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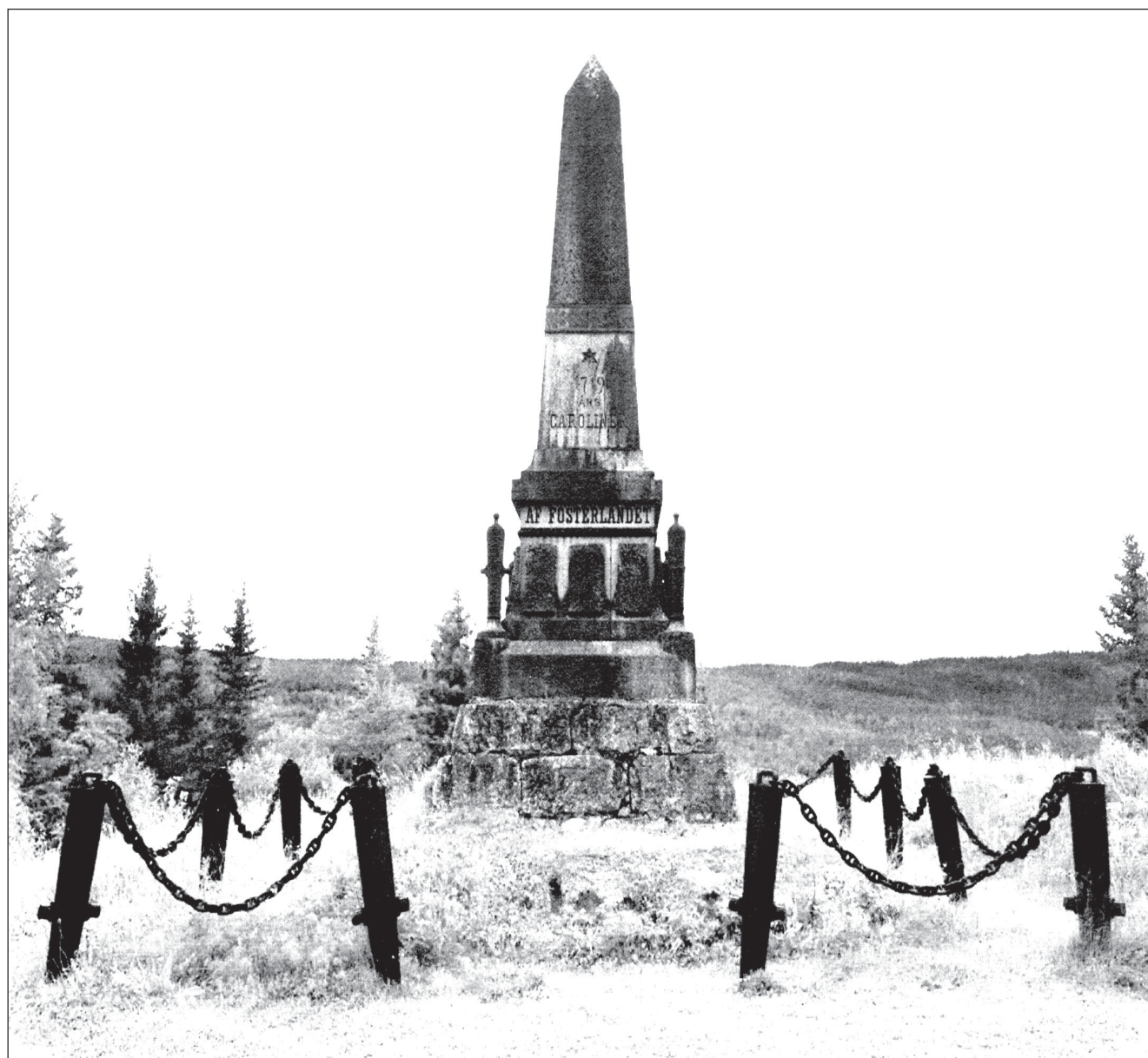
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Swedish American Genealogist



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



Swedish American Genealogist



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Swedish American Genealogist

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Cover picture:

This picture shows the monument for the soldiers who died in the mountains in 1719. It is placed in Duved, Jämtland. See article on p. 1.

The inscription reads “1719 ÅRS CAROLINER AF FOSTERLANDET”. (The 1719 Carolean [soldiers] from the fatherland).

Photo by Ebba Fogelqvist

(<http://donecbibendum.eu5.net/>)

The catastrophe in the mountains

One of the disasters for the Swedish army during the Great Nordic War

By MONICA FOGELQVIST

A background:

During the Great Nordic War that started in 1701 several surrounding states (Denmark, Russia, Poland) attacked Sweden. Sweden defended itself, and at first was victorious, but as time went on the fortunes of war changed. In an effort to conquer Moscow in 1709 the Swedish army was defeated at Poltava in what is now the Ukraine, and thousands of soldiers spent several years in prison camps in Siberia.

In June 1715, Prussia declared war on Sweden, attacked Pomerania and besieged Stralsund. The attacking Prussian army counted 50,000 soldiers.

King Karl XII had at this time left Bender¹ in Turkey, where he had stayed for several years after Poltava. He was now in Stralsund,² but left the city for Sweden just before the city capitulated. In October 1715, Hanover also declared war on Sweden. Back in Sweden, Karl XII planned countermoves. One move was to attack Danish Norway.³ The attack on Norway was launched on 18 February 1716. The attack was difficult due to very bad snowstorms and in April the campaign was terminated. During 1716, the last of the Swedish possessions in Northern Germany fell to enemy hands.

During 1717 Karl XII planned for another attack on Norway. One of the purposes of the attack was to obtain a hold on Denmark in the coming peace negotiations.

In August 1718 the attack was launched on two fronts. One attack went from the Swedish provinces Värmland/Dalsland into Norway, and one went from Jämtland into Trondheim County in more northern Norway. Swedish General Carl Gustaf Armfeldt was in charge of the northern attack, the one from Jämtland.

The neighboring peoples – *Jämtar* (people from Jämtland, Sweden) and *Trønder* (people from Trøndelag, Norway)

– were forced into armed conflicts with one another almost exactly 300 years ago because of great power politics: King Karl XII would once again bring war against Norway.

In August 1718, Armfeldt was ordered to attack Trondheim, while Karl XII attacked Fredriksten's fortress in Halden in southern Norway. Armfeldt entered Trondheim, thus diverting attention from the king's own action in the south.

The army that had gathered in Duved in Jämtland consisted of 6,000 men, mostly soldiers from Finnish regiments, but also by soldiers from Hälsingland, Jämtland's cavalry company, and Jämtland's regiment with approximately 1,300 men.

The march to Norway and Trondheim took much longer and required much more effort than expected during the reconnaissance, as the snow melting in 1718 was late and it had been raining heavily.

These circumstances caused the rivers to flood and made the land almost impossible to walk on, and to drag the heavy cannons and the carriages over the moun-

tains was an almost insurmountable project. The soldiers were forced to fetch tree trunks down in the valleys, drag them up the mountain to build bridges in order to pull the heavy carts and cannons forward.

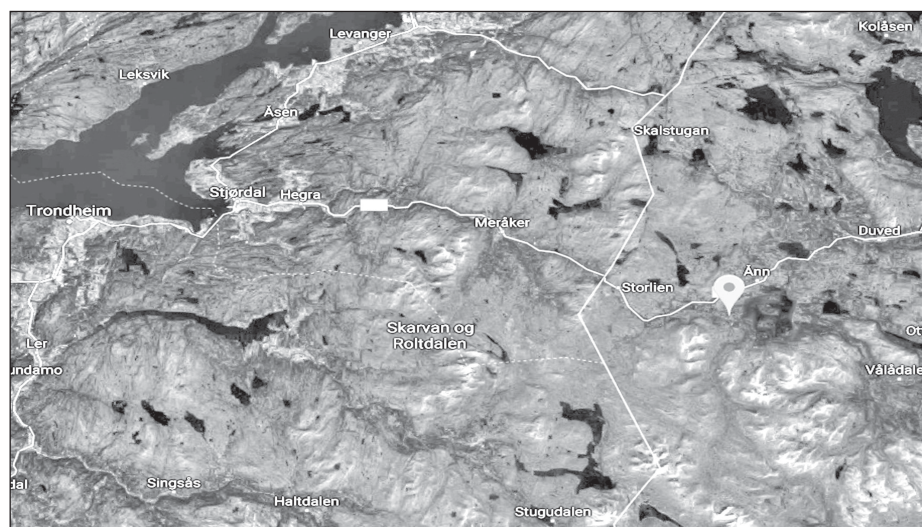
Even today, parts of these bridges are visible.

A result of the 180 kilometer journey across the mountains to Trondheim taking much longer than the estimated 30 days was that the supplies were not enough.

To provide the whole army with food during the four months in the area around Trondheim, and while awaiting an order to attack the city, the soldiers robbed the Norwegian peasants. The natives own supplies became completely depleted so that some died of starvation.

In addition, large parts of the army were not equipped with clothes and shoes suitable for winter conditions. This meant that the soldiers desperately plundered farms and stole clothes where they could.

It was a tired and hungry group of soldiers who, in late 1718, received the news that the king had been shot dead.



The straight line shows the border between Norway and Sweden. Trondheim to the left and Handöl (the mark) and Duved to the right. (Google maps)



Lieutenant General Carl Gustaf Armfelt, b. 1666 in Ingria, died 1736 in Pernå, Finland (then part of the Swedish realm).

King Karl XII was killed in action on 30 November 1718, at Fredrikssten fortress, near Halden in southern Norway, and the whole Norwegian campaign was terminated.

The northern Swedish army outside Trondheim now had to leave Norway as quickly as possible.

Go back to Sweden!

On New Year's Day 1719, Armfeldt and his men broke away from Tydalen to take the fastest way across the mountains to Handöl on the Swedish side, a distance of 55 kilometers that in good weather could be done in two days.

Unfortunately, a violent storm broke out the same afternoon. Armfeldt took Nor-

wegian women as hostages in order to induce Norwegian guides to show the way over the mountains. They were forced to camp at Lake Essand, where they burned gunpowder and sleds to try to keep warm. On the first night, about 200 men died from the cold.

The storm continued the next day with ice and heavy snowfall, and also the following day. There was chaos and horror when men and horses died in their attempt to reach Handöl, a village that consisted of only three farms at that time. All equipment was left on the mountain, and it was said that men and horses died standing up as they fought against the storm.

A Norwegian major, Emahusen, testified that in Tydalen he saw up to 40 dead Swedish soldiers who were in full accoutrement with knapsacks on their backs wherever he looked. Along the way, dead horses and men lay everywhere, the sledges stood loaded but both horses and drivers were dead.

On 4 and 5 January, the majority of the survivors reached Handöl, and in the mountain there were about 3,000 dead soldiers. At the accommodations in Duved, a bit from Handöl, another 700 people died. Of the original 6,000 *Karoliner*⁴ that began the march against Trondheim, a little more than 2,000 survived, amongst whom 600 were injured and handicapped for the rest of their lives. The field doctor had a hard job amputating the limbs of the frost-bitten men under difficult conditions.

In 1889, the farmer Henrik Olausson found a soapstone board in a field in Handöl with the inscription: "Anno 1719

on 20 January, 600 people were buried here." In 1936 the mass grave was found.

Even today you can find remains of the soldiers who died on the mountain, as well as the remnants of their belongings.

It was said that the year after this disaster, the amount of wolves and foxes in the mountain area increased due to the fact that they had much access to horse and human meat.

The memory of this terrible event lived in the county for a long time, and memorials are found in several places in Jämtland, for example in Hallen (where only 6 men returned from the company) and in Duved.

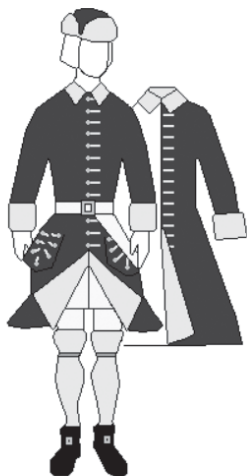
The Armfelt retreat

The disastrous return from Norway on New Year's Day 1719 was something that probably affects all of us who have roots in Jämtland, and was a tragedy that affected all the families who had sons, brothers, fathers, and spouses who were soldiers in Karl XII's army.

I think most of the families in Jämtland had someone involved. I myself have several ancestors who lost their lives, and as many that returned and lived the rest of their lives as amputees.

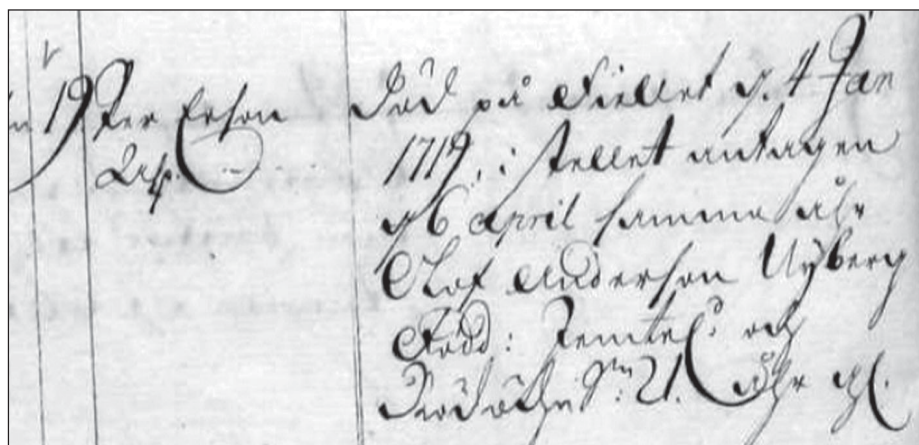


An early Jämtland regimental flag.



Jämtland (1700-1721)

A Jämtland soldier from around 1720. The coat was dark blue, and the other parts of the uniform were yellow.



Part of the information about soldier #19 Per Ersson Asp, who died on the mountain 4 January 1719; in his place was enlisted on 6 April of the same year Olof Andersson Nyberg, born in Jämtland and Rödön, 21 years old. (Generalmönsterrullor - Jämtlands fältjägarregemente (Z) 715 (1720-1721) Bild 130 / sid 10. [Arkiv Digital]).

My soldier in the retreat

My ancestor Per Olofsson was born in 1682 as the third of seven siblings, the son of the farmer Olof Jönsson and his wife Kerstin Persdotter in Valla on Frösön in Jämtland.

The first time I encountered Per was in the court minutes of Sunne *Tingslag* (Jämt.), during the winter court meeting in February 1711. He had been a dragoon named Wallberg (after his farm Valla) in the Jämtland Dragoon Regiment since 1708. He was sued at the court meeting by the county bailiff at Frösön, Johan Lund, after he had slandered and threatened the bailiff at a military training camp in Diger-näs.

According to witnesses, Per Olofsson Wallberg had been a little drunk and in a cabin had attacked a wooden post with his sword. He had said in *Jämska* (local dialect) that the bailiff had persecuted his father ever since Per had shot a wolf and received compensation for it instead of the bailiff. Per threatened to harm the bailiff. That time Per was only fined because he could blame the threats and rudeness on the drunkenness.

Later that year Per was one of the soldiers from Frösön who, on September 28, was sent to the Norwegian border as a guard.

In December, 1715, Peter was promoted to corporal and – at the time of the catastrophic incident in 1718 – was a sergeant.

On March 3, 1720, the general muster roll notes that he has been transferred to *Livkompaniet* from *Oviken's kompani*. He had been frostbitten on the mountain in January, 1718, and discharged from the army on 12 June 1719. He was also granted a small pension upon his discharge (*gratial*). Wallberg was discharged and recommended for continued support because he had served eleven years and both his feet had been completely frozen during the last Norwegian campaign.

Marriage and family

Luckily for me, Per did not become completely discouraged by the fact that both his legs were amputated below the knee and thereafter he had to use prosthetic wooden legs. In November, 1721, he married a girl from the neighboring village of Vagled named Lucia Andersdotter.



This scene from the mountains was found in the Swedish section of a site called "Total War Center" (<http://www.twcenter.net>).

In the following years, Per and Lucia lived their lives as any peasant family in Jämtland did at that time. They appeared a couple of times in the court minutes; for example, they inherited from Lucia's grandmother. Another time their sheep were killed by a neighbor's dog.

What was a little different in their case was that Per could read and write and once was accused of lampooning the commissar Lars Bergman.

Per and Lucia had ten children during the period of 1722 to 1743, of which the youngest daughter Karin Persdotter became my grandmother's grandmother's grandmother's mother.

Domestic problems

However, in the court minutes of 1735 it appears that they lived not a wholly harmonious life. Per Wallberg and his wife Lucia shared the farm Valla with Per's brother's son Per and his family. At the court meeting the nephew and his wife testified that there were terrible brawls between Per Wallberg and Lucia, that Per would swear and shout and pull Lucia's hair, and even hit her. She sometimes had to flee to the neighbors to escape her husband's anger.

The pastor Wargentin testified that he had been to the farm several times to try to persuade Per to behave properly, but the turmoil continued.

Per fell on his knees and begged forgiveness, promising to never hurt his wife again. Even Lucia asked, while crying, that her husband not be punished. Per had to pay a fine for his swearing and because he had hit his wife.

Although Per seemed to have trouble with alcohol, he had been the teacher of the daughter of the bailiff Olof Klockhoff and had taught her to read in the ABC book. In 1739 Per had required to be paid by the student's father.

In March, 1748, Per ended up in jail. In January he had been drunk at home on his farm and hit his sister's son Erik Olofsson in Östberg. He had hit him in the head and on his back with his musket, drawing blood. For that he was punished by being put on bread and water for eight days at the Frösön jail.

In 1749 Per reached the high age (!) of 67 years and handed over the care for the farm to his eldest son Olof Persson because he was now too old to farm the land.

On July 8, 1762, Per's wife Lucia died of fever and three years later, Per passed

away on August 18.

On August 25, 1765, the dragoon Lundqvist's son Erik in Bällsta was buried, five weeks and three days old.

In the same plot, the former sergeant Petter Wallberg in Valla was buried, who died August 18, 83 years old.

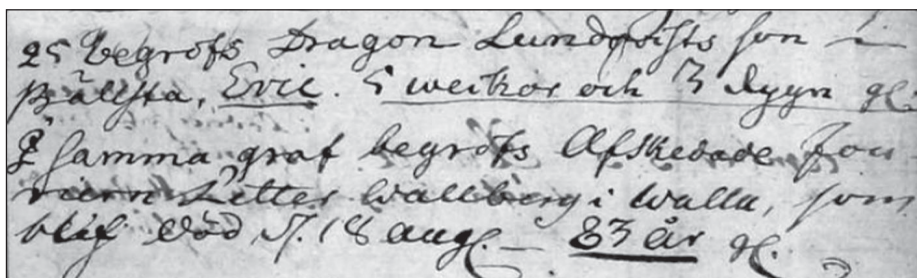
Although Per does not appear to have been the nicest person, I feel compassion for him, and knowing of his experiences, I'm impressed with what he still managed to do. Per probably had PTSD after all the terrible trauma he had suffered in his youth, and perhaps that explains why he lived the life he did.

(Even though, before the disaster on the mountain, he had shown that he could booze and threaten . . .)

He nevertheless reached an old age and even survived his wife, and cared for his farm for many years despite his amputated legs, which could not have been the easiest at that time.

Endnotes:

- 1) More on the Great Nordic War can be found on p. 26.
- 2) Bender is a city that belonged to the Ottoman empire in the 1700s, and now is in Romania. The Swedish king Karl XII took refuge there after the disaster at Poltava in 1709, when most of the Swedish army became prisoners of war in Russia. The king stayed in the Ottoman area until 1714 when he returned to Stralsund, and in 1715 returned to Sweden proper. During his absence Sweden was ruled by the King's Council.
- 3) Stralsund in northern Pomerania in Germany was one of the gains for Sweden from the



Death notice for Petter Wallberg. (Frösö (Z) C:1 (1692-1777) Bild 2840 / sid 557 v114423.b2840.s557 [ArkivDigital]).

Treaty of Westfalia in 1648. It was conquered by enemy forces in 1715, but was returned to Sweden during the peace negotiations in 1720.

- 4) Denmark and Norway were joined in a union since the mediaeval times. After the Napoleonic wars Norway was ceded to Sweden in the Peace Treaty of Kiel in 1814. The union was peacefully dissolved in 1905.
- 5) As all the Swedish kings since 1654 had the first name **Karl**, their soldiers in the army were called *karoliner*.

Documentary sources:

Jämtlands domsagas häradsrätt 1711, vt
(ArkivDigital) v407056.b110.s5

Generalmönsterrullan, Jämtlands
dragonregemente, Livkompaniet 1711
(SVAR) A0028711_00026

Generalmönsterrullan, Jämtlands
dragonregemente 1717, Livkompaniet
(SVAR) A0028712_00060

Rullor 1620-1723 (SVAR), Frösö socken
A0054754_00018

Frösö C:1 (ArkivDigital)
v114423.b1310.s251

Advokatfiskalen Jämtlands län EXIe:3845
(ArkivDigital) v494760.b3500.s344

Advokatfiskalen Jämtlands län EXIe:3851
(ArkivDigital) v494766.b4720.s466

Advokatfiskalen Jämtlands län EXIe:3855
(ArkivDigital) v494770.b2150.s207

Sunne tingslags häradsrätt, AI:7 (Arkiv-
Digital) v410016.b180.s15

Sunne tingslags häradsrätt, AI:8
(ArkivDigital) v410017.b700.s67
Frösö C:1 (ArkivDigital)

14423.b2840.s557



Karl XII (b. 1682), portrait from 1706.

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<https://www.ourswedishroots.com/>

A story from the 1860s

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

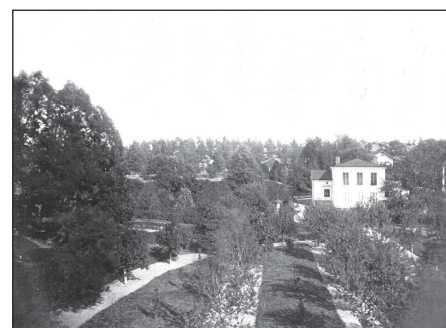
In those times, and maybe much later, it was the custom to serve coffee and something to eat when a person came to a fine mansion and delivered something to the kitchen. The housekeeper should first ask three times, before it was polite to accept the offer.

A young girl, about age 12, from a fisherman's family in the Småland archipelago delivered some fish to the mansion. Then she was asked twice if she wanted a cup of coffee, and then the girl left.

Later she was found in tears, and was asked why she was sad? She answered "the housekeeper only asked me twice!" Evidently the housekeeper did not think she needed to be extra polite to this young girl.

The word for this behaviour is "truga", maybe translated as "urge".

This story was told to me by my grandmother, who had it from her mother-in-law, who grew up in the Småland archipelago during the 1860s.



Åldersbäck manor in Gladhammar parish, (Kalm.), where this happened.

Swedish-American church records online - addendum

BY JILL SEAHOLM

In my article in the June 2018 issue about the Swedish-American church records online at Ancestry.com, I mentioned that people could expect to find some errors in the indexing, but did not say what to do about them.

An example of a serious error

One reader recently found his father in the ELCA index where the index had grouped him with a wife and child (actually the wrong wife and child), but in the image attached to it, he was still alone and unmarried. The reader wondered how to report such a complex error.

I spoke with our representative at Ancestry and I learned that this is a more difficult type of error to correct, but it can and will be done.

There is an automated tool for users to correct simple spelling and date errors within indexes (explained below), but when it involves an incorrect image attachment, Ancestry needs to do research to find out how each error has occurred and then make individual corrections.

Ancestry then has to republish the entire collection with corrections, which is a

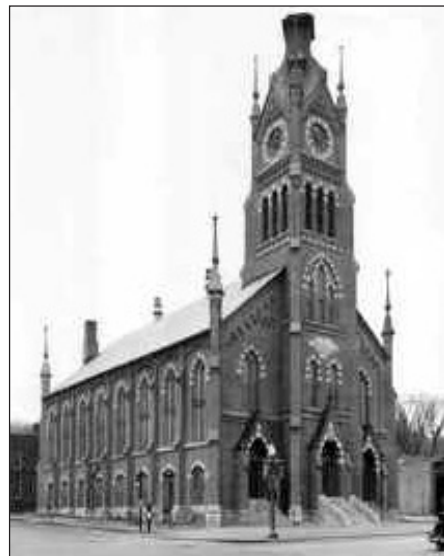
massive job and they cannot do it very often. They accumulate errors like this into maintenance projects for given record collections and fix them all about once a year. Ancestry would really like the data to be as accurate as possible. Our contact at Ancestry wants me to have users of these Swedish-American church collections report any such **big** errors to me at the Swenson Center, so I can pass them on to Ancestry.

How to correct simple errors

To correct simple index errors, Ancestry has an automated tool for you to submit the corrections on your own. To see how the automated tool worked for simple index fixes, on a whim I decided to search for my father in the index, and luckily (?) in the very first hit, his middle name Vernon was misspelled as "Vemm." Looking at the image, I can see how an indexer not familiar with the name would have had to guess.

I looked around for the tool (**hammer/wrench**) symbol [picture to the right] at the right of the image, clicked on it, then on "Report Problems." I pulled that down to "Inaccurate Information," entered my

email address and country of residence, then explained what was wrong. The corrected information will be included in parentheses and made searchable on Ancestry, which may take around 30 days.

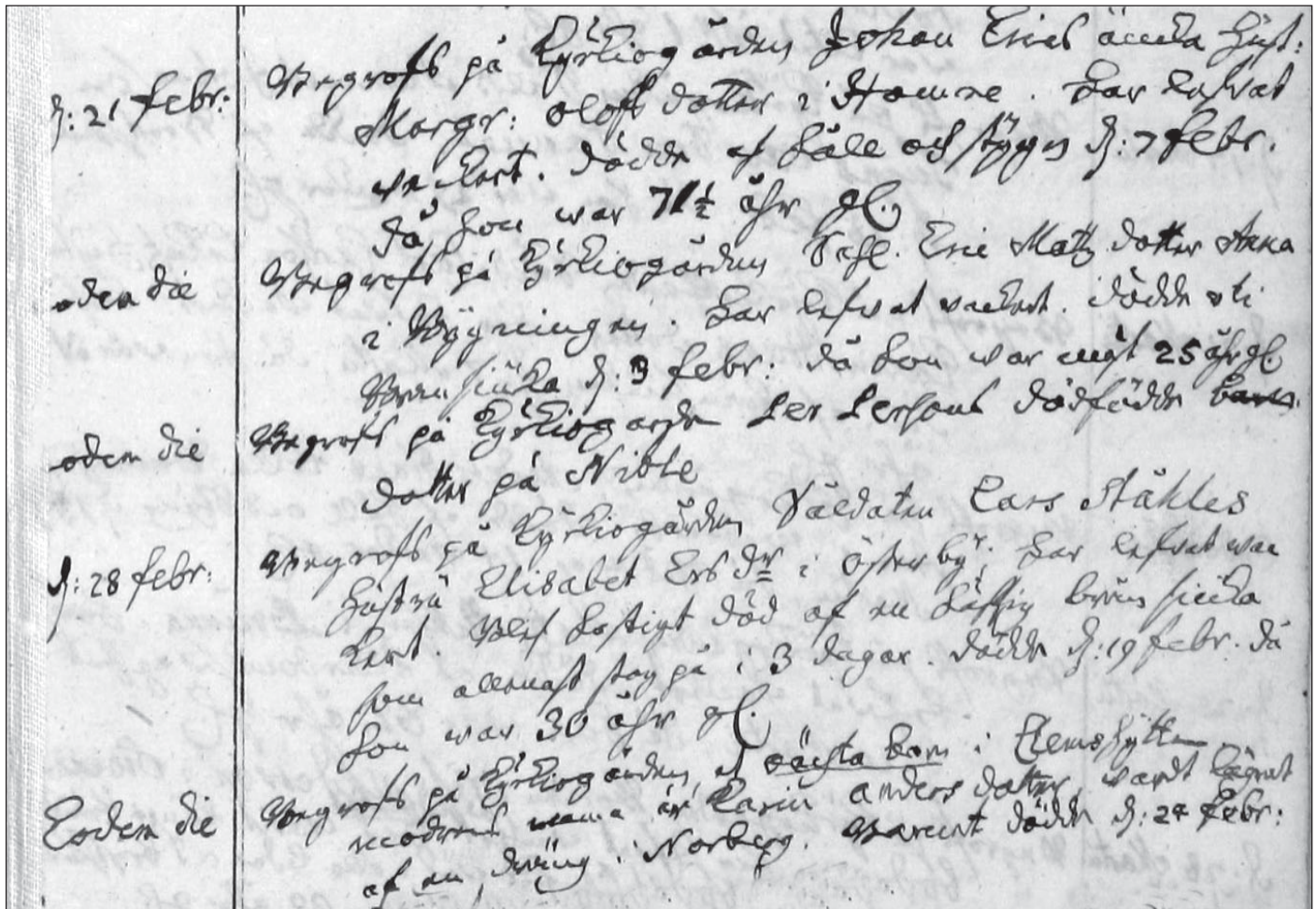


First Lutheran Church, Moline, IL.



What would you like to report?	Help on this form
<div>Inaccurate information</div>	To help us respond to your request, please fill out all of the fields on this form.
<div>Request removal of content</div>	The Content URL may be filled in for you. If not, please copy and paste the URL from Ancestry.com for the page that has the problem.
<div>Content URL*</div> <div>https://www.ancestryinstitution.com/interactive/61584/48258_555169-00899?pic</div>	Your email address will help us contact you should we need clarification.
<div>Email address*</div> <div></div>	Please provide your Country of Residence (where you currently live).
<div>Country of residence*</div> <div></div>	Finally, please provide any additional information in the Comments section that will help us understand your concerns.
<div>Comment (optional):</div> <div>Optional</div>	
<div>Send Request Cancel</div>	<div>Report serious errors to Jill Seaholm at jillseaholm@augustana.edu</div>

Handwriting Example #56



Hedemora death records for 1742. (Hedemora [W] FI:1 [1720-1742] Image 90 [ArkivDigital]).

This is a part of the death records for Hedemora stad och landsförsamling (rural parish) in Dalarna.

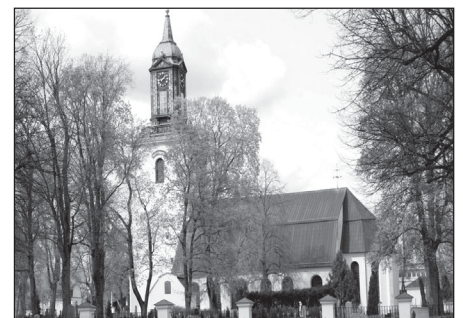
Hedemora was founded in 1446, the only medieval city in the province of Dalarna. It was an important market town for centuries. In the area there were several iron works, and later many furniture factories. Hedemora kommun now has around 15,000 inhabitants.

The city was never a large one, but was surrounded by a numerous rural parish, as the farmland was/is quite good.

Another occupation during the 1800s was the production of scythes, which were then sold by itinerant inhabitants during the winter.

During the early 1700s (1719-1748) Hedemora had a kyrkoherde (rector) with an unusual background. His name was *Andreas Sandel*, born 1671 in a clerical family in Hållnäs (Uppl.) and studied in Uppsala, and in 1701 was ordained to the ministry in the Church of Sweden. He was then sent to the Swedish Gloria Dei Church in America, where he served for 16 years. In 1719 he came back and was from then on the rector in Hedemora. Among the church records he started a special volume about "People that do not live correctly" in which he wrote about bullies, misdeeds of many kinds, unwed mothers, and much more. He also kept a diary from 1701 to 1743, which has been printed in Swedish.

Samuel Sandel, son of Andreas, was prominent in the Swedish mining industry, and was ennobled in 1772 with the name Sandels, a family that still survives.



Hedemora church, with roots from the late 1200s.

News from the Swenson Center

Summer intern Shelby tells about her work at the Swenson Center

Hej!

My name is Shelby Jensen. I am a Scandinavian Studies major here at Augustana, with a focus on the Swedish language, and I am just beginning my senior year. I am currently a student worker for the fall term in the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, a position which I happily accepted after a summer internship at the center. I first learned about the center and their work with genealogy and archival preservation through a class I had taken with one of the Scandinavian Studies professors, Mark Safstrom, who had emphasized the importance of the center. During this visit I came to realize that interning at the center would be an excellent opportunity for me to learn more about Swedish history in a more direct and personal manner. As a Scandinavian Studies major I found this very appealing.

Before attending Augustana I graduated early from Moline Senior High School, and decided to attend a technical college for dental assisting. While I found the work easy and liked helping the patients, it was not long before I realized that it was not the career choice for me.

After this, I attended Black Hawk College where I received my Associates Degree with a major in Art and a minor in English. Since I have always had a love for foreign language I have previously taken German, Spanish, and French. Learning these languages was fun, but the language I have always been most interested in is Swedish.

I am very lucky to finally have the opportunity to learn Swedish at Augustana, and my first year of learning Swedish only strengthened my love for it. My second year in Swedish is off to a great start, and we are focusing our efforts solely on translating. So far I have been able to take very fun courses in Scandinavian Studies including Swedish Immigration, Old Norse Sagas, and a religion course that dealt with the changes brought on in Scandinavia by the reformation.

Currently, besides the language class, I am taking “Vikings to Volvo’s” where we are learning about the history of the Nordic region from the viking age until modern times. I am also in “Folklore and Fairytales”, which covers the oral traditions that make up folklore from Scandinavia. These oral traditions include poetry, legends, and fairy tales, among other things. This class has been insightful into just how complex folklore is, and how much it changes and reflects the culture itself depending on who is talking. During my time as an intern, and now a student worker, I have gained invaluable experience in the archival field, as well as a new found respect for it. One of my regular duties includes processing or re-processing archival collections and transferring the information that I gather onto a finding aid to be posted online. These finding aids help those who are doing research to determine whether or not a specific collection will be useful to them. Going through these collections has been an interesting experience, especially when coming across old photographs. The Jenny Lind Chapel photographs are my favorite so far.

When taking a Swedish Immigration class last year we went on a small excursion to Bishop Hill and Andover, where our class got to tour and learn about the Jenny Lind Chapel. While seeing the beauty of the chapel in person had been fun, I also thought it was neat to see the chapel in photographs from a few decades ago, and see just how much it has changed with time. Much of the work I have done with photographs includes scanning them and adding them online into a catalog called *PastPerfect* where they can be viewed and commented on by others.

Accompanying these tasks are regular office duties such as filing, copying, and running the occasional errand. One aspect of my job that I have found to be the most rewarding is book preservation. Many of the books in the stacks and in the collections I process or re-process are fairly

aged, meaning that it isn’t uncommon for there to be loose pages, and sometimes, even the covers have been separated. In both of these cases there are methods to fix these problems, and the books are able to be saved. During my time as an intern I was also assigned a project to build an exhibit to be put on display for visitors to the center. For this project I had free reign of the topic, and decided to combine my love for Swedish culture with my love for Art. My topic was ‘Swedish Arts in North America’, and it covers a range of subjects such as painting, sculpting, writing, music, and etc. This project gave me the chance to search through some of the collections that interest me most, and I learned a great deal about Swedish-American artists and some of the struggles they went through as they adjusted to a new culture in North America.

Next year in the fall my plan is to finally study abroad in Jonköping, Sweden, at Södra Vätterbygdens *Folkhögskola*. This trip will be for around 15 weeks, and will be a completely new experience for me. I have traveled within North America before, but I have never had the opportunity to leave the country prior to this. I am excited to experience the culture first hand that I have been studying, and I hope to explore as much of Sweden as I can when I have the free time. To my knowledge we will also be going on a trip to Rome, and on another trip to Copenhagen which only triples the excitement! then, I will continue to study and learn all that I can.

Hej då!



A first look at Swedish prison records

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

It is very probable that we all assume that the ancestors were all honest, hard-working and godfearing people. However, we do not know much about them as individuals, we do not know if they were tall or short, or the color of their eyes, or what they looked like?

Then we may find that somebody had done something he/she should not have done, and then spent some time in prison, and now we will find all kinds of details in the prison records.

The preserved prison records can start as early as in the 1740s. During my own research I have found a man who robbed the post in 1745, and ended up in Örebro county prison (Länsfängelse). There are details about when he was imprisoned and when he was released, and that he got food every day.

How to find a culprit

When you follow your people in the clerical surveys, always check the column, usually on the righthand page, called *Frejd* or *Uppförande*. If there is a note there, it is usually something not too good: like “run away” or in “Malmö prison,” or “*dömd vid Hanekinds häradsrätt* (sentenced at the Hanekind legal district). Hopefully you will get a date and can check the legal records (*dombok*), and find out what happened.

During the court proceedings the “culprit” often told in their own words about places of work and other happenings. He often told if he had comrades that had helped with robbery, for instance.

Before the middle 1800s the prisons were often placed in disused castles and other government buildings, and the inmates had to live in big, but dark, rooms with little light and little heating. The inmates had to live together and hopefully keep the peace and not fight with each other. Female prisoners lived in the same room with the males.

New ideas

During the early 1800s new ideas regarding prisoners and prisons were discussed in many countries. It was thought that prison should not only be a punishment, it should

also reform the inmates and make honest people of them. In Sweden King Oscar I had long been an advocate for prison reforms. From the U.S. came the idea of the *Philadelphia System*, which is a form of prison management based on the principle of keeping prisoners in solitary confinement. When first introduced in the early 19th century, the objective of such a prison or “penitentiary” was that of penance by the prisoners through silent reflection upon their crimes and behavior, as much as that of prison security.

In 1844 the *Riksdag* decided that each *län* (county) should have a prison of that type, with individual cells for each prisoner. The inmates lived alone in each little cell, where they should also work with some kind of craft. But the isolation from others often broke down their psyche and some even became insane.

These types of prisons have now been replaced with modern institutions. The old ones have sometimes become hotels or even been torn down. The one in Gävle closed in 1986, and is now an interesting museum.

Here you can visit prison cells from different years, see how the prisoners lived, and also the clothing they had. Some also climbed the walls and escaped.



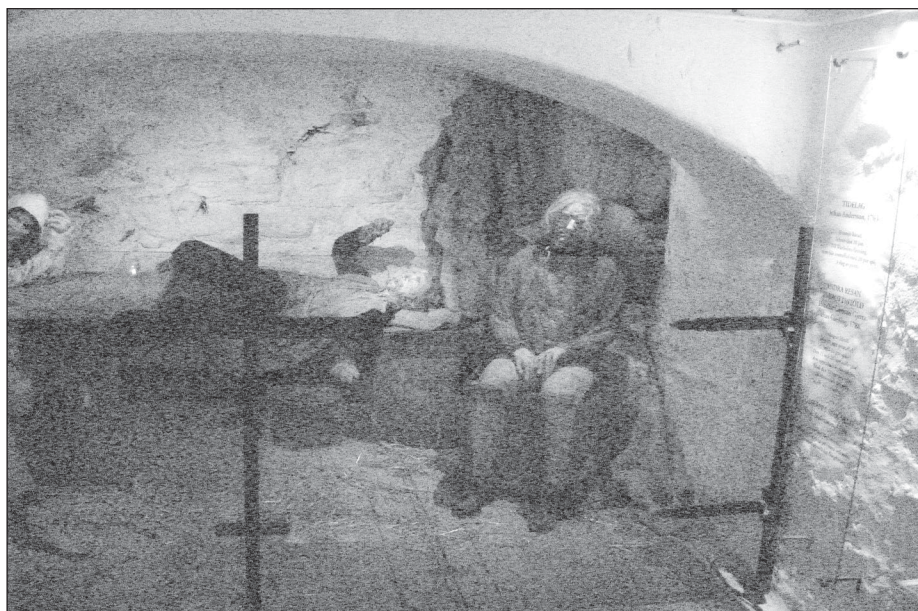
The Gävle Prison Museum. Photo: E. Thorsell.

Prison records

There are several types of prison records, all kept in the regional archives (*landsarkiven*), but many are also digitized on Arkiv Digital or Riksarkivet.

Prison rolls (Fångrullor)

These were written shortly after the prisoner came to the prison. They recorded his name, date of birth, and a short description of his looks, especially marks on his body, when and where sentenced and how long he had to stay in the prison. It was also recorded if he committed some crime during his time in prison. This information would help to find him again if he escaped.



A reconstructed dungeon in the Gävle Prison Museum, Sweden. Photo: E. Thorsell.

The prisons had a clergyman attached to the institution, and they kept a kind of very detailed records, called church records.

The prisoner's occupation was given as a "grufdräng" (working in a mine).

[illegible]

- 1) Where born? In September 1823 in Trumhem in Saxån, Fernebo parish in Fernebo *Härad* and Wermland County.
- 2) The father *torpare* Nils Nilsson still alive and living at Trumhem in Fernebo parish, and supports himself. Mother Sara Olsdotter died in 1837.
- 3) Lived with his parents until age 18, when he became a farmhand (he is above listed as a miner). Took first communion in Filipstad church in 1838, took communion in Filipstad in month of November.
- 4) Not married.
- 5) He has only been registered in Fernebo parish for Tax purposes (*Mantalskrivning*).
- 6) He has never been accused before of any crime.
- 7) He came to the County prison on 4 April 1850 accused of stealing and sentenced to 9 days om water and bread and 3 days in jail for burglary and pilfering to undergo secret church admonition (*kyrkoplikt*), which took place in Karlstad Cathedral on 26 May 1850.

Lefnadsomständigheter före ankomsten.						När och af hvad orsak personen till fängvårdsanstalten ankommit, samt beslutet derom.
Födelseår, månad och dag, samt ställe, uppgifvet till Ry, Socken, Stad, Härad och Län.	Föräldrarnes namn, stånd och villkor, samt om de lefva och hvarst, eller när och hvarst de afstidit.	Uppfostran, förra yrke, eller näringsfång samt tiden och stället för första och sista Nattvårdsgången.	Ogift eller gift samt om hustru eller nära anförwandter lefva, uppgift i deras namn och vistelseort.	Den Församling, der fången jemlikt KONGL. förordn. den 20 Juli 1861 bör mantalskrifvas.	Om, när och af hvad anledning tillföre häktad, för brott tilltalad, frikänd, bestraffad eller benädd.	
1861 Juni 18 i Eskshärads c. all.	Åke Lars förv. forn äkt. Wess- gerd Karlstedt. ten. Ladugård allén i Eskshärads i bör- jan af år 1861. Modern lefver och bor i Hamna. Eskshärads so- cken, i Lättens omständigheter.	Gått i skolan. Uppfostrad i hemmet. Först i Pigan. Nattvårdsgången i Eskshärads vid 18 år, 1876. Sista de i Esk- shärads 1877.	Ogift. Här tillv. skom.	Hamna Pöden. Eskshärads	Sj. fört.	År 1888. Anklagad för barnsländ. Domd till 4 år 6 mån. straff. arbets.

For this document the heading is “Conditions of living”.

Column 1 gives the birth date for the *piga* Ingeborg Larsdotter, who was born 18 June 1861 in Ekshärad.

Column 2 tells that her parents were the tenant farmer Lars Jönsson and his wife Ingegerd Karlsdotter. The father died in Ekshärad at the beginning of 1861. The mother lives in Hamra in Ekshärad, a widow in poor circumstances.

Column 3 Ingeborg has gone to school, grew up at home, is a servant girl, went to her first communion in Ekshärad, at age 15 in 1876, and last time there in 1888.

Columns 4-6 says that she is unmarried, lives in Ekshärad, and never has been to court before.

Column 7 tells that she came to the prison 18 Oct. 1888, accused of infanticide. Sentenced to 4½ years of hard labor.

The next page (not shown) here says that she was sent on 6 November 1888 to the Centralfängelset in Göteborg. From there she was transferred to Göteborg's *Kronospinnhus* (the female prison) (Göteborgs kronospinnhus (O) DIIIa:8 (1885-1889) Image 850).

Swedish American Genealogist 2018:3

N^o 89 Lars dotter Ingeborg

Göteborgs kronospinnhus (O) DIIIaa:8 (1885-1889) Image 850. (ArkivDigital).

In the records of the Kronospinnhus¹ there was more information about Ingeborg.

She is recorded as being 1.4 meters tall, ordinary body, blue eyes, brown hair, straight nose, and an oval face.

She had been sentenced according to the Penal Code (*Strafflagen*), Chapter 14, Section 22, to 4 years and 6 months for infanticide by the Älvdals Lower Tingslag's H[ärads]R[ätt] on 22 October 1888.

Next is a list of what she had when she came to the prison, and what she had when she was released: Cash: 13 *kronor* and 84

öre, 2 skirts, 1 linen vest, 1 dress (worth 3 *kronor*), 1 sweater, 4 neckkerchiefs, 2 shawls, 2 handkerchiefs, 2 pairs of stockings, 1 pair of boots, 1 collar, 1 pair of drawers, 1 pair of mittens, 1 pocket-watch, 1 apron, and some other small items.

She had also earned a small amount during the years, which she had put in a savings bank account of 55 *kronor*.

Ingeborg was mentioned as in good health and a good worker, and was released on 30 April 1893 and sent to her home parish.

There she lived for while with her mother at Hamra, and later took jobs at various places as a *piga*. She never married and died 1947 Jan. 3 at Norra and Mellanskog in Ekshärad (Swedish Death Index 7).

Editor's note:

1) A *Kronospinnhus* was a female prison, where the inmates had to work with spinning various kinds of yarn. In the old days there were three of them, Stockholm, Norrköping and Göteborg.

The released hard-labor prisoners database

The Swedish Prison Board (*Fångvårdstyrelsen*) archives has scanned the release papers from 1876 to 1939, and made them available on the *Riksarkivet* web site. Most of the men in the database had got a sentence longer than 1 year. There are very few women in the database. It is in Swedish, but on the search page it is possible to switch to search in English ([link to other languages](#)). See link on p. 26.

Next, click on the button marked *Image*, and you will see this:

Persson Ståhl, Sven August

Released prisoners

Name	Persson Ståhl, Sven August
Occupation	Arbetskarl
Birth date	1844-06-10
Birth place	Linköping
Birth county	Östergötlands län
Place of residence	Sjögstad Östergötlands län
Release place	Sjögstad Östergötlands län
No in prison roll	5849
No in portrait roll	1143
Prison	Långholmens centralfängelse
Judicial authority	Linköpings Rådshuvuds
Date when the punishment was sentenced	1883-04-16
Length of sentence	4 år
The punishment started	1883-04-18
Release date	1887-02-26
Punishment	För det han eftergjort och utpr.
Previous punishments	Ostraffad
Funds when released	55 kronor 40 öre
Hair color	Ljusbrunt
Beard	Ljusbrunt
Eye	Blå
Nose	Rak
Mouth	Ordinär
Skin	Ljus
Height	5,5 fot
Physique	Ordinär

N^o 3078.

Beskrifning. rönade Arbetsskatten Sven August Persson Ståhl som den 96 decesses frigivits från Centralfängelset i Långholmen.

N^o 5849 i stamrullen samt N^o 1143 i porträttrullen.

Födelseår, månad och dag: 1844 juni 10

Födelseort till församling, härad (riks) och län: Linköping

Senaste kyrkskrifningsort: Sjögstads församling, Östergötlands län.

Undergår nu bestraffning för det han eftergjort och utpr. angående rån och stöld.

Utslaget, af hvilken myndighet och när det afkunnats: Linköpings Rådshuvuds 16/4 1883.

Straffet samt tiden, då det började: 4 år 1883 d 18/4

Förut ~~undgått bestraffning för~~ skänkt och straffad.

Förpassningsort vid frigivningen: Sjögstad, Östergötlands län.

Beloppet af egna medel och besparad arbetsförtjänst vid frigivningen: 55 kronor 40 öre.

Fångens fotografi.

Hår: Ljusbrunt

Skägg: Lj

Ögon: Blå

Näs: Rak

Mun: Ordinär

Hy: Ljus

Höjd: 5,5 fot

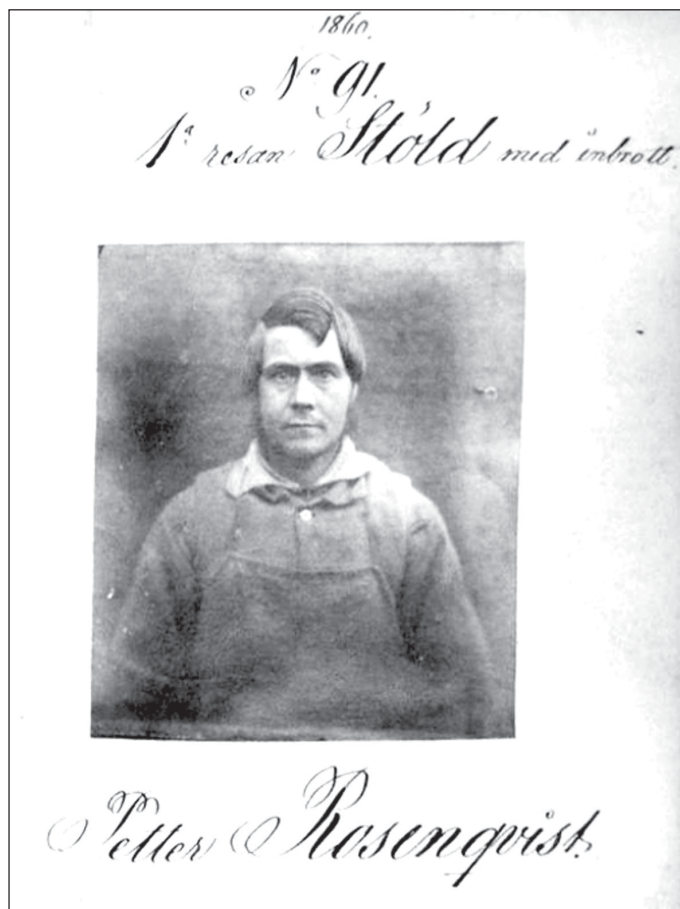
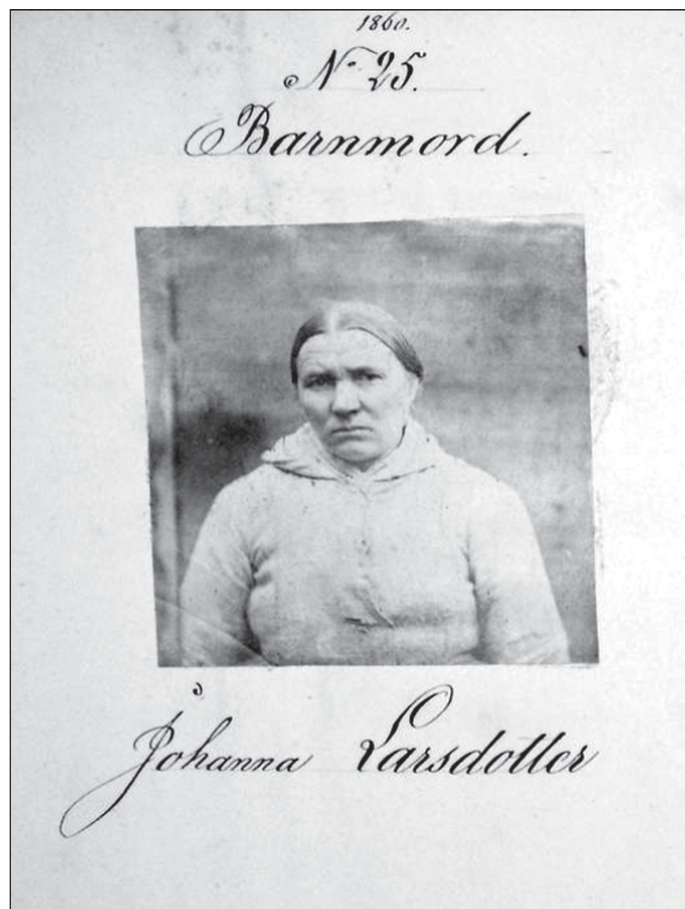
Kroppsläggning: Ordinär

Anmärkning: Anmärkning: 1883/4 på vänstra tummen 1 1/2 på vänstra och 1 1/2 på högra pekfingret, 2 smärre fjärra fläckar på öfriga fingernar, i höger hand är händerna efter kross.

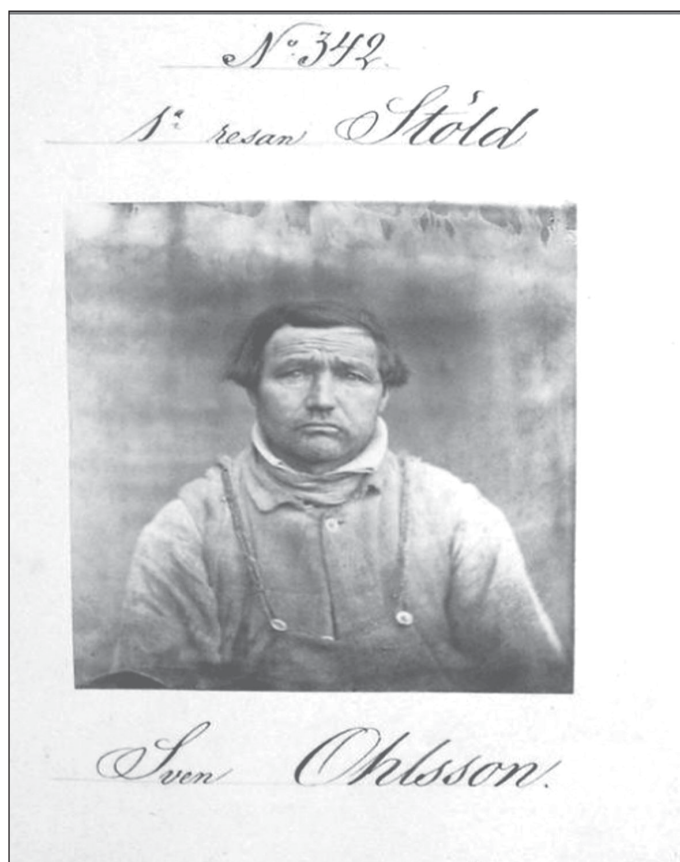
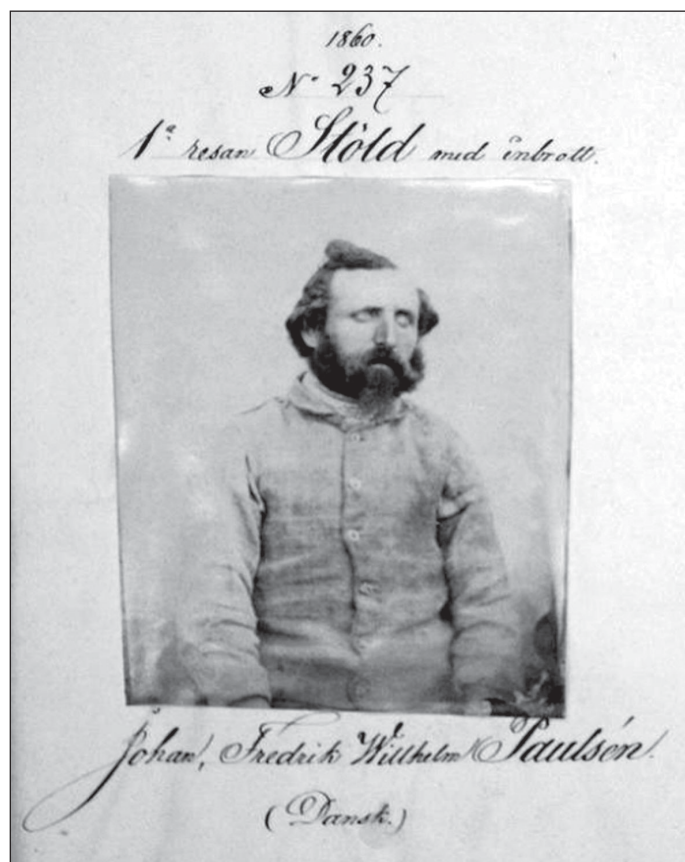
Långholmen den 25 februari 1887.

Fångens fotografi.

The prisoner made counterfeit money (ET note).



All pictures from Malmö länsfängelse (M) DI11i:1 (1859-1861) (ArkivDigital).



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<i>Barn födde i Gäsinge församling 1847.</i>		
<i>Födelsedag</i>	<i>Födelseort</i>	<i>Föräldrar:</i>
<i>Jan. 17.</i>	<i>Johan August } Lovisa Charlotta }</i>	<i>Torparen A. Johan Lettervall och Hustru Johanna Cath. Fredotter i Öra Fryntorp.</i>
<i>— 27.</i>	<i>Gustafva</i>	<i>Soldaten Johan Grand och Hustru Ulrika Larsdotter.</i>
<i>— 28.</i>	<i>Henrik Jakob.</i>	<i>Hemmansegaren Bonden Lars Larsson och Hustru Anna Catharina Andersdotter i Hjelminge.</i>
<i>Febr. 4.</i>	<i>Maria Lovisa.</i>	<i>Rättaren Emanuel Sjoberg och Hustru Hina Lisa Andersdotter.</i>

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

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Death and burials • Household examination/
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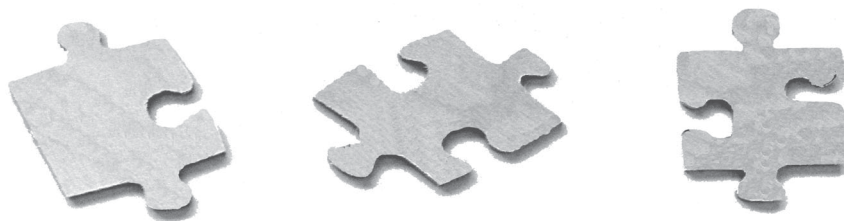
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Bits & Pieces



More digitized Swedish Newspapers!

The *Kungliga Biblioteket* (Swedish National Library) announced on Friday 7 September that they had received a donation of 30 million SEK from the *Arcadia Foundation*. This donation will make it possible for the library to digitize all Swedish newspapers from 1734 to 1906.

The major Swedish newspapers are now available at the web site of the *Kungliga Biblioteket*, but soon all local newspapers will be open for anyone to search. *Link on p. 26!*

Swedish nobility on USB

The Genealogical Society of Sweden (*Genealogiska Föreningen*) recently released a new version of the *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*, by Gustaf Elgenstierna, in 9 volumes + 2 volumes of addendums + some newly found informations on USB. It is in Swedish. It can be purchased from the society for 495 SEK + postage. It works with Windows 7 and later, and MacOS. See link on p. 26.

ELGENSTIERNAS ÄTTARTAVLOR 2018



GENEALOGISKA FÖRENINGEN
Riksförening för släktforskning

**SMEDISH
AMERICAN
MUSEUM**

Encore! Encore! Exhibit with *The Kungsholm Puppets*.

The Swedish American Museum is thrilled to offer an encore from the dazzling puppet divas from Chicago's world-renowned Kungsholm Miniature Grand Opera.

Exhibition opens at Friday 26 October and closes on Sunday 25 Nov.

A medal for the SAG editor

Hearty congratulations to Elisabeth Thorsell of Järfälla, Sweden, editor of our *Swedish American Genealogist* quarterly and good friend of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center!

Elisabeth Thorsell has been chosen with two others to receive the prestigious *Hans Järta Medal*, awarded only occasionally by the National Archives of Sweden.

Elisabeth Thorsell has sat on national genealogy society boards in Sweden, edited genealogy publications, and authored books about researching one's family history.

We are very proud of you, Elisabeth!

Dag Blanck and Jill Seaholm



Philadelphia, PA - Ingmar Bergman (1918-2007) – renowned Swedish director, theater manager, dramatist, and author – would have been 100 years old in July 2018. To honor him Bergman's anniversary is being celebrated and the ASHM is excited to host a panel exhibit about his films and their influence on the world of fashion and art.

The exhibition opened on 24 August and closes on 27 January 2019.

**SMEDISH
AMERICAN
MUSEUM**

Genealogy session

Saturday 17 Nov. @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Reservations are required. Call the Museum at (773)728-8111 to schedule your appointment. Walk-ins will be accommodated if time permits. Cost: \$10 to participate. Swedish experts *Ingrid* and *Elisabeth* will be there.



Nordic genealogy in Seattle

The Nordic Museum, at 2655 NW Market St, Seattle, has a genealogy session on *1 December* with focus on Scandinavian genealogy with Jill Morelli. Class size is limited and registration is required, so please register in advance.



The annual *Lutfisk* dinner will be held at the castle on 18 November 2018.

Reservations are required by Sunday, November 12 (non-refundable).

ASI's annual *Lutfisk* Dinner is a culinary landmark that everyone should experience at least once.

If preserved cod doesn't fit your palate, there are plenty of other side dishes, like Swedish meatballs, served to round out the meal.



Disappearing Swedes

Case 1: Johan Ferdinand Waeström, who “died in America”

BY MARTHA J. GARRETT, PhD, CG®

Many Swedish and Swedish-American families have stories about relatives who left their home parishes and simply vanished, often in conjunction with emigration. Sometimes these Swedes disappeared immediately after they left home. Others can be found in documents recording their arrival on American shores, but after that the trail goes cold. Such cases may seem unsolvable, but they can often be resolved through various research techniques. This is the first in a series of pedagogic articles about these disappearing Swedes. The articles describe various cases and explain how I solved the mysteries. The text has been extracted from research reports prepared for the same Swedish client, Olof Hultén of Kalmar, who is related to all the missing persons. I thank Olof for his generous permission to tell their stories.

What happened to Johan Ferdinand Waeström?

The Hultén family's interest in genealogy is of long standing, and Olof consequently owns some remarkable family records. His father – Johan Olof Hultén – was a physician who went through medical training at Uppsala University during the 1920s. Also in Uppsala was Ella Heckscher,¹ a professional genealogist who established a genealogical research bureau there. In 1928 or 1929, Johan Olof commissioned Miss Heckscher to carry out research on his family's history.

Miss Heckscher's report consisted of family group records that were documented but incomplete, since she had not found evidence regarding the fate of certain family members. Through the years, Johan Olof added his own notes to the report, indicating what he believed had happened to these individuals. Unfortunately, he did not always clarify where he had gotten his information or what evidence he had to support a particular

conclusion. In some cases, his notes were almost certainly based on family stories, both those he remembered hearing when he was young and others that he collected as an adult.

Olof Hultén inherited Miss Heckscher's report, embellished with his father's handwritten additions, as well as his father's fascination with genealogy. He began working on the family history years ago, carrying out research on various unanswered questions. Eventually he

commissioned me to assist with certain cases; all of these have involved relatives who left Sweden for America, but whose ultimate fate was unknown.

One of the “disappearing” relatives was Johan Ferdinand Waeström, an uncle of Olof's paternal grandmother, Agnes Sofia Maria Hultén, née Waeström (Fig. 1). In the original family group record, Miss Heckscher had only provided Johan Ferdinand's date and place of birth. Johan Olof had later written *Dog i Amerika* (Died in

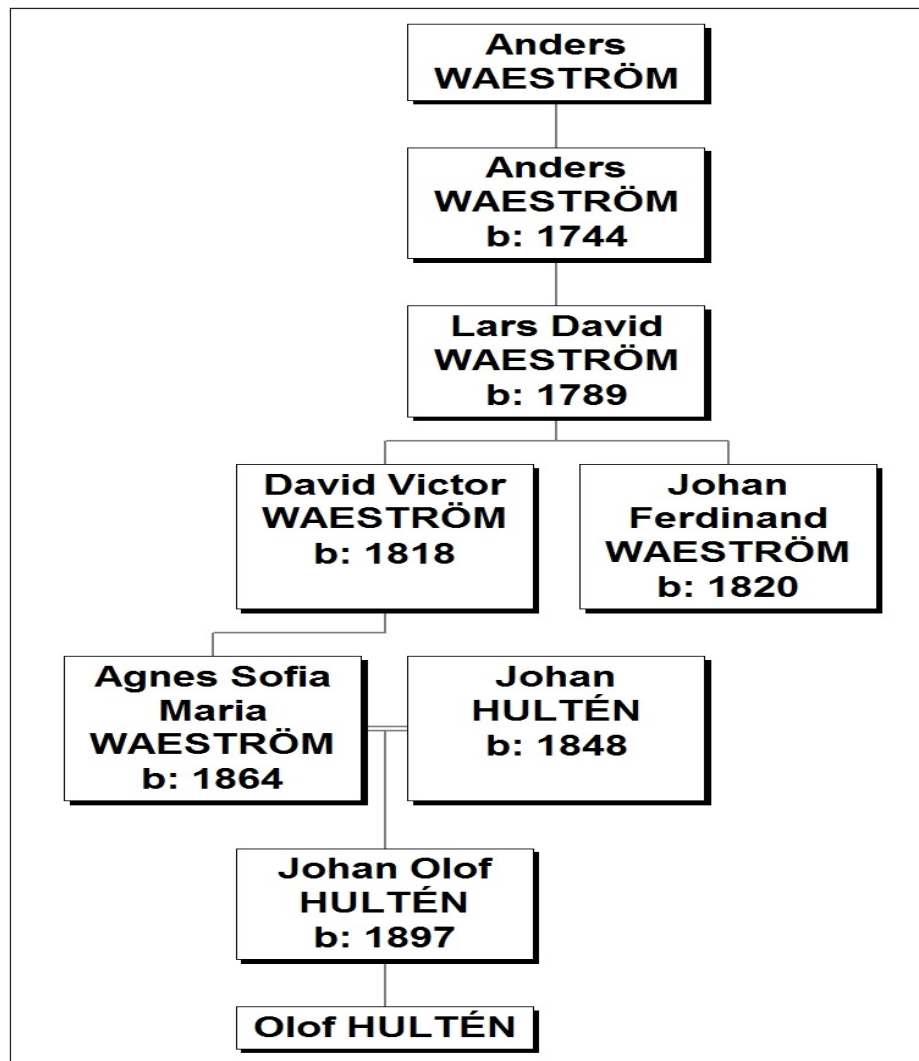


Fig.1. A partial family tree for the Waeströms and Hulténs.

America) next to Johan Ferdinand's name. Olof Hultén wanted to know more. When had Johan Ferdinand emigrated, where had he settled, what had he done with his life, and when and where had he died?

The Waeström schoolmasters at Veckholm²

Johan Ferdinand Waeström's story begins in Veckholm Parish. Veckholm lies about 50 kilometers northwest of Stockholm on Trögden, a beautiful peninsula that projects into Lake Mälaren. Between the 1760s³ and the earliest years of the 1800s,⁴ the parish was home to two schoolmasters, a father and son, both named Anders Waeström. Because the spelling of Swedish names was not codified until the 1900s, the surname of these men and their descendants appeared during the 1700s and 1800s in many homonymic forms, that is, forms that were spelled differently but sounded the same. These were Westström, Vestström, Wäsström, Väsström, Weström, Veström, Waeström, and Waesström. In this article, the family name will be spelled Waeström.

The two Anders Waeströms lived with their families at Hospitalet (Fig. 2). This institution was situated close to the Veckholm church and served as the hospital, school, and poorhouse for the parish. It had been established in 1653 through a donation from Count Magnus Gabriel De la Gardie,⁵ a great Swedish statesman who served the government and the king in many roles, including as Lord High Chancellor (*rikskansler*).⁶



Fig. 2. Hospitalet, Veckholm Parish.⁷

As parish schoolmasters, the Waeströms enjoyed high social status in the community, just below that of the local pastor, and they also benefited from noble patronage. When the younger Anders Waeström was baptized in 1744, one of his godfathers was Baron Carl af Ström.⁸ This baron lived at Ekholmen, a local estate that had been the property since the 1300s of royalty and nobility, including the Sparre,

Bielke, Trolle, and De la Gardie families.⁹ And when the younger Anders and his wife had their first son in 1789, the child's godfathers were Baron Eric Oxenstierna and Royal Secretary (*Kunglig sekreterare*) Lars David von Troil. The boy was apparently named after the latter, since he was baptized Lars David.¹⁰

Lars David Waeström at Kungs-Husby

His family may have expected Lars David to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps as the schoolmaster for the Veckholm Parish, but he chose another path in life and became a military man. In 1812 he joined *Upplands Regemente* (Uppland's Regiment) as a *rustmästare* (warrant officer) in the *Öfverste Löjtnants Compagnie* (Lieutenant Colonel's Company).^{11, 12} He remained in this regiment and company the rest of his life.

In 1815, Lars David moved from Veckholm to Kungs-Husby, an adjacent parish, where he settled at Wålhammar. At the time of the move, he was a sergeant,^{13, 14} and he later was promoted to the position of *fältväbel* (sergeant major),^{15, 16} the highest non-commissioned officer rank of the time. In 1817, he married Elisabeth Maria Ödman from nearby Enköping Parish.¹⁷ The couple soon had two sons – David Victor (born in 1818)¹⁸ and Johan Ferdinand (born in 1820).¹⁹

In April 1834, Lars David Waeström died,²⁰ just a few months short of his forty-fifth birthday. His *bouppteckning* (estate inventory)²¹ was filed in the *häradsrätt* (district court) of Trögden, the *härad* (district) to which Kungs-Husby Parish belonged. The document revealed intimate details about the way Lars David and his family had lived. Their possessions, which were modest, were categorized in the inventory into silver, copper, tin, iron, wooden, and glass objects, furniture, household equipment, wool and yarn, clothing, linens, diverse, and domestic animals. No cash was mentioned, which was unusual in an estate inventory. Among the specific items listed were just one object made of silver – an old spoon – one tablecloth, one bedspread, two cows, and a gaming table, that is, a table made for playing cards and possibly other games. Not a single book was mentioned, an interesting detail considering that both

Lars David's father and grandfather had been schoolmasters.

The value of the inventory was 211 *riksdaler banco* (dollars) and 5 *skillingar* (shillings), but to this was added another sum, bringing the total credit to 311 dollars, 7 shillings, 8 *runstycken* (pence). This matched exactly the total debit, leaving the widow and children with precisely nothing. The list of debts referred to numerous *skuldebrev* (promissory notes). The available evidence is insufficient to determine why the family's financial situation had been so precarious. Perhaps Lars David earned an insufficient salary to support his family, perhaps he had been burdened with unexpected expenses, perhaps he was a poor manager. Or maybe he had lost money – by gambling, for example. The gaming table in the estate inventory does make one wonder.

Lars David's death in 1834 left Elisabeth Maria penniless, and she and her sons were almost certainly forced to leave Wålhammar. David Victor and Johan Ferdinand were young teenagers, close to the age at which children customarily left home and began to work, so perhaps the Waeströms stayed in Kungs-Husby, and the boys found jobs at local farms. It is also possible that the three moved together to another parish, or they may have scattered in various directions.

Unfortunately, the church books – which usually make it possible to trace persons when they moved – are of no help in this case. The *husförhörslängder* (household examination rolls), which showed moves within a parish, are missing for Kungs-Husby from 1829 through 1836. And the moving-out rolls, which showed transfers to other parishes, are only available for Kungs-Husby beginning in 1851.

Picking up Johan Ferdinand's trail with the FAN method

Olof Hultén already knew, from his father's handwritten note on Ella Heckscher's report, that Johan Ferdinand Waeström had died in America. There was also indirect evidence supporting this claim. Johan Ferdinand was not listed in the Swedish censuses for 1880 and 1890,²² when he would have been 60 and 70 years old. This suggested that he had migrated

sometime between 1834, when his father died, and 1880.

Following Johan Ferdinand was complicated by the fact that his trail seemed to end in Kungs-Husby in 1834. But when a person cannot be traced directly from birth to death, various indirect approaches may yield positive results. One of my options was to find and read Elisabeth Maria's *bouppteckning*, since an estate inventory often listed the heirs and stated where they were living. Another possibility was to begin working through the migration records, looking for Johan Ferdinand's emigration from Sweden and immigration into the United States. I also could have started searching for him in a host of American resources, including naturalization and military records, as well as online indexes for marriages and deaths.

In this piece of research, however, I decided to try another approach that is widely used in genealogy – FAN. The FAN method involves looking at the family, acquaintances, and neighbors of a person who cannot be traced directly. In the case of Johan Ferdinand Waeström, the focal point for the method was his brother, David Victor.

David Victor's trail, like Johan Ferdinand's, had gone cold in 1834. But there was a significant difference. I knew that David Victor was the great-grandfather of my client, Olof Hultén (Fig. 1). So, beginning with Olof's birth record,²³ I worked through the church books, generation by generation. Once I found David Victor, I traced him back in time, hoping to reach a point where his life intersected with his brother's.

What I discovered was as follows. Olof's father, Johan Olof Hultén, was born in 1897 in Nyköping Östra Parish, son to Johan Hultén and Agnes Sofia Maria Waeström.²⁴ Agnes Sofia Maria was born in 1864 in Malmköping, Lilla Malma Parish,²⁵ daughter to David Victor Waeström and Sofia Vilhelmina Zetterström. David Victor and Sofia Vilhelmina had married in Lilla Malma in 1854.²⁶ In the marriage record, David Victor was identified as the *inspektor* (steward) at Äs, a fine estate in Julita Parish. The Julita household examination rolls for Äs^{27,28} confirmed that David Victor had indeed been the *inspektor* there. They also indicated that he had arrived in 1850 from Gimmersta, another Julita estate. The records for Gim-

mersta²⁹ showed that he had worked there as a bookkeeper. They also indicated that he had come to Gimmersta from Nyköping in 1847.

I consequently shifted my hunt for David Victor to Nyköping. Since I knew he had arrived in Gimmersta from Nyköping in 1847, I looked at the moving-out rolls for the same year for both of the Nyköping parishes – Alla Helgona and Sankt Nicolai. In the rolls for Sankt Nicolai,³⁰ also called Nyköping Västra, I found David Victor leaving the parish in 1847. The entry noted that he had been living in a household that was recorded on page 82. This page in the household examination roll³¹ contained an entry for No. 31 in the city's *första kvarteret* (first quarter). The household members included a D.V. Waeström plus several other people, including a J. F. Waeström (Fig. 3). Date and place of birth were given in the roll, and this second Waeström was shown as having been born in Kungs-Husby on 4 April 1820. This was, without question, Johan Ferdinand. The entry stated that he had arrived in Nyköping from Stockholm in 1844. This information was confirmed by the Sankt Nicolai moving-in books.³²

Sankt Nicolai		F. d. Handl. v. d. S. N.	
1	Carl Reijner	19	Kongsö
1	D. W. Waeström	18	Kongsö
1	B. L. S. N. N. N.	22	Kongsö
1	D. J. Waeström	20	Kongsö

Fig. 3. The entry in the Sankt Nicolai church books, showing the Waeström brothers together.

Johan Ferdinand Waeström in Stockholm

In 1846, Johan Ferdinand left Nyköping for Stockholm.³³ He must have been trained in business while in Nyköping, since he was identified as a *handelsbokhållare* (business bookkeeper) when he moved into Stockholm's Maria Parish.³⁴

Following Johan Ferdinand once he reached Stockholm proved to be difficult. Numerous people with names similar to "Waeström" were living in the city, including men named Johan. There was even a man named Johan F. Wesström, although the F. signified Fredrik rather

than Ferdinand.³⁵ Furthermore, Johan Ferdinand was not fastidious about reporting his whereabouts to the authorities and consequently disappeared from the official records for a decade. He surfaced again in April 1856, when he requested a moving permit from Maria Parish to Katarina Parish. The entry³⁶ indicated that he had actually moved to Katarina a long time before.

When Johan Ferdinand finally made his transfer official,³⁷ the moving-in lists for Katarina gave his address as Högbergsgatan 26, which was in the quarter called Heckelfjäll. The 1856 household examination roll also listed him there.³⁸ In 1856 and 1857, he was shown in the *mantalslängd* (tax census)³⁹ as a soap manufacturer living in Katarina. But in 1857, the Katarina Parish household examination rolls no longer included him among those living in Heckelfjäll.⁴⁰

The conundrum and its solution

Initially, the disappearance of Johan Ferdinand Waeström from Katarina seemed to narrow down the date of his emigration. He apparently had left for America in 1856 or 1857. But Johan Ferdinand was as elusive in his emigration as he had been during his life in Stockholm. Even when I searched with numerous variations of his name, I could find no one matching his description who emigrated in 1856, 1857, or the following few years.⁴¹ Because many of the Swedish databases only cover emigrations after 1860, it was possible that Johan Ferdinand had left too early to be included in these resources. However, I also could not find him immigrating into the United States or living or dying there, and I began to suspect that Johan Olof Hultén's note had not been correct. This suspicion was supported by the moving-out records for Katarina Parish, which did not list Johan Ferdinand as leaving any time between 1856⁴² and 1861.⁴³

The evidence presented a conundrum. The last sign of Johan Ferdinand Waeström was in Katarina in 1857; after that he was not listed either in the tax censuses or the household examination rolls for that parish. But he was also missing from the moving-out rolls. In other words, he had neither *remained* in the parish nor *moved* from the parish. What had happened to

him? The only obvious solution was that he had *died* in Katarina Parish.

Seeking a record of Johan Ferdinand's possible death in Katarina involved looking through three different death books for that parish. One was an alphabetical index of deaths that had occurred in the parish. Another, labelled *Journal öfver döda* (Journal of the dead), gave details about funerals and graves. The third was a standard death and burial book.

The death index⁴⁴ listed a man who had died in 1857, whose given name was Johan Ferdinand and whose surname was Wasström. This surname, in which the first vowel is pronounced as a short *a*, is not a homonym of Waeström, in which that vowel is pronounced as a short *e*. The second book, the one containing details about funerals and graves,⁴⁵ indicated that this person had been buried on 3 October. Significantly, it disagreed with the index regarding his name. It showed his surname as Wesström (a homonym of Waeström) but his given name as Johan Fredrik. As noted earlier, a man named Johan Fredrik Wesström was indeed living in Stockholm at the same time as Johan Ferdinand. This record strongly suggested that the person who had been buried on 3 October 1857 was this man and not Johan Ferdinand Waeström.

Aiming to be thorough, I nevertheless examined the third church book recording deaths and burials in Katarina Parish.⁴⁶ The relevant entry indicated that the man in question had died on 1 October 1857 at Barnängen⁴⁷ and that his name was Johan Ferdinand Wasström, the same name recorded in the death index. But the entry in the third church book also included critical new details. The deceased man was a soap manufacturer, just like Johan Ferdinand Waeström. Furthermore, he had been born on 4 April 1820. This was the date on which Johan Ferdinand had been born to Lars David Waeström and Elisabeth Maria Ödman in Kungs-Husby Parish. So the man who died on 1 October 1857 and was buried on 3 October was indeed Johan Ferdinand Waeström. The surname Wasström used in two of the Katarina church books and the given name Johan Fredrik used in one of them were simply incorrect.

Johan Ferdinand had died of cholera. This horrific disease swept through Sweden many times during the 1800s.⁴⁸ The

first major epidemic began in 1834; more than 25,000 persons were infected, of whom about half died. The second epidemic had peak years in 1850, 1853, and 1857. Although public health authorities battled against the epidemic with information campaigns (Fig. 4)⁴⁹ and special hospitals, about 20,000 Swedish inhabitants died of cholera during the decade. Johan Ferdinand was one of the 670 persons to die of the disease in Stockholm in 1857.

Cholera graveyards had been established in Sweden in the 1830s, and when epidemics hit, victims were sometimes hurriedly buried in mass graves without headstones.⁵⁰ But the church book record for Johan Ferdinand⁵¹ shows that he was buried with dignity and ceremony. Graves could be dug to different levels – *nedrejord* (deep), *mellanjord* (middle), and *övrejord* (shallow), and Johan Ferdinand was buried at middle level of plot No. 30, which lay along Östra Kyrkogårdsgatan, on the east side of the Katarina cemetery. His casket was covered with a *bårtäcke* (pall) and carried on three long *listor* (bands) by six pallbearers. The burial service was performed by Öfwerström. This was certainly Fredrik W. Öfwerström, a curate at Katarina who later became the pastor of that parish.⁵²

The note in the Hultén family history records suggests that Johan Ferdinand's family was unaware that he had died in Stockholm. But this could not have been

the case. The inventory carried out on his estate and filed at Stockholm's *rådhusrätt* (magistrates' court)⁵³ stated that he had one heir, *Inspektor* D. V. Waeström. As Johan Ferdinand's closest relation and sole heir, David Victor surely must have known of his brother's death and almost certainly arranged for his funeral.

But if David Victor knew that Johan Ferdinand had died in Stockholm, why did Johan Olof – David Victor's grandson – believe that the death had occurred in America? It is impossible to know for certain. But cholera was feared, and cholera cemeteries and graves were seldom visited. Perhaps David Victor decided to hide the fact from his family that his brother had died of cholera and lay buried in the Katarina Parish cemetery. But it is also at least equally possible that – as often happens – part of the family history had become muddled over time.

Summary and lessons to be learned

The gaps in the church books made it impossible to trace Johan Ferdinand Waeström directly after his father's death in 1834. But the application of the FAN method, with David Victor as the focal point, led to Johan Ferdinand in Nyköping, from where he could be traced to Stockholm. Following Johan Ferdinand in Stockholm was complicated by the fact that men with similar names were living

KOLERA-BULLETTIN	
för Stockholm, den 25 September 1853.	
Från gårdagen kl. 9 f. m. till i dag vid samma tid äro till Sundhetsnämnden anmälde:	
Sjuka i förebud till Kolera.	
Qvarliggande i går kl. 9 f. m.	936.
Insjuknade	115. 1051.
Tillfrisknade	141.
Öfvergänge till utbildad Kolera	10.
Qvarliggande i dag kl. 9 f. m.	900. 1051.
Sjuka i utbildad Kolera.	
Qvarliggande i går kl. 9 f. m.	435.
Öfvergänge fr. förebud till Kolera	10.
Insjuknade	53. 498.
Tillfrisknade	51.
Döde	38.
Qvarliggande i dag kl. 9 f. m.	409. 498.
Sädes från gårdagen till i dag,	
Fyrtyndetredje Koleradygnet:	
Insjuknade 63. Döde 38. Tillfriskn. 51.	
Under veckan, 37:de — 43:dje koleradygnet:	
Insjuknade 648. Döde 440. Tillfriskn. 363.	
Från Farsotens början:	
Insjuknade 3911. Döde 2311. Tillfriskn. 1191.	
Jemförelse med Koleran 1834.	
Under Fyrtyndetredje koleradygnet:	
Insjuknade 38. Döde 9. Tillfriskn. 96.	
Under 37:de — 43:dje koleradygnet:	
Insjuknade 446. Döde 137. Tillfriskn. 1069.	
Från Farsotens början:	
Insjuknade 7648. Döde 3235. Tillfriskn. 3621.	
Från Farsotens början i förebud till och utbildad Kolera tillsammans:	
Insjuknade 8320. Tillfrisknade 4709. Döde 2311.	
Pris: 2 sk. Rgs.	
Stockholm, A. Tryckeri. a. Föreläsningens Boktryckeri.	

Fig. 4. A Stockholm cholera bulletin from 1853.⁴⁹

in the city at the same time and by his failure to sign in and out of parishes.

A conundrum arose when it became clear that Johan Ferdinand had neither left Katarina Parish nor remained there. The only possible solution was that he had died in the parish. Confirmation was found by examining all three Katarina church books regarding deaths. In all of the books, the name of a man who died on 1 October 1857 was given incorrectly. But the entry in the third book included his profession and birth date, making it possible to identify him without question as Johan Ferdinand Waeström. His estate inventory further confirmed his death in Katarina Parish in 1857.

Lessons that can be learned from this case and applied to other instances of disappearing Swedes are these:

- If the trail is cold, the FAN method might help.
- Apparent conundrums may have solutions.
- Since names were not codified in the past, identities may be unclear.
- If records exist in multiple forms, all should be checked.
- Family stories can provide good leads, but they also may be incorrect.

Endnotes

- 1) Ella Heckscher, https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden:_Ella_Heckscher_Research_Archive.
- 2) The Swedish church books and many other Swedish historical records have been photographed more than once, and the resulting images can be accessed with a subscription from various commercial providers, including Ancestry (<http://Ancestry.com>) and ArkivDigital (<http://ArkivDigital.se>). Since February 2018, the images are also available free of charge from *Riksarkivet* (the Swedish National Archives), which owns the original resources. The databases can be accessed at <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/>. In this article, the references to Swedish records include the generic description plus the image number at ArkivDigital. To aid understanding, Swedish terms in the text are followed by English translations, and these translations are then used in the references.
- 3) Veckholm Parish (Uppsala County), Household examination roll, 1765-1775, AI:1, p. 154, entry for the household of Anders Waeström, ArkivDigital image 163.
- 4) Veckholm Parish, Household examination roll, 1798-1804, AI:4, p. 209, entry for the household of Anders Waeström, ArkivDigital image 215.
- 5) Entry about Veckholm, Enköping's visitor's guide, <http://upplevenkopring.se>.
- 6) Magnus Gabriel De la Gardie, *Svenskt biografiskt lexikon*, article by G. Wittrock with T. O:son Nordberg, <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/sbl/artikel/17381>.
- 7) Photograph by the author, 27 March 2016.
- 8) Veckholm Parish, Birth and baptism book, 1719-1782, C:2, unpaginated, birth record for Anders Waeström, 1744, ArkivDigital image 70.
- 9) Ekholmens *slott*, <http://walkendorff.com/slott-gardar/slott-och-palats-i-stockholms-omradet/ekholmens-slott/>.
- 10) Veckholm Parish, Birth and baptism book, 1783-1806, C:3, unpaginated, birth record for Lars David Waeström, 29 July 1789, ArkivDigital image 23.
- 11) Veckholm Parish, Household examination roll, 1811-1818, AI:6, p. 109, entry for the household of Anders Waeström, including son Lars David Waeström, ArkivDigital image 123.
- 12) Uppland's Regiment, General muster roll 037, 1807-1815, p. 131, entry for Lars David Waeström, ArkivDigital image 210.
- 13) Ibid.
- 14) Kungs-Husby Parish (Uppsala County), Household examination roll, 1806-1818, AI:5, p. 181, entry for the household of Lars David Waeström, ArkivDigital image 188.
- 15) Uppland's Regiment, General muster roll 039, 1825-1825, p. 89, entry for Lars David Waeström, ArkivDigital image 62.
- 16) Uppland's Regiment, General muster roll 040, 1830-1830, p. 79, entry for Lars David Waeström, ArkivDigital image 43.
- 17) Enköping Parish (Uppsala County), Banns and marriage book, 1774-1860, EI:1, p. 20, marriage record for Lars David Waeström and Elisabeth Maria Ödman, ArkivDigital image 24.
- 18) Kungs-Husby Parish, Birth and baptism book, 1801-1861, C:2, unpaginated, birth record for David Victor Waeström, 17 September 1818, ArkivDigital image 23.
- 19) Kungs-Husby Parish, Birth and baptism book, 1801-1861, C:2, unpaginated, birth record for Johan Ferdinand Waeström, 4 April 1820, ArkivDigital image 25.
- 20) Kungs-Husby Parish, Death and burial book, 1764-1838, F:1, unpaginated, death record for Lars David Waeström, 15 April 1834, ArkivDigital image 50.
- 21) Trögd's District Court, Estate inventories, 1832-1835, F:17, p. 219a, estate inventory for Lars David Waeström, ArkivDigital image 5040.
- 22) The Swedish censuses (<https://sok.riksarkivet.se/folkkrakningar>) are being reconstructed by the Swedish National Archives from transcripts of household examination rolls. At the time of this research in 2016, the 1880 census was the earliest one available covering all Swedish counties. Today, in 2018, it remains the earliest, although the populations of two counties in 1870 have been completed.
- 23) *Statistiska Centralbyrån, födda, vigda, döda* (extracts from birth, marriage, and death records), 1860-1949, <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/scb-fodda-vigda-doda-1860-1949>, records of births in Uppsala Cathedral Parish, 1942, image 407.
- 24) Nyköpings Alla Helgona Parish (Södermanland County), Birth and baptism book, 1895-1913, C:7, p. 27, birth record for Johan Olof Waeström, 11 June 1897, ArkivDigital image 350.
- 25) Lilla Malma Parish (Södermanland County), Birth and baptism book, 1861-1879, C:4, p. 5, birth record for Agnes Sofia Maria, 11 May 1864, ArkivDigital image 1780.
- 26) Lilla Malma Parish, Banns and marriage book, 1844-1860, EI:2, unpaginated, marriage record for David Victor and Sofia Vilhelmina Zetterström, 2 August 1854, ArkivDigital image 48.
- 27) Julita Parish (Södermanland County), Household examination roll, 1851-1855, AI:11a, p. 206, entry for David Victor Waeström at Äs, ArkivDigital image 218.
- 28) Julita Parish, Household examination roll, 1846-1850, AI:10a, p. 182, entry for David Victor Waeström at Äs, ArkivDigital image 191.
- 29) Julita Parish, Household examination roll, 1846-1850, AI:10b, p. 160, entry for David Victor Waeström at Gimmersta, ArkivDigital image 170.
- 30) Nyköping's Sankt Nicolai Parish (Södermanland County), Moving-in and moving-out roll, 1834-1847, BI:2, unpaginated, moving-out entry for David Victor Waeström, ArkivDigital image 179.
- 31) Nyköping's Sankt Nicolai Parish, Household examination roll, 1846-1850, AIa:13a, p. 82, entry for household at No. 31, first quarter, ArkivDigital image 89.
- 32) Nyköping's Sankt Nicolai Parish, Moving-in and moving-out roll, 1834-1847, BI:2, unpaginated, moving-in entry for Johan Ferdinand Waeström, ArkivDigital image 83.
- 33) Nyköping's Sankt Nicolai Parish, Household examination roll, 1846-1850, AIa:13a, p. 82, entry for Johan Ferdinand Waeström, ArkivDigital image 89.
- 34) Maria Magdalena Parish (Stockholm City), Moving-in roll, 1845-1846, BI:18, p. 202, entry for Johan Ferdinand Waeström, ArkivDigital image 207.

- 35) Index to Stockholm's tax censuses, 1800-1884, <https://stadsarkivet.stockholm.se/hitta-i-arkiven/i-arkiven/mantalsregister/>, entries for Johan Fredrik Wesström.
- 36) Maria Magdalena Parish, Moving-out roll, 1856-1858, BIIa:4, p. 193, entry for Johan Ferdinand Waeström, ArkivDigital image 178.
- 37) Katarina Parish (Stockholm City), Moving-in roll, 1855-1856, BI:12, unpaginated, entry for Johan Ferdinand Waeström, ArkivDigital image 272.
- 38) Katarina Parish, Household examination roll, 1856-1856, AI:108, p. 177, ArkivDigital image 93.
- 39) Index to Stockholm's tax censuses, 1800-1884, <https://stadsarkivet.stockholm.se/hitta-i-arkiven/i-arkiven/mantalsregister/>, entry for Johan Ferdinand Waeström [Waeström].
- 40) Katarina Parish, Household examination roll, 1857-1857, AI:110, p. 163-189, entries for families living in Heckelfjäll, ArkivDigital images 86-99.
- 41) Searches were carried out in all the databases at Emiweb (<http://emiweb.se>) regarding Swedish emigrants, and at Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com>) in databases regarding immigrants arriving on the east coast of the United States, as well as at Canadian ports.
- 42) Katarina Parish, Moving-out roll, 1855-1858, BII:7, unpaginated, entries for persons with a surname beginning with W or V, moving out between the beginning of 1856 and the end of 1858, ArkivDigital images 230-237.
- 43) Katarina Parish, Moving-out roll, 1859-1863, BII:8, unpaginated, entries for persons with a surname beginning with W or V, moving out between the beginning of 1859 and the end of 1861, ArkivDigital images 218-225.
- 44) Katarina Parish, Index to death and burial book, 1856-1859, FI:14, unpaginated, entries for persons with a surname beginning with W or V who died in the parish in 1857, ArkivDigital image 32.
- 45) Katarina Parish, Burial book, 1857-1857, FIII:22, p. 70, entry regarding the funeral of Johan Fredrik Wesström, 3 October 1857, ArkivDigital image 39.
- 46) Katarina Parish, Death and burial book, 1856-1859, FI:13, p. 45, death record for Johan Ferdinand Wasström, 1 October 1857, ArkivDigital image 48.
- 47) Barnängen, an area in southern Stockholm, is home to a company of the same name that produces soap and other body-care products. Although Johan Ferdinand was a soap manufacturer and died in Barnängen, there is no apparent connection between him and the Barnängen company. That company was founded by Johan Wilhelm Holmström in 1868, almost a decade after Johan Ferdinand's death. Several books have been published about the history of the company, and historical information about it can also be found online at, for example, http://www.melon2.se/?page_id=65 and <http://barnangen.se/history/#history1>.
- 48) The history of cholera in Sweden is covered in Swedish epidemiological texts and is discussed online at several reputable sites, including Hans Högman's at <http://www.hhogman.se/sjukdomar.htm>. Also see Lars Edvard Larsson's at <http://www.landberga.se/medicin/historia/>.
- 49) Cholera bulletin for Stockholm, 25 September 1853, *Sundhetsnämnden, Stockholmskällan*, Stockholm City, <http://www.stockholmskallan.se/>, posted as Creative Commons material.
- 50) *Kolerakyrkogården och dödgrävarbostället i kvarteret Bostället vid Skansbacken, Stockholmskällan*, Stockholm City, <http://www.stockholmskallan.se/>.
- 51) Katarina Parish, Burial book, 1857-1857, FIII:22, p. 70, entry regarding the funeral of Johan Fredrik Wesström [Johan Ferdinand Waeström], 3 October 1857, ArkivDigital image 39.
- 52) Index to Stockholm's tax censuses, 1800-1884, <https://stadsarkivet.stockholm.se/hitta-i-arkiven/i-arkiven/mantalsregister/>, entries for Fredrik W. Öfwerström.
- 53) Stockholms Magistrates' Court (*Rådhusrätt, I:a avdelning*), Estate inventories, 1857-1857, F1A:575, p. 350, estate inventory for Johan Ferdinand Waeström, ArkivDigital image 7300.

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A follow-up to the article on Saltpetersjudare in SAG 2018/2

SAG 2018/2 had just been sent out when I had a message from Kathy Meade, the Arkiv Digital representant for North America.

Kathy wrote "I noticed your article about 'A Saltpetersjudare – What, Who is That? We do have muster rolls for Saltpetersjudare in ArkivDigital. Here is the blog in Swedish that provides some information about these records in ArkivDigital. She then refers to a blog posting that tells more, see link on p. 26.

Elisabeth Thorsell

Muster. Rulla öfver Tironer Saltpetersjudare i Moushagel						
Födelseort.		Hemvist	Högskola	Födelseår	Antagnaår	Namn.
Län	Staden					
Gefleborg	Trönö	Trönö	.	1770.	1795.	Uppsyningsman Erik Flyberg - Uttridare
Upsala	Tensta	Sala	.	1774.	1797.	Olof Lindholm
Wästmanl.	Nora	Tornebo.	1.	1777.	1795.	Anders Norström.
Gefleborg	Örnsjö	Högbo	1.	1764.	1798.	Hans Rosengvist
Ditto	Höfjums	Höfjums	1.	1767.	1796.	Jonas Högland

This is a Muster roll for the Saltpetersjudare in 1805, and it lists place of birth, where they lived, and when they were born and when they enlisted, and most important - their names. (Krigskollegium Artilleridepartementet (o) F2a:3 (1805) Image 9 [ArkivDigital]).

Solution to handwriting #56

Transcription:

Hedemora (W) FI:1 (1720-1742) Bild 90, the year is 1742.

d. 21 febr: Begrofs på Kyrkio gården Johan Erics änka hust:/

Marg: Olofsdotter i Hamre. Har lefwat/
wackert. Dödd af håll och stygn d. 7 febr, /
då hon war 71 åhr.

eodem die Begrofs på Kyrkiogården Sahl. Eric Matts dotter Anna/
i Byggningen. Har lefwat wackert. Dödde uti/
Brann siuka d. 9 febr: då hon var emot 25 åhr gl.

eodem die Begrofs på Kyrkio gården Per Perssons dödfödde barn/
dotter på Nible.

d. 28 febr: Begrofs på Kyrkiogården Sålдатen Lars Ståhles/
Hustru Elisabeth Ers d'i Öster by. Har lefwat wac-/
kert. Blef hastigt död af en Häftig brännsiuka/
som allenast stog på i 3 dagar. Dödde den 19 febr: då/
hon war 30 åhr g[amma].

Eodem die Begrofs på Kyrkiogården, et oächta barn i Clemenshyttan/
modrens namn är Karin Ander dotter, wardt lägrat/
af en dräng i Norberg. Barnet dödde d. 24 febr:

Translation:

On the 21th of February was buried in the churchyard Johan Eric's widow wife Marg[areta] Olofsdotter in Hamre. Has led a good life. Died from pneumonia [on] 7 Febr[uary] when she was 71 years [old].

On the same day was buried in the churchyard blessed Eric Matt's daughter Anna from Byggningen. Has led a good life. Died from the burning illness on 9 Febr. when she was almost 25 years [old].

On the same day was buried in the churchyard Per Persson's stillborn ~~child~~ daughter from Nibble.

On the 28th of Febr. was buried in the churchyard soldier Lars Ståhle's wife Elisabeth Ers[dotter] from Österby. Has led a good life. Died suddenly from a fierce burning illness, that only lasted for 3 days. Died on 19 Febr. when she was 30 years [old].

On the same day was buried in the churchyard an illegitimate child from Clemenshyttan, the mother's name is Karin Anders dotter, she had had intercourse with a farmhand from Norberg. The child died on 24 Febr.



Market day in Hedemora in 1973. The church tower is seen in the back (to the right).

The Old Picture



From Volume XXXII, Number 77, of the Shenandoah Twice a Week World, dated Tuesday, July 8, 1919:

The convocation of the Wenstrands – a notable event!

Happy meeting of 130 kinsfolk at Fair Grounds on Fourth of July. Many states were represented at the happy reunion of the Wenstrand family – Expect to make annual affair of reunion.

It was a delightful reunion of the Wenstrand tribe that took place at the fair grounds on the Fourth of July, and it was a notable event in the annals of Shenandoah, for we honor the Wenstrands and the Swedish people.

There were 130 of them, big and little, old and young – four generations of them and they did not all get here. Some got away. They registered from Chicago, Omaha, Wakefield, Wahoo, Holdridge, Lincoln, and Oakland, Nebraska, and Aurora, IL, but a large majority of them are residents of Page and Montgomery counties. More than forty arrived on the morning train from Red Oak, and the conductor let them off at the fair grounds. This group brought a chef with them, for when the Swedes assemble, there is a lot of good eats of the best kind.

They were not all of the Wenstrand name, for marriage brought other names into the family, you know. It always does. For instance, a sister of Charles A. and Alfred married a Falk and that name has increased in numbers and popularity around Essex.

The representative of the first generation was Mrs. C. P. Wenstrand of Wakefield, Nebraska. She is 85 years old and was the grandma and great-grandma of the occasion.

Editors's note:

Laurene Wenstrand, the submitter of this picture, told me that on the original picture all people have a number, and she has a list of those numbers with the names. If you are curious about a person that might be in this picture, send her an e-mail and ask.

In SAG 2018/1 there is an article about the early Wenstrands.

Submitter of picture and text is
Laurene Wenstrand.
Her address is:
<minithings@yahoo.com>



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.

Stockholm – the city of dreams

The Stockholm Series, by Per Anders Fogelström, published in Swedish during the period 1960 – 1968. Available in English at Amazon.com

It was with enthusiastic pride when the staff of Stockholm's *Stadsmuseum* (city museum) and conservers of his archives celebrated the year 2017 as the centenary of the birth of famed author and activist Per Anders Fogelström. He was recognized for his body of literature and honored for his lifelong dedication to the beloved city of his birth. In November of that year I was privileged to meet and confer with these staff associates, inspect the archives, tour Fogelström related sites on Södermalm around the Sofia kyrka on *Vita Bergen* with Kent Josefsson of the Fogelström Society, and later attend one of the sold-out performances of *Mina drömmars stad* (City of My Dreams) at *Kulturhuset* at Sergels torg in central Stockholm.

Fogelström published all five volumes of his series during a span of eight years: 1960-68. But it wasn't until late 2011, while perusing the book section of Chicago's Swedish-American Museum gift shop, that I found copies in English translation of the first three volumes of Fogelström's "*Stockholm Stads Serien*" (City Series) as translated by Jennifer Brown Bäverstam, Penfield Press, Iowa City, Iowa.

Before that time I was unaware of the person and the work of Per Anders Fogelström. Reading that first volume, *City of My Dreams*, (U.S. publication in 2000) sent me on my present journey. I want to bring to Americans, especially Swedish-Americans, in reviewer John Felstiner's words, "this clear, candid translation – the

taste, feel, and pace of another world – that of the Swedish working class (as) one well worth knowing."

I am always on the lookout for books with Swedish topics available in English. My home library reflects the usual titles of exploits that have been taken up by western historians. Figures such as Gustavus Adolphus (*Gustav II Adolf*), Queen Christina, and King Karl XII, are among other well-known Swedish biographies and histories that originated in English or are good translations of original Swedish works.

During my November 2017 trip to Sweden I found a wonderful book titled *De Vilda Vasarna* (The Savage Vasas) by Herman Lindquist. For genealogists interested in the Swedish royal family, this is a valuable addition. I bought the single volume work, even though my Swedish language skills are limited, because of its superior graphics which are outstanding, especially the detailed family tree on pages 414-415 titled *Gustav Vasas Ättlingar* 1523-2016. Did you know that Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom counts Gustav Vasa among her ancestors?

While I have great respect for readers who are dedicated followers of the now popular Swedish murder mystery genre that includes the late novelists Henning Mankell and Stieg Larsson, my personal preference leans toward biographies and historical events. But there also has been space and time in my schedule for the well-received *Hannah's Daughters* (*Hannas döttrar*) by Marianne Fredriksson and the more recent popular favorite *A Man Called Ove* (*En man som heter Ove*) by Fredrik Backman.

As with many other faithful Swedish-Americans, the four volumes of Vilhelm Moberg's *The Emigrants* occupy a central place on my bookshelf. However, it may surprise you that the Emigrant series was not the first books by Moberg in translation

that I acquired. That distinction belongs to *A History of the Swedish People* (*Min svenska historia, berättad för folket*. [1970]).

In 1976, and living in Malmö with my cousin Mikael and his wife Margareta, I found Moberg's *Min Svenska Historia* (Vol. I & II) at a local bookshop. It had been published only a few years earlier by P. A. Norstedt & Sons, Stockholm, 1970; English translation by Paul Britten Austin, 1971. The title Moberg gave to this two volume work deserves close attention as it directs the prospective reader to the intended subject of his history. The first page reveals his populist inclination; a focus equally familiar to our subject Per Anders Fogelström. To these authors, the people come first.

I mention Moberg at this time because his perspective and observations are instructive to understanding the respective narratives he and Fogelström employed in the historical novels for which both gained the recognition they enjoy today.

In 1970, for his *Swedish People's* history, Moberg wrote in an introduction "...to anyone like myself who...is spellbound with curiosity as to what has happened on this earth before him, it is a task that exerts an irresistible fascination."

Further on, Moberg shares two principles that underlie his work: Firstly, "The history of Sweden is the history of her commons" meaning "my history's main theme is the Swedish common man...." The italics are Moberg's. His second working principle: "In my historical journey...comparisons and analogies with past times...can illuminate and explain our own age...." Finally, Moberg emphasizes that "men are indistinguishable from the age in which they live, and must not be considered outside its context."

Both authors begin their stories in rural Sweden before the mid-19th century. Mo-

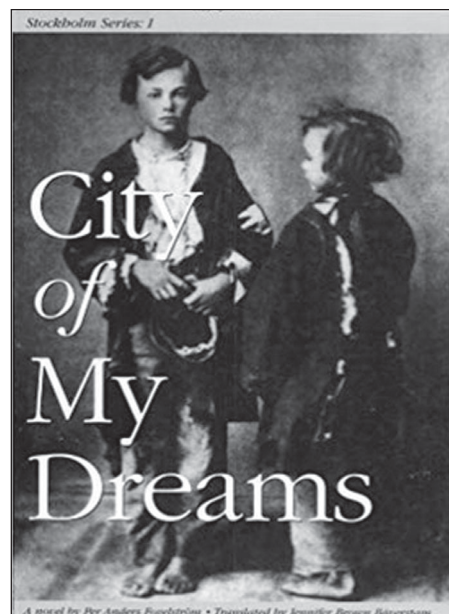


Book Reviews

berg takes his eleven or so characters from Småland to America. Fogelström walks with his main character Henning Nilsson, a barefoot fifteen-year-old, out of rural Uppland but not in the direction of a new world but through Stockholm's Norrtull and into a city on the cusp of transition.

Once inside the city – in five detailed volumes and to the delight of genealogists – we are introduced to seventeen other Nilssons over five generations and countless Lindgrens, Bodins, Karlssons, and Bergs. Their respective stories culminate around 1960. In this series it is essential for the reader to be provided a “score card” and the author/translator obliges on the last page with detailed genealogical information titled “Main Characters and Families in the Stockholm series in chronological order,” citing relationships (where they are required). Though absent in Volumes I and II, they thankfully appear with Volume III and continue updated to the last, Volume V.

Clearly, and in every instance, the novels of both Moberg and Fogelström are by masters of historical fiction. First, each uses



a very broad brush to fix the time in which their respective characters are set. For Moberg's prospective immigrants Karl Oskar & Kristina we see how they are shaped by the social and religious, cultural and historic upheavals; specifically the devastating droughts that affected rural Sweden in the 1860's. These in turn exerted a greater awareness on the increasingly viable option of emigration. Even at the risk of being branded with the unpatriotic label assigned those who had no choice but to abandon their native land, thousands of mostly peasant Swedes, both brave and desperate, and mostly by foot and cart, journeyed to the coasts and to the ships that would transport them to a vague new beginning.

Secondly, in Fogelström's use of certified historical events such as the political awakening, labor unrest, and trade union formation in the years leading up to 1900, the signature year. We follow Henning Nilsson's daughter Emelie, her extended family, and friends at their horse and cart village within a city, reacting to the daily dynamite blasting, joining greater Stockholm, the radically transformed city in the world, and the beginning of new possibilities in a new century.

Vilhelm Moberg and, later, Per Anders Fogelström, developed fictional characters to anchor a place and a time and to move their respective narratives along a preordained historical path. For Moberg it is a new world and for Fogelström it is a new city. Sometimes these are composites and sometimes not. In any event, molded by their circumstances, and as symbols of those preceding them – whether across the Atlantic or across the fields and through the city's gates – they and the tens of thousands who followed, each appears to us as incredibly real almost to the touch. It is through these characters and the microcosm of their individual lives that Fogelström fills his books with a warmth and generosity that is captivating.

In the year 2018, there is the advantage of more than half a century of digestion and reflection of Volume I of the Stockholm Series, published in 1960. In 1850, the population of Stockholm was 93,000;

while London was 2.2 million. By 1960, Stockholm had grown to 800,000, and Sweden to 6,000,000 and an incredible 25% (or 1.5 million) Swedes read *City of My Dreams* following publication. Such success of a novel was unprecedented. It was a national sensation in part due to an earlier Ingmar Bergman film *Summer with Monica* (1953) also based on a novel by Fogelström.

The *Stadserien* (City Series) became a national treasure and a must read in public schools throughout Sweden.

Fast-forward twenty-five years to the personal library of Jennifer Brown Bäverstam's Swedish mother-in-law whose favorite books were those authored by Per Anders Fogelström. American born and educated, Jennifer Bäverstam had begun Swedish language lessons in high school. Following university, as a skilled linguist and the new wife of a Swede, she couldn't wait to tackle the Stockholm series. Already busy as a wife and mother and with a career in music, her love for Fogelström's series led her to contact him in 1992 with the offer to work on an English translation. In an immediate response, he enthusiastically agreed.



Per Anders Fogelström and Jennifer Bäverstam.

By this time Fogelström was in declining health and died before publication but confident that Jennifer's alliance with Penfield Books was the winning formula to address a wider and equally appreciative audience in America. The first volume appeared in the year 2000.

Starting in 2000 with *Stockholm, City of My Dreams* to 2015 when the English



Book Reviews

translation of *City in the World*, Volume V, was published, the novels have been warmly received and critically acclaimed. A sample follows. From the publisher we read: "Powerfully written, '*City of My Dreams*' sweeps the reader along in a historic saga of fortune and love in a society experiencing great social and political upheaval." Kai Maristed wrote, "(It) is... a fascinating and unforgettable masterpiece of historical realism." Other comments suggest a "compelling" story with "good character development" where you "eat, sleep, smell, taste, and hear" enough to persuade the reader to "stick with it to the end."

Thinking of my own several dozen

lengthy excursions to Sweden over the last 50 years, I think reviewer David Ferry summed up the skillful English translation exactly how outsiders view Sweden and the Swedes: "This translation makes clear what the qualities of this book are: the sweetness and unsentimental directness of it, the clear-eyed truth-telling, the unswerving respectfulness towards these human beings. The translation is as lucid as winter light. By means of it a wonderful writer is brought over into English."

In closing, as I begin my fourth read of all five volumes of the Stockholm Series, a close cousin of mine has discovered the Swedish term *lagom*; meaning not too much, not too little, but just the right amount. I may be in strict violation of *lagom*, but, then again, I may not. You decide. Read and discover for yourself.

Robert L. Johnson

Reviewer's note:

If you would like more information on "historical fiction" read Susan Brantly's *Testing the Boundary Between History and Fiction: Per Anders Fogelström's "Stockholm Series,"* University of Wisconsin, Winter, 1993: see link to this article on p. 26.

Life on a "Fäbod"

Introduction:

A *Fäbod* can be described as a form of small-scale farms where the animals are sent to a pasture for summer grazing, consisting of a number of buildings with different functions in the outlying areas.

The *Fäbod* culture includes knowledge of animals and nature, forest grazing, buildings, food, stories, customs, tools, and music. The use of *Fäbodar* (plural) already existed in some form during the early

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Book Reviews

Middle Ages in Sweden, and there is written evidence of this from the 1500s. Each farm had its form of *Fäbod* use, depending upon natural and economic conditions. The daily work on the *Fäbod* included a variety of activities, and was primarily carried out by women aged between 15 and 25. The cultural heritage includes a very old form of working music with instruments such as horns and pipes, and the vocal technique of *Kulning* or herding calls was an important working tool.

Fäbod were common in Värmland, Dalarna, Gästrikland, Härjedalen, Jämtland, Hälsingland, Medelpad, Ångermanland, northern Uppland, and southern Lappland.

Read more at the link on p. 26.

Walking on the paths of my ancestors (*Mina förfäders stigar*) (in Swedish) by Land Alice Gustafsson. Softcover, ca 200 pages, illustrated, ISBN: 978-91-87116-63-6. Available from <http://www.vagskal.se/Bokproduktion.htm>
Price: 200 SEK + postage.

This book is written by one of the few remaining operators of a *Fäbod*, Land Alice Gustafsson, of Skallskog in Leksand, Dalarna. In this book Land Alice tells about her life and her ancestors, all from Leksand, and their varied experiences.

She tells stories about her maternal grandfather's brother Land Per Larsson (b. 1869) who immigrated in 1888 and first lived with some aunts in Pomeroy, IA. Later he went to California, Australia, and New Zealand, and finally died in Zelzah, CA, in 1928. This is only one of the stories about the many immigrants among her relatives.

The main part of the book are stories about Land Alice's mother Klara's memories about her childhood in the very early 1900s, when life was so different from the 2010s. They all lived on the farm Land-



MINA FÖRFÄDERS STIGAR
av Land Alice Gustafsson

gården in Leksand, and to work on the farm was so important. Klara's mother Anna got married to Land Erik Larsson. Directly after the wedding they went out to work on the fields. Anna was used to that way of life, already as a small girl she had to milk the cows before going to school.

When Klara was born in June 1910 she came with her mother to the *Fäbod* at the young age of two weeks, carried on her mother's back in a leather knapsack. During the walk to the *Fäbod*, which took a couple of hours, Anna was always knitting while she walked. This was to make socks and other woolens for the family's needs. At the *Fäbod* the women had to milk the cows, and then make butter, cheese or

whey-cheese, (*mesost*). It was very important to make the best use of the milk, as the women stayed at the *Fäbod* until the end of the summer, and had no other way of preserving the dairy products.

The cows were let loose in the forests, after having walked the traditional *Fäbod* roads from the village, where they ate all kinds of herbs and grass, which enriched the taste of the butter. The sheep and the goats also came to the *Fäbod*, so there was always much activity there.

Spending the summer in the *Fäbod* with the cows was almost a summer vacation for the women. They did not have to help with the ordinary farming; that was the chores for the family's males.

When Land Klara started her own family, she kept the *Fäbod* traditions alive, and her daughter Land Alice learnt them. Then there was a period when many *Fäbod* in Leksand were no longer used, as the traditional way of life had changed to more modern ways. However, in the early 1990s Land Alice was asked to work at a *Fäbod* and show the old ways of life for children and tourists. The place, Ljusbodarna, became very popular.

Land Alice is still active, now at Skallskog, but on a lesser scale, as she is soon in her 80s.

Her remarkable book also contains recipes for *Fäbod* food. Her butter is still made in a churn. Her recipe for Juniper Draught requires 40 liters of boiling water.

Elisabeth Thorsell



Interesting Web Sites

All links tested in
September 2018 and
should work

The Carolean Death March: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolean_Death_March
Hans Högman's article on the Great Northern War: http://www.hhogman.se/swe_wars_1700b.htm
Great Nordic War: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Northern_War
The Stockholm City Museum: <https://stadsmuseet.stockholm.se/in-english/lish/>
The Galesburg Railroad Museum: <http://www.galesburgrailroadmuseum.org/>
Galesburg Historical Society: <http://galesburghistoricalsociety.com/>
Gripsholm Castle, Sweden: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gripsholm_Castle
About the Fäbod culture: <https://www.sprakochfolkminnen.se/om-oss/levande-traditioner---immateriella-kulturarv-/forteckningen/in-english/2016-02-19-fabod-culture.html>
Susan Brantly's article on Fogelström: <https://www.questia.com/library/p1064/scandinavian-studies/i2629070/vol-65-no-1-winter>
ArkivDigital blog on saltpeter boilers: <http://blog.arkivdigital.net/saltpeter-collector-salpetersjudare-important-job-for-manufacturing-gunpowder/>
Released hard labor prisoners: *Malmö länsfängelse (M) DIII:1 (1859-1861) Image 1*
Frigivna straffarbetsfångar: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/frigivna-straffarbetsfångar>
The Elgenstierna books: <https://gfsupersok.se/#!/products/elgenstiernas-%C3%A4ttartavlor-2018-ordinarie-pris>
Questions to The Genealogical Society of Sweden? Contact our expedition: Email: gf@genealogi.net
Picture archives from Jämtland province (in Swedish): <http://bildarkivet.jamtli.com/>
Swedish newspapers online at the *Kungliga Biblioteket* (National Library): <http://tidningar.kb.se/>
Swedish-American Newspapers: <http://www.mnhs.org/newspapers/swedishamerican>
Maine State Archives: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/organizations/>
Maine State Archives, (Genealogy): <https://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/research/genealogy.html>
Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN: <http://genealogycenter.org/>
Rocky Mountain Online Archive: <https://rmoa.unm.edu/>
Rocky Mountains Online Archives (participating institutions): <https://rmoa.unm.edu/institutions.php>
Dawson City Museum Pan for gold: <http://www.mnhs.org/newspapers/swedishamerican>
Genealogy in Poland: <http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/?lang=eng>
Genealogy in Austria and nearby areas: <https://genteam.at/>
WeRelate (almost 3 million names) https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page
Library of 80,000 Family History books: <https://www.gengophers.com>
Kartbutiken: <https://www.kartbutiken.se/index.php?route=common/home>
Leksands Kulturhus (change language to English): <http://www.leksand.se/kultur>
Relative Race (game show about finding lost family members and winning a prize):
<https://www.byutv.org/relativerace>
(addictive!)

Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a “space available” basis. The editor reserves the right to edit these queries to conform to a general format. The inquirer is responsible for the contents of the query.

We would like to hear about your success if you receive useful information as a result of placing a query in this publication. Please send us your feedback, and we will endeavor to report your new discoveries in this section of the journal.

Feedback to query 1330 (2017/4), posted by Gunnel Larsson (gunnel.larsson3@comhem.se)

Her query concerned the family of *Stina Jansdotter* (b. 29 Nov. 1827 in Gunnarskog [Vrml.]) and her husband *Nils Nilsson* (b. 7 June 1827, also in Gunnarskog. The couple immigrated in 1887, and other family members, some with the surname *Edberg*, also left Sweden for North America.

For full details about the family check the original query.

Now Gunnel has told me that a kind SAG reader, with no connection to her immigrants, has still done a lot of research for her and sent her four letters with much information about this family, which makes Gunnel very happy.

How to trace the ancestral home in Sweden?

Knowing the parish, village, and farm name of my ancestors' original homes before they emigrated, how may I then find these same farms on modern Swedish maps?

This was the query from

Jeff Lecksell, 1673 Preakness Drive, Gambrills, MD 21054-1153, USA.

Email: lex@truevine.net

#1335

Here are some suggestions:

The immigrant was Erik Andersson, (b. 13 Jan. 1853 in Leksand [Dalrn.]), who left on 15 Nov. 1892 from Stöde (Vnrl.), and by that time had started to use the surname *Leksäll*. He was born on the *Sols* farm in the village of Romma in Leksand. *Sols* is a farm-name (see article in SAG 2017/4 about the Dalarna *gårdsnamn*).

The *Sols* farm was number 18 in the Romma village, and there seems to have been a total of 21 farms in Romma in the 1880s.

An easy way to find Romma village on a map is to use Google Maps and just enter “Romma Leksand.”

The same for the Swedish site: www.hitta.se/kartan!

In Stockholm there is a map store, **Kartbutiken**, that has many more detailed maps; link on p. 26.

Another idea would be to contact the local genealogical society (*Släktforskarförening*). The local society for Leksand is:



The president is Åsa Björklund: *e-mail*: abjork36@gmail.com

The secretary is Gunilla Esbjörn: *e-mail*: gunilla.esbjorn@telia.com

Another place to contact for information would be the *Leksands Kulturhus* (House of Culture) in downtown Leksand.

The culture house main floor includes a library, and on the lower floor museum, local historical archive, and picture cafe.

Link on p. 26 (opposite page).

The “flower” to the right is called a “*kurbits*” and is a typical kind of decorative art in Dalarna province.



The Last Page

Dear friends,

The summer is now gone, the trees are changing colors, and the leaves are coming off. This summer was very different, as it was hot, unusual for Sweden, from June to late August, and no rain at all during that time. There were huge forest fires in Dalarna, Härjedalen, and Jämtland, for which we even got help from other nations in the European Union. Farmers were very concerned about the harvest of hay and fodder for their animals, so it was a difficult period. By now we have had rain, and the country is green again; large areas were brown for months.

It was too hot for me and my husband to stay in the Stockholm area, so we moved to our little house (built of logs) in south eastern Värmland, where it was cooler. During this time we drove twice to Leksand, a two-hour drive, first to visit with a

newly found DNA-cousin, who is descended from my husband's great-grandmother's older sister. We hoped that they would have old family photos, which they did not.

The other time we visited with an elderly lady, Land Alice, who still keeps a "fäbod" in the forest, which is unusual nowadays.

In the beginning of September, my girlfriend Solveig and I, that I have known since about 1957, drove down to Växjö to enjoy the *Släktforskardagarna* (Genealogy Days). We were not the only ones to come there – lots of eager researchers! The major players in the genealogy field were all there: *Riksarkivet*, *ArkivDigital*, *Släktforskarförbundet* (The Federation), DIS, several local and regional societies, and even the Åland Emigration Society, from Finland, and a group of German gene-

alogists, and many more. I met many friends, including *Ingrid*, whom all SAG Workshop people know. She even gave me a little piece of *Spettekaka*, which is so good.

A nice coincidence was that an American lady friend just happened to mention a specific place in Skatelöv parish that my girlfriend Solveig and I were going to look for the next day. They got together and found out that they were related in the late 1600s!

I also met the chief editor, Magnus, of the journal *Släkthistoria*, who is my DNA-cousin, but we do not know how!

Going to the *Släktforskardagarna* is great fun, so if you are planning a trip to Sweden next year, think of coming to Borås in Västergötland on 24-25 August 2019.

All the best to all of you!

Elisabeth

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.

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

The new correct SAG web address:

<http://www.augustana.edu/swenson/sag>



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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.		

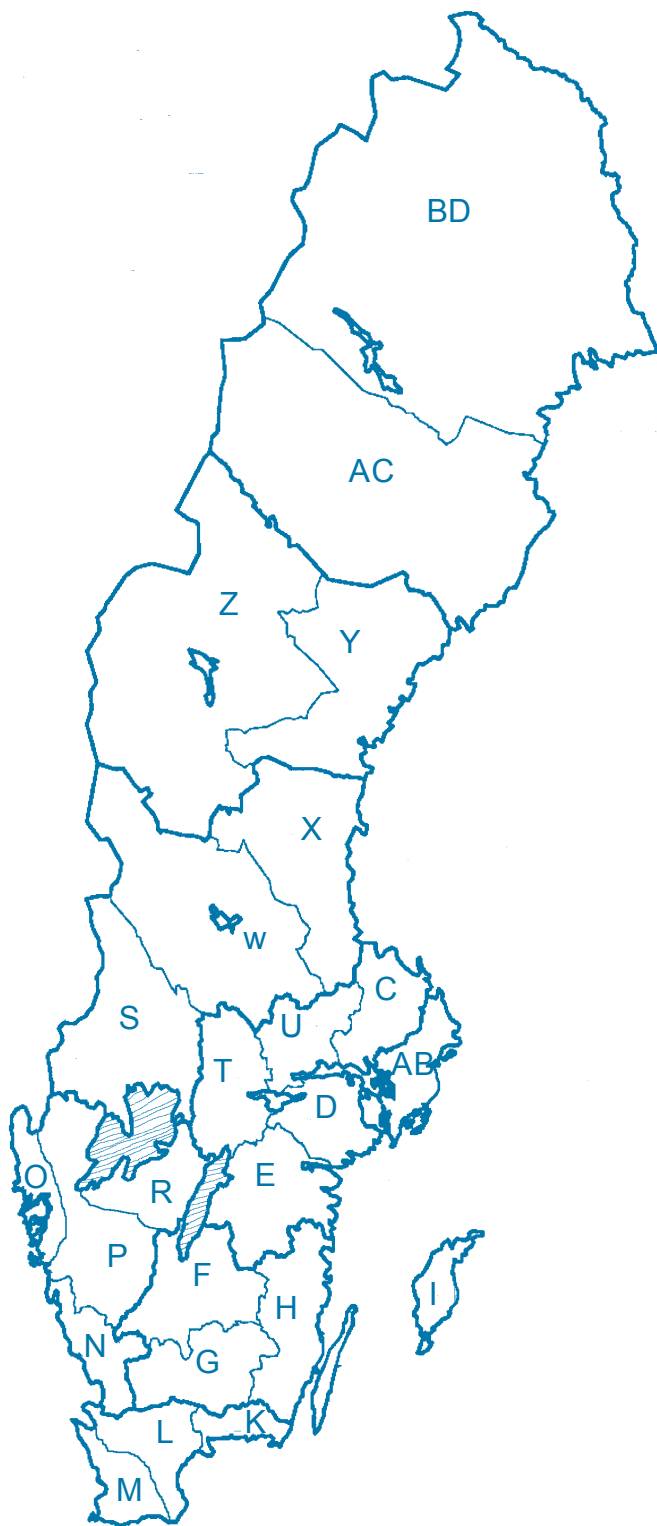
Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

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				

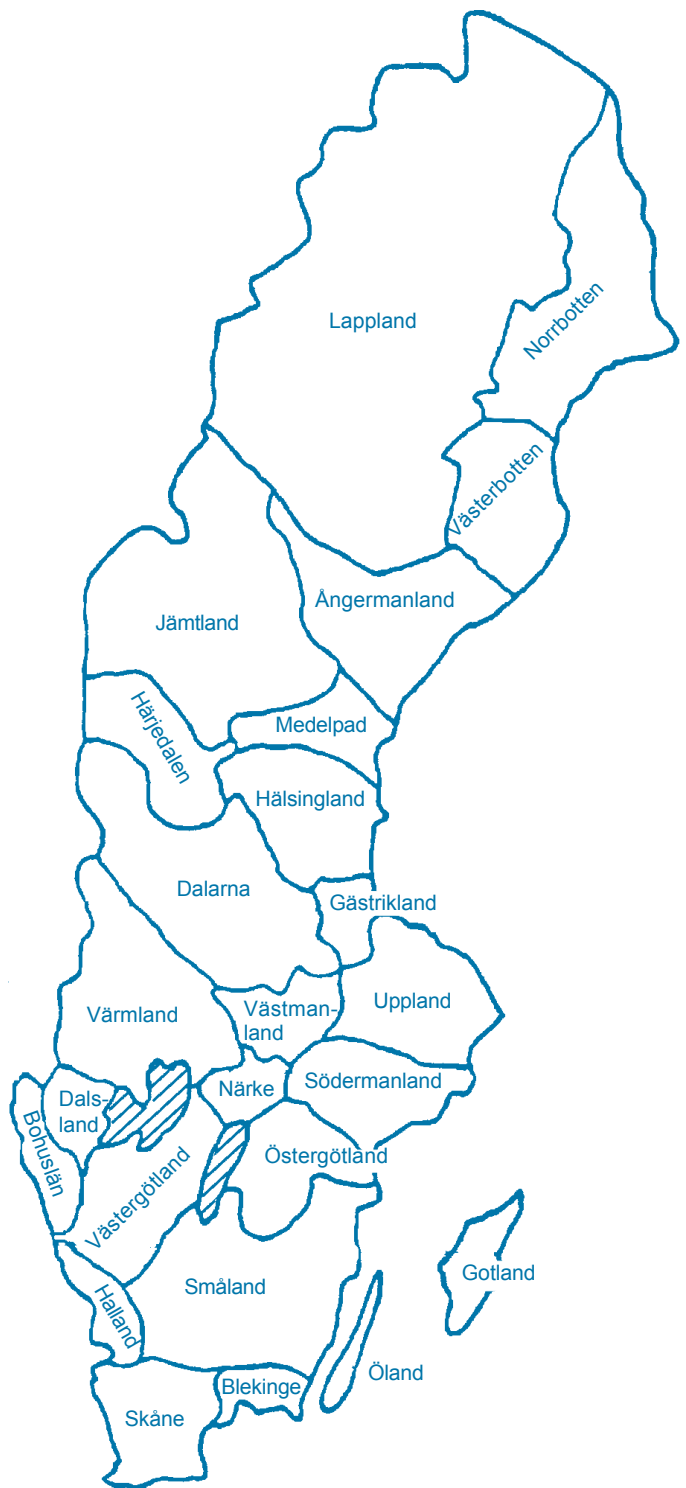
a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

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*).