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## The Last Page

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# The Last Page

## Dear friends,

The summer is gone, and the leaves have started to fall off the trees, and there is a feeling of cool air. Lately it has rained a lot, and the mushroom pickers are happy. This year is a bad apple year, compared to last year, but the thorny blackberries are many. We pick them and freeze them, and then use them for various cakes and jams during winter.

The big thing this summer has been our first DNA tests. We received our matches some time in August, and have now added our Gedcoms to those. We each got many 2-4, and 3-5 cousins, but have only come up with a few that we can recognize, not as matches, but as people we knew anyway. How we are related is still another thing to find out.

A few weeks ago we visited what is called a DNA café, organized by The

Swedish Genealogical Society. We sat there with our laptops and felt very lost, as all this is new to us.

Then a woman came up to us and told me that we were related in the 1600s, possibly. She mentioned her surname, and my husband asked if she had any connections with Sundsvall, where he grew up. His parents had friends with the same name. It turned out that those friends were this woman's in-laws. Her husband, who was also present, had gone to the same school as my husband. A fun connection!

The program (FTDNA) said that I had the following origins: Scandinavia 77 %, West and Central Europe 17 % and Finland 6 %.

Scandinavia was no big surprise, Europe are probably various Germans and my lone Italian, and I have a number of Swedish-

speaking Finlanders and at least a Finnish-speaking clergyman's family way back in time, and maybe a Forest Finn family in Värmland. My husband had 97 % Scandinavia, <2 % Finland, and <1 % Siberia, which was a big surprise!

To figure this out we need to go to more DNA Cafés and study more. It is a totally new world for us.

There are always new things to ponder. Right now I am reading a thick book on how the government communicated with the "lower" classes in the population. The usual way was for the authorities to send out announcements that would be read in church on Sunday, when everyone was supposed to come to the service, and listen to these also.

*Till next time!  
Elisabeth Thorsell*

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



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