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The Last Page

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The Last Page

Dear friends,

Spring is almost here, the snow is gone, but still no little yellow “Tussilago” along the roads here in the Stockholm area. But there is still a feeling of spring in the air.

The main event for me since I wrote last was of course the days in Salt Lake City in January, when I took part in the Swedish-Finnish course at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), and met a group of very friendly people, all with an interest in our quaint little habits. I tried to explain as well as I could, sometimes with the help of Jill Seaholm.

As the SLIG was held in an area that I was not familiar with, I learnt about several good places to eat that I did not know about, but which will come in useful during my next visit. After the end of SLIG I stayed a few days extra, and did some research at the FHL on my own family, which

does not happen often. By going to court records in the 1790s, I found that my 4th grandfather in Värmland had borrowed some money when he was newly married. I wonder what he wanted to buy, hardly pots and pans, but perhaps a cow?

I had thought that Salt Lake City in January would be cold, but it was not, so I did not get to use my winter boots at all and packed them in my suitcase – but back in Sweden they have been very useful.

Since then I have been trying to learn more about those puzzling DNA matches, without much success. For instance I have a number of ancestors on my *mormor*'s side from Skåne, but so far no connections. Somebody told me that people from Skåne have not tested as much as people from other areas of Sweden.

On the other hand I got an e-mail from a

woman in California some weeks ago. She told me that her great-great-grandmother was an older sister to my great-great-grandmother in Småland! I had found that the relatives had emigrated to the U.S. around 1890, but did not know what happened to them. Now I might learn!

The *Riksarkivet* (Swedish National Archives) are celebrating their 400th anniversary soon, and there will be lectures and exhibitions in several places in the country. It all started in 1618 during the reign of King Gustaf II Adolf, and the driving force was the chancellor Axel Oxenstierna. Unfortunately many of the oldest documents were destroyed in 1697, when the Stockholm castle burnt, where the archive was, but there is quite a bit left.

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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