

Swedish American Genealogist

Volume 37 | Number 1

Article 1

3-1-2017

Full Issue Vol. 37 No. 1

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Recommended Citation

(2017) "Full Issue Vol. 37 No. 1," *Swedish American Genealogist*. Vol. 37 : No. 1 , Article 1.

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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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(ISSN 0275-9314)

Swedish American Genealogist

Publisher:

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center
Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61201-2296
Telephone: 309-794-7204. Fax: 309-794-7443
E-mail: sag@augustana.edu
Web address: <http://www.augustana.edu/swenson/>

Editor: Elisabeth Thorsell

Hästskovägen 45, SE-177 39 Järfälla, Sweden
E-mail: sag@etgenealogy.se

Editorial Committee:

Ulf Beijbom, Växjö, Sweden
Dag Blanck, Stockholm, Sweden
Ronald J. Johnson, Madison, WI
Christopher Olsson, Stockton Springs, ME
Ellen Rye, Silver Spring, MD

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Correspondence. Please direct editorial correspondence such as manuscripts, queries, book reviews, announcements, and ahnentafeln to the editor in Sweden.

Correspondence regarding change of address, back issues (price and availability), and advertising should be directed to the publisher in Rock Island.

Subscriptions. Subscriptions to the journal are \$30.00 per annum and run for the calendar year. Single copies are \$8.00 each. Swenson Center Associates are entitled to a special discounted subscription price of \$15.00. Direct all subscription inquiries to the publisher in Rock Island.

Subscriptions can also be paid online. Go to this page: <http://bit.ly/SSIRCpay> (must be exactly like this, case sensitive!).

In Sweden the subscription price is **295.00 kronor** per year. This subscription fee may be deposited in our *bankgiro* account: **379-6943**, *Swedish American Genealogist*, c/o Thorsell, Hästskovägen 45, SE-177 39 Järfälla, Sweden.

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Cover picture:

Picture from the Great Hall at Ellis Island. Provided by Ted Rosvall, see his article on p. 8.

Picture from U.S. National Park Service in Public Domain.

Genealogy Treasure

– Or what you may find in newspapers

BY ROBERT WILLEY

In early October of last year one of my brothers informed me of the Swedish American Newspaper Project recently made available by the Minnesota Historical Society. When I entered their web site I found amazing information regarding my family's ancestors who emigrated from Höganäs, Sweden, to Worcester, Massachusetts, during the 1890's and early 1900's. There were 21 of my family's ancestors identified in over 200 articles published in the *Svea* and *Scandinavia* newspapers from 1889 to 1922.

What made it more meaningful was that I personally knew many of the individuals and have their oral family histories.

Now came the challenge of understanding the news articles content, since I do not read Swedish. What followed was an extensive search by me for translation resources. Since translating this volume of potential articles would be a costly adventure, I sought a combination of free resources from relatives and several individuals with whom I share mutual ancestors found on <ancestry.com>. Then I com-

municated through the internet to search for paid translation services found at the Swenson Center and the University of Wisconsin.

Eight individuals (three in the United States, one in Denmark & four in Sweden) were successfully recruited to translate newspaper articles in a relatively short period of time. Within two months, 80 family-related articles have been completed. The contents found have revealed a personal detailed record of their daily lives (church activities, employment, and involvement in civic, political, and social organizations); even my grandfather's photograph in 1920. They were indeed active participants in the early life of the Swedish community.

The findings are especially important to me since I have been on a genealogy journey since 1971, made two trips to Sweden communicating with relatives, and written a family genealogy book and several published genealogy articles over the years. Needless to say, I have been able learn much more than I ever anticipated and look forward to sharing the findings with my son, brothers, and grandchildren.

Here is an example from *Svea* 11 June 1911:

På villospår.
En ung herre vid namn Paul, 3 år gammal och son till mr och mrs Martin Swanson, 6 Watson 'st., Greendale, beslöt sig förra torsdagen för att bese Worcester på egen hand. Han tog spårvagnen till att börja med, men gick senare till fots. I närheten af Odd Fellows byggnad kom emellertid den stygge farbror polis och lade vantarne på mr Swanson j:r, och förde honom till polisstationen, där senare mr Swanson s:r afhämtade sitt vilsekomna kött och blod.

"On a wrong track"

A young man by the name of Paul, three years old and son to Mr. & Mrs. Martin Swanson, 6 Watson Street, Greendale, decided last Thursday to look at Worcester all alone. He took the streetcar at the beginning, but later walked on foot. Close to the Odd Fellows Home came the unkind policeman who brought Mr. Swanson Jr. to the police station, there later Mr. Martin Swanson Sr. collected his straying "flesh and blood".

(This young adventurer later became the uncle of the author).

Postcard, to the left, from 1909 shows the Old Union Station in Worcester, and the proposed new one.

Author Robert Willey's
e-mail is <hogworc@comcast.net>



The Mystery of Edd Thorén —

or how a change of name befuddled a descendant

BY JIM BOULDEN

"Yes, there will be Christmas soon but what kind of Christmas will it be in the forest. Oh my precious darling how I wish to be with you at Christmas but sadly enough I will probably be in the wild forest instead, but my hope in God is that next Christmas we will not be so separated, yes there will soon be three months passing and we may then meet again, how fun!"

These words penned in Swedish by Edd Thorén to my great-grandmother Hanna Wahlgren just before Christmas 1896 were so close to her heart that she kept three letters from Edd until she died in 1956.

But who was he?

Genealogy is full of mysteries and questions, particularly Swedish family history. It can take decades to crack the mystery, if you ever can.

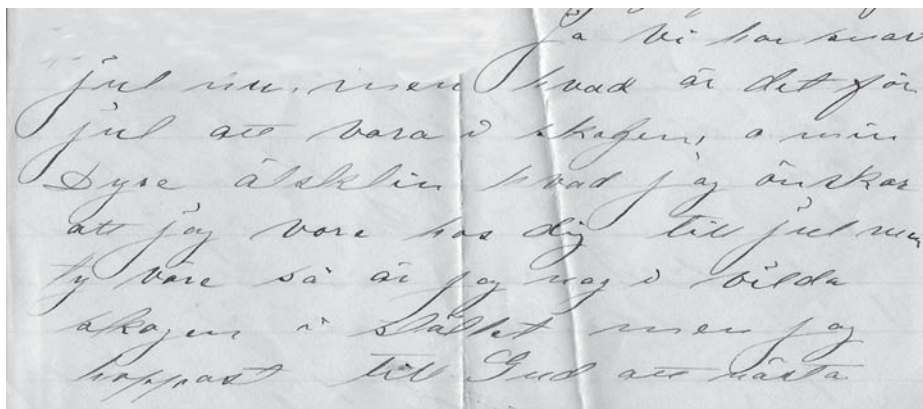
One mystery stuck in the "to do" file was who exactly was Edd Thorén and why did my great-grandmother keep his letters? Three love letters, written from various places in North Dakota and Montana in 1896 and 1897, were among her possessions we found in my grandmother's attic.

But Johanna Christina Wahlgren (mostly known as Hanna) born in Kråksjö, Ljuder parish, (Kron.) on 19 Mar. 1876, married my great-grandfather Johan Edvin Larsson (known as John Edwin Larson) [b 2 Apr. 1868 in Trökörna (Skar.)] in Schenectady, New York in 1898 and did not marry an Edd Thorén, not that I knew anyway.

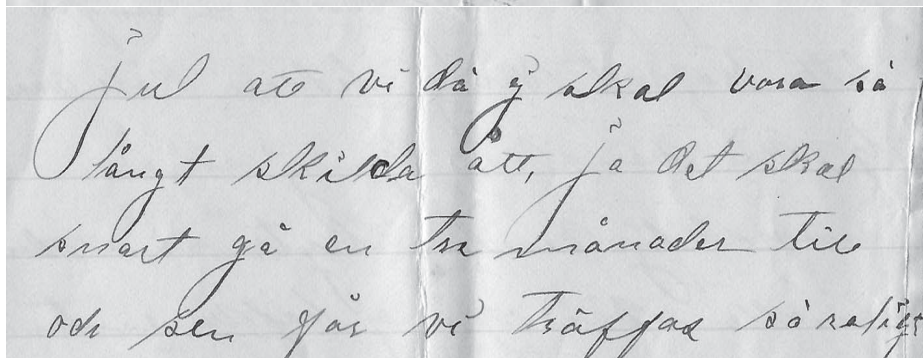
Still she kept these letters her entire life. Letters where Edd professed his love as only a young man missing his beau can.

"I hope you can walk your path without thorns and no clouds will stand in the way of your head," Edd ended the pre-Christmas letter with.

A year and a half before, Hanna and her brother Carl (b 29 Sep. 1869 in Ljuder) left their parents behind for good.



Ja vi har snart jul nu. Men hvad är det för jul att vara i skogen o min Dyra älskling hvad jag önskar att jag vore hos dig till jul men tyvärr så är jag nog i vilda skogen i stället men jag hoppas till Gud att nästa jul att vi då ej skal vara så långt skilda ått, ja det skall snart gå en tre månader till och sen får vi träffas så roligt

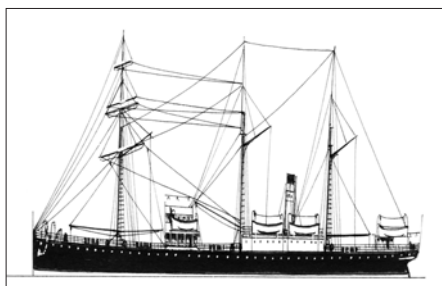


Jul att vi då ej skal vara så långt skilda ått, ja det skall snart gå en tre månader till och sen får vi träffas så roligt

Ja, vi har snart jul nu, men hvad är det för jul att vara i skogen o min Dyra älskling hvad jag önskar att jag vore hos dig till jul men tyvärr så är jag nog i vilda skogen i stället men jag hoppas till Gud att nästa Jul att vi då ej skal vara så långt skilda ått, ja det skall snart gå en tre månader till och sen får vi träffas så roligt!

Yes, there will be Christmas soon but what kind of Christmas will it be in the forest. Oh my precious darling how I wish to be with you at Christmas but sadly enough I will probably be in the wild forest instead, but my hope in God is that next Christmas we will not be so separated, yes there will soon be three months passing and we may then meet again, how fun!

Carl was leaving from Ljuder, and Hanna from Karlskrona (Blek.) where she



S/S Island.

had been a domestic for short time, and set sail on the ship *Island* (of the Scandinavian-America Line) for New York on 29 May 1895. Johanna Wahlgren was listed as a 19-year-old "servant girl" and Carl was a 25-year-old laborer. Both had tickets for New York. They arrived at Ellis Island on 14 June, where they were recorded as "Wallgren" and they listed their destination as Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Edd Thorén's pre-Christmas letter written 18 months later was placed in an



John E. Larsson at age 18.

envelope addressed in April to “Miss Hanna Wahlgren” in Hillsboro. It’s likely they met there.

Thorén was not a completely new name to me. John’s mother Anna Svensdotter first married widower Johannes Persson Thorén (also Johannes Persson) in Tengene, (Skar.), in 1843. They had six children, including Fredrik Johansson Thorén [Fred Thorén] (b. 19 Sep. 1858 in Trökörna), who emigrated in 1891 and eventually settled in Minnesota. Anna next married Lars Svensson on 27 Dec. 1862 in Trökörna (Skar.) and had three sons, including my John. Was John’s half-brother Fred Thorén the writer of the love letters?

I moved on to more pressing genealogical matters until I received an email in 2010 from distant cousin Barbro Backlund of Grästorps. She found my tree on Ancestry and solved the Thorén/Larson mystery.



John and Hanna Larson.



Trökörna Svarte Mosse, the home John left. His father Lars Svensson (1830–1906) is standing by the fence.

“I was so happy when I found your family tree at last,” she wrote. “I have been looking for Thorén siblings for so many years and have not found them before. I was quite sure that their name was Thorén in the U.S..”

Barbro only knew my great-grandfather as Edd Thorén and I only knew him as John E. Larson. He was hiding in plain sight. There was no second man, and no ulterior motive. He simply spent the 1890s using both names until settling on the anglicized version of John Edwin Larson.

Armed with a second name, she found what I already knew. John Larson and his bride Hanna lived in Schenectady, New York, where my grandmother Ella Christina Larson was born in 1899 and her sister Hanna Elisabeth Larson was born in 1905.

He worked for years as a machinist for General Electric, a job he took in 1898 on behest of his brother Carl Larson who emigrated in 1886. That job opportunity was the reason John and his fiancée Hanna left North Dakota after he worked clearing forests for seven years.

Armed with a second name, I finally found his naturalization record.

The emigration record in Sweden said he was heading for Litchfield, Minnesota as a “settler.” The passenger record for 22-year old “Johan E. Larson” for the ship *City of Chicago* that landed in New York City 12 May 1890 stated he was heading for ‘Minn’ with many other men on the ship. But John Larson was not to be found in Litchfield. “Johan Edvin Thorén” was

found. He was naturalized in Litchfield, Minnesota, 4 April 1892, along with his half-brother Fred Thorén.

Beyond that of course, I discovered the mystery writer of the love letters.

The letters gave me insight into his work. He wrote to Hanna from Stillwater, North Dakota, 15 March 1897 that “It is snowing and very cold so it is horrible but can change and become good weather soon. That is what I hope. In this town I don’t want to stay for long.”

Then, from Logan, Montana, on 4 May he wrote “Adolf and I will go and have a look where we can sleep tonight. This is only a small town. Here are bad times as it is in Dak (North Dakota). They pay me little more here than in Dak[ota] but it is much more expensive to live here.”

But it was in the earlier pre-Christmas letter from Hillsboro where Edd decided a lack of money would not stand in the way of his courtship of Hanna.

“(Thelander) asked me if I don’t think it is better to be alone than to have a wife to feed and provide clothes. It may be my highest wish to be able to do this favor for you once. It is my goal I wish I can give you a little home... with you will be happiness,” Edd wrote. “Living alone all my life can be heavy... what do you say my little angel?”

Hanna obviously said yes.

 Author Jim Boulden has
 e-mail: <jiboulden@aol.com>

The Future of the Family History Center Microfilm



BY THE ANCESTRY INSIDER

FamilySearch Family History Center staff are increasingly having hard times keeping their microfilm readers operational. Parts are becoming hard to obtain. On a Yahoo discussion group, one staff member reported using O rings from a local machine shop to replace belts. Another staffer reported being quite concerned last October when FamilySearch support indicated that “Film ordering will be going away eventually and now is a great time to start removing unneeded readers.”

This startled her because she understood it would be decades before all the microfilms that could be digitized would be posted on FamilySearch.

Another staffer reported hearing at RootsTech that only 7% of the records had been digitized. Another reported that some microfilms would never be digitized because of “copyright.” (It’s actually not a copyright issue, but other legal impediments.)

Steve Fox, manager of cataloging and metadata services at FamilySearch International, stepped in to clarify the situation. Steve said the 7% number is incorrect.

You’ll recall my report from RootsTech that FamilySearch executives said 50% of the vault has been scanned.

Steve said, “The more critical issue is that raw microfilm used for making copies for distribution is no longer available at an affordable cost. In fact, it will soon be unavailable at any cost.” He said, “I can’t give an exact time frame, but microfilm circulation will go away in the near future, regardless.”

He acknowledged the “copyright” issues and said, “Creative solutions to these issues are in review.”

Steve went on to disclose that some films have been digitized that are not available in historical record collections. These contain 100s of millions of images and are accessible only through the FamilySearch catalog. Including the images available through historical record collections, there are nearly 2 billion images accessible through the catalog. To access images through the catalog, look up a film as you usually would. Then look for a camera icon in the column to the right of the film number. Click the camera icon to access the images.

“Images viewed this way are not structured like the browse collections, but mimic the microfilm roll experience,” Steve said. “If something is on Item 3, you need to scroll down through the thumbnails looking for Item 3, like cranking through a roll of film.”

Images accessed through the catalog are subject to the same conditions as those in historical record collections. Some require that you login. Some will require that you be at a FamilySearch family history center, or even the Salt Lake library.

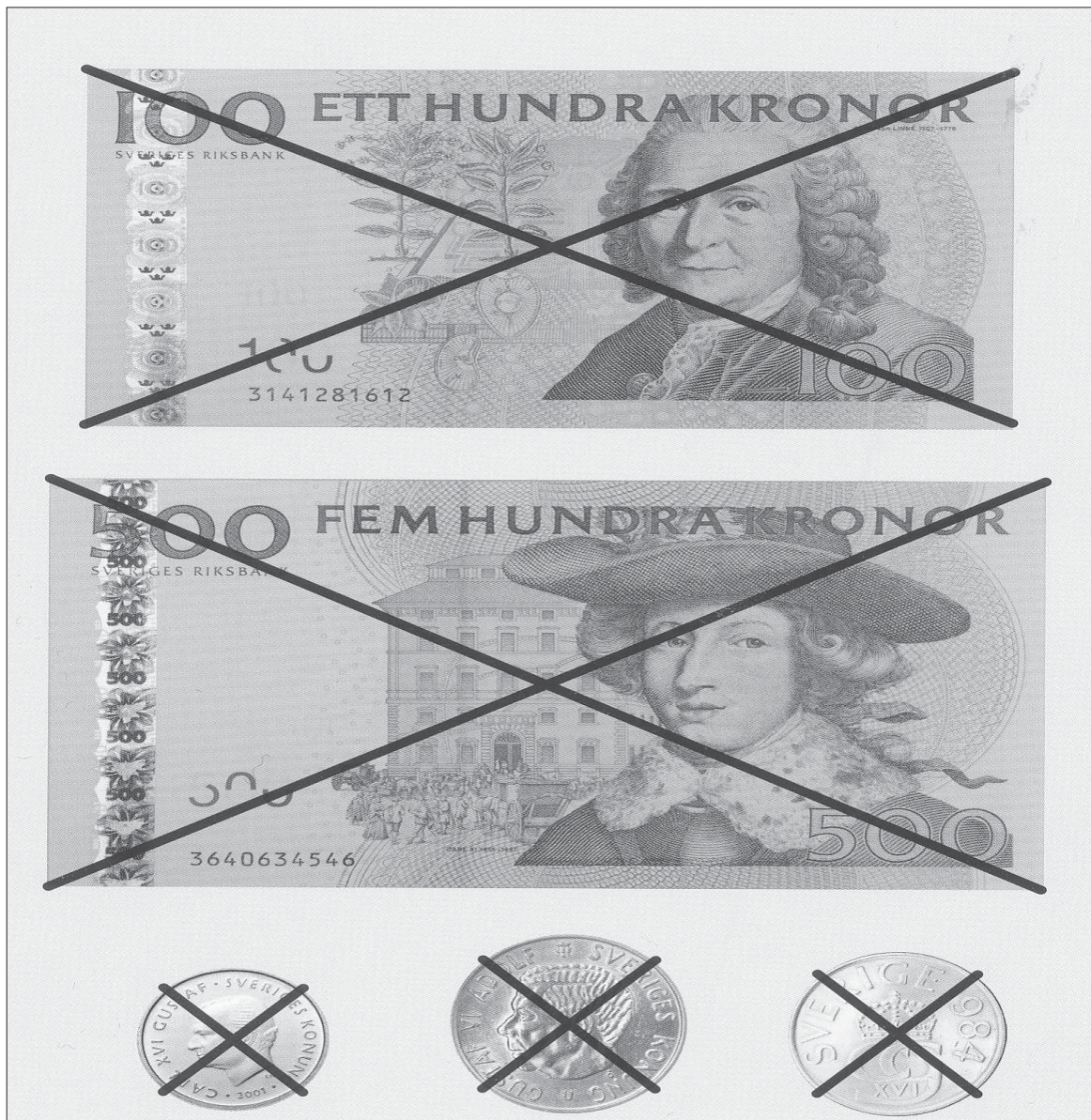
This article was published on *The Ancestry Insider* blog on 14 March 2017.

The Ancestry Insider is the unofficial, unauthorized view of Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. The Ancestry Insider reports on, defends, and constructively criticizes these two websites and associated topics. The author attempts to fairly and evenly support both.

See Link on p. 26

Coming to Sweden in the summer?

Then take notice of this!



On the 1st of July 2017 the above banknotes and coins will **no longer be valid**.

The *banknotes* will be replaced by new ones with many more security features.

All older coins will also no longer be valid.

This means that there are new coins, in the value of 1 *krona*, 2 *kronor*, and 5 *kronor*. The 10 *kronor* (golden color) is still valid.

Q and A from Riksbanken

Why is the Riksbank replacing its banknotes?

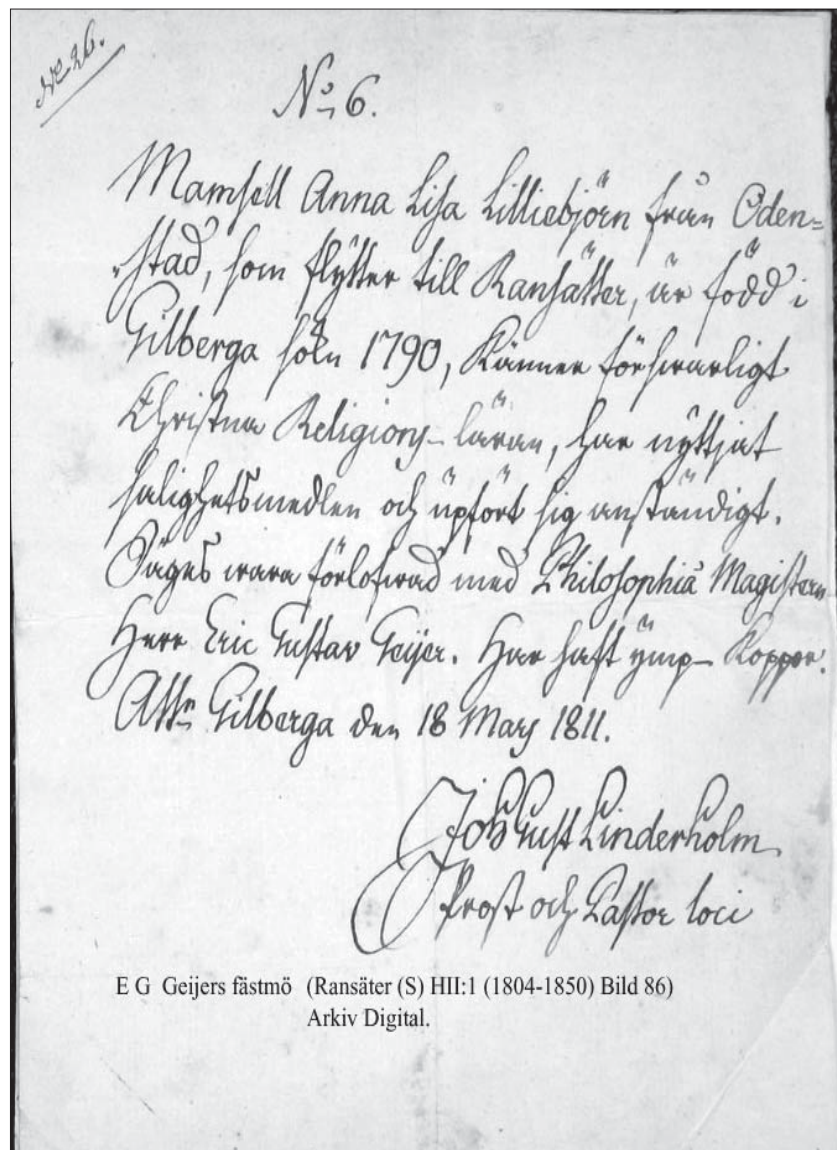
The banknotes have new security features to make them harder to counterfeit. The older banknotes were designed around 30 years ago and need to be modernized.

Why is the Riksbank replacing its coins?

Firstly, the new coins are much smaller and lighter, which means that the handling costs for coins will be lower than they are now. Secondly, the new coins are completely nickel-free. This eliminates the risk of nickel allergy, which is a problem for many people. Thirdly, there is less environmental impact as fewer transports will be needed for the same value of coins.

See link on p. 26

Handwriting Example #50



E G Geijers fästmö (Ransäter (S) HII:1 (1804-1850) Bild 86)
Arkiv Digital.

This is an example of a seldom-used resource among the Swedish church records.

It is the actual removal paper that a person had to go to the parish clergyman and ask for when he/she wanted to move to another parish. In Swedish it is called “flyttningensbetyg” or something similar. In English it might be “certificate of removal”. You might already be familiar with the “in-

and out moving” books (*in- och utflyttningenslängder*) or just “flyttningenslängder” that are found in the “B” series in the list of church records.

However, these small pieces of paper are the basis of those books. They belong to the “H” series, most often called “H II:1.” At Arkiv Digital they are called “Attachments to migration records.”

HII:1	1804	1850
HII:2	1851	1859
HII:3	1860	1874
HII:4	1875	1880
HII:5	1882	1886
HII:6	1887	1892

News from the Swenson Center

BY JILL SEAHOLM, HEAD OF GENEALOGICAL SERVICES, SWENSON CENTER

For the ten-week 2016-2017 winter term at Augustana College, Professor of Math Tom Bengtson taught two First-Year Inquiry (FYI) classes entitled Practical Genealogy. Every first-year Augustana student will take three such general studies FYI courses in sequence that are designed to introduce them to liberal arts and teach thinking, communication skills, reading of academic texts, and research-based argument.

As a member of the Swenson Center's Advisory Committee and frequent user of our resources in his own family history research, Dr. Bengtson's thoughts turned to genealogy and ways to incorporate the Swenson Center's resources into his students' assignments. We were all delighted that both classes were filled.

Early in the term the two classes of 22 students each met as a group once in the Swenson Center where they listened as we staff members gave an overview of our Center, what we do, and what records we have that would help them. To show them what we could provide, we staged our reading room tables with examples of documents, and our microfilm readers with Swedish-American church records and Swedish-American newspapers. We also gave them tours of our closed stacks to show them the kinds of books and archives we collect, explaining how and why we preserve them.

Their assignment was to research the 18 members of the Augustana College senior class of 1884-1885. The FYI students were broken into 18 groups of two or three and each group researched a different member of the 1884-1885 class. They used FamilySearch.org and other free internet sources, plus Augustana College's Special Collections for information about the students' lives at Augustana, and the Swenson Center for the Swedish aspects of the research.

Each small group made an appointment to come in and look for their 1884-85 class member. Over the course of 3-4 weeks, each came in for an hour and some even

came back for more to enhance their assignments. For the sake of time and because most of our genealogy resources are in Swedish, co-worker Susanne Titus and I mostly did lookups while the students watched with interest and took notes. In every case, either the student or his parents were born in Sweden, and the student records from Augustana's Special Collections provided the subject's parish of origin or U.S. hometown so we could look for the parents' origins if the student was born in the U.S. We were able to find our way back into Swedish parish records and go back a generation or more in all but one case, Hans Hanson, where his name was

too common and too little was known about him. Many of the 18 became pastors in the Augustana Synod, and we have rich resources to support research of Augustana Synod pastors.

During the last weeks of the class, the students gave oral presentations of their findings to their classmates, and their written results have been uploaded to Augustana College's Digital Commons, where the public can view their results and even comment on them.

We had a wonderful time working with the students and hope that Dr. Bengtson will repeat this class year after year.

No. 10 Records for 1885 Junior Class.
AT
Augustana College and Theological Seminary.

Please, fill out this blank legibly, and return it without delay to your Class Guardian.

1. Write your name and surname in full (underlining your name of familiar address): Hans Hansson
2. State your parents' nationality: Swedish
Your father's name: Hans Larsson
Occupation: Farmer Residence: Karlsarvet
Leksand, Sw. Whether he is living or dead: Living
3. Where were you born? Karlsarvet, Leksand, Sweden
4. When were you born? Year: 1858, month: February, day: 17
5. What was your occupation before entering this institution? Assisted my father on the farm
6. Where did you receive instruction before entering this institution? At Leksands folkskola
7. When did you or your ancestors arrive in this country? May 22, 1880
8. Where is your present home? Karlsarvet, Leksand, Sweden
Häger Hans Hansson's son
9. When did you enter this institution? 1881
10. When did you enter this class? Spring term 1885
What course of studies do you pursue here? State in what class, and whether Classical, Scientific, or selected; if selected, state what topics, and in what class or classes.
Scientific course in the Junior class.
11. To what church and congregation do you belong? To the Ev. Luth. Church at Malin, Sw.
12. Do you receive any beneficiary aid, and how much? None
13. In what room do you live? No. 26
14. Subscribe your usual signature: H. Hansson

Hans Hanson registration slip, Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

This Hans Hanson basically disappeared in March 1885 and Bengtson's students were not able to find a record of him after that then. He was listed as graduating in 1885, however, so he is a bit of a mystery. Do any SAG readers know what happened to him?

Editor's note: Hans's full name was Häger Hans Hansson, and he came from Karlsarvet # 6 in Leksand, where he had lived with his parents "(Leksand [W] AI:19g (1878-1888) Image 186 / page 170)."

On the same page there is a note that Hans died 23 Sep. 1885 in Cloquet, Carlton Co., MN.

Maybe some SAG reader can find an obit for him in a local newspaper?

On p. 26 some links are found with more information about this research project.

New country - new name!

A family from Skåne with a patronymic name hides in Chicago

By TED ROSVALL

Come with me on a journey through various American sources in search of an elusive family, lost since leaving the parish of Osby in southern Sweden in 1887. Here you have them:

Ringbetyg (backstuga, inläsare och färdig)	Nationalitet (og främsmande), lyten (svagaista, blinda, döljanden)	År	Mån	Öst	Öst	Öst
1	Sven Svensson	1851	10	10	10	10
2	Evelina Nilsson	1875	23	8	8	8
3	Edwin Nilsson	1878	22	5	5	5
4	Klara Nilsson	1880	12	9	9	9
5	Edla Nilsson	1880	12	9	9	9
6	Fritz Nilsson	1882	8	10	10	10
7	Algot Nilsson	1884	30	8	8	8

Osby (L) AI:22 (1886-1890) Bild 170 / sid 166 (AID: v100788.b170.s166, NAD: SE/LLA/13300). Arkiv Digital.

The family in this Swedish household examination roll shows father and mother, four daughters, and two sons, emigrating to America in 1887.

The head of the family, shopkeeper Sven Svensson, had been over to America the year before on a scouting expedition. His wife, Maria Christina Nilsson, born 1851 June 15th at Osby, was the daughter of Cecilia Piculell (1817-1883), a family that I have devoted myself to for almost 50 years. Sven and Maria had the following children, all born in Osby:

Cecilia b. 10 Nov. 1872
Evelina b. 23 Aug. 1875
Klara b. 22 May 1878
Edla b. 12 Sep. 1880
Fritz b. 8 Oct. 1882
Algot b. 30 Aug. 1884

With so many family members with fairly unusual and searchable first names,

it should be possible to find at least some of them in U.S. sources and indexes.

Hmmm ... it was certainly not that simple. Let the search begin in the U.S. censuses, which have excellent indexes. Even with a minimum of information, they often allow you to filter forth just about anyone. Unfortunately there is no census in 1890 (it burned in 1921) but in the 1900 one, it ought to be possible to locate them. In theory! I tried Svensson, Swenson, and Swanson in combination with Sven, Swen, and Swan and with Maria, Marie, and Mary. No luck!

Well, let's try some of the kids. *Evelina* is an unusual name, well-suited for a search, and yes, in the 1900 census for Chicago, IL, *see the picture below*.

Here is an Evelina, born in August 1875 in Sweden and arriving in the U.S. in 1887. All fits! She is married to one *August Hiden* and has two children. Looks promising!

In the following census, that of 1910, there is however not a single family by the name *Hiden*. Same thing in 1920, 1930, and 1940. Brainstorming! Can *Hiden* be a

clerical error? Could it instead possibly have been *Hedin*? Sure enough, in the 1910 Census, I find the following family still residing in Chicago: again, *see picture below*.

Notice that Evelina is called Lina, and when I look in the index of Deaths and Stillbirths in Illinois 1916-1947, I find the following entry:

Name:	Lena Hedin [Lena Swanberg]
Birth Date:	abt 1875
Death Date:	16 Dec 1933
Death Place:	Chicago, Cook, Illinois
Death Age:	58
Gender:	Female
Father Name:	Oscar Swanberg
Mother Name:	Maria Anderson
Spouse Name:	August Hedin

Illinois, Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916-1947 (database on-line) Provo, UT, USA. Ancestry.com.

Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Mar	Imm	Birthplace
August Hiden	Head	M	30	M	5	Sweden
Evelina Hiden	Wife	F	24	M	5	Sweden
Edwin Hiden	Son	M	4	S		Illinois
Walter Hiden	Son	M	1	S		Illinois

Year: 1900; Census Place: Chicago Ward 10, Cook, Illinois; Roll: 255; Page: 22A; Enumeration District: 0271; FHL microfilm: 1240255. Ancestry.com

Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Mar	Imm	Birthplace
August Hedin	Head	M	30	M	15	
Lina Hedin	Wife	F	34	M	15	4 2
Edwin Hedin	Son	M	14	S		
Walter Hedin	Son	M	5	S		

Year: 1910; Census Place: Chicago Ward 12, Cook, Illinois; Roll: T624_254; Page: 17A; Enumeration District: 0610; FHL microfilm: 1374267. Ancestry.com

The father is named as *Oscar Swanberg* and the mother as *Maria Anderson*. Most disagreeable!

Although it looked very promising, this *Evelina* is probably not the person we are looking for.

Let us try a different angle of attack: the sons, *Fritz* and *Algot*, born in 1882 and 1884, were of the right age to have had to muster for the Great War in 1917 or 1918.

There are 24 million draft registration cards to search, luckily with an excellent index to them. This enormous database is also searchable by birthdates, which is why I put "Fritz and 1882 and October 8th" into the search engine. No matches.

I know however from experience that many immigrants named Fritz tended to Americanize their German-sounding name to *Frederick* or *Fred*. When I try this possibility, the following card emerges:

REGISTRATION CARD			
SERIAL NUMBER	950	ORDER NUMBER	A-2819
1. <i>Frederick William Swanberg</i>			
2. PRESENT HOME ADDRESS: <i>292 E. Union St. Chicago, Ill.</i>			
Age in Years	Date of Birth		
35	October 8th	1882	

U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com

Frederick William Swanberg. Hmmmm, the right birthday but a totally different surname. And do you really add a middle name, *William*, just like that? No, this is probably another dead end ... or? *Swanberg*! Was that not the maiden name of the *Evelina* in the above record? Back to the Chicago census of 1900. Among all the Swedes in Chicago the following family shows up:

The mother is called *Mary Swanberg*, the month and year of birth is correct, and she is a widow. She has given birth to seven children, who are all still living. Five are still at home: *Ceila* (*Cecilia*), *Clara*, *Fred*, and *Albert* (*Algot*). A seventh child, *Char-*

<i>Swanberg Mary</i>	<i>Hedra</i>	<i>17-5</i>	<i>July 1851</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>Wd.</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>Sweden</i>
<i>" Ceila</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>17-7</i>	<i>Nov 1873</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>S</i>		<i>Sweden</i>
<i>" Clara</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>17-7</i>	<i>May 1877</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>S</i>		<i>Sweden</i>
<i>" Fred</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>17-7</i>	<i>Oct 1883</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>S</i>		<i>Sweden</i>
<i>" Albert</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>17-7</i>	<i>Aug 1884</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>S</i>		<i>Sweden</i>
<i>" Charlie</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>17-7</i>	<i>Jan 1890</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>S</i>		<i>Illinois</i>

Year: 1900; Census Place: Chicago Ward 10, Cook, Illinois; Roll: 255; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 0269; FHL microfilm: 1240255. Ancestry.com

lie, was born in Chicago a few years after, arrival. The new versions of the first names seem logical. As an immigrant, you are eager to become an American as soon as possible and it is perhaps better to have a non-deviant first name. Thus *Maria* becomes *Mary*, *Cecilia Ceila*, *Edla Edna*, *Fritz Fred*, and *Algot Albert*.

But how can a *Sven Svensson* turn into *Oscar Swanberg*? My theory is that he first tried *Swan Swanson*, but was not satisfied with the repetition, which also may have been difficult for him and others to pronounce.

Better to create a totally new surname similar to *Swanson*; why not *Swanberg*? And the first name then? Well, who was the King of Sweden and Norway at the time? *Oscar II*

Many names for mother

Five of the children can be found in the Illinois death index. On all occasions the father is called *OSCAR Swanberg*, while the mother receives five different names:

Maria Anderson
Mary Nielson
Mary Pikenelly
Mary Pikonell
Mary Piknoll

It is quite obvious that it is the grandmother's original old family name, *Picul-ell*, that lurks in the background when the descendants are to provide the authorities with information for the death certificate. Nice to see, although incorrect!

What happened to Oscar?

So, what happened to poor old *Sven Svensson*, AKA *Oscar Swanberg*? Bad things! As his wife *Mary* is then listed as a widow, he must have died before 1900. Why did he die at such a young age?

Oscar was found in the Illinois, Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916-1947 (database on-line) Provo, UT, USA. Ancestry.com.

Name:	Oscar Swanberg
Birth Year:	abt 1850
Age:	48 Yr
Death Date:	11 Jun 1898
Death Place:	Chicago, Cook, Illinois

How did he die?

The *Chicago Tribune* [12 June 1898]:

SLAIN IN A CIGAR SHOP.

Edward Kunz Kills Oscar Swanberg After a Quarrel and Fist Fight.

SHOTGUN THE WEAPON.

Great Hole Torn in the Victim's Breast Causes His Instant Death.

ASSAILANT DEFIES POLICE.

Bars the Door and Refuses Them Admission, but They Break In and Take Him.

NEIGHBORS THREATEN LYNCHING.

Lawndale was the scene of a tragedy last night at the cigar shop at 2044 West Twenty-sixth street, where Edward Kunz, the proprietor, shot and instantly killed Oscar Swanberg and then locked and barricaded the doors and windows of his home and defied the crowd, collected by the shots. There were many threats of lynching. Police from the Lawndale Station, who attempted to enter the place, were warned from the vicinity by the infuriated cigar-maker, who threatened them with the same shotgun that had caused the death of Swanberg. He greeted with mocking laughter all attempts on the part of the officers to pacify him.

At 6:30 o'clock Swanberg, who was a carpenter, 48 years old, living at 2935 South Forty-first court, entered the cigar shop and asked the reason of Kunz's visit to his home during the afternoon.

Kunz replied that he went to make complaint against Fred Swanberg, who, he alleged, had endeavored to rob him of part of his stock. This so infuriated Swanberg

Continued on next page >

Kunz replied that he went to make complaint against Fred Swanberg, who, he alleged, had endeavored to rob him of part of his stock. This so infuriated Swanberg that he, so Kunz alleges, attempted to grab the cigar man by the throat and chastise him. A little argument pacified Swanberg and the men apparently were again on the best of terms, but in some manner the trouble was renewed, and this time it resulted in a fist fight, Swanberg insisting that Kunz had wronged him and his family.

As Swanberg approached the cigarmaker to grasp him the latter ran to the rear of his shop, and, seizing a loaded shotgun, pointed it at the carpenter, who held up his hands and pleaded piteously for his life. Kunz's anger made him obdurate, and he pulled the trigger, the heavy charge tearing a large hole in the right breast of the carpenter, who sank to the floor dead.

Defies the Police Officers.

Without the loss of a moment's time Kunz securely fastened the doors, and as the report of the shotgun had aroused the neighborhood and the residents were congregating he pulled down the blinds, leaving the body his victim lying where it had fallen close to the door.

Soon a stream of blood found its way over the sill of the door and dripped on the walk. Then the neighbors believed that a murder had been committed and a call was sent for the police. Upon their arrival they ordered the door opened, and receiving no answer Lieutenant Moore gave it a resounding thump with a billet of wood.

Kunz stood on a stool, and as his haggard face appeared at the window he asked what was wanted.

"Open the door," was the command, "we want to see what is in there."

"Open the door," was the command, "we want to see what is in there."

"You do not need to see, and if you try to come in I will fix you so you cannot see any more than the man who is here now," replied Kunz.

The gathering darkness rendered it imperative that the officers hurry and Policemen Dillon and Bernard, in citizens' clothes, went to the rear of the house and called the cigarmaker, who cautiously answered the summons. The two men engaged his attention while Lieutenant Moore and Sergeant O'Brien raised one of the windows at the side of the shop and, entering softly, crept behind Kunz and in a twinkling had placed him in a position where he could do no harm.

Struggles Like a Wild Beast.

Deprived of his gun and handcuffed, the gray-haired cigarmaker lost all control of himself and gave way to storms of rage. It required the efforts of four policemen to restrain him as he screamed and struggled to be free. It was not until he was safely locked in a cell at the Lawndale Station that his strength left him and he fell on the floor.

The body of Swanberg lay as it had fallen. Near it was the imprint of a bloody hand, evidencing the return of the slayer, who had knelt at the side of his victim, and as he arose had placed his hand on a clean surface of the floor.

An open-faced silver watch, a small amount of money, and a carpenter's rule were all that was found in the pockets of the man who gave up his life in defense of his boy's reputation. The body was taken to the county morgue.

At the police station restoratives were applied to Kunz and after a short period of rest he became rational, but he steadfastly refused to talk of the deed or the motive that actuated him to commit it. After sub-

mitting to considerable questioning he again became apparently deranged and was left alone until 10 o'clock, when he evinced a desire to talk to some of the officers, but would not refer to the subject until some time later, when he said to the reporter of THE TRIBUNE:

"Swanberg's boy is to blame for the trouble. Swanberg came to my shop mad because I told the truth about the boy. When I tried to argue with him he got more angry and tried to strike me. He said he would kill me. I tried to keep away from him, but he followed me and I was afraid for my life. I shot him to protect myself and not allow him to kill me, like he was trying to do."

The prisoner is 51 years old, a native of Switzerland, and has resided in this country about ten years. He owned and operated the little tobacco store and factory in Twenty-sixth street, keeping bachelor apartments in the rear.

Swanberg left a widow and two children.

[Article from Newspapers.com]

Editor's note: There is also a longer article in the Swedish Newspaper *Svenska amerikanaren*, published 14 June 1898 in Chicago.

This article was first published on the *Röster-bloggen*, a blog in Swedish on the web site of the Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*). After publication one of the readers, Ms. Chris Bingefors, added the information from the database *Homicide in Chicago 1870-1930* (link on page 26) that the murderer, who is here called Edward Hung(!), was sentenced to 12 years in Joliet prison, for intentional manslaughter. The date is given as 11 July, instead of 11 June, but the victim is recorded by surname Swanberg, so this must be the correct case.

Author Ted Rosvall is a well-known Swedish genealogist.

His e-mail is
<ted.rosvall@telia.com>

Ted Rosvall and co-author Anna-Lena Hultman will in May release their new book (in Swedish) called *Emigrantforskning på internet*.

Popular Swedish baby names

The *Statistiska Centralbyrån* (Statistics Sweden) has recently released the list of most popular names for newborn babies:

Girls:

1. Alice 910
2. Lilly 690
3. Maja 664
4. Elsa 643
5. Ella 635
6. Alicia 627
7. Olivia 601
8. Julia 597
9. Ebba 596
10. Wilma 587

Boys:

1. Oskar 879
2. Lucas 864
3. William 850
4. Liam 790
5. Oliver 700
6. Hugo 688
7. Alexander 668
8. Elias 664
9. Charlie 650
10. Noah 627

Most common surnames:

1. Andersson 238 843
2. Johansson 238 259
3. Karlsson 212 126
4. Nilsson 163 029
5. Eriksson 141 745
6. Larsson 119 454
7. Olsson 108 599
8. Persson 102 721

This happened in Sweden in the 1700s

- **1700-1718** Sweden was attacked by Denmark, Poland, and Russia, and at first managed well to ward off these enemies, but as the years went by, the wars continued and the country was brought to the edge of ruin.
- **1710-1713** The plague killed thousands of people around the country.
- **1709** at the battle of Poltava, in present-day Ukraine, Sweden lost to the Russians, and Swedish soldiers had to spend many years in Siberia as prisoners.
- **1718** King Karl XII was killed in the trenches outside Fredrikshald in Norway, and was succeeded by his sister Ulrika Eleonora, who shortly afterwards abdicated in favor of her husband Fredrik I.
- **1721** In the Peace Treaty of Nystad Sweden had to give up the Baltic provinces and most of the German conquests.
- **1726** The Conventicle Edict prohibited people congregate in the homes, with guests present, holding religious meetings.
- **1734** A totally new version of the Swedish Common Law was instituted. Among other things, it proclaimed that estate inventories should be taken after deceased persons, children born out-of-wedlock had no right to inherit, and a woman was legally enfranchised only as a widow.
- **1743** After an unsuccessful war with Russia, Sweden had to give up parts of eastern Finland in the Peace of Åbo.
- **1749** The Table Office, *Tabellverket*, started to assemble statistics about the population of Sweden. The name of this authority was later changed to The Central Bureau of Statistics.
- **1751** King Fredrik I died and was succeeded by King Adolf Fredrik, who was a very distant relative, but who had been chosen his successor by the *Riksdag*.
- **1752** The first Seamen's Registries (*Sjömanshus*) were started.
- **1753** The calendar was changed from the Julian to the Gregorian; February only had 17 days.
- **1757-1762** War in Pomerania, which ended without great losses. The soldiers are said to have learned to eat and cultivate the potato during this war.
- **1766** The Edict of the Freedom of the Press, *Tryckfrihetsförordningen*, was proclaimed.
- **1772** King Adolf Fredrik died and was succeeded by his son, King Gustaf III. The royal power had been very limited since 1719, but the king soon made a coup and declared himself an advocate of the doctrine of division of power between the *Riksdag* and the monarch.
- **1772-1773** An epidemic of dysentery killed many children and old people all over the country.
- **1778** The king decreed that women were allowed to give birth without revealing their names. This was supposed to bring down the number of children murdered by their mothers, to avoid the shame of an illegitimate child. Most women convicted of murdering a child were sentenced to death, and the number of death sentences worried the king, who had to sign them.
- **1788-1790** War against Russia, which mostly took place in Finland. It ended with the Peace of Värälä in 1790.
- **1792** King Gustaf III was murdered at the Opera in Stockholm. He was succeeded by his young son, King Gustaf IV Adolf.

Elisabeth Thorsell

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

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

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fests • Tax and population registers •
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Bits & Pieces



Dates for 2017 Tour

Madison, WI, 23 Sept

Rock Island, IL, 30 Sept

Lindsborg, KS, 7-8 Oct

Link on p. 26

Nisswa-stämman 2017

The *Scandinavian Folk Music Festival* in Nisswa, (MN) takes place on 9 – 10 June. It features 150 folk musicians performing on 3 stages, day-long dancing opportunities on two dance floors, dance instruction, a cultural children's activity tent, and great Scandinavian food.

Link on p. 26



New Exhibition: Innovation in Tradition: Exploring Swedish Folk Costumes

Opened 24 March, closes on 2 July.

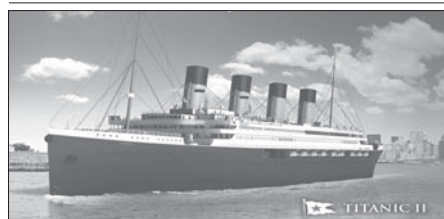
New Exhibition: Arts North

The Arts North exhibition on display at the American Swedish Institute highlights nearly 50 works of art. This multimedia show seeks to exhibit the quality and diversity that artists bring to their artwork, inspire viewers to explore ideas, and learn more about ranges of options within each medium.

Opens on 9 April, closes on 21 May.

A Swedish Oscar

Swedish photographer *Linus Sandgren* won an Oscar for best cinematography in the movie *La La Land* at the 89th Academy Awards ceremony in Hollywood in February 2017.



Titanic II is being built

Titanic II is a planned ocean liner, to be built as a modern-day replica of the Olympic-class RMS Titanic. The new ship will have a gross tonnage (GT) of 56,000 while the original ship measured about 46,000 gross register tons (GRT). The project was announced by Australian millionaire Clive Palmer in April 2012, as the flagship of a proposed cruise company Blue Star Line Pty. Ltd. of Brisbane, Australia. The intended launch date was originally set for 2016, with the ship sailing from Southampton to New York within the same year. However, construction of the ship has been delayed to 2018. As of February 2017 construction has not begun on the vessel.

(Wikipedia)

Swedish Migration Center is closing

The Swedish Migration Center in Karlstad (*Svenska Migrationscentret*) is closing due to severe financial problems. They have expanded to many different areas in Sweden, providing jobs for many people who needed jobs, and relied on financing by state, cities, and towns, but when costs grew they could not cope.

Hopefully some other institution will take over and continue keeping the databases at EmiWeb safe and available.

(<http://www.migrationcenter.se/global.php>)



American Swedish Historical Museum Philadelphia

**Viking Day, Saturday, April 29,
12-4 pm**

Come and get to know the original bearded warriors as we travel through time to explore Norse culture! Visitors can view a 40-foot, half-size working model of the Gokstad ship, learn the runic alphabet, compete in a Hnefeltafle or Viking Chess competition, watch a Viking Age weapons demonstration, and attend expert lectures to learn more about this often misunderstood culture.

SVAR might become a free website

The Swedish government has decided to explore the possibility of changing SVAR into a free commodity for researchers, and has given the National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) the assignment to analyze the pros and cons of this step.

The reason is that they now feel that the archives and records should be free as they are regarded as public property. Also, the same type of records are free to use in Denmark and Norway.

Covenant Church anniversary books now online

Recently the F.M Johnson Archives and Special Collections at North Park University, in Chicago, keeper of the Swedish-American Historical Society's Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago, launched its latest digital collection. IOT features anniversary books, published by individual Evangelical Covenant Church congregations. These books were created to celebrate significant milestones in the life of a church. While varied in length and content, they typically include historical sketches, church activities, photographs and much more.

(SAHS Newsletter, spring 2017).

Link on p. 26

Genealogical Misconceptions

– Things to ponder to avoid traps

BY MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

This is a semi-serious look at some misconceptions that genealogists (and non-genealogists) have about family history.

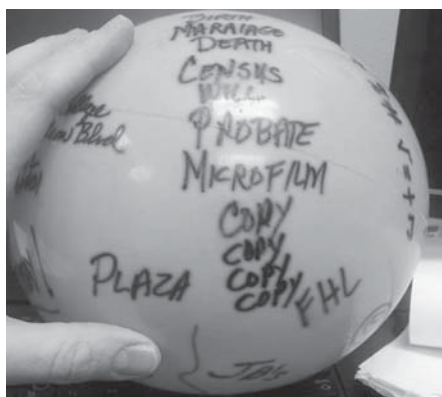
1) We all have a famous ancestor, somewhere. I have found the names of over three hundred of my ancestors and have yet to have any of them qualify as famous. In some cases, you may want to reconsider being related to someone famous. Hard-working, law-abiding relatives are nothing to be ashamed of. Try and document your ancestors accurately, whether they were famous or not.

2) There are no early babies or shady stories in my family tree. Trace your ancestry completely for six generations and then we will talk.

3) There were three brothers with the last name of [Takeyourpick] who came to America. We descend from the youngest (oldest, middle, tallest, smartest, etc.). If this is true, then the number of families who had three sons is beyond statistical expectations. Check it out.

4) Immigrants were all poor. There's no doubt that the vast majority of them were and came to America with only the clothes on their backs. Once in a while though, you'll find one who had a little bit of money and came to America hoping to make more.

5) Life before 1900 was one of bucolic pastoral bliss, dotted by barn raisings and church socials. Life before 1900 was hard. No running water, no electricity, no law (in some areas), rudimentary medical care (if any), child labor, and few of life's creature comforts. This only scratches the surface.



Genealogy can be a ball, that's no misconception!

I'm not even so certain life was simple. If I want a loaf of bread, I go to the store. Great-great-grandma likely did not.

6) Everyone likes to hear the tales of notorious ancestors. Not everyone will think the story of great-great-grandma's four husbands, two divorces, involvement in a murder, and the running of a tavern should be included in the family history.

7) Census ages are always correct. You must be kidding.

8) Official records should not contain errors. They do. The best way to deal with it is to try and research around it where possible.

9) Genealogists are all retired. Not so. There are genealogists out there who have yet to hit forty or retirement. If you see one who has yet to hit puberty, tell them to interview their grandparents now. Most of all encourage them, gently.

10) Genealogy is not an intellectual hobby. Ever tried to read through (and understand) sixty pages of court records

from the 1840s? I've taken calculus exams that made more sense. Same thing goes for platting property in metes and bounds. Talk about applied mathematics.

11) My family has a castle in Europe. Some did, but don't believe it until you see it. Don't really believe it until you see the deed, title, etc.

12) My ancestor served with Washington, Lee, Grant, etc. Choose your war ... take your pick. There are lots of these stories. Check them out before believing them. Document your ancestor's service, accurately.

13) I got it on the internet, therefore it must be true. Nope.

14) I got it on the internet, therefore it must be false. Nope.

15) I can do my genealogy entirely via the internet. Nope.

16) I can do my genealogy without the internet. Possibly, but it really saves time.

17) The records in State Y are closing because it was posted to the genealogy mailing list for that state. Check out rumors before you spread them. Think before you forward or copy and paste this type of information to other people or lists.

18) I can do all my research using only vital records, obituaries, and census records. Goodness! There's a vast treasure trove of other sources out there that you can utilize.

19) The spelling of my surname has always been the same way; we never changed it. Maybe, but then again, maybe not.

20) Everyone replies to e-mail immediately. Some genealogists have non-genealogy commitments, such as family and employment. Be patient and wait a few days before posting a follow-up e-mail.

21) I can trace my ancestry in one afternoon at the computer. Time for a reality check.

22) I can trace my ancestors in one afternoon at the Family History Center. (see number 21)

23) Someone has already traced my entire family tree. I Just Have to Find It. That's the tricky part – finding it! Then comes the fun of documenting it.

24) Documentation is only for genealogical geeks who get cheap thrills by asking, Where did you find it? How will you ever compare three different birth dates for Grandpa if you don't know where you obtained each date?

25) Genealogists are nuts. More likely they are truly focused on their research. However, one correspondent told me that working on genealogy beats spending "all my free time at a bar." •

26) Genealogists are rude at the courthouse or library. Genealogists are people and a few are rude. Just make certain it's not you. No family historian wants to walk into the courthouse just after the most obnoxious genealogist on the planet has left the building.

27) Genealogy is boring. You must be kidding. I've learned a great deal about history, culture, and myself researching my own family.

28) You ought to be done with that family history by now. Well, I would except every time I find one ancestor I have two more parents to learn about.

29) There is one best genealogical software package. Most have their pros and cons. Pick one that works for you, keep alert for new packages, but only change when you have good reason to. Time spent upgrading and upgrading

and constantly learning new packages can be spent doing research.

30) You are completely addicted if you search the ingredient list of your breakfast cereal for your ancestral surnames. This is likely true, but I'm not admitting to this one in public!

31) DNA solves everything. NOT

The author

Michael John Neill is a well-known American genealogist, living in Illinois. His main interest in researching seems to be his Ostfriesen maternal ancestors, people with specific family names like Habben, Ufkes, and Trautvetter. Some of the first names were Noentje, Tjode, and Mimka. His paternal side seems to be Irish: Neill from County Derry, Murphy, but also fairly early Americans from Maryland, Kentucky, and Rampley from England.

He shares his genealogical experiences on his web site *Rootsdig*. *Link on p. 26.*

His *Genealogy Tip of the Day* can be found on Facebook.

His e-mail is <mjnrootdig@gmail.com>.

A demand from the public to the Royal Library

The Royal Library (*Kungliga Biblioteket [KB]*) in Stockholm is the country's national library. They have extensive collections of books, but also newspapers of many kinds from the 1600s onwards.

For many years they have had digitized newspapers from the 1700s and forwards to around 1900 open to the public for free.

A few years back they digitized many newspapers, for instance *Dagens Nyheter*, *Svenska Dagbladet*, and *Aftonbladet*. This sounds fine, but you are only allowed to study them until 1901 online, even if they are digitized until ca 2017.

Why is that? That is because KB follows the copyright law of 1960, evidently before the digital revolution.

The law states that 115 years must pass before it is possible to give access to the information in the more recent newspapers.

Newspapers from all times have contents of major interest to all kinds of researchers, and possibly mostly to genealogists. Well-known genealogist *Ted*

Rosvall has said that after the church records, newspapers may be the second most important source for genealogy.

At the moment you may search the more recent newspapers, but you can not see the actual item, unless you go to KB, and use their in-house computers.

The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*) has for a long time tried to get KB to allow access to more recent newspapers.

On 23 March 2017 the president of the Federation, *Mr. Erland Ringborg*, initiated a petition that KB should change the rules. This petition can be signed by anyone, and hopefully many researchers will do so.

KB answers

The assistant chief librarian, *Mr. Lars Ilshammar*, has commented on the petition, and says that KB also feels that the situation is untenable, and that they are working on changing things for the better. They have several times mentioned the situation to the



government, and KB has got an assignment to facilitate the access to digital items, not just newspapers.

But there are other laws to follow, including the European Union laws on copyright. They say that all material, where the original writer has been dead less than 70 years, may not be in the public domain.

Another important law of the EU is the one on protection of personal data for individuals (*dataskydd*). That concerns questions about sensitive notices in newspapers about religion, membership in political parties, health issues, and much more.

This is evidently very complicated!

Link on p. 26.

A letter from Kansas to Bishop Hill in 1869

Letters by Nelson Hayden

TRANSLATED AND COMPILED BY LARS-OVE JOHANSSON AND JAN ERIK HALLSTRÖM

Introduction

One day not so long ago, *Bishop Hill Heritage Association* (BHHA) received documents concerning the Jacob Jacobson family in Bishop Hill, Illinois. Among all the documents there were a collection of more than a dozen letters written from Kansas to Jacob Jacobson in Bishop Hill, starting in the late 1860s after the American Civil War. They were signed *Nelson Hayden*.

These letters were all signed *Hayden* or *N. Hayden*, who was soon identified as *Nils Jonsson Hedin* (also Hedeenn, Hadeenn, or Headin), one of the original members of the Bishop Hill Colony.

Scans were soon sent to Jan Erik Hallström and Lars-Ove Johansson for translation into English, which has now been finished and presented in a PDF file.

Who was Nils Jonsson Hedin?

Nils Jonsson Hedin was born 5 August 1818, the 5th child of Jon Persson and his wife Carin Olofsdotter of Långå 8 in Hede parish (Härj.). By 1840 his father had died and several of his siblings, and he decided to seek work elsewhere. By now he had started using the Hedin surname, derived from his home parish. He ended up in Söderala parish (Häls.) and learnt the tailor's craft, and in 1843 was appointed parish tailor (*sockenskräddare*).

When the future prophet Erik Jansson arrived in Söderala, Nils Hedin became an ardent follower. After about three years of conflict with both church and law authorities, emigration was the sole solution.

In the summer of 1846 Nils Hedin, his mother, and siblings boarded the barque *Wilhelmina* in Gävle, heading to New York.

From there the Janssonist slowly made their way to Bishop Hill, where Nils Hedin was appointed as one of the twelve apostles by Erik Jansson.

After the murder of Erik Jansson, Nils Hedin was one of the men that took his body back to Bishop Hill, which shows his high standing in the colony. He preached and performed marriages as a minister. He also supported Jonas Olsson, the new head of the colony, giving him his advice.

After the gradual dissolution of Bishop Hill during the 1860s, true Jansonism faded out slowly, while Methodist and Adventist influence grew stronger. Nils and Martha Hedin seemed suddenly to vanish from Colony life. He had sold his property in Bishop Hill on 29 August 1868. But where did they the group go?

Later the BHHA found evidence in their archive that Nils had sold most of his belongings in Bishop Hill in August 1868.

The first letter

After their move from Bishop Hill, Nelson Hayden kept in contact with his old friends in the Colony. Below is the first of many letters to the Jacobsons.

"Lebanon, Osage County, Kansas (the envelope is stamped in Burlingame, Kansas).

June 12, 1869

Dear friend Jacobson

From the inmost sincerity of my heart, I am very thankful for the kind letter I have just received from you, giving us a satisfactory explanation of various matters in our old home. I am satisfied with what you have done and that you will do the best you can, in reference to my affairs. I don't expect much from the balance of the sale



Jacob Jacobson (1817–1883), his wife Helena Persdotter (b 1821), and their son Jacob (b 1859).

once my remaining debts are settled, but what little there is, I will be very glad for when it comes.

I think you are strictly correct in reference to J. E. Lunquist;¹ the 32 dollars in his favor has been kept in my memorandum since August 10th 1868. You know that when I bought 800 feet of lumber and closed up the wagon shed, I said to him that he could have his cows free, and I should take his share at the assessed value in the Colony division, which was as far as I know \$12. Twenty dollars came to me from O. Lin,² which I should give an account to Lunquist for. The wagon shed stood vacant for a number of years and gave no interest to either of us. Now, if Lunquist got six percent for the whole time, I think this is about right between two Brethren in the New Jerusalem.

I have had a letter from O. Olson³ a few days ago, and made a reply to it, that he can not draw any of the \$45 from the Note with Beck in Galva. I wish for you to save me the trouble to write a subpoena letter to Beck, and say to him that he can cancel the twenty dollar account against me on his Bank and send the remaining \$200 with the interest to Simons Bank in Lawrence. They have told me that they would call for it after the 18th of May.

I have their receipt in my possession and Beck's for the note was delivered up to them on the 14th of April when I received the \$100 you sent me. Erick did not, I presume, make any claim for the present, as I have not yet been able to tell him, that we have a shelter to live in of our own in Kansas now. Our homestead at Bishop Hill is not available for our use for the present, if Olof Olson has any claim on me. For the lawsuit my estate remains at Bishop Hill, and must pay for itself to either party when the contest is ended.

I should like to say something to you in reference to the country in which we intend to make a new home. In my opinion the soil and climate is beautiful as it can be in the creation of God anywhere. A great country for stock raising, milk and dairy business, and fruit and farming products of all kinds.

We live now in the western part of Osage County, one *mil*⁴ to the line of Lyon County. This season of the year the country looks beautiful. The great extensive prairie, so well covered with the best kind of grass, the atmosphere is very agreeable, the day is warm and the night cold and pleasant. In my opinion it must be a healthy country if we settle on the upland, but most of the families here live on the bottoms, on wetter *courses*; they will no doubt be subject to fever and ague more or less.

I determined early in the spring to locate in an upland. The reason I did not settle in that *New Church*⁵ colony was, that I did not like their selection of land. Ten miles above on the river, I found the country in different shape, the first grade of farming land. Timber of course is scanty.

I have closed the bargain on the quarter section that I selected for my new home in April. There have been many thousand acres sold here since that time. I began to fear that I might miss it. I have paid \$200, two-hundred dollars, and got a bond of deed. We can still buy the best prairie land here, for \$5 per acre, but no one can tell what it will be a year hence. The railroad from Topeka will then be running through this section of the country, as we are only 42 miles from the capital of the state (Topeka). Being then connected by the railroad, the land may be more expensive here too.

I trust in God that things will turn out as with our troubles at Bishop Hill, that it may not make any one of us homeless in our old age. For our part, since we left you with

deep feelings on the 15th day of December -68, (here Hayden's writing in English suddenly ends, and he continues in Swedish!) we have had, as you say in your letter, clothing and food. We have not suffered from distress, for which we should be grateful to the Almighty Father in heaven... and I think he makes the best for both you and us henceforth, as well as before.

Let us hear from you Jacobson, if you are willing to wait for an opportunity with the sale of our old home at Bishop Hill, so that we could get the funds to build us a house, but first I need to get me a team and wagon to bring home construction wood from Topeka and six hundred dollars, the remainder of our quarter-section of land.

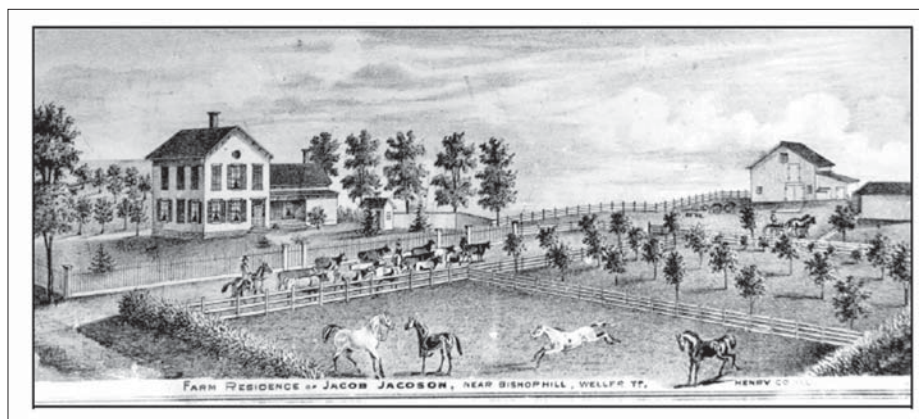
A hearty warm greeting to you and those near you, S. Swanson's, Linbeck, and other friends in our old home.

Your devoted friend
Nelson Hayden

Notes:

- 1) Probably: *Johan Erik Lundqvist*, b 13 Aug. 1801 in Lunda (D). He settled in Bishop Hill, but later moved to Andover, Illinois.
- 2) Probably: *Olof Ersson Lind*, born June 19, 1824, on Ellne 6, Söderala Parish, Helsingland. He was the son of a crofter. He started as a farmhand working for farmer Jonas Olson in Ina, Söderala (trustee *in spe* in Bishop Hill), and he was one of the 8 Jansonists led by Jonas Olson, who went to California in 1850 looking for gold. Lind married in 1848 to Brita Persdotter from Alfta parish, (Häls.). He became a U.S. citizen in 1857, and died in Bishop Hill in 1877.
- 3) There were at least half a dozen *Olof Olsons* in Bishop Hill, but the pathfinder and Jansonist envoy Olof Olsson from Ina1/Kinsta s5, died in Victoria with wife and two children already at the end of 1846, from fever chills. Olof Olson mentioned in the letter might be Olof Olsson from Ovanåker in Helsingland. (He was painted by Olof Krans).
- 4) One Swedish *mil* = 6 miles
- 5) He might mean *The New Church* = The Swedenborgian Church in Barclay.

For further information contact
Lars-Ove Johansson at
<lars.ove@tele2.se>



A Nobel Prize Laureate with Östergötland roots

– Carl David Anderson

Carl Anderson was born in Manhattan, New York City, the son of Swedish immigrants, who later moved to California.

He studied physics and engineering at Caltech (B.S., 1927; Ph.D., 1930). Under the supervision of Robert A. Millikan, he began investigations into cosmic rays, during the course of which he encountered unexpected particle tracks in his (modern versions now commonly referred to as an Anderson) cloud chamber photographs. He correctly interpreted these tracks as having been created by a particle with the same mass as the electron, but with opposite electrical charge.

This discovery, announced in 1932 and later confirmed by others, validated Paul Dirac's theoretical prediction of the existence of the *positron*. Anderson first detected the particles in cosmic rays. He then produced more conclusive proof by shooting gamma rays produced by the natural radioactive nuclide ThC (^{208}Tl) into other materials, resulting in the creation of positron-electron pairs. For this work, Anderson shared the 1936 Nobel Prize in Physics with Victor Hess.

Also in 1936, Anderson and his first graduate student, Seth Neddermeyer, discovered the *muon* (or 'mu-meson,' as it was known for many years), a subatomic particle 207 times more massive than the electron, but with the same negative electric charge and spin 1/2 of that of an electron, again in cosmic rays.

Anderson and Neddermeyer at first believed that they had seen the *pion*, a particle which Hideki Yukawa had postulated in his theory of the strong interaction.

When it became clear that what Anderson had seen was *not* the pion, the physicist I. I. Rabi, puzzled as to how the unexpected discovery could fit into any logical scheme of particle physics, quizzically asked "Who ordered *that*?" (sometimes the story goes that he was dining with colleagues at a Chinese restaurant at the time). The muon

was the first of a long list of subatomic particles whose discovery initially baffled theoreticians who could not make the confusing "zoo" fit into some tidy conceptual scheme.

Willis Lamb, in his 1955 Nobel Prize lecture, joked that he had heard it said that "the finder of a new elementary particle used to be rewarded by a Nobel Prize, but such a discovery now ought to be punished by a 10,000 dollar fine."

Anderson spent all of his academic and research career at Caltech. During World War II, he conducted research in rocketry there. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1950.

Wikipedia

Excerpts from Carl Anderson's obituary Los Angeles Times 12 Jan.

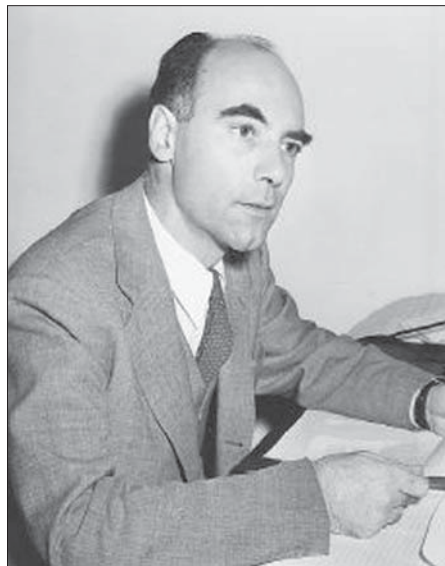
Anderson, an untenured assistant professor, was teaching a physics class when Millikan delivered the news of the Nobel.

"I thanked him and went back to teaching the class," recalled Anderson. He didn't even mention the prize to his students. "We talked about physics, I guess . . . I was stunned."

Anderson, who was caring for his ailing mother, had to borrow \$500 from Millikan for the trip to Stockholm. His share of the Nobel was \$20,000. He put half the money toward his mother's medical care, and half he invested in Arcadia cabbage patches, correctly anticipating the suburban development to come.

In later years, Anderson married and raised a family while assuming more of an administrative role at Caltech, serving as chairman of the division of physics, mathematics and astronomy. He saw several fellow Caltech physicists join the Nobel ranks, as well as a former student, Donald A. Glaser, who won for the invention of a research tool known as the "bubble chamber" while at the University of Michigan.

Born in New York and raised there and in California, Anderson was a graduate of Los Angeles Polytechnic High School. He was named to the National Academy of Sciences in 1936 and was the recipient of three honorary doctorates.



Carl Anderson was married in 1946 to Lorraine Elvira Bergman, born 6 Sep. 1913 in Chicago, daughter of David E. Bergman and his wife Sadie Elfstrom. Lorraine Anderson died 11 Feb. 1984 in Los Angeles Co., CA. The couple have two sons, Marshall and David.

Ancestors of Carl David Anderson (1905 – 1991)

RESEARCH BY CAROL FEJFAR AND ELISABETH THORSELL

1) *f Carl David Anderson*, b 3 Sep 1905 in Manhattan, New York, NY, d 11 Jan 1991 in San Marino, Los Angeles Co., CA.

Generation I

2) *f Carl David Andersson*, b twin 26 May 1878 in Brunneby, Vreta Kloster, d 17 Jun 1959 in San Francisco, CA.

Moved 22 Nov 1897 from Örberga Skattegård, Kaga, to *Norra Amerika*. Moved 26 Nov 1897 from Göteborg, O, to New York, NY, U.S.A.

Before 1920 he and his family moved from New York to Pasadena, Los Angeles Co., in California.

In the 1920 U.S. Census he is listed working as a cook. In the 1930 U.S. Census he is a cook in a chocolate shop, but in 1940 he is a physical teacher in a college.

Married 16 Feb 1903 in Manhattan, New York, NY, to the following ancestor. The bride is using the surname Ajaxson.

3) *m Emma Adolfina Ajax*, b 5 Jun 1878 in Kättilstad, d 30 Dec 1950 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA, U.S.A.

Moved 5 Jul 1893 from Ladugårdsbacke 2, Sankt Lars, to *Norra Amerika*.

Generation II

4) *ff Anders Peter Nilsson*, b 3 Dec 1849 in Ekelund, Vånga, d 7 Sep 1933 in Täby 96, Täby, AB.

He was a gardener at Brunneby manor in Vreta Kloster. Moved 28 Oct 1879 from Brunneby, Vreta Kloster, to Vånga, where he was a gardener at Rosendal, and where he lived with his family. Moved 24 Oct 1884 from Rosendal, Vånga, to Kärna. In Kärna, he was the gardener at Tolefors manor. Moved 24 Oct 1892 from Tolefors, Kärna, to Kaga. In Kaga he was a tenant farmer at Örberga Skattegård, and later moved to Frälseängen on Gerstorp lands, also in Kaga. Moved 2 Nov 1923 from Frälseängen, Gerstorp, Kaga, to Täby, AB.

Married 2 Nov 1875 in Vreta Kloster to the following ancestor. Marriage records: he a gardener's apprentice at Brunneby, she a maid at Kungsbro.

5) *fm Gustafva Matilda Carlsdotter*, b 29 Jul 1846 in Nybygget on Opphem lands, Tjärstad, d (of brain hemorrhage) 1 Jan 1931 in Täby, AB.

6) *mf Axel Victor Gustafsson Ajax*, born 24 Feb 1845 in Mostugan, Hägerstad, d 13 Apr 1923 in Sankt Lars.

From 1863 he served in the 2nd Guard Regiment in Stockholm, and came back to his home parish on 1 Jun 1866 and lived at Tåbo, Hägerstad. On 11 Nov 1868 he enlisted as soldier #116 of the Kind company of the 1st Life Grenadier Regiment. Moved 16 Apr 1869 from Tåbo, Hägerstad, to Kättilstad, where he lived with his family at the Blackhistert soldier's cottage. He was discharged 8 Apr. 1878.

There is also a note in Kättilstad cl. survey 1878 that he seeks a testimony to become a prison guard at Långholmen prison, Stockholm, but did not get that position. Instead he and the family moved to Tjärstad.

Married 1 Oct 1869 in Kättilstad to the following ancestor.

7) *mm Josefina Nilsdotter*, born 19 Mar 1840 in Krontorp on Vilebo lands, Kättilstad, d 29 Dec 1907 in Erikslund 7, Långköping.

Generation III

8) *ff f Nils Johan Pettersson*, born 16 Jan 1825 in Vreta Kloster, d 11 Apr 1920 in Frälseängen, Gerstorp, Kaga.

Sharecropper at Ekelund on Holmen lands in Vånga. In 1858 they moved to Brånstorp, also in Vånga, where he became a tenant farmer. From 1893 to around 1920 he lived with his son Anders Peter at Gerstorp in Kaga.

Married 14 Feb 1847 in Vånga to the following ancestor.

9) *ff m Brita Stina Olsdotter*, born 30 Nov 1818 in Östra Skrukeby, d 22 Jan 1893 in Lövvik on Södra Torlunda lands, Vånga.

10) *fm f Carl Magnus Persson*, born 2 Oct 1813 in Tjärstad.

First a married farmhand at Boda Frälsegård, then moved as sharecropper to Nybygget on Opphem lands in Tjärstad, and was then called *Oppman* for a short time. In 1850 they moved to the cottage Kullen, also on Opphem lands.

Much later they lived at cottage Knybban on Opphem Småbäck lands.

Moved 24 Oct 1881 from Knybban, Tjärstad, to *Norra Amerika*. Moved with daughter Clara and her family 28 Oct 1881 from Göteborg, O, to St Charles, MN.

Married 4 Feb 1838 in Tjärstad to the following ancestor.

Emigrating child: Clara Johanna Carlsdotter, born 25 Jun 1859 in Tjärstad.

11) *fm m Sophia Andersdotter Sund*, born 7 Apr 1819 in Sonebo soldattorp Jemte, Tjärstad, d 13 Jun 1871 in Knybban, Tjärstad.

13) *mf m Stina Lovisa Carlsdotter*, born 26 Mar 1821 in Tidarsrum.

Moved 1840 from Tidarsrum to Hägerstad. Moved 1847 from Mostugan, Hägerstad, to Norrköping (not followed).

Child 6 out of wedlock.

15) *mm m Greta Lisa Persdotter*, born 3 Jul 1808 in Kättilstad, d of old age 18 Oct 1886 in Krontorp on Vilebo lands, Kättilstad.

She lived with her daughter at the cottage Krontorp on Vilebo lands in Kättilstad.

Child 7 out of wedlock.

Notes:

1) Parishes here are all in Östergötland, except Täby that is in Stockholm county, as well as Långholmen prison.

2) The letters before the name of an ancestor are **f** and **m**. F means father (*far*), and m means mother (*mor*).

So *mm f* means mother's mother's father (in Swedish: *mormors far*).

3) There are no sources in the article as they would take up too much space. If interested in having a documented *Ahnentafel* contact the editor.

* More of his ancestors can be found in "24 Famous Swedish Americans and their Ancestors." published in 1996.

Elisabeth Thorsell

The Solution to the Handwriting Example #50

Transcription:

Nº 6

Mamsell Anna Lisa Lilliebjörn från Odenstad, som flyttar till Ransätter, är född i Gilberga sokn 1790, Känner förswarligt Christna Religions-läran, har nyttjat salighetsmedlen och uppfört sig anständigt. Sägnes wara förlofwad med Philosophiä Magistern Herr Eric Gustaf Geijer. Har haft ymp-koppor: Att[esterar] Gilberga den 18 Mars 1811.

Joh Gust Linderholm
Prost och Pastor Loci



Anna Lisa Geijer, née Lilliebjörn (1790–1861).
Painted by her brother Henrik Liliebjörn.

Translation

Number 6

Miss Anna Lisa Lilliebjörn from Odenstad, who is moving to Ransätter, is born in Gil[I]berga parish 1790, knows tolerably the Christian Doctrine of Religion, has used her means of salvation and showed a decent conduct. Is said to be engaged to marry Master of Philosophy Mr. Eric Gustaf Geijer. Has been inoculated against smallpox.

Testified [at] Gil[I]berga the 18th of March 1811.

Joh Gust Linderholm
Rural dean and local pastor



Erik Gustaf Geijer, 1783–1847.

Erik Gustaf Geijer and the Geijer family

The Geijer [pronounced “yejer”] family came in the 1620s from Germany and became fairly prominent in the iron industry. Descendants owned iron works and large tracts of forest in eastern Värmland. *Bengt Gustaf Geijer* (1682–1746) is the progenitor of all living family members (many hundred), with the names Geijer, von Geijer, and af Geijerstam.

Bengt Gustaf was the founder of the for centuries huge, long-standing company Uddeholm in Värmland that still exists, but is no longer owned by the family.

The most famous member of the family was *Erik Gustaf Geijer*, born 1783 in Ransäter, Värmland, who already as a youngster got a medal from the Swedish Acad-

emy for a poem he had written. He studied in Uppsala to become a historian. As a result of the Swedish loss of Finland in 1809 he was a part of a revival of interest in the Viking Age, and was one of the founders of the *Götiska Förbundet* (League of Goths) which had a big impact on novels, music, and poetry in Sweden. In 1817 he became professor of history at Uppsala, and published several works on Swedish history, where he was almost the first to use archival sources and draw his conclusions from them.

He had been brought up in a very conservative home, but during the 1830s he studied works on economy and found that industrialization was not a bad thing, as it

would improve the lot of the poorer working classes. Growing up in an iron works area he had seen the working and living conditions of blacksmiths and laborers.

When he made his new insights public in 1838, he was called a “liberal,” and was harshly criticized by former friends. He was a member of Parliament and tried to introduce more liberal laws, but it was too early, and he died before general opinion accepted this.

As a teacher he was beloved by the students, and at his funeral they sang several of his songs.

He and Anna Lisa Lilliebjörn married in 1816, and had four children, but the male line has died out.



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.

The reformer

Luther the Reformer – The Story of the Man and His Career, by James M. Kittelson. Published first in 1986 by Fortress Press Minneapolis - Softcover. 338 pages. Also available as an e-book.
ISBN-number: 978-0-8006-3597-8
Price: \$5.99 - \$25.52. May be purchased at: Christian Book.com, Textbook Underground.com, Barnes andnobles.com.

Although Martin Luther was not Swedish, I selected his biography to review as this year is the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Church, the official church of Sweden. Luther posted his 95 Theses on October 31, 1517, marking the beginning of his struggles with the Roman Catholic Church.

In his preface Mr. Kittletson describes his book as an all-encompassing story of Martin Luther from his birth to his death. He presents Luther as a multifaceted man, not just one who posted the 95 theses, attended the Diet of Worms, and then faded away.

The author begins his book with a brief description of Luther's early life. The family was rather poor during Luther's early years but as the family's fortunes

improved, his father made sure that his sons were well-educated. Hans Ludor (Luther), [Martin's father] wanted him to become a lawyer and eventually to advance to a counselor. However, about this same time Luther experienced a call to become a monk. After much thought, he entered the Observant Augustinians, an order whose main business was contemplation, prayer, and study. Following a trip to Rome on behalf of the order, he became involved in a split over obedience to the greater church and was sent to Wittenberg. Here he began what became an intense lifelong study of Biblical teachings. His professors constantly urged the students to ask, "What does this mean for me?" This simple question fed his appetite to understand what the Bible and church teachings really meant.

His searching for answers led to the posting of the 95 theses on the church door as a response to his inability to find any evidence in the Bible to justify or support the practice of the Roman Catholic Church selling indulgences. Over time the controversy grew and as he refused to back away

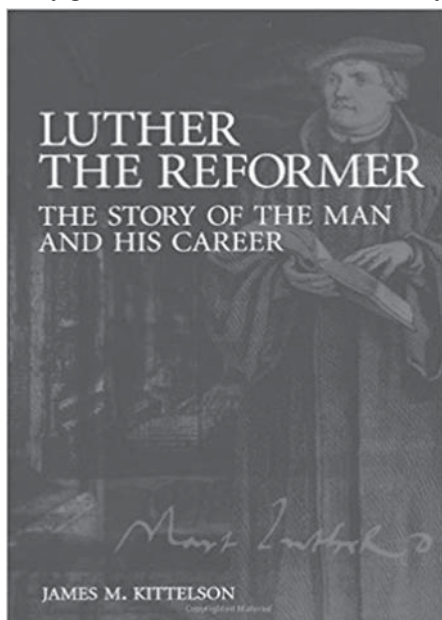
from his beliefs, he ran afoul of the church and was threatened with excommunication. The Edict of Worms declared him an "outlaw" and he spent many years in very real danger of being executed for his beliefs. His original intention was not to split with the Catholic Church but to sway it to his way of thinking which was that if the Bible did not support a teaching, it was of man, not of God.

Much of the book is given over to his struggles with the church, including his preparation for defending himself at the Diet of Worms, the many, many books that he wrote, and his interaction with his followers, supporters, and defenders. His supporters came and went over disagreements that arose among these learned men. Much of his time was devoted to writing literally dozens of books and his teaching. Often his books were in response to those written by others that he disagreed with over the issues of indulgences, Holy Communion, the authority of the church, and many other topics.

Mr. Kittelson spends much of the later portion of the book telling us of Luther's marriage to Katerina van Bora and their family, as well as discussions of how he drove himself in spite of his many health problems. He presents to us a man that was driven in his beliefs, one who did not back away from his deep conviction that all church teaching should be based on Biblical text. Many times during his life he risked his life, health, and freedom to defend his beliefs. We also see a man who could be quite profane in his statements even against the pope, and a man who loved his wife and family.

So this very complex man who simply set out to make a case for basing the church's teaching on the Bible ended up founding the Lutheran Church and starting the Reformation.

In addition, the book includes a timeline



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of Luther's life, index of names, subjects, Luther's principal works, and maps of his travels, all of which allow a reader to use the book as a textbook in addition to a good but challenging read.

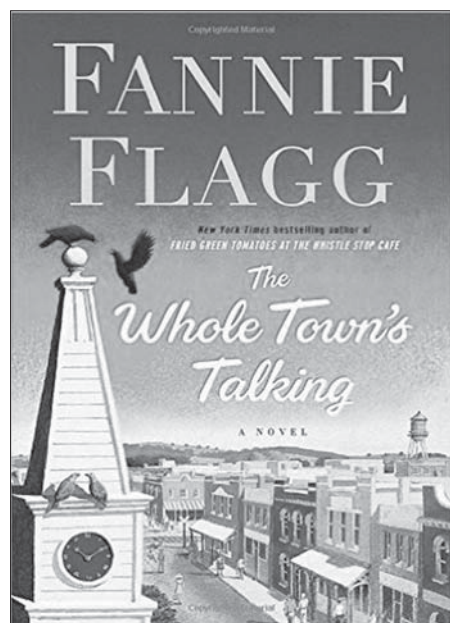
Janet Wahlberg

Life in the Midwest

The Whole Town's Talking, by Fannie Flagg. Published by Random Books in 2016, 403 pages. ISBN 978-1-4000-6595-0.

This novel is set in a rural Midwestern town that was originally established by a Swedish immigrant named Lordor Nordstrom in 1889. The years count down to 2021.

While the chapters are short, the characters are well cast and memorable. One learns early on to pay attention to small details that may seem insignificant. It



Book Reviews

always comes up later. Your questions will be answered as to the whys and hows.

The book is very readable, and you may identify with many of the townspeople and their life situations.

You may know many of them and how they handled their problems. You will recall many of the fashions, fads, customs, and news events of earlier times. I found myself smiling more than once and even shedding a tear or two.

Fannie Flagg is wonderful at capturing what it was and is like to live in a small town. She has a wonderful imagination and made the town come alive. If she is not Swedish, she certainly knows them well.

There is a twist to the story that is not compatible with a Swedish Lutheran background; however, it gives added charm and meaning to the story. It is really a tale of two towns that were begun by a Swedish dairy farmer and a Swedish mail-order bride and their offspring.

It is a delightful novel that keeps your interest from the first page to last.

Alice Johnson

Our story goes far back

My European Family: The First 54000 Years, by Karin Bojs. Translation by Fiona Graham. 400 pages. Published in 2017 by Featherstone Education. ISBN 978-1472941462.

Karin Bojs is a Swedish author and journalist who formerly was the science editor of the Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter*. After her mother died, she decided to pursue her interest in family history further into the deep history of Europe with DNA and archeology. This book describes that journey. The original Swedish version was awarded the distinguished August Prize in 2015. That literary prize was named for the noted Swedish author, playwright, and poet August Strindberg. The book has been translated into English and will be published in May 2017. This reviewer read an advanced copy of the English translation.

The book describes the history of Europeans through archeology and DNA from their arrival out of Africa into the Middle East 54,000 years ago, to the Iron Age in Europe, and to the Viking Age in Sweden. It is divided into three parts, based on the peoples who migrated into Europe over the last 54,000 years. The hunters are the earliest arrivals in Europe, followed by farmers who arrived several thousand years later. The final section describes the roots of the Indo-European languages, using DNA to trace the movement of the people speaking them as they moved into Europe. The author moves through European history with the human movement resulting from climate and topographic changes. She describes the different cultures that developed over the millennia, and the artifacts they created. At the end, she focuses on the last 1,500 years in Sweden.

The DNA the researchers used were mitochondrial and Y chromosomes, both of which are divided by scientists into haplogroups. The author has included a Q & A section on DNA at the end of the book and she defines a haplogroup as a group of individuals with the same set of mutations who share a common female or male ancestor back in time. The DNA mutates over time resulting in new haplogroups being developed. Women have mitochondrial DNA and pass it on to their daughters and sons, and men have the Y chromosome which they pass on only to their sons. Daughters pass their mitochondrial DNA to their children but the sons do not. A man passes his Y chromosome to his son, who passes it to his son, who passes it to his son for millennia. Scientists can trace migrations of people by looking at the haplogroups of the DNA remains at archeological sites.

When humans first left Africa they lived as hunters and arrived in the Middle East. They found Neanderthals living there. The two species coexisted, occasionally interbreeding, resulting in humans today having about 2% Neanderthal DNA. Eventually, the hunters split into three groups, one moving toward Asia, one to the Caucasus region, and one into Europe, about 42,000 years ago.



Book Reviews

A New Viking Saga

The Saga of Leif the Lucky, by Milton Norman Franson.

ISBN13:978-1519692016

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform North Charleston, South Carolina. 2016.

Pages: approx. 250 for each volume

The Wineland Sagas is a three volume set of which the first volume is titled *The Saga of Leif the Lucky*. I will review the other two volumes in future issues of SAG.

In *The Saga of Leif the Lucky*, Franson brings to life the ancient story of Leif Ericson and the discovery of Vinland. It is set in the 11th century in Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia, the islands of the North Atlantic, and the New Found Lands.

We begin with the young man Leif being entrusted by his father with the family ship on a trading voyage to Norway. Although Leif was the youngest son of Eric the Red, he was known to be intelligent and wise beyond his years and was therefore chosen by his father. Also threading its way through the story is the early rise of Christianity in Greenland. Franson gives detailed descriptions of the settings, ships, clothing, and trade alliances of the time. As Leif travels across the route to Norway, he makes a detour and stops at the Outer Hebrides where he meets and falls in love with Thorganna. She provides him with an heir, Thorgils, of whom we will hear more later in the book.

Over time Leif makes many voyages and eventually is drawn to the ancient sagas of a land to the east called Greater Ireland. He is eager to look for this land and to claim it for Greenland. At about this same time he was given a gift by the king of Norway called a *lodestone*. It was an early compass and would allow for navigation during foggy and overcast conditions when the sun and stars were not available to use. The lodestone made his voyages much more successful.

The author follows the Europeans. Changes in climate and topography affected the migrations of the animals and the humans around the continent. The humans followed their prey as it moved to new locations. Ice ages caused southern migration and warming caused northern migration. Sometimes land masses would appear or disappear, changing migration patterns. The humans were mobile as their food was either in the water, on four feet, or growing in trees.

Changes in the climate when the Ice Age ended caused the group that stayed in the Caucasus region, when the hunters moved to Europe, to begin cultivating grain and become farmers. Some of these farmers came to Europe about 6,700 years ago, bringing their farming culture with them. They joined their distant relatives who had come to Europe years earlier.

The last group Karin Bojs discusses are the people who brought the Indo-European languages into Europe. Their origins have

been under discussion for many years. One theory is that they came on horseback from the steppes near the Black Sea. Recently, an international team of researchers compared DNA from the dig sites in Russia and the rest of Europe. The results show that the DNA sequences were from the Yamnaya culture on the steppes of Russia migrating to central Europe about 4,800 years ago.

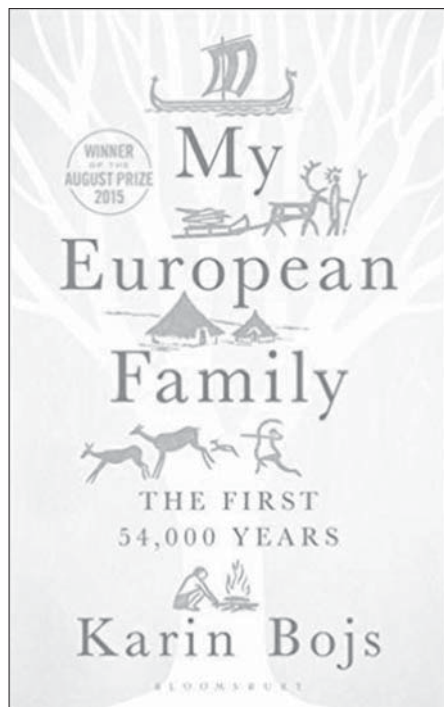
Finally, she discusses the Viking Age and her personal family history using the haplogroups that she and the members of her family share with the DNA sequences found in Swedish dig sites. She has endnotes at the back of the book giving a bibliography for each chapter so other researchers can review her sources for further information.

The book is dense with historical information and with many references back to previous periods. The published version is to have an index, six pages of color pictures, and black and white illustrations. The index will help when the author refers to previous topics. The illustrations and pictures should help in visualizing and understanding the descriptions given. With a long time-span, a timeline would have been helpful to get a broad picture of the relationship of events that were happening. Overall, the book will be of limited help in doing individual family history but it will help in understanding the differences among DNA testing companies' ethnic origins results. It will also be an interesting look into European history that wasn't covered in European history classes.

Jean Larson



Blåsippa (Hepatica).



Book Reviews



He eventually travelled to the new land where he established an outpost. Further exploration revealed a land with abundant forests, wild game, and grapes. They named the new land Vinland. The need for new land by the Icelanders and Greenlanders brought more settlers to this new world, leading to the inevitable contact with the native peoples. Over time there was cultural exchange, as well as drama and conflict.

In the final chapter we see Leif and his cousin Kjetil sitting by the fireside in Greenland discussing the future and wondering who will take on the respon-

sibility of administering the affairs of Greenland and its promising colony of Vinland. Leif's son Thorgils was the obvious choice but he was a studious young man and not inclined to be a leader.

Franson draws on ancient sagas and other clues as the basis for his fictional account of what may have happened to the Norsemen who came to the shores of the Americas: a Norwegian coin minted in 1065-1080 that was found on the coast of Maine, a report in the Icelandic Catholic Church annals that recorded a shipload of Norse Greenlanders that had been to *Markland* (Labrador), and recently analyzed grave garments of the Greenland Norse that reveal American Bison fibers mixed in with the local wool fibers. These and other clues are intriguing hints that draw you into this story. Franson's careful use of actual historical figures as well as

customs of the time serve as additional magnets that make this a great story of possibility for those of us enamored of the Vikings of Old.

Janet Wahlberg



The Norwegian "Maine Penny," supposedly found in 1957 in a dig in the Penobscot Bay area in Maine. See Wikipedia for more information.

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Book Reviews

An Odyssey in immigration history

Utvandringens mosaik, by Ulf Beijbom. 2016, hardcover, 125 pages, ill. (In Swedish). Published by the Friends of the Emigrant Institute as #17 in their series of publications. ISBN 978-91-977515-2-0.

In this book Professor Ulf Beijbom, former director of the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, gives an overview of certain vital points in the history of emigration from Sweden.

He starts with the story of New Sweden in 1638 when the first two ships left Sweden for the New World, a dream that did not work for any longer period. In 1655 the dream of a Swedish settlement was over, but the settlers stayed, first under Dutch rule, and then English.

During the 1700s there were only a few Swedes that came to America, among them

was Pehr Kalm, who was a scholar under Linnaeus in Uppsala, and who was the first to explore nature scientifically, which resulted in a famous book in the 1750s, *Travel to North America*, which started an interest within the whole of Europe for America.

During the 1840s the great emigration started, and people did not know too much about the country they travelled to. The curate Johan Bolin then published a book with information on the U.S., even though he had not been there himself, but had gathered information from other books...

Swedes also immigrated to South America, to Brazil, and to Argentina during the later half of the 1800s. This immigration was much smaller than the one to the U.S., but some small Swedish settlements still survive.

Next we may read about stories and traditions from the pioneering days, how the new settlers took out their tools and built their log cabins, how they handled the rattle snakes, grasshoppers, and other unknown perils in their new home.

Chicago had more Swedes, than Göteborg, and what did they do there? Many, perhaps most of them, were in the building trades and raised the skyscrapers. Ragnar Benson was a famous man from Älmhult, a successful builder with blue and yellow trucks and tools. There are interesting excerpts from an old interview with him. An interesting book!

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

New and Noteworthy

(Short notes on interesting books and articles)

The *December 2016* issue of the *Family Tree Magazine* has a good article, "The Swede Life," an article by David A. Fryxell. On seven pages he covers most of the basic needs for a beginner at Swedish research. He gives web addresses for various resources, lists some good books in English (except that he has omitted the huge amalgamated *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820–1850* by Nils William Olsson and Erik Wikén (1995). The patronymic name system is explained, as well as the procedure for leaving Sweden and entering the U.S.

The *January-February 2017* issue of the *Family Tree Magazine* contains comments on 25 genealogy websites, and tells you how to use them.

The *March-April 2017* issue of the *Family Tree Magazine* has 29 "Underused" web sites. Number 1 is Archaic Medical Terms, which might tell you what killed great-aunt Mathilda. Or study "Evidence Explained" that has helpful tools for your documenting of your genealogy. The site "GenDisasters" has information on train wrecks, fires, floods, and much more.

Finally the SAG editor and her friend Ulf Berggren (known from the SAG Workshop) have just released their new manual to reading Old Swedish Handwriting, called "*Vad står det*" (What does it say?) in **Swedish**, and can be bought from the *Rötterbokhandeln*, see link on p. 26. (Beware though, postage is expensive.)

Interesting Web Sites

All links tested in
March 2017 and
should work

A short video on how to use Swedish maps: <http://alsterolle.se/Video/lantmaterikarta.mp4>
Finding groceries in Salt Lake City: <http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=39452>
Old photos from all over the U.S.: <http://oldphotoarchive.com/>
Many digital resources for Maine: <http://digitalmaine.com/partners.html>
The SwedGen website: <http://www.swedgen.se/>
Baltimore Immigration Museum: <http://www.immigrationbaltimore.org/>
Homicide in Chicago 1870–1930: <http://homicide.northwestern.edu/>
Dr. Bengtson's introduction to the class project (on p. 7): <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/fyiaugiebio/1/>
The results of the class project: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/do/search/?q=Augustana%20Seniors%20Fall%201884&start=0&context=6619886>
U.S. National Archives, links for genealogists: <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>
Illinois Online Historical Newspapers Summary:
<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/illinois-online-historical-newspapers-summary#.WOHoXWclGpo>
The Ancestry Insider blog: <http://www.ancestryinsider.org/2017/03/future-of-family-history-center.html>
The Swedish Riksbank and change of currency: <http://www.riksbank.se/en/Notes--coins/>
Michael John Neill's website: <http://rootdig.genealogytipoftheday.com/>
Database of Swedish placenames (in Swedish):
<http://www.sprakochfolkminnen.se/sprak/namn/ortnamn/ortnamnsregistret/sok-i-registret.html>
Nisswa-stämman (Scandinavian Folk Music Festival ([MN]): <http://www.nisswastamman.org/>
Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation (CA): <http://scandinaviancenter.org/>
Swedish newspapers (in Swedish): <http://tidningar.kb.se/>
Older Swedish newspapers (in Swedish): <http://magasin.kb.se:8080/searchinterface/>
The Federation Petition (in Swedish): <http://genealogi.se/upprop>
Twisted Twigs blog: <http://twistedtwigsgenealogy.com/blog/>
Rötterbokhandeln (Handwriting book):
https://www.rotterbokhandeln.se/product.html/vad-star-det?category_id=9
GenDisasters: <http://gendisasters.com/>
Archaic Medical Terms: <http://rmhh.co.uk/medical.html>
Evidence Explained: <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/>
Foundation for East European Family History Studies: <http://feefhs.org/>
Bulgaria GenWeb: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bgrwgw/>
Evangelical Covenant Church Anniversary Books:
http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/npu_histec

***Genealogy without
documentation
is just mythology***

Our Ancestors

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row
Would you be proud of them or not
Or don't you really know?

Some strange discoveries are made
In climbing family trees
And some of them you know,
do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
There might be some of them perhaps
You wouldn't care to know.

But there's another question,
which requires a different view.
If you could meet your ancestors
Would they be proud of **YOU**?

~ Author Unknown



Top 10 Indicators that you've become a gene-aholic:

10. You introduce your daughter as your descendent.
9. You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to, even though you're related.
8. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.
7. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
6. You've taken a tape recorder and/or notebook to a family reunion.
5. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but you also understand it.
4. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
3. The only film you've seen in the last year was the 1880 census index.
2. More than 1/2 of your book collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
1. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more different places than Elvis!

The Last Page

Dear friends,

Spring has sprung, and we all look forward to several months of nice weather, when we can enjoy being outdoors and tour distant ancestral areas.

Last summer my husband and I went to Skåne, and I finally located my great-great grandfather's and his wife's grave. We had tried to find this stone earlier but did not have enough information. This time I had found the grave number in a database (*Begravda i Sverige*). In Tryde church we also found a helpful church verger with a map. So now we found it, and that felt so good. My grandmother told stories about how she and her older brother, living in Stockholm, after school was out for the summer, got on a steamer and went down the coast to Ystad. There they were picked up and taken by horse and buggy to the rural home in Tryde, where they spent their summers.



What else can you do in the spring and summer in Sweden?

You can always find a nice place for *Fika*, and perhaps also a delicious open shrimp sandwich (*räkmacka*), often in quaint older buildings. Many local heritage societies offer a place for *fika*. And if you get hold of a local newspaper you might find that there is some kind of market or festival going on nearby.

And if planning a Sweden tour in August, try to visit Halmstad for the huge Genealogy Days!

Släktforskardagarna
26-27 aug 2017
Halmstad
sfd2017.se

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*

22-29 Oct. 2017!



The early morning line when the FHL opens.

The SAG Workshop is the highlight of the year – a fun learning experience and a chance to do your Swedish genealogy with hands-on help from experienced Swedish and American genealogists.

Paid subscribers are mailed SAG Workshop reservation forms in March upon request.

For more information you can use this address:

<http://www.bitly.com/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.		

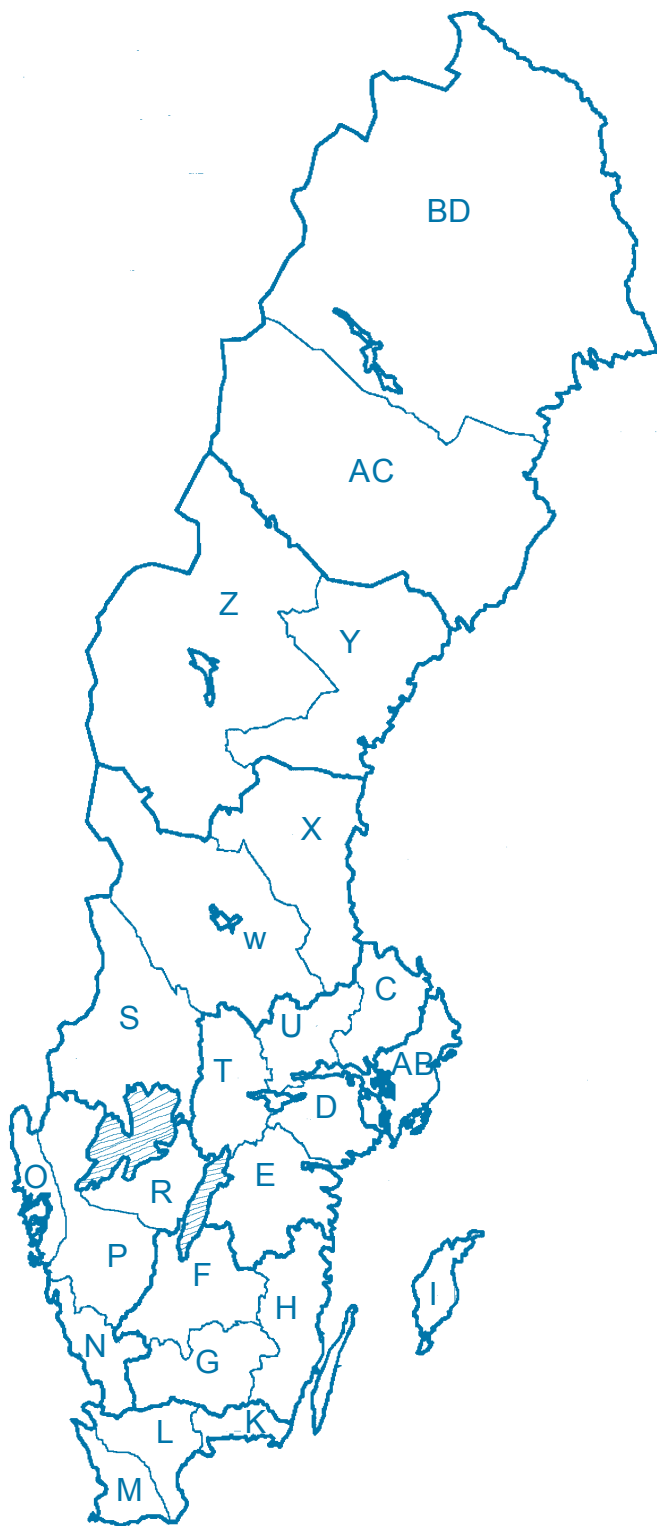
Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

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		Dlm.	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				

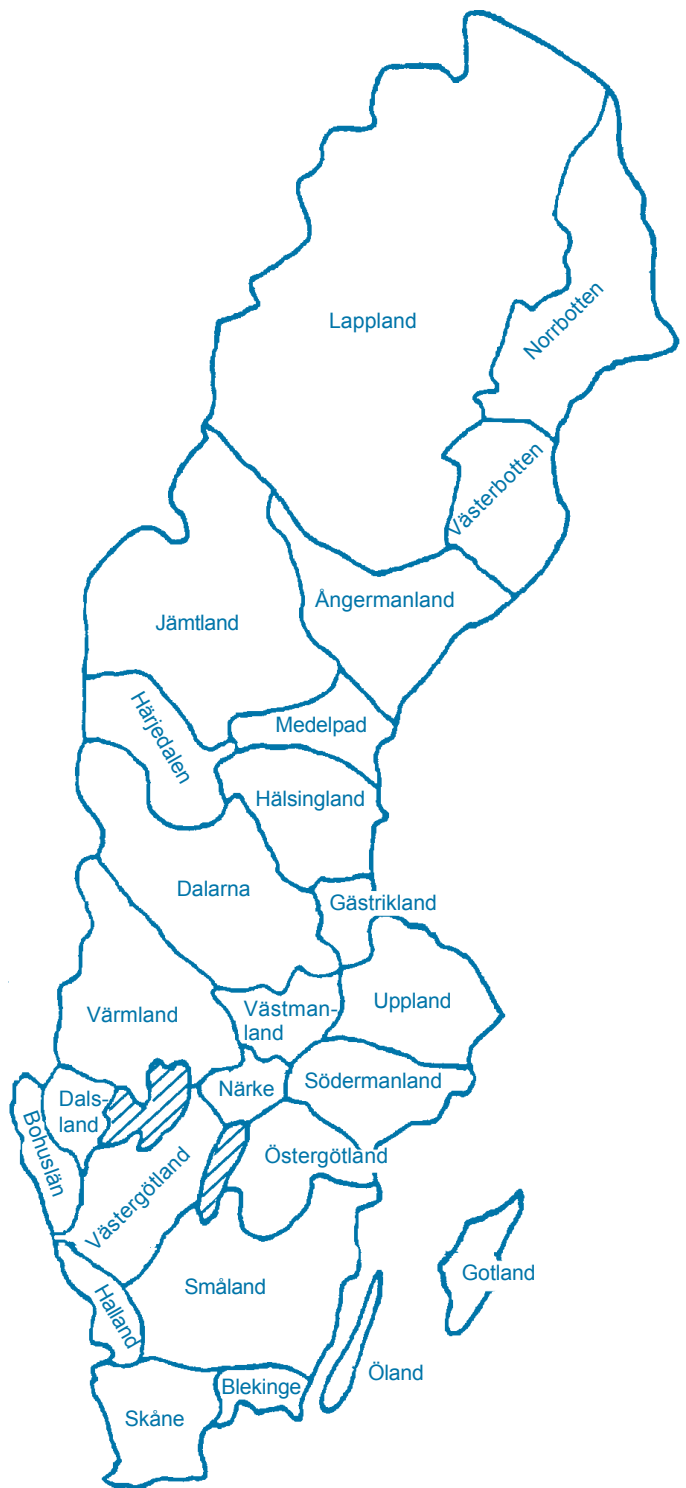
a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

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*).