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## Glimpses from SAG Workshops

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# Glimpses from SAG Workshops 2005 and 2006

## A report from a happy camper

BY LOIS HARALDSEN

My sisters, Alice Johnson and Karen Weiner, and I have been looking for our Swedish heritage for a long time. Since all of our grandparents and our father were born in Sweden, this has been quite a task. We have talked for years about attending the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City. 2005 was the year!

Karen e-mailed Karna Olsson to make our reservations. Karna e-mailed back that they had never had three in a room. She asked, "Did we know how small the room is?" We, of course, do. We shared a room as young children. We had been to family functions, doll conventions, and even toured Sweden together. Our reservations were placed.

A few weeks before the trip we heard from Gunilla Johansson, a "cousin" in Sweden, who was planning a trip to California and would like to meet us. Karen contacted Karna again and asked for four in the room. Karna made no comment, just accommodated us.

"Nilla" enjoyed the conference and thought she would be a big help. She couldn't read the old Swedish much to her chagrin. She was a hit with everyone and was able to tour Salt Lake City where she wouldn't have gone otherwise.

The staff are all very helpful and will go out of their way to help you solve a problem. Even when you can't find a birth record they do not make you feel stupid when you are looking at a death record. We enjoyed the workshops, the dinner, and meeting people interested in genealogy.

We learned that our carpenter ancestor could read and write so he became a teacher which was a permitted job. We also learned our tailor ancestor made clothes only for men,

never for women! This helped make our ancestors more personal than just names and dates.

The 2006 workshop has just ended. The time flew by. The staff was just as patient, helpful, and friendly. We found the workshops informative. This year an auction was added to benefit The Swenson Center. It was fun!

We learned that our soldier ancestors lived in very small "stugas" and about the wars that Sweden was involved in.

We learned about "Tomtar och Troll" and how superstitious our ancestors were. Some of the stories were similiar to stories we learned in school, like the "Three Billy Goats Gruff."

## Our biggest find

Our *mormor* immigrated in 1904 from Mistelås in Kronoberg to Chicago. In the 1950's she wanted to return to Sweden and had no birth record. None could be found in Sweden. One of her many Swedish friends went with her to the post office to say she knew her in Sweden. She didn't of course. We have looked for many years for her birth record and this time we found it. There was a new listing for some records in her parish. It's nice to know she was born! We wonder where the records were all these years?

Thank you all!

Lois Haraldsen lives in Wheaton, IL. Her e-mail is <loispaul1957@yahoo.com>



A corner in Salt Lake City we will never see again, as the whole block will be torn down in 2007.