

# Swedish American Genealogist

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Volume 24 | Number 4

Article 1

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12-1-2004

## Full Issue Vol. 24 No. 4

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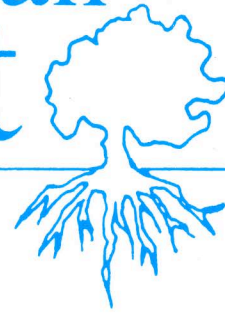
(2004) "Full Issue Vol. 24 No. 4," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 24 : No. 4 , Article 1.

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(ISSN 0275-9314)

# Swedish American Genealogist



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



*A Stockholm Scene from the 1830s*

Volume XXIV

December 2004

No.4

# Swedish American Genealogist



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(ISSN 0275-9314)

*Swedish American Genealogist*

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**Correspondence.** Please direct editorial correspondence such as manuscripts, queries, book reviews, announcements, and ahnentafeln to the editor in Sweden.

Correspondence regarding change of address, back issues (price and availability), and advertising should be directed to the publisher in Rock Island.

**Subscriptions.** Subscriptions to the journal are \$25.00 per annum and run for the calendar year. Single copies are \$8.00 each. Swenson Center Associates are entitled to a special discounted subscription price of \$15.00. Direct all subscription inquiries to the publisher in Rock Island.

In Sweden the subscription price is 200.00 Swedish kronor per year for surface delivery and 250.00 kronor per year for air mail. This subscription fee may be deposited in a *postgiro* account: 260 10-9, *Swedish American Genealogist*, c/o Thorsell, Hästskovägen 45, S-177 39 Järfälla, Sweden.

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### *Cover picture:*

A lithograph from *Stockholmska Scener* by Hjalmar Mörner. Printed in 1830. The women to the right are carrying a barrel of latrine.

# The Story of a Box

## Another story that proves that this is a small world

BY HELENE LEAF

Recently my husband and I traveled for two weeks in Sweden which is the ancestral home for both of us. Our journey took us to Norra Solberga parish in Jönköpings län which is where my Dad was born in 1902.

There with the guidance of a local genealogist, *Willy Gustafsson*, I was able to see and visit the places from my Dad's childhood. The house where he had lived (Nydalen) had been moved, and there was now a gravel pit in the spot where once three houses (Nydalen, Nyholm, and Katrineholm) had stood, houses that my grandparents and great-grandparents and some other relatives had lived in.

We toured the Norra Solberga church for which my grandfather, *Marcus Pettersson*, had been the *byggmästare* [master builder] when it had been built 1898-1902. That was certainly a thrill. It was also moving to see the places and see the names of these places that had been part of my Dad's early life and that of his family in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The last place we stopped at with Willy was the house at Lilla Fågelhult. Why this is meaningful probably can best be explained by the following story written by *Henry Rydell* in 1967 in Swedish and attached to the bottom of a wooden box.

### A translation:

"In the year 1884 tenant farmer Claes August Rydell sold his farm in Norra Solberga parish to church builder Marcus Petersson. Peterson

was a nephew through his wife Britta Lovisa Marcusdotter and also a son-in-law of C. A. Rydell's brother, the tailor Carl Johan Peterson from cottage Nyholm, Norra Solberga parish, through his marriage with Hanna L. Carlsdotter. Because of the difficult economic conditions for Marcus Petersson, the farm went back to the previous owner. During the short time that Marcus Petersson owned the farm, he had, with the aid of his father-in-law, chopped down some of the farm's trees to build a new farm house for his family. C. A. Rydell then sold the farm to builder Holm in Eksjö, and according to "Calle in Nyholm," Rydell took the cut timber by train to Motala, where he used it to construct a new farm house on that land which he had bought in

Holms Norrgård in Motala.

"These proceedings brought on a quarrel between the brothers C.A. Rydell and C. J. Peterson and the quarrel remained unresolved, most likely because of the great distance between Norra Solberga and Motala.

"In the fall of 1967 the farm house on Holms Norrgård was torn down by the new owners – Motala City – and the undersigned, grandson of C.A. Rydell, salvaged some of the wood and from some of the lumber made four jewelry boxes. On Josef Furhammar's – a grandson of the tailor C.J. Peterson – 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1967, two of these boxes were handed over as a gift in the relative's name, that these boxes must be given by him as an in-



*Lilla Fågelhult, Norra Solberga, September 2004.*

heritance to sons Sten and Leif Furhammar. The two other boxes shall be given as an inheritance to my two children Birgitta and Bo Rydell. These two sibling pairs, who are also second cousins, must take good care of the inherited property and let it go further in coming generations to the oldest of the family line, and the box, made from wood from Lilla Fogelhult, must always recall about the bonds of relatives which bind these four family lines to the two Småland brothers. “*Tidevarv, tidevarv försvinna, släkten följa släktens gång*’. Motala the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1967.”

Henry Rydell

The two brothers, Carl Johan Pettersson and Claes August Rydell, never spoke to one another for the rest of their lives. Carl Johan Pettersson died in 1904 in Norra Solberga, and Claes died in 1920 in Fivelstad, Östergötland.

Their children and grandchildren had maintained some contact over the years both in Sweden and the U.S., through letters and through visits in both countries. Marcus Pettersson (my grandfather) immigrated to Chicago, Illinois, in 1902 and changed his last name to *Norlin*. His wife and children followed over the next 14 years. Marcus himself never returned to Sweden, but some of his children went back to visit.

## The Family Tree

Long ago I had received a family tree that had been made by H. Rydell in 1967. I did not know who this man was, but in 2002 I had written to two men named Henry Rydell in Östergötland hoping that I would be able to connect with the right Henry Rydell.

At that time, Henry's health was not good so he was unable to answer me, but his son Bo did write back and when my sister and husband were in Motala that summer, they visited with Bo and his family and received some written information about the box. It was in Swedish and not translated until after they arrived home. Until 2002 I had known

nothing about the boxes.

From some family letters I had known that my grandfather had had some dealings about Lilla Fågelhult, but he and his family never moved there. Before this new information, Lilla Fågelhult was going to be one of those mysteries that some day I would unravel. Now some of those letters made more sense.

## To Sweden

Before I left for Sweden in September 2004, I knew something about the boxes, and I knew where two of the boxes were, with Bo and Birgitta Rydell. When I was planning my trip to Sweden, I thought that I would like to see one of these boxes. I decided to contact the children of Josef. My only problem was that I did not know the names of these people. I knew what Josef's birth name was, but when I met him in 1960, he had not used the Carlsson name. Siblings and cousins could not remember the name either, but eventually it came to me - *Furhammar*. From there it was easy. There are only 29 Furhammars in the Swedish telephone directory. Several letters to Furhammars in Sweden produced two answers and I had the right people. On our journey in Sweden we visited Leif Furhammar and his wife Bar-

bro in Stockholm and Sten Furhammar and his wife Britta in Borås.

## The BOX

At both places we saw the BOX and Leif gave me his box. I was thrilled to have this remembrance of my grandfather and of Sweden.

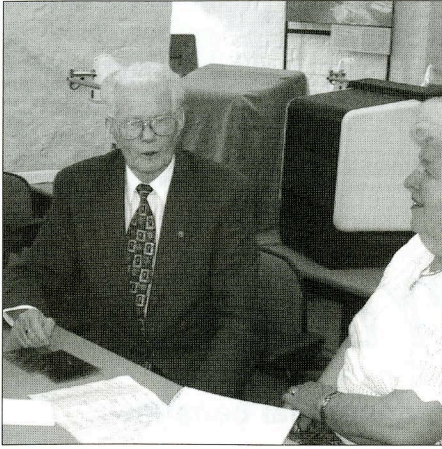


## Henry Rydell

Henry Rydell was very interested in genealogy. In 1972 he came to an I.O.G.T. conference in the U.S. At that time he also visited relatives in Massachusetts and the Norlin (Pettersson in Sweden) relatives in the Chicago area. He presented a fifth box to my Uncle Oscar who has since died and the whereabouts of that box is unknown. Before he came to the U.S.,



Front: Barbro Furhammar, Helene Leaf with the Box, Leif Furhammar. Back: John Leaf, husband of Helene.



Henry Rydell at the Landsarkivet i Vadstena. (Photo: E. Thorsell).

Henry had visited Norra Solberga and places and people familiar to the Marcus Pettersson family (now using the name Norlin). He visited Lilla Fågelhult. This is what he said about it in 1972, "*I Fogelhult är allt sig likt - den grå ladugårdslängan var gråare än tidigare - och mangårdsbyggnaden som Din far planerade bygga om står där så vacker i dalen med körsbärsträden omkring, och är nu sommarbostad för syskonen Rolf.*"<sup>1</sup> And the houses where the Marcus Pettersson family (Nydalen) and Carl Johan Petterson (Calle in

Nyholm) lived were gone as Henry noted, "*Men skogen börjar att växa upp vid husgrunden där 'Calle och Lotta' i Nyholm verkade och levde, och naturen tränger även fram och vill återerövra marken kring Ert hem - sedermera Ranglaryds skolkhus. Men minnen sveper fram bland buskar, träd och blommor!*"<sup>2</sup>

In 2004 Lilla Fågelhult is still there and looking very nice. There is a big gravel pit where Nydalen, Nyholm, and Katrineholm had been. Nydalen was used as Ranglaryd's school from 1918 until 1948 and then it was moved to Eksjö, place unknown. Perhaps that is a riddle for the next trip to Sweden.<sup>3</sup>

**1** From a letter written in Motala by Henry Rydell to Esther Norlin, July 27, 1972.

**Translation 1:** Everything is the same in Fogelhult – the gray barn is grayer than before – and the farm house that your father wanted to renovate sits there so beautiful in the valley surrounded by cherry trees and is now a summer home for the Rolf siblings.

**2** Ibid.

**Translation 2:** The woods have begun to grow on the house site where Calle and Lotta worked and lived and nature even crowds and recaptures the land around your home – nowadays Ranglaryd's school house. But memories sweep through amongst the bushes, trees, and flowers!

**3 Editor's note:** A local historian in Eksjö, *Elisabeth Leek*, through her contacts found out that Ranglaryd school was closed down in 1948. Some time later the house was torn down and the lumber was used to renovate a house called Fridhemsberg, at Fridhemsbergsvägen 15 in Eksjö. It is now said to be a typical Swedish yellow house with lots of white trimmings (*snickarglädje*).

Re *Henry Rydell*; he was a good friend of the editor's and this article was a nice way of remembering him.

Helene Leaf lives at Moline, Illinois and can be contacted by e-mail: <HHLeaf@aol.com>





# Treasures in Rock Island

## News and general information about the Swenson Center. Part I

BY JILL SEAHOLM

The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center is an academic research library founded in 1981 by Birger and Lyal Swenson to collect information about and to promote the study of Swedish immigration to North America. Our center operations are divided into four areas: *academic, library, archives, and genealogy.*

### Academic activities

One of our academic activities is to hold conferences here in Rock Island or in other cities, often in conjunction with other organizations. They are open to the public and usually free, and we try to have one every 2-3 years.

Our director, Dr. Dag Blanck, arranges for scholars to come and pre-

sent papers and answer any questions you may have about the topic. A recent conference we had at Augustana was in the fall of 2001 and was called "Being Swedish American Today." In 1996 we held a conference here called "O Pioneers! Swedes on the American Frontier." Its focus was on the early phase of the Swedish mass migration.



The main research room at the Swenson Center. From left: visiting researcher Jennifer Attebery, Idaho State University; Jill Seaholm, head genealogist; and Christina Johansson, archivist. Four microfilm readers are in the back. October 2004.



In October of 2004, we hosted a conference about immigrant letters called "I am alive and well," which was a conference about letters and diaries of Swedish immigrants in North America. The keynote address was given by Werner Sollors of Harvard University. The phrase "I am alive and well" is translated from the Swedish "*Jag lever och har hälsan,*" which was a rather typical way for Swedish immigrants to start their letters home. A short summary of this conference can be found on p.9.

For 2005 or 2006, we are in preliminary planning stages for a conference about Swedes in the American West. It will probably take place in Seattle and be co-sponsored by the Swenson Center, the Scandinavian Department of the University of Washington, and possibly others.

## Publications

When we hold or take part in such a conference, the papers that are presented are usually published later, either in a book or in the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, which is published by the Swedish-American Historical Society in Chicago.

## Lectures and scholarships

The conferences are only every 2-3 years, but every year, usually in October, we invite a scholar here to present a paper on specific topics related to our academic work. That public lecture series is called the *O. Fritiof Ander Lecture in Immigration History*. Many times when there is an academic conference going on here, the conference keynote address doubles as the year's Ander Lecture.

Another way that we promote academic research is to offer a stipendium called the *Dagmar and Nils William Olsson Fellowship*. This offers \$1,500 toward a 3-week stay to anyone pursuing academic research in any aspect of Swedish-American history. The deadline for applications is May 1st each year, so you have some time to get your applications in! The 2004 winner was *Joanna*

*Daxell* of Canada, who was here in November. The 2003 winner was *Paul Lubotina* of Saint Louis University in St. Louis, who was studying Swedes in the Iron Range region of Minnesota. A couple of previous winners were *Lars Nordström* of Oregon, who was studying the minister and poet, Samuel Magnus Hill, and *Malin Glimäng*, who was here to study Swedish immigrant women.

## Visiting Scholars

Other scholars appear without the support of the Olsson Fellowship. Last spring, we welcomed *Mrs. Elinor Barr* of Thunder Bay, Ontario, who is in charge of the massive *Swedes in Canada* project and will eventually publish a book about it. She was here to look at any Canadian records we had. Her web site is [www.swedesincanada.ca](http://www.swedesincanada.ca). Mrs. Barr says that she welcomes feedback, so if you have information about relatives from Sweden in Canada, please contact her.

A frequent visitor to the Swenson Center is *Reverend David Gustafson* of Moline, who is doing graduate work for Linköping University in Sweden. He is studying D.L. Moody, founder of the Moody Bible Institute.

Our academic newsletter, *Swenson Center News*, which comes out once a year, is available for free. We

would be happy to add you to the mailing list for *SC News* if you don't already receive it.

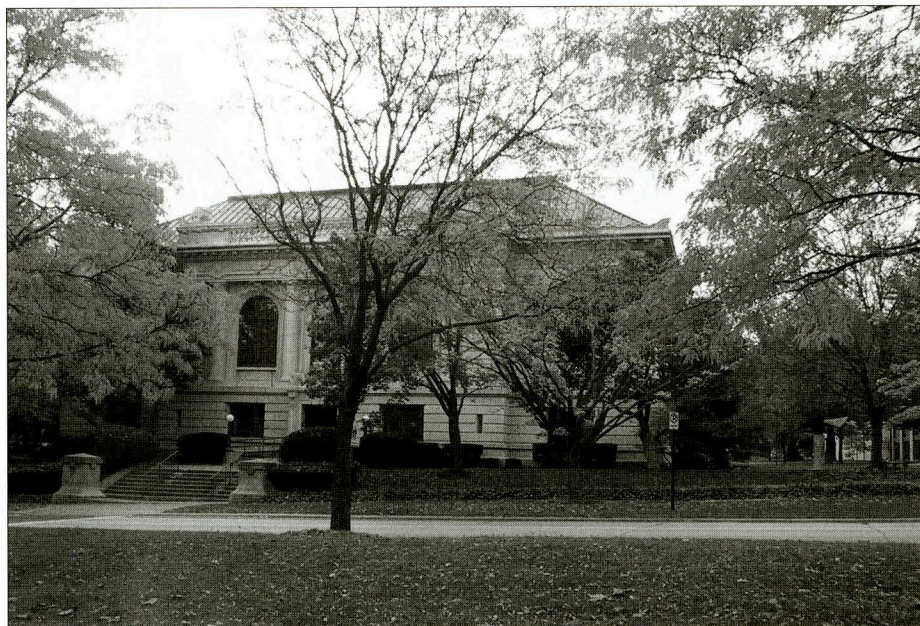
## The Library

In the library area of our work, we have several book collections, some of which are already established and closed to new titles, and other collections are constantly being added to as relevant titles appear in the field. One example is the *Immigration Book Collection*, which contains books by and about Swedish organizations in the U.S. and Canada, local histories of Swedish-American settlements, and other Swedish-American and immigration-related topics.

My co-worker, *Anne Jenner*, is constantly on the lookout for new titles to purchase for the Swenson Center.

We also have inherited Dr. Nils William Olsson's personal library and we have named it the *Nils William Olsson Book Collection*, or "NWO" for short. The NWO Collection is filled with books on Swedish genealogy and many local histories from Sweden.

In 2001 we determined that the environmental control system in our basement stacks was no longer sufficient to keep the library and archives as cool and dry as they needed to be. The Chairman of our



*The Denkmann Memorial Building at Augustana College, which houses The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center. October 2004.*

Advisory Board, Glen E. Brolander, sought and received for us a grant from two of the Wallenberg foundations in Sweden to pay for a new environmental system. It was installed in the summer of 2002 and now our books and archives are kept at a much more reliable and constant 60 degrees and 30-40% humidity, which is necessary to prevent moisture and inhibit the growth of mold. Sixty degrees may not sound very cold, but if we need to spend any amount of time in there, we wear sweaters or coats – that dry cold goes straight to the bone. In addition to the new climate system, we also enclosed one more basement room to become a part of the stacks, so now even more of our materials are well-protected.

## The Nils William Olsson Room

We dedicated that newly-enclosed room to the *Nils William Olsson Collection* and named the room after him, the Nils William Olsson Room. He spent many years in the foreign service living in Iceland, Sweden, and Norway, and has published many books, such as *Swedish Passenger Arrivals to U.S. Ports 1820-1850* (with Erik Wikén) and *Swedish Voters in Chicago 1888*. He founded this journal, *Swedish American Genealogist* or *SAG*, and he still writes articles for it. He turned 95 this year and still is a figurehead of Swedish and Swedish-American family history research.

## Contacts with “Augie”

We are not in the same building as they are, but we are well-connected to the Augustana College Library. Last year the Augustana Library stopped being a member of the Quad Cities’ local online library computer system, “QuadLinc,” and instead joined a consortium of Illinois College and University Library Computer Systems. The Swenson Center is therefore also a part of this consortium. This means that there are bigger opportunities for more people to have access to our books and

periodicals and to be able to see what we have and, we hope, make interlibrary loan requests. Anne has been on top of all of those changes and sees that everything is accurate in our online catalog, using Augustana student workers for some of the more time-consuming and repetitive tasks whenever possible.

## Interlibrary Loans

Our books cannot be checked out, but if you find that we own a book that you want to spend some time reading and you can’t make it here during our open hours, you can go to your local public library, even here in the Quad Cities, and have them request it for you via interlibrary loan through the Augustana library.

If your library does a nationwide search for it, it might also come from any other library in the country that owns it and is willing to lend it. When one of our books arrives for you at your library, you won’t be able to take it out of the library, but you will still have a more ample opportunity to use it. Not all of our books are available on interlibrary loan because perhaps they are too old, out of print, or maybe we’re the only library we know of in the country that owns it.

## The Archives

Our archives area of work consists of clipping collections, personal papers, letters, and organizational records. It takes a lot of time and money to process a collection and make it presentable and useful to the public. Some collections that have a lot of Swedish language materials in them will require some knowledge of the language. We employees can usually handle the language, but there is usually a lot of busy-work involved, so when possible, we seek out Augustana’s Swedish exchange students to work for us, as well as Americans who are Scandinavian Studies majors or minors. Sometimes not all of those factors come together at the same time and it can take some years before a donated collection is processed.

Part of processing a collection involves removing staples and any metal clips and fasteners that can potentially rust onto the papers, sorting and classifying the information, and entering it into a database so that we know what is in the collection. Materials are placed in acid-free plastic sleeves or envelopes or between sheets of acid-free paper and into archival boxes. If the original is very frail, we’ll also photocopy it onto acid-free paper and store that copy with it.

## Upsala College

Currently my co-worker *Christina Johansson* is working on a few different archival collections that are not yet ready for the public eye. One of the largest collections is the archives of Upsala College in East Orange, NJ.

In the spring of 1995, Upsala College was forced to close its doors and file for bankruptcy. Upsala was founded as a Swedish-Lutheran college in 1893 in Brooklyn, NY. It was *the* Swedish college in the eastern U.S. and was a sister-college to Augustana. In fact, its organizational meeting took place in a classroom in Augustana’s Old Main building in Rock Island. Upsala moved once or twice and eventually found its way to East Orange, NJ.

When it closed in 1995, our director made arrangements with the college and he and a colleague drove to New Jersey in a moving van. With a very limited amount of time, they packed the archives and contents of filing cabinets into moving boxes, and rescued as much of the college archives as they could fit into that truck.

There was very much material from the college archives, and it had been hurriedly packed into boxes on graduation day, not necessarily in any order, and quickly loaded into our basement stacks. It has been a multi-year process to sort and inventory it, and it still goes on. We owe many thanks to our volunteer, Pastor *Robert Pearson* of East Moline, who is a graduate of Upsala College. (See *SAG* 3/04, p. 11 for more infor-

mation on Pastor Pearson. [Editor's note]).

For the past few years he has been coming one afternoon a week and has so far processed over 165 linear feet of material from the College's founding up to its closing.

Pastor Pearson and a student assistant processed almost 100 boxes of Upsala College records this past year. The Upsala archives do not include student records. However, the Presidential papers, files from the Dean's office, other administrative records, photos, faculty publications, student honor theses, commencement addresses, and personnel files are now sorted and inventoried. They remove staples and clips, and sort and enter the information into a database. Pastor Pearson also reminisces about his college days because as a student he had worked in the administrative offices and knew a few of the people whose letters he is handling. It's unfortunate that the school had to close, but Pastor Pearson is having a wonderful time with the archives, and we are extremely glad to have the opportunity to preserve them, and grateful for the hundreds of hours that he has put into it for us. Their alumni web site is at [www.upsala.org](http://www.upsala.org)

## **SWEA**

The archives of SWEA – the Swedish Women's Educational Association – were donated to us in 1996. They are almost entirely in Swedish, and last year we used the hired help of Swedish student *Ida Hallin* from Stockholm. SWEA was started in 1979 and today has more than 8,000 members in 76 local chapters in 34 countries around the world.

The purpose of SWEA is to promote Swedish culture and the language and serve as a network for Swedish women living abroad. This is accomplished with a wide variety of cultural programs such as lectures, exhibits, musical performances, and Swedish holiday celebrations, and, at the international level, by awarding annual scholarships to graduate students. SWEA International pub-

lishes a biannual newsletter that is available online and sent to all members. Most local chapters also have a website and a newsletter.

The SWEA material that has so far been donated to the Swenson Center includes: minutes from meetings, newsletters, financial papers and statements, and correspondence. To become a member of SWEA, you must be at least 18 years of age, have lived abroad for at least one year, and speak Swedish. Visit their web site at [www.swea.org](http://www.swea.org)

## **Allan Kastrup**

The *Allan Kastrup Collection* has now been processed. It consists of the personal archives of Allan Kastrup, a big name in the American-Swedish New Exchange of New York. He was born, raised, and educated in Sweden and then got a job at the Swedish news agency TT. In 1943, he moved to New York City and joined the staff at the American-Swedish News Exchange. Three years later he became the director, a position he held until his retirement in 1964, when the News Exchange ceased to exist and its functions were assumed by the Swedish Information Service.

After his retirement, Kastrup contributed significantly to the field of Swedish-American history with his book *The Swedish Heritage in America* in 1975.

Kastrup's collection spans from the early 1920s to the 1980s and includes correspondence, press releases, publicity material, photos from the *1948 Swedish Pioneer Centennial*, and an extensive collection on Swedish culture, foreign policy, and politics as covered in the American press in that time. Special attention and coverage appear to have been given to Prince Bertil's numerous official U.S. visits, Sweden and its neutrality during WWII, the Swedish Pioneer Centennial in 1948, Sweden and socialism, and Swedish criticism toward the Vietnam War.

## **Two Smaller Collections**

Two smaller, but equally interesting collections that have recently been

processed are the *Sune Lundberg Collection* and the papers from *Luther College* in Wahoo, Nebraska.

## **Sune Lundberg**

Sune Lundberg had gathered materials to write a book about American pilots in Sweden in World War II. Unfortunately, he passed away unexpectedly in 2002, but his widow donated his papers to the Swenson Center. The extensive collection documents American pilots who were either forced to land or crashed in Sweden during WWII, and research includes personal accounts and correspondence with American internees in Sweden, newspaper clippings, and official documents from both Washington, DC, and the Royal Swedish Military Archives in Stockholm.

## **Luther College**

The papers from Luther College, also known as the Luther Academy, were donated in 2003 by Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. The material includes executive meeting minutes from Luther, minutes from various student literary societies, and letters and reports sent to the Nebraska conference. Augustana Professor Emeritus James Dowie based his dissertation on this material. The dissertation was republished in 1959 by the Augustana Historical Society with the title *Prairie Grass Dividing*.

## **Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.)**

Augustana College student intern and Scandinavian Studies major *David Wise* has cleaned, processed, and described a total of 51 linear feet of records from the Swedish Olive Lodge and Rebekha Lodge in Moline, Illinois, and other smaller, local I.O.O.F. lodges. This material was donated to the Swenson Center in the early 1990s, when the Swedish Olive Lodge ceased to exist.

*To be continued*

# Swenson Center Hosts Conference on Immigrant Letters

## A short summary of the recent conference

BY DAG BLANCK

The great majority of the 1.3 million Swedish immigrants who settled in North America between 1840 and 1930 were literate. For this group the act of writing was important, and over the years hundreds of thousands of letters were sent from immigrants in America to their friends and family in Sweden. The so-called "America letter" became a regular feature of Swedish life in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and it played a highly significant role in creating an awareness of America in Sweden and in assisting and promoting Swedish immigration to America. Many immigrants also kept diaries.

The growing transatlantic correspondence was noted by one Swedish observer in 1883 who said that "Thousands, millions of such letters fall like flakes from a snow cloud over the entire land from Skåne to Lapland." Letters did not only cross the Atlantic in one direction. Significant numbers of letters were sent from Sweden to North America as well, and became highly important in the process through which Swedish immigrants maintained ties with their ancestral country and culture.

In October 2004 the Swenson Center hosted a conference addressing a variety of topics dealing with immigrant letters and diaries among Swedish and Norwegian immigrants in the United States and Canada.

Scholars of other ethnic groups have long recognized the importance of immigrant letters, and a number of collections have been published. Several collections of Swedish immi-

grant letters exist. Several have been published by the Augustana Historical Society, including, in recent years, *Letters from Andover to Högarps, Sweden 1858-1898* (1988) and *America reality and dream: The Freeman letters from America & Sweden, 1841-1862* (1996).

The most comprehensive collection is H. Arnold Barton's *Letters from the Promised Land: Swedes in America, 1840-1914* from 1975. Collections of Norwegian immigrant letters include Theodore Blegen's *Land of their Choice: The Immigrants Write Home* (1955), Solveig Zempel's *In Their Own Words: Letters from Norwegian Immigrants* (1991), and Orm Øverland's on-going four volume series *Fra Amerika til Norge: I norske utvandrerbrev*, which, so far, covers the years 1838-1884. Numerous articles have also been written, taking individual letters or series of correspondence as their points of departure. In addition, several archives on both sides of the Atlantic have systematically collected immigrant letters.

The thousands of letters written by Swedish immigrants have helped us gain a deeper understanding of the Swedish immigrant experience. Through them we can learn about many aspects of the lives that the immigrants lived, and of their hopes, aspirations, and disappointments. There are, however, also some problems involved with using the letters. One problem has to do with how representative the surviving letters are. We do not know why the letters we have today survived to our times,

although it would seem natural to assume they are the letters of greater intrinsic interest – due to content, style, originality, or the attractive personalities of their writers.

Moreover, the question of who wrote home and who did not is important. Persons successful in their new lives may have been more likely to write home and share their experiences with friends and family than those who were unsuccessful. We should thus ask ourselves not only what the letters talk about but also what they do not talk about. A related question is what the immigrants were most likely – or least likely – to write home about. While a few immigrants faithfully and regularly corresponded with family and friends in the homeland all through their lives, most tended to write most frequently and at greatest length at certain crucial times. The peak experience for most immigrants was unquestionably the Great Journey to the new land, for which reason we still have any number of detailed descriptions of the departure from home, the Atlantic crossing, and the arrival at American destinations. Thereafter, immigrants normally wrote home most often during their earlier years of adjustment to new conditions and during the period of greatest nostalgia for home.

Some historians who turned to Swedish immigrant letters as sources for the study of Swedish immigration history in the 1960s and 1970s were somewhat disappointed that they did not learn as much about

Swedish immigrant life as they had hoped. They felt that the letters often were formulaic and contained less factual information than they had hoped for. The historians' discussion, which also has dealt with other kinds of immigrant writings such as short stories, novels, plays, autobiographies, etc., and involved, among others, Dorothy Burton Skårdahl, tended to assume some kind of causal or semi-causal relationship between the written account – be it a letter or a short story – and the actual or factual circumstances of the immigrants' lives.

Scholars working with immigrant letters today have moved beyond the question of how “authentic” or “correct” the immigrant writings are, and instead tend to interpret the letters using new approaches. Questions of identity and world views have instead come to the fore in the work of Werner Sollors, David Gerber, Jennifer Eastman Attebery, and others.

The conference attracted close to 150 participants, and the speakers came from the U.S., Sweden, and Canada. The following talks were given:

**Werner Sollors**, Harvard University, *Gustaf Jarlson's 'America lett-*

*ers' and the Life Stories of Undistinguished Americans as Told by Themselves.* (2004 O. Fritiof Ander Lecture in Immigration History)

**Orm Øverland**, University of Bergen, *Reading Letters - Reading People - Reading History*

**Jennifer Attebery**, Idaho State University, *Peasant Letters Revisited: The Immigrant Letter from a Folklorist's Perspective*

**Ulf Jonas Björk**, Indiana University, *Perhaps there is someone who wants to know how we live: 'Public' Immigrant Letters in Swedish-American Newspapers*

**Britt Liljewall**, Göteborg University, *Emigration, Literacy, and Networks: Forty Letters from Sweden to Rockford, Illinois, 1853-1876*

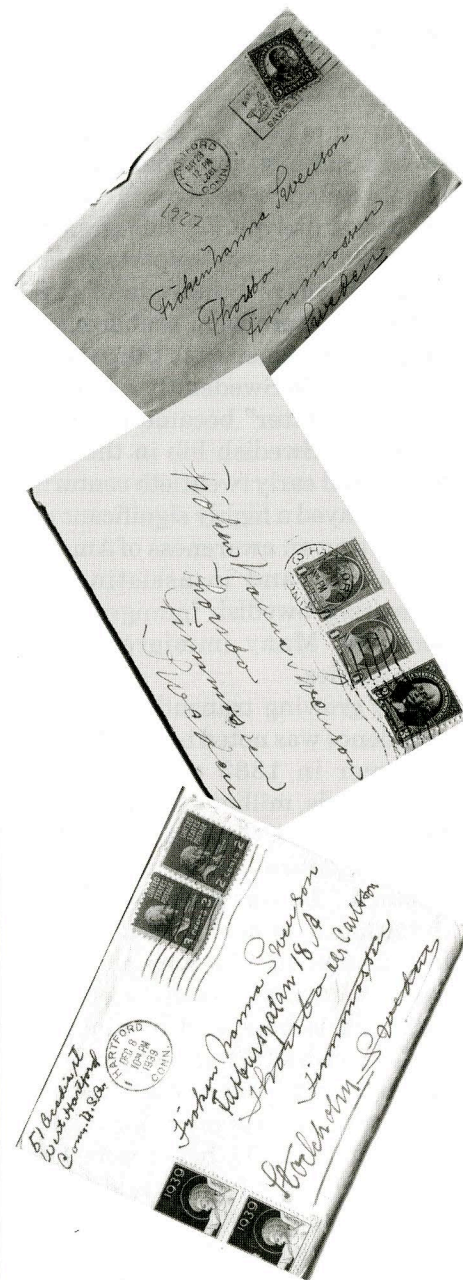
**Solveig Zempel**, St. Olaf College, *'My book I have neglected you sorely': Reading the Kravik-Lokensgaard Diaries*

**Joy Lintelman**, Concordia College, *Between the Mundane and the Memorable: The Letters of Single and Married Swedish Immigrant Women*

**Eva St. Jean**, University of Victoria, *'Letters from the Promised Land': The Ambiguous Radical-*

*ization of a Swedish Immigrant, 1928-1934*

**Maria Erling**, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, *The Connections Correspondence Made: How Letters Contributed to the Formation of the Augustana Synod*



## New Chairman at the Swenson Center Advisory Board

At the meeting of the Swenson Center Advisory Board on 15 October 2004 longtime chairman *Glen E. Brolander* stepped down after 22 years. Dr. Brolander was immediately named Chairman Emeritus.

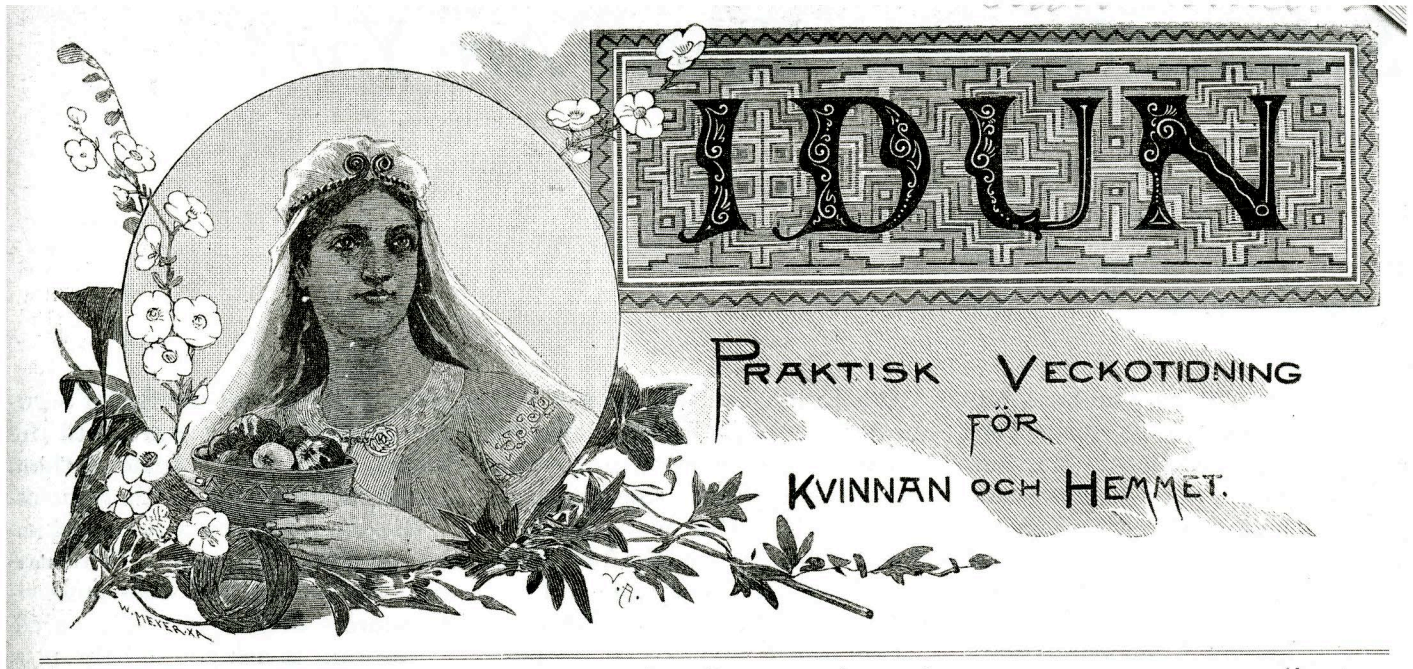
Dr. *Dag Blanck*, Director of the Swenson Center presented Dr. Brolander with a nice photograph of himself, which now hangs in the Center's Plym Research Room.

Dr. Brolander was succeeded by *Douglas Nelson*, Ph.D., current Professor of Mathematics at Augustana College.

In 1998 Dr. Brolander received the Swedish-American of the Year Award, as a tribute to his work for the Swenson Center. But his career has not been spent on Swenson affairs solely, rather four decades in the ser-



vice of Augustana College has kept him busy as vice president of financial affairs and much more. The Brolander Courtyard at Augustana Campus shows the college's appreciation.



In old women's magazines you can find many little details that give an insight into the daily life of the ancestors.

Some years ago I bought a bound volume of *Idun. Praktisk veckotidning för kvinnan och hemmet* (*Idun. A Practical Weekly for Woman and Home*) for 1890. It is most interesting, and also has a historical value. It was *Idun* which invited writers to send in their unpublished novels to a competition, and as it turned out later, this was the first sign of world famous writer *Selma Lagerlöf*. She was then an undistinguished school teacher, but still won first prize. Her entry was the first part of *Gösta Berling's Saga*.

*Idun* had many competitions, and one of them was on the theme "How to live on a low income," and in connection with that, one of the readers sent in a report on how she herself a few years earlier had managed her household (two adults and two children and a maid) on the sum of 50 *Kronor*/month (roughly \$10). She was then living in small country town.

She had done like this:

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Meat and pork                      | 12:- |
| Fish                               | 3:-  |
| Milk, skim, 2½ liters/day          |      |
| at 12 öre and 1 liter non-skimmed/ |      |

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| day at 15 öre                | 8:10 |
| Butter 5 pounds at 70 öre    | 3:50 |
| Eggs                         | 0:80 |
| Bread or flour for baking    | 7:50 |
| Groats and flour for cooking | 1:75 |
| Peas and beans               | 1:10 |
| Potatoes                     | 1:00 |
| Coffee                       | 1:50 |
| Sugar, 5 pounds at 33 öre    | 1:65 |
| Syrup, 4 pounds at 18 öre    | 0:72 |
| Spices, dried fruit etc      | 0:75 |
| Cheese and sandwich meats    | 1:50 |
| Beer and other drinks        | 0:90 |
| Kerosene                     | 1:00 |
| Soap and starch              | 0:90 |
| Help with ironing            | 0:75 |
| Various small items          | 1:58 |

The reader says that this was during one of the winter months, when they had more hot food for dinner than during the summer. The children often got *välling* or boiled milk with bread for breakfast. If they had a big meat dish one day, there was no soup that day. The sum for bread might seem to be very small, but she usually bought flour and baked at home. She then bought only about 15 pounds of hardtack every month. During the summer, when there was no need for kerosene, that sum could be used for more eggs and milk and more varied vegetables. She and the maid did the washing

at home and did not use any outside help for that. Ironing was done every two months and she hired an ironing woman and her ironing oven for 1:50. Otherwise she did not hire outside help, ordinary cleaning was done by the maid, and the annual big cleaning she helped to do herself.

The "various small items" were things like thread, sewing needles, stamps, writing-paper, postcards, and envelopes. Sometimes she could also save a little to be able to buy a small gift for a child who had a birthday, or something in that line.

**[Editor's note I:** I would think that this woman was married to a man in a lowly paid white-collar profession, such as clerk in an office, or at a railway station or something similar, and he evidently needed to go to work in a white starched shirt. *Idun* seems to have that kind of women as their target group, as the magazine is filled with household tips on how to save and make ends meet. A maid seems to have been paid 50 *kronor*/year in 1890. A subscription to *Idun* cost 4:90 for a year. *Idun* survived into the 1960s as I remember Mother reading it.]

**[Editor's note II:** *Idun* was a goddess in Norse mythology; she was married to *Brage*, god of bards. She was also the keeper of the apples that gave eternal youth to the Norse gods.]

*Elisabeth Thorsell*

# Siknäs People – Where Are You?

BY OLA LINDBÄCK AND  
HENRY RÖNNBÄCK

We are two cousins who have our common roots in Siknäs village, Töre parish, Kalix township in Norrbottens län, at the very northernmost end of Sweden. A shared interest, our home area, has been the incitement to various kinds of local historical research.

Henry Rönnbäck has published a book – *Siknäs - Gårdar och människor (Farms and People of Siknäs)* – which is a detailed survey of all farms in the village and their inhabitants from the present time and backwards, in some cases as far back as the 1600s.

Ola Lindbäck lived in the U.S. during the 1950s. He has done extensive research trying to find his missing grandfather, who immigrated to the U.S. After many years he finally succeeded, and the final result was a book *Låt farfar vila i frid (Let Grandpa Rest in Peace)* in 1996.

Our village, Siknäs, saw 130 individuals leave for foreign countries, the main part for the U.S. and Canada. The emigration took place during the period of 1880–1930. We have been able to trace most of the 130, but some are still missing. One

reason can be that the Social Security System did not start until the 1930s, another that some of them perished from social or other causes.

In spite of modern communication by computers, the personal historical knowledge is one of the most vital sources for genealogical research.

We want to ask you to help us to find out the destinies of these missing Swedes!

| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Born</b>                 | <b>Emigration</b>               | <b>Destination</b>                    |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Bror Daniel Rönnbäck<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix                 | 1885 Jun. 14                | U.S.A. 1905                     | Cadillac<br>Michigan                  |
| 2. Helmer Rönnbäck<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix                      | 1878 Dec. 12                | I U.S.A. 1908<br>II U.S.A. 1914 | Duluth<br>Seattle, Washington         |
| 3. Nils August Eriksson<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix                 | 1862 Jun. 4                 | U.S.A. 1884                     | Iowa                                  |
| 4. Erik Anton Jacobsson Blixt<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix           | 1880 Mar. 17                | U.S.A. 1908                     |                                       |
| 5. August Emanuel Jacobsson<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix             | 1884 Dec. 5                 | I U.S.A. 1906<br>II U.S.A. 1907 | Illinois ?<br>Moline, Illinois?       |
| 6. Georg Lindman<br>Siknäs, Töre                              | 1895 Oct. 16                | U.S.A. 1912                     | Vilpen<br>Minnesota (soldier in WW I) |
| 7. Johan Johansson<br>w. Anna Lisa Johansson<br>Siknäs, Råneå | 1835 Mar. 6<br>1842 Jan. 13 | U.S.A. 1872<br>U.S.A. 1872      | Minnesota<br>Minnesota                |
| 8. Erasmus Nordqvist<br>Siknäs, Töre                          | 1881 Jan. 23                | U.S.A. 1910                     | Hoquiam<br>Washington                 |
| 9. Johannes Andersson<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix                   | 1871 Jan. 23                | U.S.A. 1891                     | Fargo<br>North Dakota                 |

|  |              |                             |   |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 10. Anton Andersson<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix          | 1874 Jul. 18 | I U.S.A. 1892<br>II Canada? | Fargo (dead in Fargo 1897?)<br>Quebec, Canada |
| 11. Robert Johansson<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix         | 1865 Nov. 12 | U.S.A. 1886                 | North Dakota?                                 |
| 12. Oscar Fredriksson<br>Siknäs, Töre              | 1907 Aug. 24 | Canada 1926                 | Winnipeg<br>Canada                            |
| 13. John Sundström<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix           | 1886 Oct. 21 | Canada 1906                 | Quebec<br>Canada (died in the 1930s)          |
| 14. Anton Andersson Rönnbäck<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix | 1861 Jul. 6  | U.S.A. 1882                 |   |
| 15. Per-Olof Sennström<br>Nederkalix               | 1859 Nov. 20 | U.S.A. 1881                 | Clinton, Canada?                              |
| 16. Ida Rebecca Sennström<br>Nederkalix            | 1878 Aug. 26 | U.S.A. 1903                 |   |
| 17. Johannes Persson<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix         | 1860 Nov. 4  | U.S.A. 1884                 |   |
| 18. Karl Fredrik Lindberg<br>Siknäs, Töre          | 1890 Oct. 6  | U.S.A. 1910                 |   |
| 19. Ida Andersson<br>Siknäs, Nederkalix            | 1872 Aug. 5  | U.S.A. 1893                 |   |
| 20. Olof Teodor Olsson Bäck<br>Siknäs, Töre        | 1886 Feb. 16 | U.S.A. 1905                 | Lived in Saxon, WI, in 1906                   |



#3. Nils August Eriksson



#4. Erik Anton Jacobsson Blixt



#11. Robert Johansson



#13. John Sundström



#20: Olof Theodor Olsson with wife Belle, and children David Theodore, George Edgar and Dorothy Janet Grace. Picture from 1928.

Write to  
Ola Lindbäck  
Ridhusgatan 16,  
S-903 23 Umeå,  
Sweden, or  
Henry Rönnbäck,  
Sandviksgatan  
40 B, S-972 32  
Luleå, Sweden.



# The Hans and Karin Story

## A not unusual love story

BY NILS DAHLSTRAND

This is a story about how my father and mother fell in love. They came to America early in the twentieth century. My father arrived in New York in 1903; my mother in 1913. While Hans was in America he fell in love with her across the Atlantic Ocean without ever talking with her or meeting her face-to-face. As is usual in this kind of situation, a third party was involved. The party was Adolf and Ella Rybeck. Ella (nee Elin) was Karin's sister (my wonderful *moster* Ella) and Adolf was a cousin of Hans in various ways depending on where one looks in my genealogical records.

### My Father

Hans Peter Dahlstrand was born on a farm, Leabo, in Bosebo parish in Jönköpings län on 24 September 1874. He was the second son of nine children.

In 1890, Hans's father bought the old ancestral farm, Dalshult, in Bosebo parish and brought his wife and eight children there. As Hans matured, he decided that he wanted to work with his mind as well as his hands. He enjoyed working with his father and grandfather on the farm, and as a teenager and young man, worked with them side by side. In the winter, he helped them make scythes in their blacksmith shop. But, he decided he wanted to do more with his life.

Hans wrote in his autobiography, dated 15 April 1944:

"My father, as well as grandfather, in addition to farming, manufactured scythes during the winter months. Later, when competition from scythe manufacturers became too strong, he had to discontinue this work. Later on he took up road building and was

active in that work for many years. He, like grandfather, was elected to various positions in the township as well as in the county....

"I worked on my father's farm until 1896. Besides the usual farm work, I also did blacksmithing and carpentry work. I realized that I should do something else; furthermore, some of us at home had to leave and take up activities in other places. I had always been interested in things mechanical and, after obtaining the necessary knowledge through private studies, I took (the) entrance examination to Borås Technical College, Borås, Sweden, and began my college studies in the fall of 1896. I graduated as a mechanical engineer in the spring of 1899.

"I entered the employ of Arboga Mechanical Works [*Arboga Mekaniska Verkstad*], Arboga, Sweden, as draftsman in June 1899. This company manufactured hydraulic turbines, (and) mining, saw, and flour mill machinery. Advancing to the position of assistant to the chief engineer, I left this company in June 1903 for the purpose of spending a few years in the United States in order to obtain a wider experience in the mechanical engineering field."

Hans went there to gain more experience, but, as it turned out, he made the United States his home because he didn't have the opportunities he was looking for in Sweden.

### A Letter to His Brother Yngve

Many years later, Hans wrote a letter to his youngest brother, Yngve, the ninth child in the family. He wrote this on 27 December 1962. In this letter he recalls memories of his life

both in Sweden and the United States. Yngve arrived at New York's Ellis Island on 28 August 1910. He was 19 years old. He, like my father, was a mechanical engineer. This, in part, is what Hans wrote (Hans was 88 years of age at the time and Yngve was 75):

"I don't know if I would have gone to college if it had not been for our uncle Otto. Actually, I enjoyed working on the farm, but I knew the opportunity to have a farm of my own was nil. Uncle Otto, who was manager of a hardware store (in Gislaved), offered me a job and I spent a year selling hardware, but I was not satisfied and went back home and Emil (his older brother) took my place.

"Uncle Otto told father that I should go to college and study engineering. After a few months preparation, I passed the entrance exam to Borås *Tek[niska]* and completed the course in three years. I had a job when I graduated. I stayed with this firm (Arboga Mechanical Works) four years and, while I became their chief engineer, I did not advance as fast as I felt I deserved. The best positions were always reserved for graduates from '*Tekniska Högskolan*' and '*Chalmers*'.

"I decided, therefore, to spend a few years in (the) United States to obtain more experience."

### My Mother

Karin Linnea Andersson was born at Kyrkebolet, Brevik parish, on the western shores of Lake Vättern in Skaraborgs län on 17 July 1888. Her father, Aron, an auditor and bookkeeper, led her and the rest of his family to a number of places in Sweden until they finally settled down at Skärkehylte, Långaryd parish,

Jönköpings län, on 18 August 1896. There Aron owned and operated his own lumber yard and hardware store. At that time Karin was 8 years old.

My mother never wrote things down about her life in Sweden like Hans has done. She told me bits and pieces about it as I was growing up. Looking back, I should have asked more questions about her life. But then, I was too young and ignorant about family ties. Besides, as I was growing up, I thought I had more important matters with which to deal. I should say though, that I have gathered a treasure trove of information about my mother's life in Sweden and her forbears by attending SAG Workshops in Salt Lake City and working with the SVAR microfiche from the Swenson Center at Augustana College.

She told me she studied for and became a registered nurse in Sweden. She never practiced her profession in America in the workaday world. Instead, she stayed home and made a wonderful life and home for Hans, my older brother, Olof, and me.

## Hans Comes to America

Hans came to America in 1903. As I look at his decision to do this, I would say he took a big step into the unknown. He had no relatives in the United States to give him guidance and support, to help him find employment or a place to live. He would be on his own. But he wanted to give it a try. He, like so many Europeans and others around the world, had heard that the United States was "The Land of Opportunity."

He signed *Utvandrare=Kontrakt N:r. 39240* (Emigrant Contract No. 39240) with J. Oscar Reis to transport him and his belongings from Göteborg to New York. Mr. Reis was an agent for the Cunard Steamship Company at Göteborg (*Cunard-linien*). The contract was printed in both Swedish and English. Three people signed it on 17/6 (17 June) 1903; my father, J. Oscar Reis, and G. Hamberg *Göteborg i Poliskammaren* (Göteborg Police Chamber).

A few of the paragraphs on the English part of the contract say:

"I, J. Oscar Reis, hereby undertake, upon the following terms, to forward from Gothenburg to New York N. Y. in North America, the emigrant named below for the sum of *Kronor* 200, which amount has been duly paid and includes all ordinary charges upon landing in America.

"The journey takes place from Gothenburg the 17/6 by steamer second class passage to Hull or Grimsby in England and thence, within 48 hours after having passed the customs, to Liverpool by rail 3rd class and from Liverpool within 12 days after arrival there, by Ocean steamer second class passage, to New York or Boston in North America....

"At the above mentioned fare the emigrant will be supplied with good and sufficient provisions and attendance from leaving Gothenburg until arrival at place of landing in America, lodging during the stay in England and conveyance and care of effects not exceeding 10 Eng. cubic feet space by steamer and 150 Eng. lbs. weight by railway....

"Should the emigrant on arrival in the foreign country be refused by the authorities to immigrate and, if it cannot be proved that this prohibition has been caused by circumstances come to pass after this contract was made out, I, J. Oscar Reis, do hereby agree to repay the emigrant for the passage and at my expense have him returned to Gothenburg, Sweden, likewise his maintenance until his return and forwarding and care of his baggage."

## Arrival in America

Hans arrived in New York Harbor on 2 July 1903. It took him 16 days to come to this country, assuming he left Sweden on 17 June. His trip from Liverpool started on 23 June. He came on the *R.M.S. Carpathia*. *Carpathia's* greatest claim to fame is unrelated to her service to Cunard Steamship Company. On the dark, moonless night of 14-15 April 1912, *Carpathia* raced 58 miles through a North Atlantic ice field in response

to the distress calls of White Star's *R.M.S. Titanic*. Although she arrived on scene after *Titanic* foundered, she rescued all 705 survivors in *Titanic's* lifeboats and took them to New York.

## Hans's First Job

He started work in America at the Hartford Rubber Works Company, Hartford, Connecticut. He writes, "This position I considered temporary." In his 1962 letter to his brother Yngve, he goes into more detail. This is what he writes: "I started as a draftsman (at Hartford). The company was in the process of rebuilding the power plant and building a new addition to the factory. When they found out about my experience, I was put in charge of all design work. While this work was interesting, I wanted to get into hydraulic turbine engineering in which I had the most experience in Sweden."

## Hans' Second Job

He continues in his letter to Yngve, "(On) 2 May 1904, I started work with Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company in West Allis, Wisconsin, (a suburb of Milwaukee) in the newly organized steam turbine department as designer. Allis-Chalmers was then building both hydraulic and steam turbines. (They had never built steam turbines before.) Upon reporting, I found (out) they wanted me in the steam turbine department, assuming that, because I came from Sweden, I must know about the steam turbines that de Laval had designed. de Laval<sup>1</sup> was known (to them) and they thought I had worked on the designs of his turbines. My knowledge consisted of having seen a few of his turbines.

"While I had no experience in (designing) steam turbines, it proved to be no handicap. I soon found out that nobody else had experience either."

## The Third Party: Adolf and Ella Rybeck

In the first paragraph of this story, I spoke about a third party, Adolf and Ella Rybeck. As I said, Ella was my mother's sister. She and her husband played a big role in getting my father and mother together.

Both came to this country on the *S.S. Celtic*. They arrived at Ellis Island in New York Harbor on 2 May 1909. They were not married at the time. They settled in Milwaukee and were married about 1910. Adolf was related to my father in two ways. He was his first cousin, once removed, through one ancestor, and a third cousin, once removed, through another ancestor. Their first shared ancestor was born in 1793, the second in 1710. So Hans and Adolf, two Swedes, two mechanical engineers in a new country, had good reasons to get together as often as they could, lift their glasses high, clink them together, and say, "Skål!"

When I was a lad, my parents told me a little about how they became acquainted. Hans said he visited the Rybecks in their home frequently. *Moster* Ella had a picture of Karin prominently displayed on the fireplace mantel. Hans saw it, thought she was an interesting young lady (conjecture on my part), talked with Ella about her, and started writing to Karin. I guess they must have corresponded for two years or so. Finally, Hans decided that he wanted to meet this interesting and lovely young lady face-to-face. From what both of them told me, she was not adverse to the idea. So he booked passage to Sweden in the fall of 1913 and went there for the express purpose of meeting Karin. It didn't take them long to really grow to like each other.

## A Happy Event

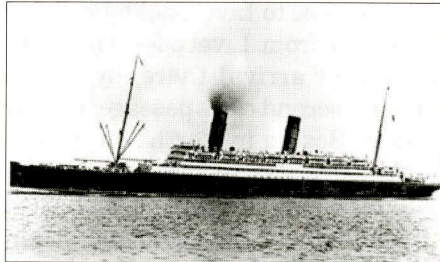
In his letter to Yngve in 1962, Hans writes about how he finally met Karin. He says, "The most important and happy event in my life took place in 1913. That was the year I found Karin and got married. It was through Adolf and Ella Rybeck that

I learned about Karin as she was Ella's sister. We began to correspond and in the fall I went to Sweden and met her for the first time.

"There is not much I can say except that, before I was ready to return (to America), Karin promised to marry me. We were married in Rybeck's house 20 December, 1913."

This, one would have to call a "whirlwind" courtship.

Hans and Karin came together to America on the *R.M.S. Caronia* sailing from Liverpool, England, on 1 November 1913 and arriving in



New York on 10 November. The passenger list (manifest) of the ship documents some interesting details about my parents. Hans was 39 years old, Karin 25. His occupation was "mechanical engineer," my mother's, "nurse." In the column, "Whether going to join a relative or friend; and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address?" Hans answered, "Allis Chalmers, Milwaukee, Wisc." (He was near the end of the 4-5 year process of becoming a U.S. citizen). Karin answered, "Sister Ella Rybeck, 745 (?)th Ave., Milwaukee, Wisc." (It is hard to decipher the writing on the copy of the original passenger list I received from the Ellis Island Foundation in New York.)

Hans writes further in his 1962 letter to Yngve: "Thinking back, I cannot help to think but that Karin took a great risk. Here she married a man she had known only a short time and went with him to a strange country. I am sure the first years were not easy for her. I had a responsible position requiring me to be away a great deal on company business. We built our home in a couple of years after our marriage and were blessed with two boys. Karin had to stay home and keep things going and

also the main job of raising our two boys. For sure most of my absences were of short duration. The wonderful part was that Karin readily adapted herself to the new country, picking up the language in a short time, making new friends, and meeting my engineering associates and their wives as well as other Swedish acquaintances."

## Writings of Karin

My mother was an avid letter writer. She was of the opinion, "If you want letters, write letters!" In 1949 she recorded a detailed account of their trip to Sweden. She wrote this in her little travel journal, a 4 x 6 inch bound book. Her writing was terse; she wrote each day's activities on one page; dates, places, even weather observations. Here are excerpts of the first part of their trip:

"May 22, 1949 Sunday. Milwaukee Wisconsin USA. Rain and fog. Hans and I started on our trip to Sweden. Were to take United Airline from Milw. Due to fog and rain, had to take train to Chicago. Helen and Herman took us from Milwaukee airport to depot. In Palmer House Chicago we were advised to take train to New York. Had a drawing room on Twentieth Century Limited. A good nights sleep. Found letter from Lois at Commodore Hotel where we had made, but had to cancel, reservation.

"May 23, 1949 Monday. New York. Weather fine. Left on SAS for Sweden 1:30 pm. Arrived in Gander, Newfoundland. Were delayed there 3 hours due to a faulty gasoline pump. Leaving Gander in rain and nasty weather. From New York to Gander was bad weather. Flew at altitude 19,000 ft. 280 mph. Left Gander and had altitude 17,000, speed 380 mph.

"May 24 1949 Tuesday. Prestwick, Scotland; Copenhagen; Stockholm. Weather good except in Stockholm. After 7 hours arrived in Prestwick minus any sleep, stopped one hour, had breakfast. Continued to Denmark; weather good. Sandwiches and coffee in Copenhagen. On to Stockholm. We were met in style at Bromma...."

Near the end of her travel journal, she wrote, "We have 60 relatives in Sweden. They all had big parties for Yngve and us. In Dalshult it was a dinner for 50. All sitting down, no buffet-style dinner in that big homestead."

## Some Observations

It is interesting to have family records that document the time it took to travel between Sweden and the United States during the last 101 years. It took my father 16 days to come to this country in 1903. He used the most modern ways to get here: steamship from Sweden to England, railways in England, and steamship to New York.

In 1949 Hans and Karin spent 3 days traveling from their home in Wisconsin to get to Sweden. They, too, used the most modern ways to get there: railways and aircraft.

Nowadays, the fastest way to travel between Sweden and America is by air. The time is usually counted in hours, not days. But, in the olden days, trains and ocean liners provided a more relaxed way to travel.

## Postscript

Hans and Karin were married happily for 51 years. Karin died on 17 July 1964, exactly 76 years after the day of her birth, and Hans died on 24 April 1968, 93 years and 7 months after his birth date.

## Sources:

Dahlstrand, Nils, *History of the Dahlstrands: Nils' Story*, published for the family in 2003. Includes writings of Hans and Karin Dahlstrand.

Ellis Island Passenger Lists at <http://www.ellisland.org>

Great Ships at <http://www.greatships.net/>  
Titanic Inquiry Project at <http://www.titanicinquiry.org>

## Note:

1. Gustaf de Laval (1845-1913) was a famous Swedish inventor. His most important invention was the cream separator which was patented in 1878. One of his other great inventions was a steam turbine with a resilient axle which he completed in 1892.

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Hans Dahlstrand after his return to the U.S. in 1913.

# Swedes in Wilhelmina, Canada

## A tradition is tested against the records

BY INGALENA MARTHIN

The first issue for 1987 of the journal *Västerbotten* had emigration as its theme. In the article "From Wilhelmina to Wilhelmina" by Per-Uno Ågren, there is a story about the people from Wilhelmina parish who immigrated to Camrose in Alberta, Canada, and there founded a congregation, which they named Wilhelmina. The contacts between Wilhelmina, Sweden, and Camrose have been kept alive. New contacts are still being made.

According to the story, among the first to arrive was *Inga Gustava* of Granliden who first immigrated to Minnesota, married a Norwegian man, *Jakob Lunde*, and then came to Canada before 1900. The Lundes settled in Lundemo, close to Hay Lakes. Inga Lunde then wrote home and told about the fertile land and enticed several friends and relatives to come.

It is said that her brother *Nils Magnus Jonsson* was among the first to be attracted by her letters. Inga Gustava Johansdotter, born 1860, was a daughter of *Johan Ersson* of Granliden. She had a brother *Johan*, born 1862, who was the only surviving son of Johan Ersson, since her other brother, *Erik*, had died in 1860, age 13. Despite the story, there is no

son Nils Magnus listed in the records.

Son Johan assumed the surname *Liedegren* and moved to Härnösand 28 April 1888. On the 16th of November that same year Inga Gustava also moved to Härnösand, and according to the article in *Västerbotten*, they both emigrated later.

I have followed those siblings in the church records of Härnösand and other places. Inga Gustava moved back to Granliden 24 January 1890 and moved on the 5th of December 1892 to Katarina parish in Stockholm, where she lived at the Timmermannen block 20, 21. In 1894 she moved to Klara parish, where she worked as a maid in the household of Klara Viström at Vasagatan 1 for about a year. On the 11th of November 1895 she moved to Eskilstuna, but came back to Stockholm a few years later and then lived in the Hedvig Eleonora parish, from where she moved on 14th of August 1900.

Inga Gustava gave birth to her son *Erik Melker* on 30 August 1901; she is then called "the unmarried trades woman" (*ogifta handelsidkerskan*) and lived at Fleminggatan. She died 23 December 1910 in Stora Malm parish in Södermanland, but her son had already moved 31st August as a foster child to Granliden, where he lived with his aunt, *Kajsa Maria Gavelin*, until 7 December 1923, when he moved to Gustav Vasa parish in Stockholm.

There is no record that Inga Gustava ever emigrated.

### What about the brother?

*Johan Johansson Liedegren* moved in 1893 from Härnösand to Katarina parish in Stockholm. He lives alone and is listed as a former grocer liv-

ing at the Timmermannen block. On the 31st of October 1895 he moved to Eskilstuna Kloster parish and seems to have married there. By 1901 he is back in Stockholm with his family, consisting of *Hildegard Maria Wickberg*, born 1865, son *John Harry*, born 1898 in Eskilstuna, and daughter *Hildur Maria*, born 1900 in Kungsholm, Stockholm. They all lived for a short while in the Kejsaren block in Katarina before moving to Solna parish, just outside Stockholm, in 1901. Johan's profession is given as business teacher (*handelslärare*). In Solna more children are born; daughter *Ingeborg Katarina* in 1903, and son *Knut Emil* in 1905. In the next year, 20 July 1906, the family moved to Stora Malm parish, where daughter *Elsa Linnea* was born in 1913. Johan Johansson Liedegren died there 6 October 1923. Johan Johansson Liedegren did not emigrate either.

### Who was Inga Lunde?

Prior to a trip to Alberta in Canada we read about the area, and among other things the article in *Västerbotten*. I had earlier read that a cousin of my grandfather's, mentioned in the article, should have come to the Hay Lakes area. This turned out to be wrong. There were also other matters in the article that I felt were doubtful, but as it was a good and well-known genealogist who had written the article, it must be right!

Then I read a letter from a grandchild of Nils Magnus Jonsson, in which she mentions that Inga Lunde was the sister of her maternal grandfather (*morfar*) and that they did not know of a brother Johan. There was also a copy of the exit permit (*utflyttningsbetyg*) of Nils Magnus Jonsson,



Wilhelmina church in Västerbotten, Sweden.

so now I could check in the church records and find out who they were.

I found that *Nils Magnus Jonsson* was born 1866 in Blaikliden, son of Jonas Gustaf Gustafsson of Dorris, in his turn a son of Gustaf Arvidsson. The name of his sister was *Ingrid Maria*, and she was born 1848 in Dorris. Ingrid Maria had worked as a maid at several places in the Malgomaj Valley; for instance, 5 years at Rönnsås, a couple of years at Granliden by the Ivarssons, and in Djupdal from 1879 to 1888.

She had a son *Anton Carl Oskar*, born 1873, who died in 1883 from diphtheria.

### Ingrid Maria leaves

A few years later, on 27 June 1888, she gets her moving certificate to go to America. On this she is called Inga Maria, which she has also been called in the clerical survey ever since she came to Djupdal. Earlier the same year several people from the villages of Djupdal, Laxbäcken, Tjäl, Skog, and others nearby had emigrated. Many of them came to northern Minnesota and the soon-to-be Roseau County. Most people from our area travelled by Trondheim in Norway. Ingrid Maria travelled in the company of the Risbergs of Andersmark and Erik Matsson Blomqvist of Djupdal through the main port of Göteborg, and they all had tickets for Stephen, Minnesota.

The Risberg family, as well as many other Vilhelmina emigrants, were charter members of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Roseau at its founding in 1890.

I had the opportunity to read their Book of Members and found many names from Vilhelmina. The Risberg family were listed as members; at the bottom of one page the names Jakob Lunde of Norway and his wife Inga Maria from Sweden are found. Unfortunately there are no dates for either of them. One can find Jakob and Inga Maria as witnesses of baptisms until 1896. I have not been able to find them in the 1900 U.S. census.

### To Canada

According to the article in *Västerboten* and in the history of the Wilhelmina congregation in Canada, the Lundes came from Minnesota to Canada in 1900. In a 50th Anniversary publication of the Wilhelmina Church it is told that the Lundes came to the Lundemo district, north of Wetaskiwin District in Alberta, in 1900. They wrote to their friends, like the Selins of Rönnsås, and told them about the land and the possibilities in Canada. They also took in new arrivals until they had got their own place going. Also, the brother Nils Magnus Jonsson came. They all wrote home and encouraged more Vilhelmina families to come. Soon they founded their own congregation, which was given the name Wilhelmina, and they built a church patterned after the one back in Sweden.

In their Book of Members I have not found the Lunde family, even though Inga Maria was in charge of the Sunday School between 1909 and 1915, according to the publication "Each step left its mark."

Inga Lunde is buried in Wilhelmina cemetery, but there are no dates on the stone for her, and she could not be found in the list of burials. Jakob Lunde is buried in the cemetery by Fridhem church; he died in 1908 and was then 74 years old. The Lundes did not have children of their own, but took care of a girl Petra, who was born in Crookston, Minnesota, in 1886.

### The Census

The Canadian census of 1901 for the Hay Lakes area shows the family like this:

Jakob O Lunde, born 1834  
Inga M. Lunde, born 1847  
Foster daughter Petra B., born 1886

The 1906 census for District 21, subdistrict 19B shows the family like this:

Lundy, Jacob, 72 years, born in Norway  
Emma, 57 years, born in Sweden  
Petra, 18 years, born in the U.S.A.

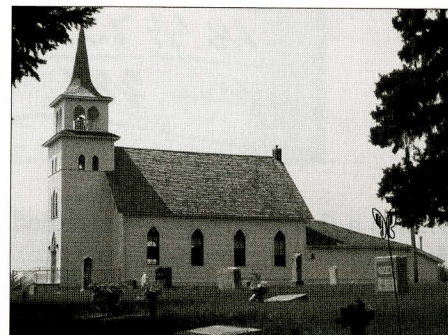
All of them came to the area in 1900.

In the *Index of Land transactions* at the Canadian National Archives I have found Jakob Olsen Lunde as buyer of land in Lundemo. In another index, of buyers of land from the Canadian Pacific Railroads, I have found Jakob Lunde and Axel Selin in 1901. I have also sent queries to researchers in Alberta and to those archives to try to find the birth dates of the Lundes. That might answer the question if Inga Lunde was identical with Ingrid Maria Jonsdotter from Blaikliden in Vilhelmina.

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*Wilhelmina*, south of Edmonton. Helge Nelson mentions in his *The Swedes and the Swedish Settlements in North America* (1943) that this district south of Edmonton has the largest number of Swedish-born rural population in Canada. This shows in more place names like *New Sweden*, *Falun*, *Westerose*, *Calmar*, and *Malmö*.

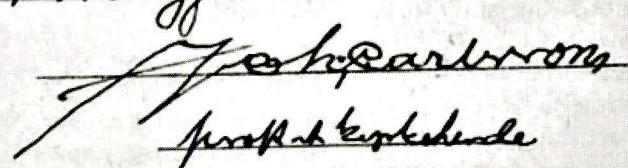


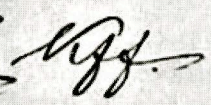
*Wilhelmina church near Camrose, Alberta, Canada.*

# A Handwriting Example, #IV

Flyttningsbetyg. i Ekone 1873.

1. N:o 8
2. Hemmanadettan Augustha Lovisa Bengt, dotter
3. från Madon
4. född år 1857 - Leondiofyrar -  $\frac{1}{2}$  i Ekone församling
5. i Hallands län
6. är till ättenslag ledig e. p.
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. har haft flyttlopper \_\_\_\_\_
10. Är inantill godkänt
11. Kristendomsstuslag försvarlig
12. Bewisat förhören \_\_\_\_\_
13. Martiusbrädet till S. S. Rattboord
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Har medborgerligt förtreende och god frejd
16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Afflyttar till Kuhlutt i Trosheds förs: g af Kronobergs län
20. före mantalsfristveu här till nästa år
21. Vettigas Ekone prestgård och förs: g af Hallands län
22. den 21 Oktober 1873 - fjuttedotre

  
 prest & kyrkostående

N:o 86.  
 18  $\frac{10}{11}$  73.  
 May. 281. 

This is a *flyttningsbetyg*, also called *flyttningsbevis* (removal certificate). This document was mandatory if you wanted to move to another parish. You had to go and see the pastor and tell him you wanted to move, then he filled out the form with informa-

tion based on the clerical survey (*husförhörslängd*) and what you told him. When you arrived in the new parish, you had to go to the pastor within a week and give him the *flyttningsbevis*. He copied the information into the moving-in book (*in-*

*flyttningsslängden*) and the appropriate page in the clerical survey.

The above document shows both the old handwriting, and the old printing font, called *frakturstil*.

Translation and transcription are found on page 24.

# The Faithful Gather At The SAG Workshop

BY FRAN PAULSON

Each year in October a group of people with Swedish heritage meet in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the *Swedish American Genealogist Workshop* to dig into the ancestral records kept at the Family History Library. Much of their research is done reeling through microfilms copied from original parish records that are filed away in the library's countless banks of storage bins. These Swedish church records – *Husförhörslängd* (household examination records), *Födde* (births), *Vigde* (marriage), *Döde* (death), *Inflyttningslängd* and *Utflyttningslängd* (moving in and out) – were handwritten by a mix of people with very individual penmanship. The writing is so filled with confusing flourishes that even people who can read Swedish often find it difficult to decipher. Some pages have been blurred and stained, names were crossed out when families left the parish or immigrated to “Amerika” and pages come up missing. Many a researcher has given up in confusion and decided to confine his search to the family's early life in America. The workshop was designed to come to the aid of just such frustrated amateur genealogists and it has developed a devoted following.

## The Start and Then...

The first SAG Workshop was held in 1992, organized by *Nils William Olsson*, SAG founder, with only twelve people in attendance; this year there were 61 participants, mostly repeaters, six staff members, and assorted camp followers. The first time I attended, four years ago, I heard one woman who said she had been coming for four years and still hadn't found anything about her family. I

wondered why these people kept coming if this was a common experience. It also seemed to me that once one learned how to do genealogy research one could strike out on one's own, especially with a computer as an assistant.

But not coming back isn't in the game plan for most of these people. As long as the workshops are held and they are able to travel, they will pack and tote heavy bags of notebooks, family charts, and document reprints to spend another week in the Family History Library. Some have been forced to skip a year or two for reason of poor health; either their own or a family member's. Others even take time away from therapy to attend, bringing spouses, canes, and walkers with them. *Hal*, former *SAG Quarterly* editor, suffered a stroke but was determined to return and he did, accompanied by his wife, *Carol*. *Lory* and *Sabra* of Vermont have also been battling physical problems but that doesn't stop them from coming so he can spend the week immersed in his family history.

## Why Do They Come?

This year I decided to explore the almost mystical hold SAG workshops have on the attendees. What I found out might help explain this loyalty, possibly reaffirm a first timer's desire to return, and hopefully will intrigue new participants. The week is more than just research; it's a chance to reconnect with others who have become like extended family in their common search for family history. They laugh together, feel pride in their discoveries, and share disappointments. Staff members told me how much fun they have each

year; this year one said she hadn't laughed this much in years. The SAG Workshop can become a habit that is awfully hard to break.

## Just Because...

The stories that follow come from the workshop this year that continues *Nils William Olsson's* legacy.

*Lis* who comes from New York State was at the first workshop in 1992 and remembers it well. She doesn't know where she saw the first copy of the *SAG Quarterly* but it inspired her to subscribe. When she saw the invitation to join the SLC genealogy trip she decided to attend. “I told my husband he could go fishing; I was going to the SAG Workshop.” There were only 12 participants so *Nils William*, his wife *Dagmar*, and *Carl-Erik Johansson* gave her and the others a lot of personal attention. By the end of the week she was hooked and she's been to every workshop since. *Lis* is still finding the bits and pieces that make up her family history and remains enthusiastic; this year she brought a friend, *Joan*, along.

*Walter Erik* of California also attended the first session and he keeps coming back each year. He made his first connection with SAG through a Swedish organization in California. He still remembers the first time he met *Nils William*. *Walter* was in Stockholm traveling with a group from Chicago. One early morning while out walking, he met *Nils William* who was also out for his constitutional. *Walter* recognized him as he had talked to the Chicago group. He introduced himself and brought *Nils William* back to the hotel where they shared breakfast.



A few years later, in 1988, Walter joined Nils William on a Historical and Genealogical tour that he remembers with awe, "We were treated royally, and I do mean royally." This was Walter's 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to Sweden and Nils William's 103<sup>rd</sup>. It seems only natural that when Nils William started the SAG Workshops, Walter would sign up; he did and he continues to come each year.

The majority of attendees I talked with had read about the workshop in the *SAG Quarterly* or heard of it through the Swenson Center. Two women, *Judy* and *Laura*, had been roommates as undergraduates at Augustana College. When they returned for a college reunion, they found each other again. One was going to attend the SAG Workshop and she urged her old friend to "come with me," they both decided to attend and now were back for the second time.

Augustana College and the Swenson Center introduced my cousin *Lorraine* and me to the workshop. We attended an Elderhostel class on the campus and I decided to subscribe to the *SAG Quarterly* to learn more about the Swenson Center. When I received an announcement about the SAG workshop I signed us up without consulting *Lorraine*. While I was not a genealogy aficionado, *Lorraine* had expressed an interest in visiting the Family History Library and this seemed like the way to go. I wanted to see if I could find something about my mother's father who was an unknown, he claimed to be a foundling. No one in the family knew if this was true or not. I spent the first days on a wild goose chase; Swenson was a common name and all I knew was his birthday with no idea where he had been born. I finally made a breakthrough when I found a name and birth date that was the same as his. I was warned by *Elisabeth* that this might not be the right person but I decided to continue the search. After I found immigration papers that listed Omaha as his final destination, I felt certain I had found the right person and *Elisabeth* agreed. *Lorraine* found army records relating to

her father's ancestor so she was eager to find out more. We decided to sign up for the next SAG workshop and we have just kept coming.

## Lots from the Midwest

The group this year came from all over the U.S. with the largest numbers from the Midwest and the East Coast. *Lynn* and *Robert* moved to California from Minnesota in the 60's when *Robert* was offered a job at the University. They make the drive from Davis so that *Lynn* can search for her Värmland roots.

One Californian reported she had been coming from the beginning in 1992 but that she missed a few years because of her husband's illness. She says that she is past the easy stuff and each year it gets harder to find things but it's more rewarding when she does. This year, while she in SLC, her daughter called to say her 8-year old son had been given an assignment to make a family tree. She was going to pick up a big colorful chart and send it with enough information so that her daughter and grandson would learn something about their family's past while filling in the blanks.

## New Sweden Research

*Lynn*, another California resident, arrived at the workshops via the back door, *Karna's* backdoor. She didn't read the *SAG Quarterly* or know about the Swenson Center. As a teenager in New Sweden, Maine, she had lived near *Karna* and had been her son's babysitter. *Lynn's* ancestors originally settled in New Sweden, and she had decided to research the history of this early settlement. Four years ago, she went to Maine on this mission and she stopped by to see *Karna*. *Lynn* mentioned her new found interest in genealogy and told *Karna* about what she was planning to do. *Karna* recognized a possible SAG member and workshop participant, she recruited her, and *Lynn* keeps coming back.

## Two Sisters

Two sisters, one from Colorado, the other Wyoming, arrived in SLC ready to research but with little idea about how to do it. *Ruth* had started collecting information from family members, cousins, aunts, and uncles. An Iowa relative had done some research and gave her some FHL film numbers and told her about the Swenson Center. She contacted the center and decided to join SAG thinking someday she would go there for research. She read about the SLC workshop and talked her sister, *Joanne*, into joining her. They spent the week getting acquainted with the library, exploring its many resources and learning the how-to from staff and other participants, just as most of us had done when attending our first workshop. The sisters added lots of sparkle to the week and I, for one, hope they return.

## Other Reasons

Disappointment when working on genealogy at local libraries or on the computer has brought many people to the workshop. One man told of spending lots of time on the internet without finding anything of interest. *Elisabeth* put the cherry on his sundae by solving the puzzle, some unfamiliar names; she found his family on one of her CD's.

He was eager to return to an Illinois cemetery where he had searched in vain now that he was armed with the correct names. Another man moaned about the problem he had when sending away for the parish films, waiting weeks for delivery and then finding the family had moved to another parish making it necessary to order another film. He found it much easier at the Family History Library where all the films were just a few steps away.

Looking in the wrong place can be an effort in futility. One man reported that North Park College had been recommended as the place to go when looking for Swedish genealogy but there's nothing there. It's all at the Swenson Center in Rock Island, Illinois.

Someone else wanted to check the accuracy of a Family Group Sheet that some family member had prepared. Ulla tried but couldn't find proof so she decided it was incorrect; perhaps the wrong person had been traced. He was hoping to find someone else to tell the woman that her chart was wrong. I remember hearing a similar story at a workshop a few years ago. Another woman had researched her family on the computer, found the wrong person, and ended up publishing a flawed book. The workshop participant telling the story had checked actual records and knew right from wrong.

## A Way to Get to Bransom

Here are some more interesting stories told by attendees. The math teacher was flying to Chicago after attending a SAG Workshop and found she was sitting next to one of the Osmond brothers. He was reading, possibly studying, an algebra book and she ended up tutoring him. He repaid her with tickets to the Osmond's show in Branson, Mo.

*Ginny* of Seattle had come to the workshop with the mission of researching her Swedish mother-in-law's family. The old lady seemed to know little about them but this may have been by choice, not accident. A few years earlier, *Ginny* had found records of a child born out of wedlock

and "heaven help us," a *Finn*, mixed up with the family. The information caused her mother-in-law great pain so this time *Ginny* hoped she would find something to bring joy to the woman on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Shirley* from Wisconsin didn't remember where she heard about the SAG workshops. She likes to go places and since she doesn't drive she's always looking for happenings that can be reached by plane, bus, or train. She has added SAG workshop to her destinations of choice. She makes yearly trips to Europe to attend concerts and musical performances so the Best Western City Plaza Hotel location and the fall meeting time is perfect; the Utah opera season begins and the Temple Choir sings right next door.

*Robert* learned about the workshops through the Worcester, MA, Swedish Ancestry Research Association (SARA). He had attended while *Nils William* was still conducting them and he remembers *Priscilla* helping him. He dropped out when his wife got ill and returned four years ago bringing his daughter, *Ginny*, with him. While *Robert* settles in with a microfilm reader, his daughter fetches, returns, and copies the films. She brings questions to the staff and the answers back to her father. *Ginny* and *Robert* are quiet and studious, making the most of some quality time together.

*Greg* comes from Saskatchewan, Canada. He and *Roger* are our computer experts, sharing sites and know-how with anyone who asks. Computers are bringing a whole new group into genealogy research and creating the need for assistance for some of us. This year *Greg* shared a Swedish Cultural Site [see link page] that featured pictures, some old, some new, of parish churches and country vistas. *Lorraine* and I found pictures of our grandfather's church, *Kropp*, in *Skåne*. One of the photographs was dated 1888 and when we compared it to a photo we had taken in 1998 we found little had changed. One of the road maps we had used on this trip listed the old church as a "National Curiosity" (Treasure); we felt we had found the treasure anew.

I wish I could have talked to each and everyone at the workshop to hear all of the stories waiting to be told, but time flew by too quickly and my own family research got in the way. After I printed the group photograph I studied each face, the ones I had talked to and the ones I missed. That's a good looking bunch of Swedes and I know it's an interesting group. No wonder *Karna* says "I can't say no to you."

Fran Paulson lives in Chicago and can be contacted by e-mail: <FCPaulson@aol.com>  
In the next issue she gives her comments on the staff.



The 2004 SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City. Photo: Daniel Sköld.

# The Solution to the Handwriting Example

## Transcription

1. N:o 8 Flyttningsbewis i Okome 1873
2. Hemmadottern Augusta Lovisa Bengts dotter
3. från Maden
4. född år 1854 femtiofyra 13 / 12 i Okome församling
5. i Hallands län
6. är till äktenskap ledig e. p.
- 7.
- 8.
9. har haft skyddskoppor
10. Läser innantill godkändt
11. Kristendomskunskap försvarligt
12. bewistat förhören
13. har tillträde till H. H. Nattvard
- 14.
15. har medborgerligt förtroende och god frejd
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
19. Afflyttar till Kylhult i Trahereds förs:g af Kronobergs län
20. före mantalsskrifwen här till nästa år
21. Betygas Okome prestgård och förs:g af Hallands län
22. den 21 oktober 1873 -sjuttiotre-

*Joh. Carlsson  
prost och kyrkoherde*

[Added by the Traryd pastor]:

N° 26  
18 10/11 73  
pag. 281 Kff

N° 26 = number of incoming person that year  
18 10/11 73 = date of showing the removal certificate = 10 Nov. 1873  
pag. 281 = page in Traryd clerical survey  
Kff = (maybe) signed by *kyrkoföreståndare* (head clerk)

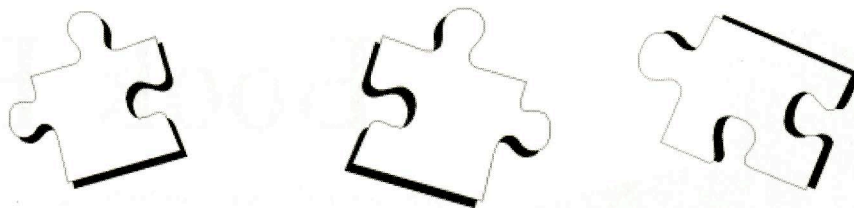
## Translation

1. #8 Removal certificate from Okome 1873
2. The stay-at-home daughter Augusta Lovisa Bengtsdotter
3. from Maden
4. Born Year 1854 fiftyfour Dec. 12 in Okome parish
5. of Halland's län
6. is free to marry [e. p. = possible translation: eget påstående = says so herself]
9. has been inoculated against smallpox
10. Reads in a book passably
11. Knows her religion tolerably
12. Been present at examinations
13. Has access to Holy Communion
15. Enjoys public confidence and shows good conduct
19. Moves to Kylhult in Traheryd parish of Kronoberg's län
20. before taxation and has her official abode here until next year
21. Is testified [at] Okome Prestgård and parish of Halland's län
22. The 21 October 1873 – seventythree

Joh. Carlsson  
rural dean and pastor

*Traheryd* is the old spelling of  
Traryd parish in Kronobergs län.

# Bits & Pieces



## Swedish Roots in Oregon

This organization collects information about the Swedes in Oregon, and has recently changed its board. The president is now *Lars Nordström*, vice president *Laurel Peterson*, secretary *Barry Peterson*, and *Ross Fogelquist* is the new treasurer. Its new web address is

[www.swedishrootsinoregon.org/](http://www.swedishrootsinoregon.org/)

## The American Swedish Handbook in new edition

The Swedish Council of America has now produced a new edition of their well-known *American Swedish Handbook*, the 13th. It has now 761 listings, including a number of Swedish-Canadian ones. The regular price is \$19.95 USD + \$5 for shipping and handling (within the U.S.).

It can be ordered by calling 612-871-0593, or at the website:

[www.swedishcouncil.org/Shop.htm](http://www.swedishcouncil.org/Shop.htm)

## Genline keeps working

The Swedish on-line service *Genline* has announced that they are almost finished with scanning the following counties (*län*): Kalmar, Östergötland, Värmland, Kronoberg, Göteborg & Bohus, Jönköping, Malmöhus, Kristianstad, Blekinge, Halland, Väster-norrland, Norrbotten, Skaraborg, and Västerbotten.

They are now working on Örebro, Sörmland, Kopparberg (Dalarna), Jämtland, Älvsborg, Uppsala, and Gävleborg. They plan to finish the whole country in 2005.

Genline has also opened an e-shop, where you, at the moment, can buy a few books and the *Emigranten* CDs.

[www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)

and

[www.genlineshop.com/](http://www.genlineshop.com/)

## Florida researcher in Uppsala

Mrs. *Marjorie Ragosta* of Tallahassee, Florida, started her Swedish research in 1986. Her research started with her father Bror Alexius Nyström's family and has since branched out in many directions. Marjorie has found a second home at the Provincial Archives (*Landsarkivet*) at Uppsala, where she for several years has spent a month each summer doing deeper and deeper research. Last summer she was interviewed by the local genealogical society's newsletter *Runslingan*. The article was published in issue 3/2004.

## First recipient of Wayne Forsberg Scholarship

Bethany College senior *Ryan Holmquist* will study in Sweden this spring due to the generosity of Maleta Forsberg and her late husband, Wayne.

As the first recipient of the *Wayne Forsberg Scholarship for Swedish Studies*, Holmquist will take part in a Swedish exchange program for the spring 2005 semester. Holmquist, a fifth-generation Swedish American, traveled to Sweden in 2003 as part of the Bethany College Choir tour. In 1994, Holmquist traveled to Sweden with his father to visit relatives. His mother, Marlysue Esping Holmquist, and father, Tom Holmquist, are descendants of Swedish immigrants who settled in Kansas in the 1800s. The family lives on the farm near Smolan, KS, that Gust Holmquist homesteaded in 1868.

*(Swedish Council Website 2005 Jan.19)*

## Anders Zorn exhibit in March

The American Swedish Museum in Philadelphia will open an exhibition of etchings by artist Anders Zorn on 31 March.

## Most popular names in 2004

The *Statistiska Centralbyrån* (Statistics Sweden) just came out with a list of the top ten names for babies during 2004:

### Girls

- 1 (1) Emma
- 2 (8) Maja
- 3 (3) Ida
- 4 (2) Elin
- 5 (6) Julia
- 6 (5) Linnéa
- 7 (4) Hanna
- 8 (9) Alva
- 9 (7) Wilma
- 10 (12) Klara

### Boys

- 1 (1) William
- 2 (2) Filip
- 3 (5) Oscar
- 4 (4) Lucas
- 5 (6) Erik
- 6 (3) Emil
- 7 (10) Isak
- 8 (8) Alexander
- 9 (7) Viktor
- 10 (9) Anton

The number in parenthesis shows the position in 2003.

## Central Soldier's Registry – update

The e-mail address listed in SAG 3/04, p. 18 is wrong! The correct one is [<bjorn.lippold@mil.se>](mailto:bjorn.lippold@mil.se)

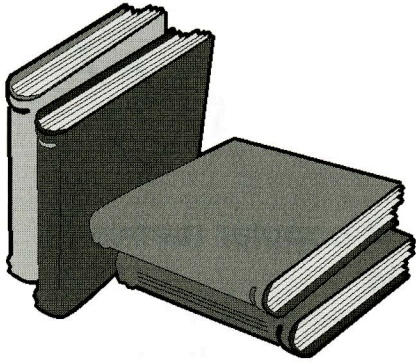
The database of the Registry used to be searchable on the Internet, but was taken away in early 2004, for security reasons (people had tried to steal the database), but will hopefully soon re-emerge. This time it will be found on the DIS web site:

[www.dis.se](http://www.dis.se) sometime during the late winter.

## Swedish Genealogical Days in Göteborg

The annual *Släktforskardagarna* (Genealogical Days) will be held in Göteborg 26-28 August. There will be lectures, exhibitions, bus tours, and much more. They are open and free to the public.





# 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 Book Review Editor, Dennis L. Johnson, at <djohnson@2vikings.com> or 2407 Hunsberger Drive, Limerick, PA 19468, so he knows what you are working on.*

## Swedes in Kansas

***If We Could Only Come to America . . .***, *A Story of Swedish Immigrants in the Midwest*, by Robert J. Nelson, 2004, Sunflower University Press, Manhattan, KS, Soft cover, 166 pages, Amazon.com \$23.95.

The intriguing title for this book comes from the pages of a 125-year-old letter written from Sweden to Kansas by Nelson's great-grandfather in 1869. The letter was discovered by the author in a box of old family papers, and was one of the things that spurred his interest in exploring his family roots and the immigrant experience. The letter illustrates the enormous pull of the new land for the Swedes experiencing "bark bread winters" in the 1860's, especially in Småland.

While this book is similar to many others written by third or fourth generation Swedish Americans who wish to discover their roots in Sweden, Robert J. Nelson's book goes beyond this goal. He not only chronicles his own family history, but uses it as a vehicle to paint a broad picture of conditions in the old country and the new which help explain the great migration. He grew up on a farm in Saline County, Kansas, which had been homesteaded by his maternal grandparents. His mother grew up on that farm and married a recent immigrant from Sweden, Oscar Nilsson from Karlshamn, Blekinge. Nelson's childhood and early years were

spent on that same farm.

Nelson is an award-winning journalist with a long career as a reporter and writer. He now lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, not far from where he grew up near Salina, Kansas. As a professional writer, Nelson has woven into his family history much rich detail about Sweden at the time his ancestors left, and about the adversity faced by homesteaders and later farmers struggling to survive on the Kansas prairie. His immigrant ancestors span the breadth of the great migration from beginning to near the end, and Nelson in seven chapters describes much of this period in concise and readable form. The book is richly illustrated with family photographs and copies of various immigration records.

Of special interest to me and to many readers is the chapter on the homestead farm on which Robert Nelson grew up. This was only an 80 acre farm in central Kansas, near the edge of suitability for reliable crops, mostly wheat. When it was settled by Nelson's grandparents, it must have seemed large by old country standards. This was bottomland in the valley of the Smoky Hill River amidst a landscape of rolling hills, not far from the present Swedish American town of Lindsborg, KS. Nelson goes on to provide a detailed description of the farm and farm life, including careful drawings of the layout of the farm as established and built by his grandfather. The recollections of farm life, crops, animals, and coping with the adversities of nature, the "Dust Bowl," and of the Great Depression are rich in detail. They will evoke memories for those of his generation and will bring to

younger readers an understanding of this unique period in our nation's history.

In his final chapter, the author attempts to weigh the influence of his Swedish heritage on his family today as measured by the continuing presence of various traditions and practices having their roots in Sweden. He further goes on to evaluate the impact of this massive infusion of Swedes into the character of America today. Singling out many examples of Swedish Americans who made great contributions to American culture, Nelson asks if America would be the same without these distinguished sons and daughters of Sweden. He also touches on the politics of Swedish immigrants, and on the rise of the welfare state in Sweden.

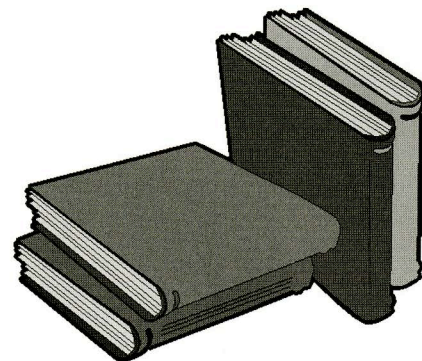
A review of the author's sources and how they were incorporated into this book indicates that Nelson is thorough and well-read in the entire immigrant experience, and he has summarized this information well in his book. For a person new to the saga of the great migration, this highly readable book enlarges upon one personal family history to provide the reader with a good sketch of this period in history for both Sweden and the U.S.

*Dennis L. Johnson*

## Minneapolis again

***Swedes in the Twin Cities, Immigrant Life and Minnesota's Urban Frontier***, Philip J. Anderson and Dag Blanck, Editors, Minnesota Histori-

# Book Reviews



cal Society Press, 2001, soft cover, 367 pages. (Available at Amazon.com, \$57.50 new, used from \$29.00).

In October, 1996, as part of the 150 year celebrations marking Swedish Immigration to North America, a conference was held at the Minnesota History Center. This well-attended conference was titled "Swedish Life in the Twin Cities," with papers and essays presented by many distinguished scholars and experts on Swedish America and the immigrant experience. *Swedes in the Twin Cities* is a collection of 24 essays presented at this 1996 conference. Included are papers examining a wide range of facets of the immigrant experience with their primary focus on the urban experiences of Swedes coming to settle in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.

The editors, each contributors of an essay themselves, have organized this collection into four divisions: I, *Aspects of Urban Settlement*, II, *Institutional and Creative Life*, III, *The Language of Immigrant Experience*, and IV, *Swedes in Religion and Politics*. An introduction by Editors Anderson and Blanck presents well the background for being Swedish American in the Twin Cities. The introduction describes the special character of Minneapolis and St. Paul resulting from the unusual presence of such a large proportion of Swedish and Scandinavian immigrants as compared with most other larger cities in the United States. This unique urban experience, with its interaction with other groups and the existing population, has been less

studied than has the experience of the rural Swedish pioneers to the Midwest.

In Part I, *Rudolph J. Vecoli*, history professor at the University of Minnesota, examines whether the Swedes were part of a melting pot, or of a mosaic. *H. Arnold Barton*, author and history professor emeritus at Southern Illinois University, adds his insights on why Swedes came to Minnesota and to the Twin Cities. *David Lanegran*, geographer and social science professor at Macalester College, discusses the many neighborhoods settled by Swedes, both initially and as they prospered and assimilated into Twin Cities life. *Joy Lintelman*, of Concordia College, focuses on the experiences of those less fortunate men and women who became inmates of the Minneapolis City workhouse around 1900-1910.

*Lars Olsson*, professor of history at Växjö University in Växjö, Sweden, writes about immigrant labor conditions in his essay on "Evelina Johansdotter, Textile Workers, and the Munsingwear Family", and *Lars Ljungmark*, retired professor at Göteborg University, contrasts the Twin Cities with the role of Winnipeg, Canada, as a service station for immigrating Swedes.

These examples from Part I of the book illustrate the quality of the scholars and the breadth of topics discussed. Space does not allow a full listing of the remaining subjects in all four parts, but some highlights of special interest to the reviewer included:

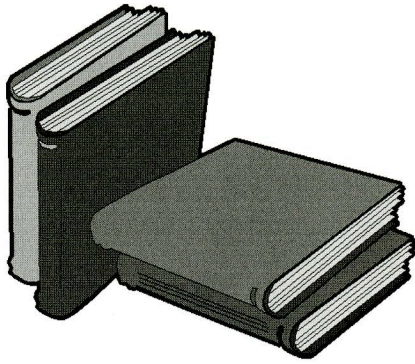
- A brief history of Swan Johan Turnblad and the founding of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, by the distinguished

*Nils William Olsson and Lawrence Hammarstrom.*

- Swedish Theatre in the Twin Cities, by *Anne Charlotte Harvey.*
- The history of Dania Hall in Cedar-Riverside, long time center for Swedish American theatre and social events, by *David Markle.*
- The role of public libraries in the Swedish Immigrant Experience, by *Kermit Westerberg.*
- Ethnicity and Religion in the Twin Cities, by *Scott S. Erickson.*
- Swedish Americans and the 1918 Gubernatorial Campaign (Lindberg versus Burnquist), by *Dag Blanck.*
- Gubernatorial Politics and Swedish Americans in Minnesota, the 1970 Election and Beyond, by *Bruce L. Larson.*

Others will find other articles of special interest to them amid this array of essays. Each essay is well documented and the author's reference lists will lead to further resources relating to his or her subject. As a whole, the book offers to scholars and interested students of Swedish America many new insights into the breadth and depth of the immigrant experience. The editors have added a section with a brief summary of the background of each contributor.

My own immigrant Swedish grandparents were all farmers and I inherited this rural background. The second generation nearly all left the farms and had all learned English in school. They followed various occupations which brought them to smaller cities and towns, but their contact with an urban setting as large as the Twin Cities was minimal or occurred only later in life. As



# Book Reviews

a third generation Swede, I lived in Minneapolis (1942-1958) and had largely assimilated into that environment, then left for an even larger and more diverse city (Philadelphia). This gradual introduction to the big cities in my own experience contrasts greatly with the sudden encounter with the urban milieu of most of the immigrant Swedes who are the subject of the essays in this book.

Those Swedes who came directly to a large city as immigrants from a largely rural or small village background no doubt found adapting to this abrupt change considerably more challenging. Yet a surprising number of the first generation achieved considerable success, and their children and grandchildren have nearly all flourished and become part of the mainstream in America. This book helps provide a more complete understanding of the factors which continue today to give a special character and personality to Minneapolis and St. Paul.

*Swedes in the Twin Cities* will remain a valuable addition to the literature about the effects of the great migration from Sweden on the adopted country of these people.

Dennis L. Johnson

## Soldier in the 1800s

*Soldier Sven Planck Wallpol: Prisoner of War under Napoleon. His 96-year-long life story and his diary from 1810.* By Rolf Ström. 2004, soft cover, 118 pages, illustrated. ISBN 91-631-4727-0. More information at

the author's web site, see p. 31.

Rolf Ström has written a book on his ancestor, the soldier *Sven Planck Wallpol*, born 1777 in Asby parish in southern Östergötland. To be able to share his knowledge with his American relatives, he has had the book translated into English by a British translator.

The story begins with Sven's family background, which was a bit unusual, as he was born out of wedlock to a servant girl and a man from the higher classes, who evidently permitted the "bastard" son to use the family name.

The army was a good place for a poor young man, so Sven joined the *Livgrenadjärregementet* in the early 1800s.

The author does a good job in explaining how the army worked in those days and what happened when King Gustaf IV Adolf started to make several treaties, aimed at Napoleon. Finally the Swedish troops in northern Germany became prisoners of war, and had to spend several years in France. In 1810 they were released and marched home, only soon to be called out again.

The soldiers were generally able to read and write, and a few diaries have been preserved; this is one of them. Sven's is mostly a list of towns they passed through while on their marches. He also wrote down the words to several songs, more or less bawdy.

This book can be of great interest to anyone who has a soldier in their family tree around 1800, as their conditions were similar.

Elisabeth Thorsell

## New CDs

**Sweden Census 1890.** CD for PC Windows 98 or later, at least 64 MB RAM, 535 or 100 MB free space on the hard drive and 16-bit color. Price 595 SEK + postage and handling. Contact <info@genealogi.se> for exact price in USD.

This CD was presented by Federation President Ted Rosvall in SAG 4/2003, when it was all new in Swedish. This is a joint effort of the Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) and the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*). The database has almost 4.8 million Swedes in 1890.

Recently an English-language version was published, in which the text (except titles) is in English as well as all explanations and the manual. This is included on the CD in PDF-format, so you need to have *Adobe Reader* to access it.

I certainly would urge you to print out the manual, as there are many little things in the search menus that you may not think of, but which are described here.

The installation is easy, but works best if you install the program just after booting up the machine, and have no other programs running.

The eagerly awaited EMIBAS CD is still not complete enough for publication. Hopefully the first version will be ready in time for the Genealogical Days in Göteborg in August. The contents are excerpted from the clerical surveys and the moving-out records, work done by volunteers from all over the country.

Elisabeth Thorsell

# 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.*

## **Gustafson, Fredriksdotter**

John Gustafson (60 years old in the 1910 census), came to the U.S. in 1888. He was in Rhineland, Wisconsin, in 1889 when my grandmother, the first of six daughters was born. His wife [?there is some question on this...] was Anna Fredriksdotter of Brunneby, Östergötland. They went to Minnesota, ending up in Minneapolis sometime in 1897. John possibly had a brother, Karl from Östra Flagred(?), who came to Whitehall, Michigan, in 1886.

*Helen Wiederkehr, 11756 Sedgewick Dr., Huntley, IL 60142-7691. E-mail: myhouseminis@interlync.com 1248*

**[Editor's note]:** In the Swedish emigration records there is an Anna Fredriksdotter, born 1859 Feb.23 in Brunneby, Östergötland, who emigrated in 1888 Dec. 11 from Linköping. She left from the port of Göteborg on Dec. 21 with a ticket for New York.

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## **Gustafsson, Magnusson, Larsdotter, Wallin**

I am searching for my great-great-uncle Oskar Albin Gustafsson, born on 1865 Oct. 19, in Hångsdala, Skaraborg. His parents were Gustaf Jonas Magnusson, born 1820 March 10, in Yllestad, Skaraborg, and Maria Christina Larsdotter, born 1830 July 29, in Hångsdala, Skaraborg. His siblings were Emma Matilda Gustafsdotter, Johan Simon Gustafsson, and August Manfred Gustafsson. Simon and Manfred changed their last name to Wallin. Oskar had two older brothers who died at a young age; Herman Levin and August Sigfrid. This was Oskar's father's second marriage and he had four children in that previous marriage: Gustafva, Karl, Augusta, and Anna.



*Oskar Albin Gustafsson.*



*Gustaf Jonas Magnusson and Maria Christina Larsdotter.*



*Manfred Gustafsson Wallin.*

**1249**

*Monica Staversjö, Hasterödsvägen 4, 457 32 Tanumshede, Sweden. E-mail: moni@staversjo.com*

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## **Andersdotter, Petersson**

I am seeking information on the descendants of Inga Maja Andersdotter and husband Svante Pettersson. I have written a book on the younger brother of Inga Maja, Rev. Lars Petter (Andersson) Lundgren who was a pioneer Lutheran minister, and I want to share this with unknown descendants of his sister, Inga Maja.



Inga Maja was born 1845 May 27, on the Kollsholmen farm, Essunga parish in Skaraborg County. She married Svante Pettersson 1872 August 16, and the couple lived on the Getabrobäck farm in Naum parish. Known children born in the Naum parish included: Ida Christina, b. 1873 February 7, Carl August, b. 1875 May 16, Anna Alfrida, b. 1878 April 4, Johan Richard, b. 1882 August 4, Alma Matilda, b. 1886 August 4, Gustaf Oskar, b. 1889. Inga Maja died in the 1900-1910 time period. Her husband Svante was still living in 1920 and lived on the Getabrobäck farm which was then owned or managed by two Larson brothers. The daughter Alma married Gustaf Amandus Gustafsson, b. 1883 in Södra Kedum parish. One son, born in Vara in 1909 may have been named Gustaf Erik Reinhold.

*Bruce W. Anderson, 1213 Lykins Ln., Niles, MI 49120; E-mail: andersbj@mindspring.com.*

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### Emanuelsson, Olsson, Larsson, Lawson

My grandfather Carl Emanuelsson had a brother and two sisters who immigrated to North America. Johan Emil Emanuelsson, b 1873 Dec. 21 in Nösslinge, Halland, left 1901 March 29 from home, and left Göteborg on April 12 with a ticket for New York. Sisters Albertina (Alvina) Josefina Olsson, b 1878 May 10, and Emma Paulina Olsson, b 1881 May 29, both in Nösslinge, left from there 1901 Sep. 6, and from Göteborg 1901 Sep.13, both with tickets for Attica, Indiana. The photo below of Johan is marked Wilcox, PA, and the sisters' photo is from Attica. Their father was Emanuel Alfred Olsson, which is why they can be both Olssons and Emanuelsson.

According to the Ellis Island manifests, Johan of Nösslinge arrived on the *S.S. Teutonic* from Liverpool on April 25th, and he was going to his cousin C. A. Jonson of Box 54, Wilcox, PA. His sisters have not been found in the Ellis Island database.



*Johan Emanuelsson. Photo from Wilcox, PA.*



*Alvina and Emma Olsson. Unknown photographer.*



*Alvina(?) and husband (name unknown). Photo by Smith Studios, Attica, Ind.*

I am also looking for my grandmother's aunt, Josefina Charlotta Larsson Valbäck (Wahlbeck), born 1871 Jul. 4 in Köinge, Halland. She immigrated 1892 Feb. 25 for North America, but is not found in Göteborg Passenger lists or Ellis Island. She had several brothers and sisters that immigrated before her, during the 1880s, and settled in Brooklyn, Canterbury, and Killingly, Connecticut. Perhaps she joined them? All information most welcome.

*Ann-Marie Engfeldt, Fabriksgatan 2 F, S-430 10 Tvååker, Sweden. E-mail: liza2@telia.com*

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### Johnson

I am looking for information on Charles Johnson, born in Sweden around 1897, who immigrated around 1915, maybe through Stockholm to the U.S. He was a good wrestler and was a member of the U.S. Wrestling team in the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium, where he won a bronze medal in welterweight (74 kilos).

He might be identical with Karl Axel Knut Jonsson, age 18, from Östergötland, who immigrated from the port of Stockholm to Texas 1915 Oct. 12 (källkod: 1915 441). He was born 1896 Nov. 3 in Kvillinge, Östergötland. If so, he immigrated in the company of Carl Alexander Lundquist, born 1896 May 5 in Skedevi, Östergötland, who also had a ticket for Texas.

*Rune Elofsson, Duvgatan 10, S-575 34 Eksjö, Sweden. E-mail: rune.elfsson@telia.com*

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# New Genealogical Center in Stockholm Area

The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*) and the old Swedish Genealogical Society (*Genealogiska Föreningen, GF*) opened their new joint premises in early December.

The new Center is situated in the suburb of Sundbyberg, a 10-minute train ride from downtown Stockholm, near buses and subway, and not the least important – inexpensive parking.

The Center is open every workday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Admittance is generally free, but access to some of the collections of GF has an entrance fee.

There is a computer room with Internet access and subscription to the major databases, like *Genline*, *Arkion*, and *Ancestry*. Also there are many CDs from all over the country.

There is a little coffee bar with newsletters from all the member societies, and back issues of most of them can also be found, if the friendly staff is asked.

*GF* has a long history of collecting genealogy books, and has a huge library. The collection is especially strong in books on German genealogy. Another of their collections is the huge *Newspaper Clipping Archive*, where all notices about births, marriages, and deaths from the major Stockholm newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* have been saved since the 1930s, and from *Dagens Nyheter* from the 1960s – a collection which is very valuable when tracing living relatives. The *Manuscript Collection* has hundreds of donated, typed or handwritten genealogies.

On the premises one can also find other societies, like *StorStockholms Genealogiska Förening* (The Genealogical Society of Greater Stockholm), *Föreningen för Smedsläktforskning* (The Society for Blacksmith Research), *DIS-Öst* (The Genealogical Computer Society for Eastern Sweden), and *Sällskapet Vallonättlingarna* (The Association of the Descendants of the Walloons).

In his inauguration speech, Federation president *Ted Rosvall* said that his intention is that the Center in a small way should be comparable to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and now it is on its way, and it is hoped that many genealogists from all over the world will come here to look for their Swedish roots.

**Address:** Allén 7, 172 66 Sundbyberg.



*Ted Rosvall greets the guests at the inauguration.*

## Interesting Web Sites

(All links have been tried in January 2005 and should work)

*150 Swedish Genealogical Societies, organized by province:*

<http://www.genealogi.se/forbund/links3.htm>

*Images of Swedish Heritage:* <http://www.raa.se/kmb/indexe.asp>

*Online World War I Indexes and Records:* <http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone/>

*The Global Gazetteer:* <http://www.fallingrain.com/world/>

*Swedish Genealogical Directory (Pladsen & Huber):* <http://home.netcom.com/~v31ry/>

*The Inflation Calculator:* <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/>

*Statistics Sweden:* [http://www.scb.se/default\\_\\_\\_2154.asp](http://www.scb.se/default___2154.asp)

*Historical Sources On-line:* <http://users.ids.net/~marcom/historint/hi-primary.html>

*Nordisk Familjebok (Ugglan) [encyklopedia]:* <http://runeberg.org/nfba/>

*Tacitus Historical Atlas:* <http://www.tacitus.nu/historical-atlas/index.html>

*The Swedish National Union Catalog:* <http://www.libris.kb.se/english/indexeng.jsp>

*Another Social Security Death Index search engine:*

<http://www.familytreelegends.com/records/ssdi>

*Rolf Ström's web site:* [http://rolfstrom.com/html\\_rolfst/rolfstromSvenBok\\_eng.htm](http://rolfstrom.com/html_rolfst/rolfstromSvenBok_eng.htm)

# The Last Page

## Dear friends,

Again I wish to thank you for all encouraging e-mails, which is very important for me, sitting so far away from most of you.

Someone suggested recently that SAG should print a list of all the genealogical societies in Sweden. But that is not very practical, as such a list is never totally correct, addresses change, people move or die, etc.

To find the most updated list of the societies you can go to the web site of the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, and click on *Medlemsföreningar* in the lefthand column ([www.genealogi.se](http://www.genealogi.se)). If you don't have a computer, you may have a friend or grandchild who can help.

During the fall I had the pleasure

of visiting the Swenson Center and learned a little of the treasures there. During the visit I also took part in the Letters Conference (see p. 9) where I met some SAG readers and authors.

A week in California came later; staying with Swedish-American relatives during the election was quite educational.

I visited the museums of Modesto and Turlock. I was a little bit sorry to see that the contributions of the Swedes to the settling of the area did seem to be mostly forgotten. The exhibition of the Scandinavians in Turlock Museum was a bit odd. It is all done by volunteers, and if there is nobody interested in that subject, the result can not be better.

Formerly SAG had an index in the December issue every year. We have now decided to do it otherwise. The index of articles can always be found on the Swenson Center's website, where it is easy to search for old articles by a certain writer.

The usual name and place indexes will be compiled as a 5-year index, and published separately after the end of the 5-year period, probably in 2009.

This change was made as it was felt that 12 pages of articles were more interesting than an index, and I hope most of the SAG readers agree!

So until next, I wish you all the best!

*Elisabeth Thorsell*

## H. Arnold Barton is 75!

**LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE  
AND CULTURE AT AN ADULT  
OR FAMILY PROGRAM AT  
SJÖLUNDEN, THE SWEDISH  
LANGUAGE VILLAGE**

**Swedish Adult Weekend  
April 1-4, 2005**

**Danish & Swedish Family Fun  
Weekend  
April 21-24, 2005**

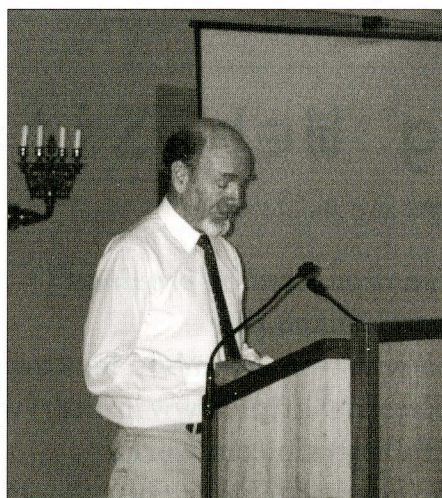
**Swedish Elderhostel  
October 16-21, 2005**

Contact:  
Concordia Language Villages  
8659 Thorsomveien NE  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
1-800-450-2214  
Email: [clvevent@cord.edu](mailto:clvevent@cord.edu)  
Website: [ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org](http://ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org)



**CONCORDIA  
LANGUAGE  
VILLAGES**

A program of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, USA



Professor H. Arnold Barton, well-known immigration historian, turned 75 in November 2004 and SAG also wants to offer its congratulations!

I first learned Arnold's name in 1981 when his book *The Search for Ancestors, A Swedish-American Family Saga* (1979) first appeared in Swedish as *Släkten. En svensk-amerikansk krönika*, which was fascinating. Arnold's Swedish ancestors

came from northern Småland and southern Östergötland, an area where I had done some work myself. Then I became a member of the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Society* (now Swedish-American Historical Society) and by reading the *Quarterly* learned to appreciate Arnold's insightful articles on the emigrants' "divided hearts."

Another of his works, which should be mandatory reading for all descendants of the immigrants, is his *Letters from the Promised Land - Swedes in America 1840-1914* (1975), which also has been translated as *Brev från löftets land - svenskar berättar om Amerika 1840-1914*. It gives a good view of what was seen as the topics of the day by the immigrants, their worries and their joys.

SAG hopes that Arnold and his wife Aina will have many more years to write more on the immigrants and their conceptions of the new world and their daily life.

*Hjärtliga gratulationer på födelsedagen!*

*Elisabeth Thorsell*

# 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<br>(Province) | SAG & SSF<br>Abbr. | Landskap<br>(Province) | SAG & SSF<br>Abbr. |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 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.              |                        |                    |

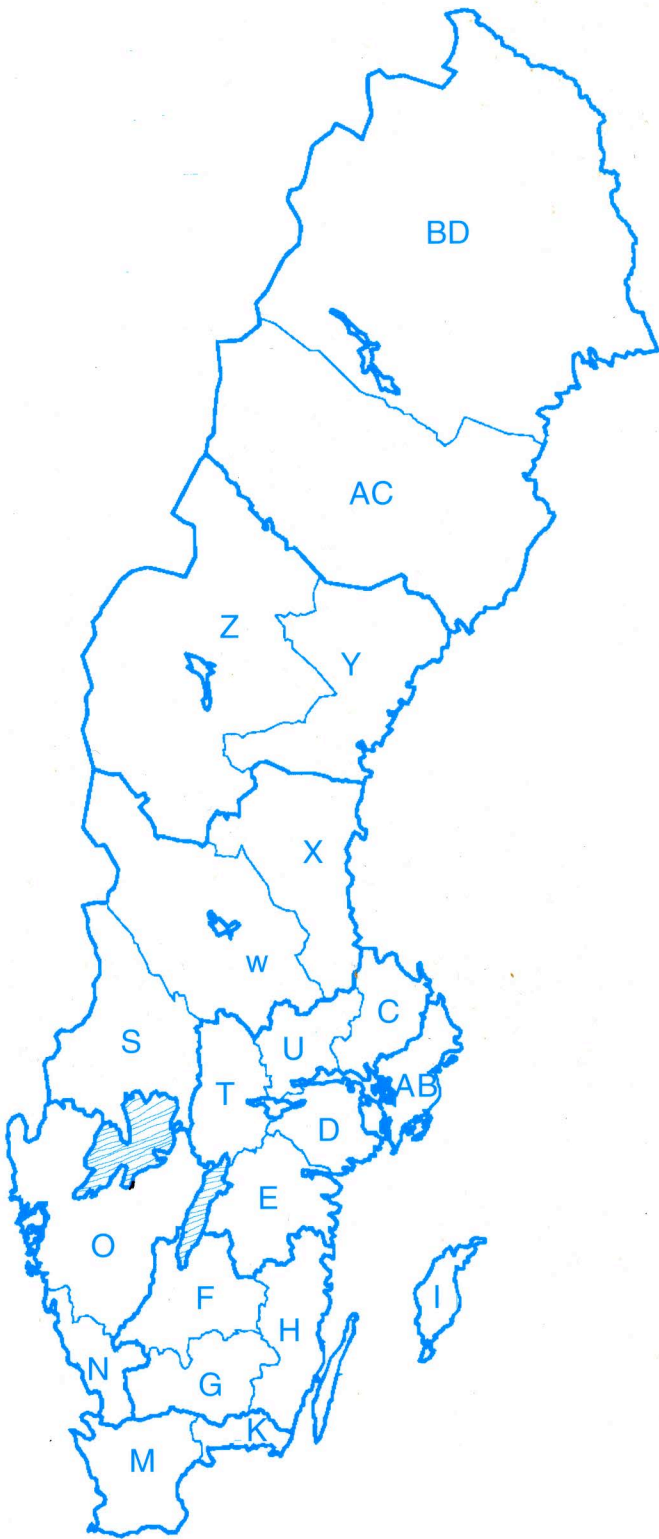
**Table 2.** Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

| Län<br>(County)      | SAG<br>Abbr. | SCB<br>Abbr. | SCB<br>Code | Län<br>(County)              | SAG<br>Abbr. | SCB<br>Abbr. | SCB<br>Code |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Blekinge             | Blek.        | Blek.        | K           | Stockholm                    | Stock.       | Sthm.        | AB          |
| Dalarna <sup>a</sup> |              | Dlrn.        | 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 <sup>c</sup> |              | Vgöt.        | O           |
| Kronoberg            | Kron.        | Kron.        | G           | Örebro                       | Öre.         | Öreb.        | T           |
| Norrbottn            | Norr.        | Nbtn.        | BD          | Östergötland                 | Ög.          | Östg.        | E           |
| Skåne <sup>b</sup>   |              | Skån.        | M           |                              |              |              |             |

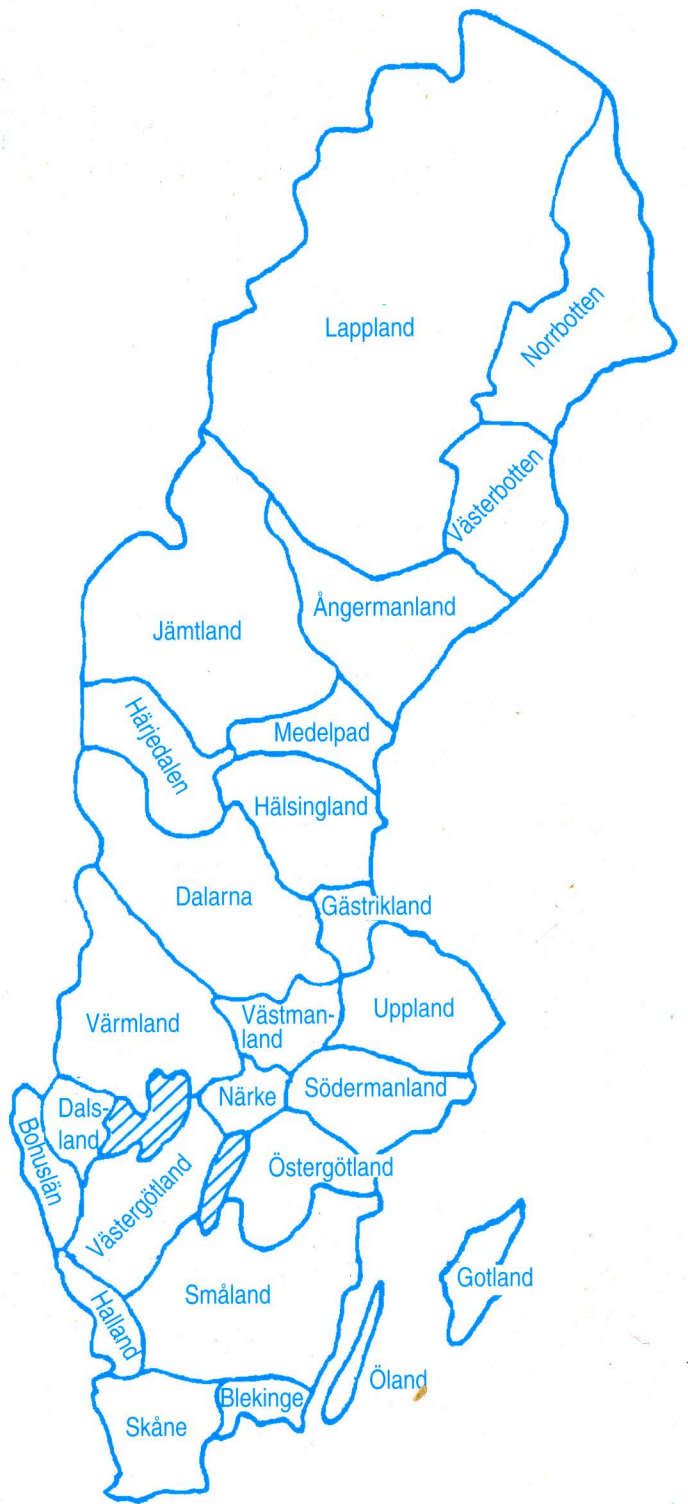
**a** formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

**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*)



The Provinces (*landskap*)

# Sweden 2004