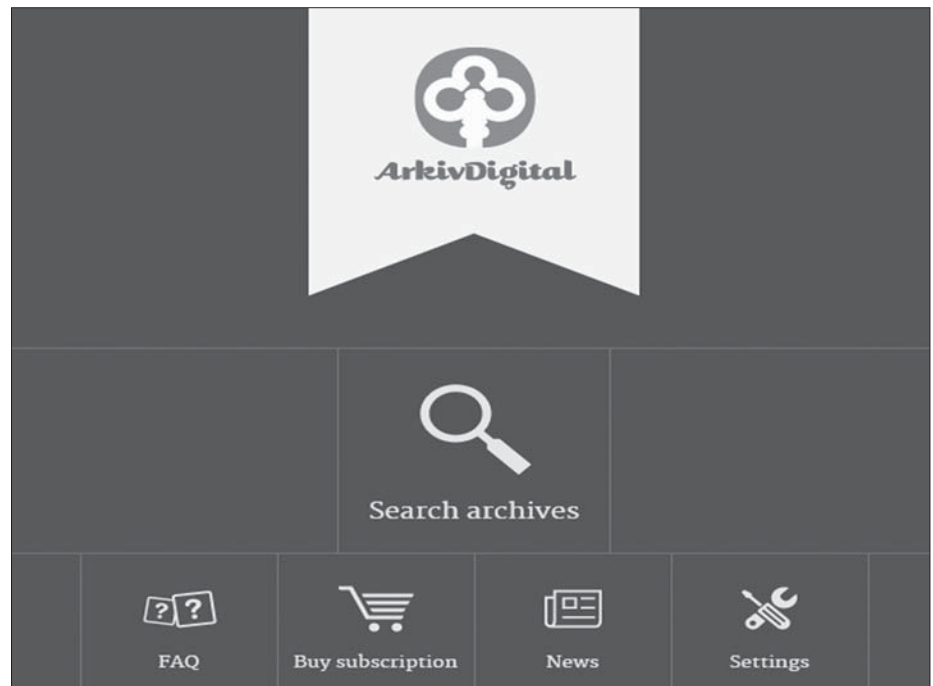
After you have installed this software, you will see a new icon that looks like ArkivDigital's logo, a white key on a blue background. The red

shield that represents the old program will remain visible; it will not disappear when the new software is installed. Both software applications can run simultaneously, and may be accessed with the same user information.

Once the ArkivDigital 2.0 is installed, you will see the login page. To open the search window, click on *Search archives*.

News – Link to the blog. New postings to the English blog are added usually twice each week.

Settings – Here you can change the settings for language, mouse speed for zooming, presentation, and other settings (advanced) like if you want a print-out in portrait or landscape orientation, which also has to be changed in the printer settings.



On this Start screen you can, also in the top right corner, (which is not in this picture) change language to Swedish, and also see which program version you have.

There are four other links on the login page:

FAQ – Link to the frequently asked question page which also includes customer contact information.

Buy subscription – Link to the subscription purchase page.

Searching in Arkiv-Digital 2.0

The most powerful feature of Arkiv-Digital 2.0 is the introduction of index searching or name searching. The new software offers two methods for searching: *Archives* and *Index*.

1. Archives – Search archives documents

This method allows you to search documents in the archives. You can filter your search by archive type,

county (*län*), or province. The search method is the same methodology as in the older version but the interface layout differs.

2. Index – Search for people

This method allows you to search by name in the *Population of Sweden 1950* in the *Base* version. In the *All-in-One* version you can search for everything that is included in the *Base* version plus the *Population of Sweden 1880-1920* and *Population of Sweden 1960*.

Start of a search for a parish.

6 sources match your search:

Name	County	Archive type
Lassestpredikantens i Vadstena ministerialböcker	Östergötlands län	Parish / Congregation
Spökhemspredikantens i Vadstena folkskoleföringshandlingar	Östergötlands län	Parish / Congregation
St Per (Vadstena landsförsamling)	Östergötlands län	Parish / Congregation
Vadstena	Östergötlands län	Parish / Congregation
Vadstena hospitalförsamling	Östergötlands län	Parish / Congregation
Vadstena krigsmanshusförsamling	Östergötlands län	Parish / Congregation

The result of searching for Vadstena parish.

Vadstena

Volumes 150 st

Name	Volume type	From	Until
AI:1	Household records	1713	1720
AI:1a	Household records	1695	1695
AI:2	Household records	1734	1770
AI:3	Household records	-	-
AI:4	Household records	-	-
Vadstena LIA:6	Household records	1766	1766
AI:5	Household records	1801	1810
AI:6	Household records	1801	1810

The start of the list of church records.

Two subscription options

The ArkivDigital customers will have two subscription options for the new software: *Base* and *All-in-One*.

Base: Provides access to all the documents in the online archive plus the *Population of Sweden 1950* name index. You will need to install the new software, ArkivDigital 2.0, to access the *Population of Sweden 1950* index.

All-in-One: Everything available through the *Base* subscription plus two powerful name-searchable indexes - the *Population of Sweden 1960* index and the *Population of Sweden 1880-1920*. To access these two new tools, subscribe to the *All-in-One* subscription. Currently, the *All-in-One* is only being offered as an annual subscription.

The new software, ArkivDigital 2.0, is the same software platform for both the *Base* and *All-in-one* subscriptions.

Name Searching – A Powerful Tool

The most exciting new feature offered in the ArkivDigital 2.0 is searching by name. To search by name, click on *Index – Search for People*. Then click on *Index Source*. If you have the *Base* version, you will

see the following registers or indexes:

- Population of Sweden 1950
- Population of Nyköping 1880-1920

If you have the *All-in-One* version, you will see the following registers:

- Population of Sweden 1950
- Population of Sweden 1960
- Population of Sweden 1880-1920

To search, select the index source. Enter your search criteria such as name, birth date, birth parish, or other characteristics in the search box field. The search works like a Google search.

Population of Sweden 1950

The 1950 Swedish Census index is a wonderful source for those seeking information about people living in Sweden during the middle of the last century. This census is drawn from the country's tax register published in 1951, using data collected late in the previous year, and includes everyone who then lived in Sweden.

The register is searchable by name and includes full name, birth date and birth parish, marital status, and information about their place of

The Index search window in the All-in-One subscription.


Population of Sweden 1960

The *Population of Sweden 1960* is very similar to the Population of Sweden 1950 index, but a decade later. The 1961 tax register, with information collected at the end of 1960, is the data source.

If you then want to follow people further forward in time, do remember the DVD:s for the Swedish population in 1970, 1980, and 1990. They are available from SVAR, see their ad on p. 28.

Future

ArkivDigital has plans to add more searchable registers to the All-in-One subscription. ArkivDigital's ongoing goal is be the premier site for Swedish research and simplify the research process as much as possible.

Ester Lovisa Karlsson, born 1899-02-04 - Population of Sweden 1950	
 Print	
First name	Ester Lovisa
Last name	Karlsson b Karlsson
Birth date	1899-02-04
Birth location	Fellingsbro, Örebro län
Civil status	Gift kvinna 1922-05-24
Register for census	Malingsbo, Kopparbergs län
Real estate	Malingsbo 1:1
Address	Backgården, Malingsbo
Earlier censuses	
1946: Malingsbo, Kopparbergs län	
1949: Malingsbo, Kopparbergs län, Malingsbo 1:1	
Links	
Birth records: Fellingsbro C:17 (1895-1907)	
Same household	
Ivar Karl Edvin Karlsson 1901-01-13	

A search for Ester, living in Malingsbo parish, gave the above result.

residence. Individuals are grouped by households, though the relationships among those living together are not stated. Nonetheless, it is often possible to infer additional information. If a man and woman in the same household have the same marriage date, for example, they most likely are married to each other. Children of age 17 or more, but still living with their parents, are listed separately.

Additional information in the database includes the maiden name of married women and the place of registration in the previous tax register. Usually, there is a link to the first image of the parish birth book that will contain the person's birth record.

Population of Sweden 1880-1920

The *Population of Sweden 1880-1920* is a digital searchable name register of all of the Swedish household records and congregation books from around 1880 to 1920. In other words: A fantastic tool for solving those genealogical mysteries in your family tree!

Whatever happened to your great-grandfather's little brother? His name appeared in an 1860's household record, but then he vanished. Surely, he moved somewhere. But where?


This tool is the first one to employ as you pursue an answer. You can search for a person by name, birth date, or other characteristics and you will see a result list of possible candidates. Click on a good possibility and you will pull up a transcription of that person's complete information along with a link to the original record.

Persons living in Stockholm are NOT in this index, as the city had their own method for keeping track of the population.

Tip – Use approximate search to find your Carl whose name may be spelled with a K in one record and a C in another.

This register is created in partnership with *MyHeritage*.

This article was first published in *Tidningen*, Newsletter for the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, Published here by the permission of the author.

Selma Ottilia Lovisa Lagerlöf, born 1858-11-20	
 Print	
First name	Selma Ottilia Lovisa
Last name	Lagerlöf
Birth date	1858-11-20
Birth location	Ö. Emtervik
Birth parish (norm)	Östra Ämtervik, Värmlands län
Parish	Östra Ämtervik, Värmlands län
Place	Mårbacka
Time span	1896 - 1911
Links	
Source: Östra Ämtervik Allt:1 (1896-1911) Image 252 / Page 241	
Birth record: Östra Ämtervik C:5 (1818-1859)	
Birth record: Östra Ämtervik C:7 (1833-1860)	

Here is the information about famous author and Nobel prize winner Selma Lagerlöf from the Population of Sweden 1880-1920. Below is her childhood home.





Book Reviews

Here you will find information about interesting books on the immigration experience, genealogical manuals, books on Swedish customs, and much more. We welcome contacts with SAG readers, suggestions on books to review perhaps.

If you want to review a book yourself, please contact the SAG Editor, at <sag@etgenealogy.se> so we know what you are working on.

She found her Chinese family

Finding Samuel Lowe, by Paula Williams Madison. Hardcover or Kindle. 288 pages. Publisher: Amistad (April 14, 2015). ISBN-13: 978-0062331632. Available at Amazon.com.

Paula Williams Madison is a black American with roots in China. She always knew her maternal grandfather was a man from China but didn't know anything about him until recently. Her mother was Nell Vera Lowe, born in Jamaica with a Chinese father and a black Jamaican mother. They were never married and Nell grew up without her father Samuel Lowe.

But Paula found him, or rather his sons and daughters and their children, in China only some years ago. The search for Samuel Lowe and the reunion of the shattered family is what this book is all about. The reunion means that Paula now has an extended and large family and practically a new and whole identity, as she puts it in her book.

She is overwhelmed by the results of her genealogical research, a feeling that she passes on to the reader. It is very interesting and very moving to follow her on her journey. And a very good example of how to write your own genealogical story.

Samuel Lowe came to Jamaica as a teenager in the early 20th century. After laboring for some years, he started a shop, as many other men from China did. A 'Chiney' shop, common in Jamaica. In Kingston he met Nell's mother and Nell was born in 1918, his first child. He also had a relationship with another Jamaican woman, and had three children with her.

Some years later his family in China decided he should marry a Chinese girl and sent him their choice, a young woman called Ho Swee Yin. Because of this, Nell's mother took Nell away from her father and decided he would never see her again. Which he didn't. For many years he kept looking for his daughter but finally went home to China

with his other children. Among those was his daughter by the other Jamaican woman. They also had two boys, of which the oldest died young. The other one was called Derek and he was his father's oldest son. Samuel wanted to bring him to China but his wife said no, she wanted her own son to be the oldest son in the family, as this traditionally is the most important child.

With the help of friends, Paula could get in touch with Chinese people in Toronto who could find information about her grandfather. He was from the Hakka province in China and Hakka people have a conference every fourth year. In 2012 Paula attended this.

She also found her grandfather on an emigration list at Familysearch. In rather a short time she was in touch with a cousin in China and through him could finally meet three of her mother's siblings, the oldest still alive at age 94, in China. She has also visited the village where her grandfather was born and raised.

This is a heartwarming and wonderful success story about genealogy, lovely to read and very inspiring.

Eva Johansson

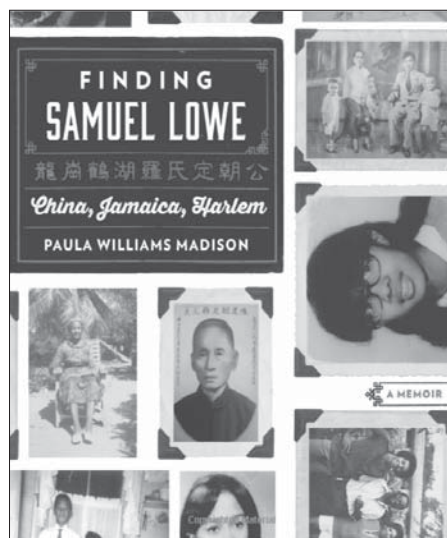
SALE!

**Swedish Voters in
Chicago 1888**

By Nils William Olsson
302 pages of Swedes,
comments, and indexes.

\$10 + \$5 S&H

Contact Jill Seaholm at
<jillseaholm@augustana.edu>



Peter Cassel Family

A new book on Peter Cassel and his family came out at the end of 2015, co-authored by *Quarterly* editor Kevin Proescholdt and former Society board member Earl Check. Peter Cassel was the leader and founder of the New Sweden, Iowa, settlement in 1845, the first Swedish settlement in that state. *Peter Cassel and His Family: Faces of Swedish America* includes biographies of Cassel and his two wives, his children, and all of his grandchildren, as well as historical information on New Sweden and Swede Point (Madrid), Iowa, the state's second Swedish settlement to which Cassel's oldest son (Carl Johan Cassel) moved in 1849. The 315-page book also includes over 150 photographs of Cassel family members. The book is available for \$25 plus \$4 shipping from Earl Check, 2003 310th St., Madrid, IA 50156.



Book Reviews

A Bridge Disaster

The Halfway to Hell Club. In Search of Lindros and the Other Men who fell in the Gate, by Börje Lundvall. Publisher: Lundvall Konsult och Design (27 Feb. 2015). Paperback 260 pages. ISBN-13: 978-9163769566. Available from Bokus.com (a Swedish bookstore). Price 200 SEK + postage.

An exciting genealogy trip is offered by Börje Lundvall in the richly illustrated book *The Halfway to Hell Club* with some clarification of the title despite the confusing subtitle: “In Search of Lindros and the Other Men Who Fell in the Gate.”

The story’s beginning is in the Småland cottage in Halltorp, just south of Kalmar, which the author first visited in 1964 in his grandmother’s company. Börje was then 10 years old and they came to celebrate that great-uncle (*gammelfarbrodern*) Karl Lindros had reached the age of 90. The meeting with the engaging birthday child was reinforced by what Börje heard about Karl Alfred Åke, the old man’s son’s emigration and his tragic death on 17 February 1937. He and nine other bridge builders were killed when a construction platform collapsed from the nearly completed Golden Gate Bridge, the era’s perhaps most acclaimed bridge construction project.

Charles Lindros, as he called himself in America, was born in 1906 in Söderköping, and had six years of elementary school and some easier jobs before his emigration in Novem-

ber 1925. The 19-year-old’s destination was California, due to three cousins who had already emigrated to San Francisco.

It went well for them and Albin and Fred’s construction company gave a job to the newcomer. But the Great Depression lurked behind the “roaring twenties” and Charles had to devote himself increasingly to seeking new jobs in various locations in California. The source material about the thoroughly optimistic man is far from rich, but thanks to the author’s research efforts fired by his indomitable energy, his ingenuity, and via long research trips in the U.S., Charles Lindros’s life path is shown in a fascinating way. The initial source are the letters home to his family, the first only a few weeks after landing in New York. Three letters from 1926 bear witness to the difficulties for a job-seeking immigrant, long before the start of the Depression.

According to the 1930 U.S. Census, Charles lives in the idyllic town of Eureka, in the middle of “Redwood

country.” He finds jobs in lumber camps and sawmills, and sends a series of photos from there home.

At the end of the year he is again without a job, but in a letter from the spring of 1931 he tells that he has escaped the perilous life as a hobo by finding a farming job up in the mountains. Life brightens for him when he met Marie Zimmerman, whom he married in December of 1934.

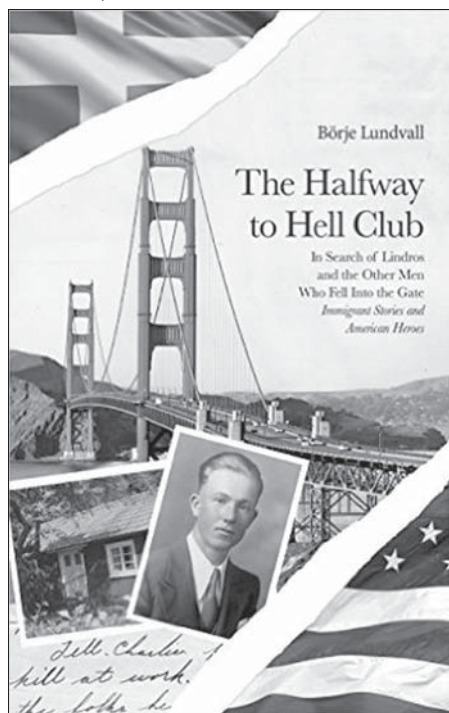
The sensational project of building the bridge over the “Golden Gate” been underway for about a year, when Charles got a job there as a construction worker. It was a stroke of luck the Lindros couple probably thought. But then came the fatal day in February 1937, which became the worst disaster in the history of the bridge construction, and was reported all over the U.S., but not mentioned in Sweden.

In her state of despair Marie felt that she had to inform the unknown family in Sweden. Her touching letter starts “I wish the person reading this letter will break this awful news as gently as possible to Charles’s people. It just about kills me to have to write it.”

Here ends the thread in Börje Lundvall’s chronicle. It has become multifaceted, thanks to the author adding knowledge about the immigrant country at large and long hours in the research field. The result is eminently commendable.

Ulf Beijbom

(First published in *Emigranten* 2016/2, from the *Swedish Emigrant Institute*)



Book Reviews



An Åland girl in New York

My name is Sunny Now. A Scandinavian Emigrant's Story, by Hjördis M. Sundblom. Published by PQR-Kultur, 2005, 118 pages. Hardcover. Ill., ISBN 952-99631-0-6.

Contact The Åland Emigrant Institute at <emi.inst@aland.net>

The author is Hjördis M. Sundblom, born in 1920 on the island of Göl-

land, fairly close to Föglö church on the Åland Islands, between Sweden and Finland, belonging to Finland. Hjördis's parents were poor farming people, who had a total of four children, of which she was the third. The land consisted mainly of rocks, but the father Fredrik was a strong man and managed to break ground for two little fields for potatoes. His wife, Maria, kept a cow and some sheep, that were a problem to feed during the winter, but they managed, and did not know about any other way of life.

Hjördis went for four years to a nearby local school. To get there she had to walk for an hour and row a boat for some parts of the way. In those days it was still common to say that youngsters did not need to know

more than to plow and sow, and going to school made them lazy.

At age 15 she was confirmed, and thus an adult. A new stage of her life began. She traveled with a fishing boat to Stockholm and was met by an aunt, who took care of her and made her some new clothes, as she did not have many. Then she started her first job as a help in a well-to-do family, and was kept busy with cleaning and many other chores. For this she got 12 *kronor* each month, which she sent to her parents.

In the summer she went back home to help with the small farm, and in the fall, back to Stockholm and to an elderly couple who paid her 15 *kronor* each month.

By this time her parents had bought a larger farm in bad repair,

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Book Reviews

and to be able to do this they had borrowed money from Maria's sister Mathilda in New York.

Now Hjördis figured out that she should also go to New York and work so she could pay back that debt to her aunt Mathilda. So she wrote to her and asked if she would lend her money for the ticket, which she did.

On 21 April 1938 Hjördis left Göteborg on the *Gripsholm*. This was the largest boat she had ever seen. What worried her most was that she did not know English, did not have any idea about how to get work and had no money. But her aunt Mathilda was to meet her and care for her.

On 1st May she landed in New York, and was at once recognized by her aunt, who had been to Åland the year before. They took a cab to her apartment, and Hjördis was happy. Next morning her aunt woke her up with the words "Get up! You are going to your job!" She was going to be a kitchen help to the cook in a rich family on Park Avenue. The cook was named Aina Engblom, who was a distant relative and became a lifelong friend of Hjördis's. Next she and Aina were driven to the family's summer residence in Connecticut, where they stayed until the fall.

There were many new experiences for Hjördis, even buying readymade dresses. Her employers called her *Sunny* as they could not pronounce her real name. Her first wages were \$50, so now she could pay back the ticket money to her aunt. Later on it became possible for her to pay back the money for the farm, but it took several years.

Back in New York Hjördis started to take part in the social life of the

other young employees, and started to attend meetings at the Salvation Army, a Swedish Pentecost church, and the Swedish-American church on E. 48th. She enjoyed meeting other young people.

WWII started in 1939 in Finland as well, and Hjördis was worried about her family and kept sending them parcels with various items. She also knitted lots of socks for soldiers in her spare time.

After 5 years Hjördis now wanted a new situation. She did not do too well as a cook, but enjoyed serving, and wanted to become a waitress. That took a number of years before she became confident in her work, and in the 1950s got a job as a waitress in the family Vanderbilt Whitney on Long Island. There she saw many well-known personages as well as film stars.

In 1958 Hjördis wanted to change to a new profession and now she wanted to study to become a physical therapist, which was a bit hard for her with only four years of school, but she managed to pass the entrance exam, and was able to live with her friend Aina. Her course took a year and then she got her diploma. She also got a job offer from a clinic where she had practiced, and where she stayed for 27 years until her retirement. She had always wanted to be able to help people in need, and now her dream was fulfilled.

In 1945 she had married a sailor from Åland, but that ended later in a divorce.

After her retirement she had no relatives in the U.S., and on Åland she had a brother and sister with families, which would be some security, if she became ill. So in 1987 she moved back to Åland and the town of Mariehamn after 57 years in the U.S.

This is a very interesting book, which gives insights into many different social levels in New York.

Elisabeth Thorsell

SAG needs your help!

We regard the reviews as a very important part of SAG, as the readers are spread all over the U.S., Canada, and Sweden and a lone subscriber even in Australia.

For all of them it is very difficult to keep track of the many interesting books (and movies) that are published with a *Swedish* or *Swedish-American* theme.

We need you to keep your eyes open. And we are extremely pleased if you will write a review and send it to the SAG editor.

Family histories, church histories, local group histories, and lodge histories are among the things we would like to present in SAG. And all in English.

A good book review contains the full title of the book, name of author, year of printing, name of publisher, where it can be bought, and the price of the book.

Send all book reviews to the SAG editor!

Elisabeth Thorsell
SAG editor



Cover of the Swedish version of her book.

Interesting Web Sites

All links tested in
June 2016 and
should work

Canadian Passenger Lists 1865–1922: <http://bit.ly/CanadaPassLists>

Digitized newspapers from New Zealand: <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

BMD records from New Zealand: <https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search/>

Collections of links for New Zealand research:

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/hands/links-genealogy/genealogy-links>

Canadian Local Histories and more: <http://www.ourroots.ca/>

The Swedish Property Board (Historic buildings): <http://www.sfv.se/en/>

Illinois Digital Archives: <http://www.idaillinois.org/>

International Red Cross Database of Prisoners of War during WWI:

<http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>

New York State Death Index 1957–1966 (NOT NY City!) Huge Excel file:

<https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index-Beginning-1957/vafa-pf2s>

A tool to find old maps: <http://www.oldmapsonline.org/>

Swedish Council of America: <http://swedishcouncil.org/>

Swedish Council of America, Affiliate members:

<http://swedishcouncil.org/affiliates/2016-sca-affiliate-member-organizations/>

About Naturalization records: <http://www.naturalizationrecords.com/>

Information on Finnish genealogy in English: <http://www.genealogia.fi/nain-paaset-alkuun>

Genealogical resources for Norway: <http://www.disnorge.no/genress/index.php>

Information on Danish genealogy in English: <https://www.sa.dk/en/k/genealogy>

Emigration from Iceland to North America: <http://www.halfdan.is/vestur/vestur.htm>

<p><i>ArkivDigital 2.0:</i> http://www.arkivdigital.net/products/adonline/installation</p>

*Genealogy without
documentation
is just mythology*

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.

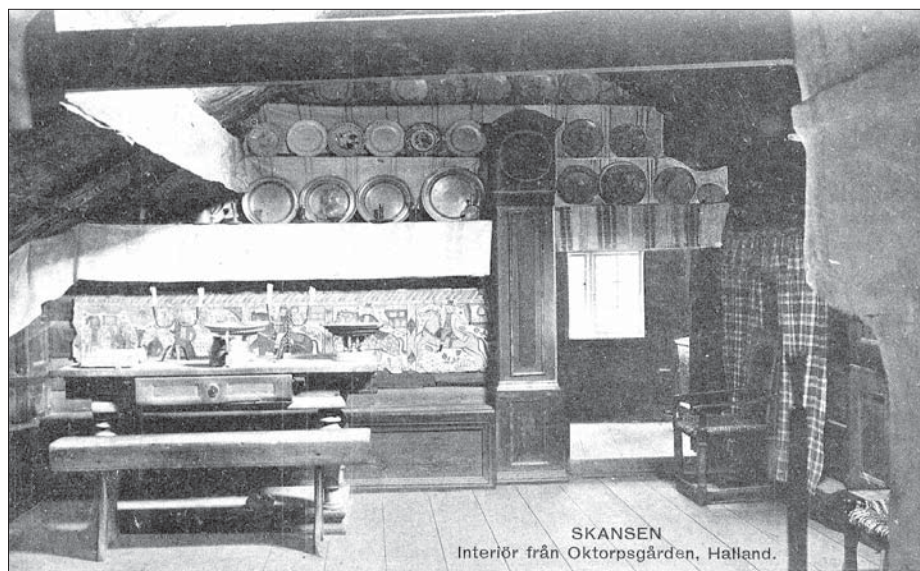
Please send your queries to SAG!
Not everything is online!

Several years ago a kind lady, *Beverly Hobbs*, of Worcester, MA, sent me a bunch of photos that had their origins in the collections of her maternal grandmother, *Anna Victoria Carlsson*, b. 1881 in Viker (Öre.), who later worked for some time at the outdoors museum Skansen in Stockholm. All of these photos were taken in Stockholm, and presumably were her colleagues at Skansen. Some of them have names written on them. But that is not enough to identify them.

If someone looks familiar, please contact the SAG editor!



This photo was also taken in Stockholm, and the soldier's name, written across the picture was Albert Jansson.



Interior of the Oktorp farm from Halland, at Skansen around 1900.

The Last Page

Dear friends,

Summer is here, and it might be time to leave the computer at home and go out in the landscape and look for churches, old houses, and the local heritage museums that can be found in most parishes.

As my own *mormor's far* was born in southern Skåne, we recently spent a few days there to explore. The high point of the trip was to meet with my 5th cousin Birgit, a very active nonagenarian whom we had not seen for years. Then we finally found my grandmother's grandparent's grave, which was very satisfactory, as we were in the right cemetery, with too little information, in 2012. Now we had the grave number and also a kind sexton that helped.

During our time in Skåne we also met with Ingrid Nilsson of Workshop

fame and had a good time, and learnt a lot about her geographical area.

Otherwise the most exciting genealogical happening during the late spring was the new ArkivDigital 2.0 and those new indexes which come with it if you get their *All-in-One* subscription. The Indexes are fine, but the results always need to be checked in the original records, so do not forget the proper ways of doing research, and cite your sources!

Hopefully some American friends will come to the Stockholm area for a nice visit later during the summer.

A major family event took place on Midsummer Eve in the parish church of Salem, south of Stockholm, when our 6th grandchild, *Erik Simeon Håkanov Thorsell*, was baptized in the same church in which his father Hå-



kan was baptized many years ago. Erik's mother Galya is Bulgarian and his third name is a Bulgarian patronymic. Erik has at least 102 direct ancestors named Erik.

Till next time!
Elisabeth Thorsell

Help us promote the SAG journal!

Do you belong to a Swedish genealogy or other Swedish interest group? Even a group that only sometimes focuses on Sweden? We are happy to supply SAG back issues and subscription brochures for you to use as handouts.

If you will have a raffle or drawing, we can even provide a certificate for a 1-year subscription to SAG for you to give away.

Contact Jill Seaholm at <jillseaholm@augustana.edu>, or 309.794.7204. Thank you!



SAG Workshop *Salt Lake City* 30 Oct. – 5 Nov. 2016 !



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For more information you can use this address:
<http://bit.ly/SAGWorkshop>

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]).

Landskap (<i>Province</i>)	SAG & SSF <i>Abbr.</i>	Landskap (<i>Province</i>)	SAG & SSF <i>Abbr.</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Närke	Närk.
Bohuslän	Bohu.	Skåne	Skån.
Dalarna	Dala.	Småland	Smål.
Dalsland	Dals.	Södermanland	Södm.
Gotland	Gotl.	Uppland	Uppl.
Gästrikland	Gäst.	Värmland	Värm.
Halland	Hall.	Västerbotten	Väbo.
Hälsingland	Häls.	Västergötland	Vägö.
Härjedalen	Härj.	Västmanland	Väsm.
Jämtland	Jämt.	Ångermanland	Ånge.
Lappland	Lapp.	Öland	Öland
Medelpad	Mede.	Östergötland	Östg.
Norrbottn	Nobo.		

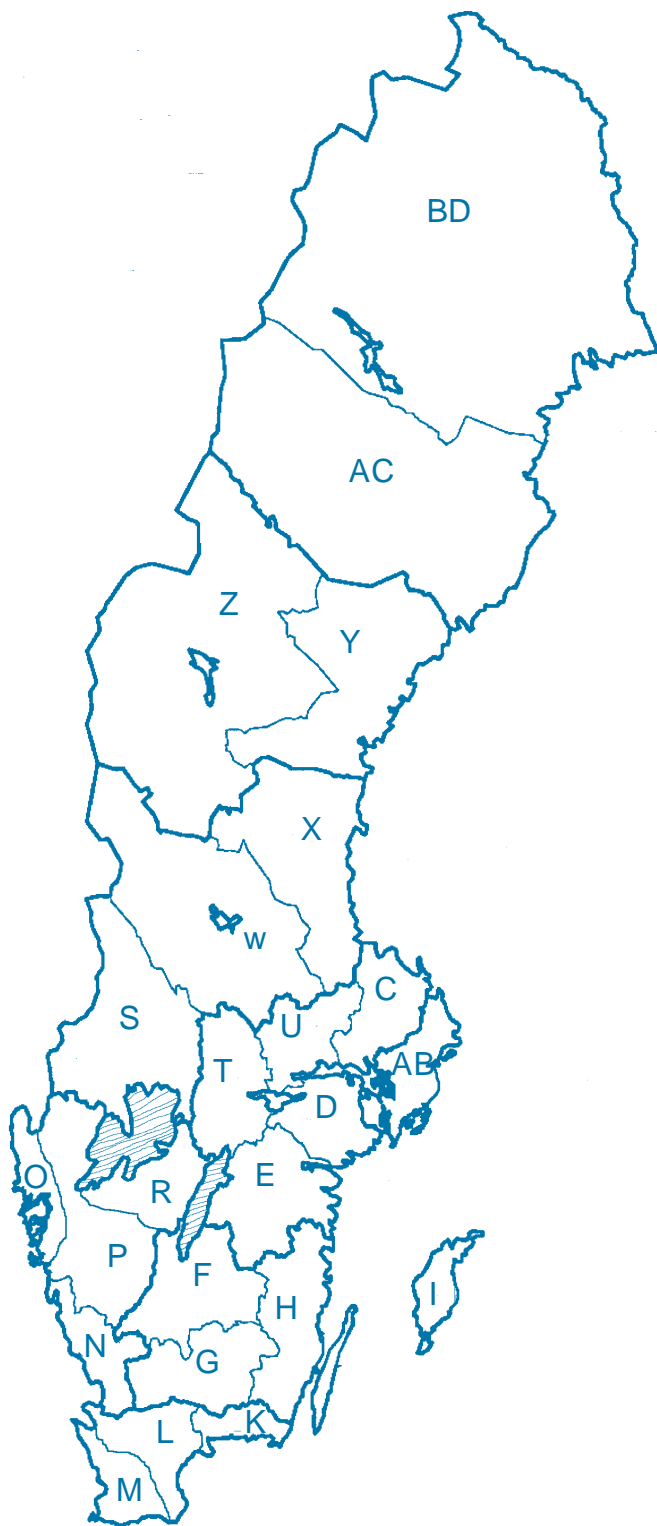
Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

Län (<i>County</i>)	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>	Län (<i>County</i>)	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Blek.	K	Stockholm	Stock.	Sthm.	AB
Dalarna ^a		Dlrn.	W	Södermanland	Söd.	Södm.	D
Gotland	Gotl.	Gotl.	I	Uppsala	Upps.	Upps.	C
Gävleborg	Gävl.	Gävl.	X	Värmland	Värm.	Vrml.	S
Halland	Hall.	Hall.	N	Västerbotten	Vbn.	Vbtn.	AC
Jämtland	Jämt.	Jmtl.	Z	Västernorrland	Vn.	Vnrl.	Y
Jönköping	Jön.	Jkpg.	F	Västmanland	Väst.	Vstm.	U
Kalmar	Kalm.	Kalm.	H	Västra Götaland ^c		Vgöt.	O
Kronoberg	Kron.	Kron.	G	Örebro	Öre.	Öreb.	T
Norrbottn	Norr.	Nbtn.	BD	Östergötland	Ög.	Östg.	E
Skåne ^b		Skån.	M				

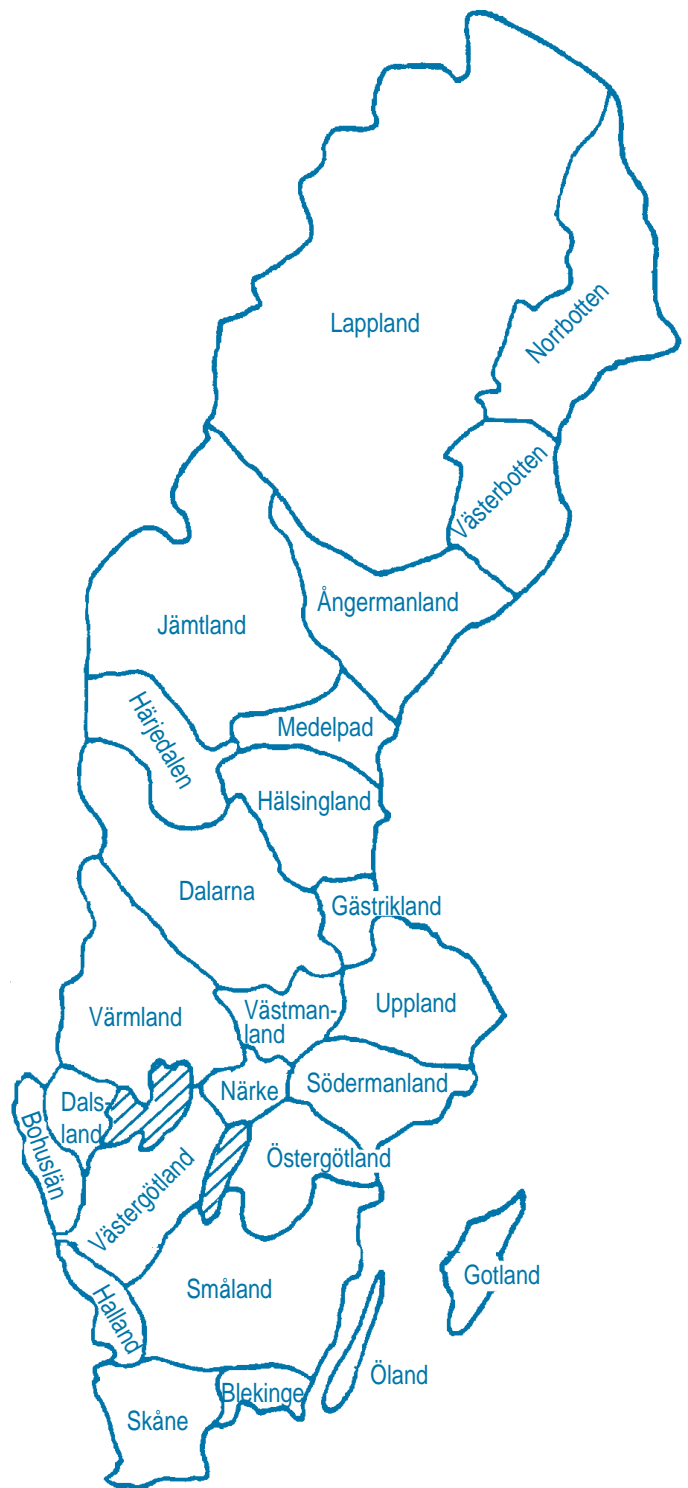
a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

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*) as they were before 1991.



The provinces (*landskap*).