

6-1-2017

## The new Kinship Center rises from the ashes

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### Recommended Citation

Thorsell, Elisabeth (2017) "The new Kinship Center rises from the ashes," *Swedish American Genealogist*.  
Vol. 37 : No. 2 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol37/iss2/3>

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**6 mf Magnus (Martin) Erickson**, born 14 May 1847 in Mattered, L, died 21 Feb 1941 in Wahoo, Saunders, Co. NE.

Moved 29 Apr 1869 from Hjortaröd, Mattered, L to U.S.A.

Married 12 Mar 1872 in Swedeburg, NE, to the following ancestor.

**7 mm Bengta (Betsey) Svensdotter Didriksson (Dedreck)**, born 19 Aug 1847 in Österslöv, L, died 11 Jul 1936 in Wahoo, Saunders, Co. NE.

Moved 1868 from Attarp, Västra Torup, L. to U.S.A.

**Editor's note:**

The Betsey Brodahl story was submitted by Curt Hauffman, Järfälla, Sweden, whose late wife was related to Martin Erickson's older brother Olof, who stayed in Sweden.



Part of a parish map for Kristianstad län, from *Karta över Rikets indelningar 1992*, published by the Bureau of Statistics Sweden.

## The new *Kinship Center* rises from the ashes

In 1960 the number of emigrants from Värmland inspired the teacher Sigurd Gustafsson to start the *Emigrant Register*, based in Karlstad, the county seat for Värmland.

Many volunteers joined the organization and started to explore who the emigrants were and what happened to them.

The English name was: *The Kinship Center*, later the *Sweden America Center*.

The Emigrant Register made a pioneer effort within emigrant research. Together with the *Emigrant Institute* in Växjö and *Göteborgsemigranten* in Gothenburg, the Emigrant Register developed a CD containing information from mainly passenger lists in the Swedish emigrant ports, known as *Emigranten Populär*. This database has 10 different databases, and there are about 1.5 million names and related information about the ocean voyage.

During the early 2010s the institution changed its name to *The Swedish Migration Center*, and extended its activities in many ways. It started many workplaces around the country where unemployed people could get work. That was mainly paid for by the local or county communities.

However, when those found that there were other uses for public money, they diminished their contributions to the Migration Center, which resulted in bankruptcy in March 2017.

The problem was what would happen to all the resources that had been collected

from 1960 onwards? There is also the useful web site *Emiweb*, where many databases can be accessed for a small subscription. Also the continued life of the journal *Sweden & America* was in danger.

In late spring a new organization appeared, called the *Kinship Center*, which will take over all assets, archives, databases, the journal, and slowly build a new more stable economy to enable the basic work to go on and become secure for the future.

The president will be Mrs. Eva Eriksson, former county governor of Värmland and former chairperson of the Migration Center. The business leader will be Mr. Erik

Gustavson, the former secretary of the Sweden America Center.

The new Kinship Center has the backing of the Karlstad City Council, the Värmland Regional Authority, and the Swedish National Archives.



Erik Gustavson and Eva Eriksson.