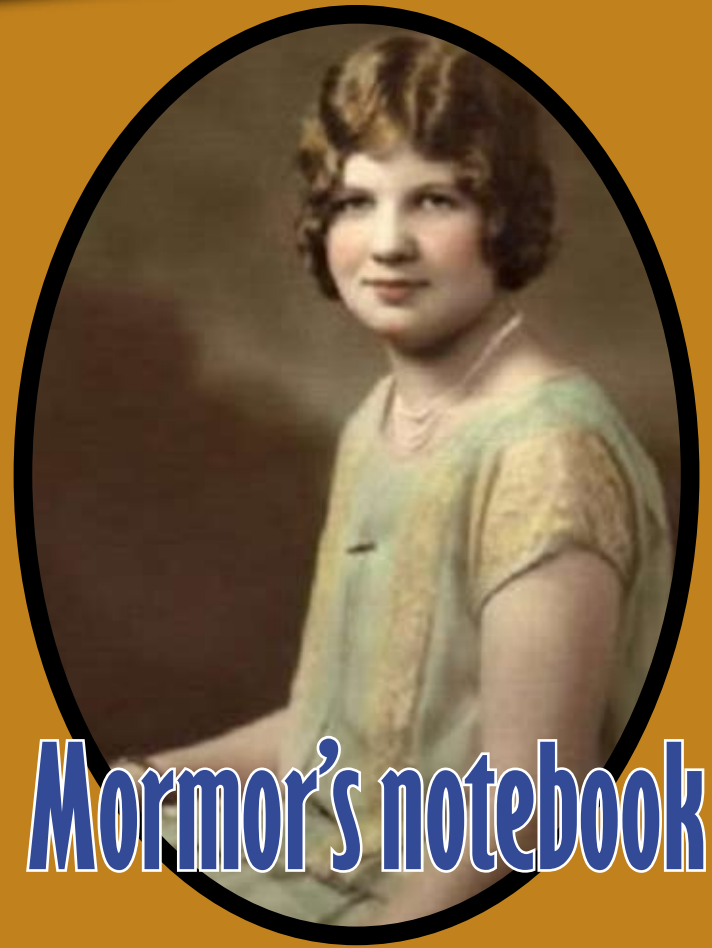


no 6
2008-12

ROOTED IN SWEDEN



New Internet database!



Mormor's notebook



Touring Medelpad

Washington workshop

| Your local history bookshelf

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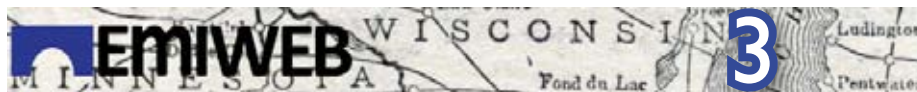
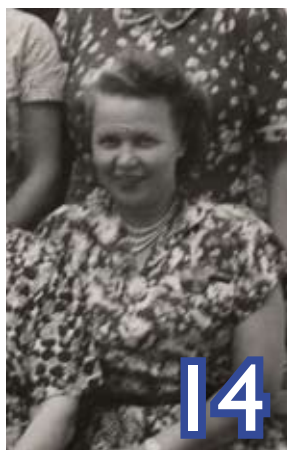
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firstly...

...I would like to introduce myself. When the opportunity was given I jumped at the chance of relieving Olof Cronberg of one of his countless duties at the DIS Society, and become the editor of Rooted in Sweden.

My family background is the opposite to the backgrounds of the target group of Rooted in Sweden. I am very much rooted in the province of Skåne in the south of Sweden. My research on the paternal as well as on the maternal side hasn't strayed more than some 50 kilometres from where I live now. I often wonder what marks this homogeneity has made on my personality, and I will probably ask myself this question as long as I live.

I've been a genealogist for some fifteen years, with varying intensity in my research. At times I've struggled not to let my research interfere with work or my social life. Being a father of two small children, my research is



temporarily on hold, but I know that it will flare again.

Having studied English at university level, and having spent a year of studies in New Zealand, I feel comfortable expressing myself in English. My training is in the Queen's English, and this has coloured my spelling and way of writing. I'm sure I can make myself understood though. Besides, the foundation of Rooted in Sweden is built by the contributions of our readers.

The purpose of this e-zine, as I see it, is to strengthen the bond and encourage interaction between genealogists on both sides of the Atlantic. We want

to offer a forum and a voice to those Americans who want to give a hint of what happened to our ancestors beyond the last trace in the port of Gothenburg or Karlskrona. And in the opposite direction there is every chance of using us Swedes to give a glimpse into the vast source material only available to those who speak Swedish.

So, do you have a story to tell? Contact us at editor@dis.se. Is there anything in particular you would like to know more about? Just give us a hint and soon there will appear a section in Rooted in Sweden called "Request Topic". And that's a promise!

Joachim Schönström

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| Home location: | Västra | Home county: | Sweden |
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EmiWeb - Migration archives under one roof

At the annual national genealogist gathering "Släktforskardagarna" a new web database was launched. EmiWeb aims to gather all source material on emigration and immigration in one database.

EmiWeb is a non-profit association consisting of participants from a number of associations that focus on migration research. Its purpose is to develop and maintain a database on emigration from and immigration to Sweden, and to make this database available to the public by subscription to a web site, called emiweb.se.

The database EmiWeb features material that is gathered and maintained by the migration research associations mentioned above as well as state and regional institutions and individual volunteers. The material consists of information on 1,2 million emigrants and soon also the 500.000 immigrants between 1800 and 1950.

The main content is the same as on the CD "Emibas", that is church book information. Other than that, the nature of the information varies greatly; it can be indexes on persons, tax records, letters, photographs, excerpts

from diaries, newspaper clippings, literature and interviews. The sources can be nationwide, regional or local; they can be Swedish or foreign and aimed at genealogists as well as biographers and local historians. The idea is to gather all source material on migration in one place and one database.

At the web site, which is translated into English, there is substantial information on the different archives, with current status on the information gathered. At the moment there are four archives to explore: emigrants and immigrants in Swedish church records, obituaries from Swedish-American newspapers and Värmland newspaper articles. The database is growing however, and in the autumn of 2008 collections of emigrant photographs, passenger lists and immigration records from a number of provinces will be added.

EmiWeb still has an opening offer with a 12 month subscription for 300 SEK. Regular price is 500 SEK. A three month subscription costs 175 SEK. It is to be noted that you as of now cannot access the database immediately after registering. Once Emiweb has

received your registration, they will send you an e-mail with a bill. You will get your login details when Emiweb has received your payment. So if you plan on spending the night with Emiweb, you need to plan at least a couple of days ahead, or you will be disappointed. 📧

web site: www.emiweb.se

launch date: August 2008

home base: Karlstad, Sweden

search languages: swedish and english



Washington workshop

text: Olof Cronberg
images: Kelly Keegan



Towards the end of May, the SwedGen Group spent a weekend in Washington, DC, holding a workshop with lectures and one-on-one research sessions.

Early this year, the Swedish Embassy contacted me and asked if I could help them with a genealogy event at the House of Sweden in Washington, DC. For the spring, they were developing an event schedule around the theme, “Discover Sweden”, and they thought a workshop “Find Your Swedish Roots” would fit in.

The House of Sweden, which also houses the Swedish Embassy, is situated by the Potomac River in Georgetown, one of the oldest parts of Washington. Watergate and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts are in sight. The building, which opened in 2006, was designed by Gert Wingårdh and Tomas Hansen, with the Nordic themes of openness, transparency and light. If you ever go to Washington, the House of Sweden is worth visiting.

Together, Anneli Andersson, Anna-Lena Hultman, Charlotte Börjesson

and I traveled to Washington for a weekend in the end of May to hold a SwedGen Workshop with lectures and one-on-one sessions. Kathy Meade, the US representative for Genline, presented one of the lectures, and Kelly Keegan, a DIS member who lives in Washington, helped out. Reservations were not required for the lectures, so immediately before sessions started on Saturday, we were a little nervous because only two visitors had shown up. However, it turned out that the House of Sweden did not open its doors until noon; a few minutes later some fifty visitors filed down the stairs to the lecture room. The topics of the lectures were: Finding Your Swedish Roots, Church Records On-Line, Resources on CD:s and the Internet and Facts about Emigration.

The one-on-one sessions were fully booked in advance, half an hour for each. In many cases they came in couples: man and wife, mother and daughter or researcher and the old uncle who knew a few words of Swe-

dish. Half an hour was an appropriate period of time. In most cases, we were able to solve the research problems and figure out where in Sweden the person’s immigrant ancestor had come from. On the other hand, it would have been possible to look much further into each research problem. With the resources available today on CD:s and the Internet, there is almost no limit to research possibilities, even for people on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

“...we were a little nervous because only two visitors had shown up.”

Some examples of solved cases:

Yvette Kolstrom’s husband’s great grandfather had emigrated from Finland. Before that, in the 1870s, the family had moved from Sweden to Pori in Finland, but she did not know from where in Sweden the family had come. The case was easily solved, since Karl Gustaf Wilhelm Kohlström appeared on the Emibas CD. He was born in Rättvik parish in Dalarna, where the father was a blacksmith at Dådrens bruk (iron works). The family was then found in the Disbyt database and on the Smed-skivan (the CD of

blacksmith families). We also found a query concerning the family at the on-line discussion forum, Anbytarforum, from a genealogist in Finland. In that way it was possible to create contact with a Finnish relative, who was researching the same family.

Another interesting story came from Nancy Thompson. Her ancestor Magnus Öring was supposed to have been born in Kalmar, Småland 1781. He became a sailor and ended up marrying Catherine Louisa Brown in Charleston, SC in 1806. He died in approximately 1819. This time I used the CDs of indexes of births, marriages and deaths for Kalmar län, published by Person- och Lokalhistorisk förening (PLF) in Oskarshamn. The good thing about the PLF CD:s is that they are complete for the area. I soon found a merchant, Axel Henrik Öring, with a son Karl Magnus Öring born in 1765 in the town of Kalmar. However, the birth year did not match ours, and it turned out that Karl Magnus died young.

"That was as far as we got when Nancy's time was up, but I was unsatisfied that I had not solved the case."



Cultural attache
Mats Widbom - opening speech

The next interesting hit was an Ingemund Öring, who was a merchant sailor, and who married in Madesjö



One-on-one sessions

parish outside Kalmar in 1797. My guess was that Ingemund was a brother to Magnus. However, according to the household examination roll, he was born in 1762, and he was a son of Per Ingemundsson at Öjarståla, Madesjö parish. According to the household examination roll of Öjarståla, Ingemund was the youngest child and his mother Kajsa Olofsdotter was born in 1733, so she could not have had a son in 1781.

That was as far as we got when Nancy's time was up, but I was unsatisfied that I had not solved the case. The next morning, when I woke up much too early because of jet lag, I realized that Ingemund was 35 years old when he married in 1797 and it was possible that he had been married before. This track proved to be correct, and I then found that an Ingemund Persson had a son Magnus in Madesjö 1782. At that time, Ingemund was not called a sailor and did not use the name of Öring. That was the reason why we had not found the record at once. The possible brother turned out to be the father!

We, the SwedGen group, are considering another trip to the US next

year. We are thinking of going to New York and then following the East coast north. If schedule and financing work out, we plan to go in September 2009. 🇺🇸

swedish class

"Slankveckan" –
skinny week (roughly)

In your Swedish research, have you ever wondered why people kept deciding to move on 24 October? Well, this is not a coincidence. The last week of October was the only week off of the year for farm-hands. If they weren't happy where they were staying or just wanted to try their luck elsewhere, this was their only chance to move on. So, between 24 October and 1 November the countryside roads would be congested with moving carts along with complete families and small animals.

During this week, farm-hands didn't get any payment, and that's how this week got its popular name. They had to rely on the food they had put away, so generally the week off left the countryside people a bit more skinny around the waist.

Bjuråkersstämman
in Delsbo

Touring Medelpad



text: Kerstin Farm
image: Lars Farm



In the summer of 2007, Bob and Carol Olson went to visit the "old country". Bob's distant relative Kerstin Farm received them and together they spent a few days in and around Sundsvall.

Genealogy today is so much easier than only 10 years ago. Internet gives you a possibility to get in touch with people so quickly, and long lost relatives can suddenly appear.

Four years ago a woman named Carol Olson got in touch with me asking questions about her husband Bob's ancestors. She had searched the internet for names and got a hit on my web site. Her husband was related to me. He was 6th cousin to my grandfather. We stayed in frequent touch and after a while Carol told me that they were going to visit Sweden, and that they had discovered a new relative of mine. I got in touch with my newly found

relative who was also a relative of Bob's, on a totally different but much closer branch. Christer, my new 4th cousin was a folk music fiddler just like Carol. Carol plays the fiddle and can play a lot of Swedish folk music, and also holds classes in the USA.

"Carol had the opportunity to play with a lot of good musicians and they all enjoyed her skills"

We all agreed to meet in the summer of 2007. Bob and Carol came to Sweden and began the visit at the "Spelmanstämman" (a gathering of folk musicians) in

Delsbo. Carol had the opportunity to play with a lot of good musicians and they all enjoyed her skills. Christer invited us to a very nice family meeting in the village where Bob's ancestor had lived outside Härnösand. ➔

Other parishes that were represented in Bob's family tree were Attmar and Tuna near Matfors in Medelpad. So we started the tour in Sundsvall at the town museum where we looked at the history of Sundsvall at the time when Bob's ancestor emigrated to USA. Sundsvall had a big fire in 1888, so the museum features a lot of pictures and exhibitions about the fire and the new town.

After that we went to the church in Attmar. We looked at the church and the graveyards. The church was built in 1763, but the area is much older and a lot of findings are from the iron-age and earlier. We also saw the outdoor museum in Lucksta, a village

near the church. Here are old houses displayed as they were in the 1800's and early 1900.

We drove around in the parish looking at many of the villages in Bob's family tree, many of them long deserted, and torn down. Some of them have many old houses left though, and looks almost as they did a hundred years ago. We took a trip to Hassela to the Ersk-Mats farm, another outdoor museum which has all old houses left. The day finished at a small restaurant called Smedjan, a small house on the premises of the old Sörfors bruk.

Carol and I are still in contact, and now I am helping another North

American who has connected a lot of "cousins" both in USA and Sweden. There are many genealogists across Sweden so there is every chance to get help if you ever would like to visit the "old" country. 🌳

Kerstin Farm lives in Sundsvall.

She has been a genealogist for 11 years, and a DIS-member since 1999.

kerstin.farm@telia.com
www.farm.se

the digital race

Update on Swedish Online Resources

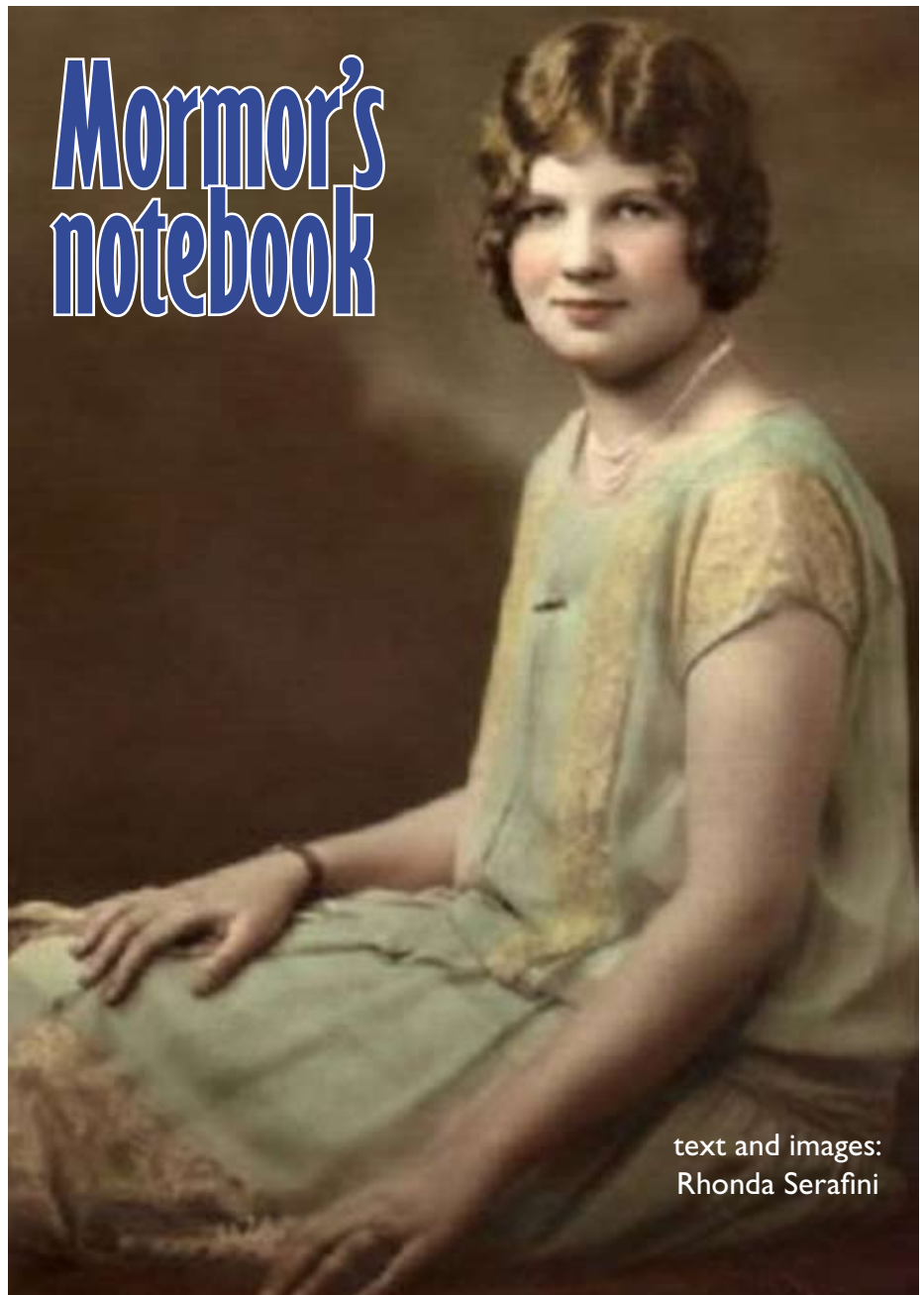
| | SVAR | Genline | Ancestry | ArkivDigital |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Church records -1860 | Örebro, Uppsala, Södermanlands, Hallands, Kopparbergs (Dalarnas), Västmanlands, Östergötlands, Kronobergs, Jönköpings, Kalmar, Gävleborgs, Västernorrlands and Norrbottens län. Partly Västerbottens and Jämtlands län. | Complete | Göteborgs och Bohus, Värmlands, Jönköpings, Älvsborgs, Kalmar, Örebro, Kronobergs, Östergötlands and Skaraborgs län. Partly Blekinge, Malmöhus, Hallands, Södermanlands, Kristianstads and Västmanlands län. | Göteborgs och Bohuslän, Jönköpings, Kalmar, Kronobergs län, Skaraborgs, Älvsborgs, Örebro and Östergötlands län |
| Church records 1860-95 | Complete | Complete vital records (SCB extracts) Complete for husförhörslängder | Same as above | Same län as above |
| Church records 1895-1905 | Partly | - | - | - |
| Vital records 1898-1937 | Complete SCB extracts | In production | - | - |
| Taxation records 1642-1820 | Complete | - | - | - |
| Census indexes | Partly (1860,1870,) 1880 Complete 1890,1900 | - | - | - |
| Other records | Convicts, military records Indexes of seamen, villages and farms, ... | - | Emihamn passenger lists | Court records, probate records, military records |
| Fee - lowest fee | 50 kr (6,- USD) for 3 hours | 75 kr (10,- USD) for 24 hours | Free to try, but 30,- USD for a month | 135 kr (17,- USD) for a month |
| Fee - annual fee | 995 kr (125,- USD) | 1495 kr (195,- USD) (DIS Members offer) | 300,- USD | 1195 kr (150,- USD) |
| Web site | www.svar.ra.se | www.genline.com | www.ancestry.com | www.arkivdigital.se |

Isabella Swanson was born in 1907 in the part of Dubois that was nicknamed "Swede Town". Her parents Axel and Fina came from the south of Sweden but did not meet until they had arrived in America. Thanks to Isabella's notebook, memories of her family's fortunes and misfortunes are preserved, and thanks to Rhonda Serafini, we are all invited to share these memories.

My grandmother Isabella was a "collector". No, she was not a collector of antiques, coins, stamps, or customary things we would find as being of value. She collected memories. She was always finding things in magazines or newspapers which took her interest. Scissors in hand, she snipped out things such as a story of a potato-chip factory, and penciled underneath a quick note about her employment there as a young woman. An article in a magazine about Sweden, accomplishments of her children and grandchildren were removed from the newspaper when they appeared, weddings of distant relatives, deaths of family friends.

Her favorite chair in the corner of the living room is where she sat and cut her newspaper and took her notes. The old recliner was surrounded with stacks of papers and keepsakes which were occasionally toppled over by her cherished six-toed cat named Tiny. Although we only half-jokingly reminded her that she may eventually break a leg from tripping over her stacks, she never chose to rid herself of any of it. It wasn't until after her death that we realized the true value in many of those seemingly worthless pieces of paper. They helped us to piece together her life.

Within my grandmother's "collection" there was a notebook in which she had written out many stories that had been told to her by her father Axel and grandmother Johanna about



text and images:
Rhonda Serafini

their lives. She never really knew her mother Fina, as she died when Isabella was just 16 months old. Isabella was raised by her father and grandmother, affectionately called "Mor," the Swedish word for "Mother". Although Isabella was born in America, she was very proud of her Swedish heritage. Her dad and grandma loved to tell her about the old days in Sweden and in turn, she was always happy to share

"Mor's father locked up the bread and potatoes so they could be doled out carefully."

the stories and memories with her children and grandchildren. She told me all about the land of tomtar (gnomes), dala horses, and ginger snaps, which seemed like a magical place to a small American child like me. Thus my grandmother transferred her love and fascination with the "old country" into my own heart. Through her words, papers, and this special notebook, I was able to peek into the lives they led in

Sweden and to have some understanding of the hardships they endured. I have taken some of these excerpts and added them in italics and quotes below to share them with you. The first glance into her notebook reveals a little about her grandmother Johanna.

"She was born Johanna Svensdotter in Knäred parish in Halland. Her father was a bonde (farmer) with a nice farm. Mor's father locked up the bread and potatoes so they could be doled out carefully. Though they lived on a farm, the crops were mediocre for many years and there was much suffering. 1868 and before was a very hard time in Sweden. Even potatoes were scarce. Mor and her older sister had to leave home in Brånalt to do farm work. Although her father had a nice farm, he died a poor man."

Like most families, her family endured its share of struggles. Her dad Axel never really knew his father. Axel's father had labored to build his family a new house in Hinneryd parish in the province of Småland. Not long after the home was completed on May 26, 1863, the father was at work and his three oldest boys, ages 5, 10, and 13, decided to go down to the pond for a little fishing. They brought in a good catch of little fish, so they brought the fish home and decided to cook them by themselves. The house regrettably caught fire and burned to the ground. Nothing was left of the home their father had worked so hard to build.

Axel was born 5 years after that in 1868, and by 1870 the census noted that the father had "run away". Family legend says that he fled to Norway and was never heard from again, leaving his wife and 5 children alone.

The notebook also told of some of the hardships that were endured on her maternal side of the family.

"Mor (Johanna) worked doing hard farm work, raking and putting in hay and threshing grain with a home made tool. Paid 33 öre a day. Her children were away and working in farms in the winter. Her first husband was a widower with 3 children. He had a one man farm. When he died she moved in with her sister and her own 5 children, all under 10 years old. Later, they moved to their own little stuga (cottage). In 1881, her rented house caught fire from the back oven. She had baked 20 loaves of bread."

Johanna and her young children thankfully escaped without harm. She rented a cottage for many years until she was able to afford to have another built.

"She bought an old timber house. The timbers were 12 inches thick. She asked some friendly farmers to help her. They hauled the timber to land she leased for 99 yrs. Some carpenters cut the timbers to 8" thick. The walls were 8" thick. The plaster in between was marsh. There was no

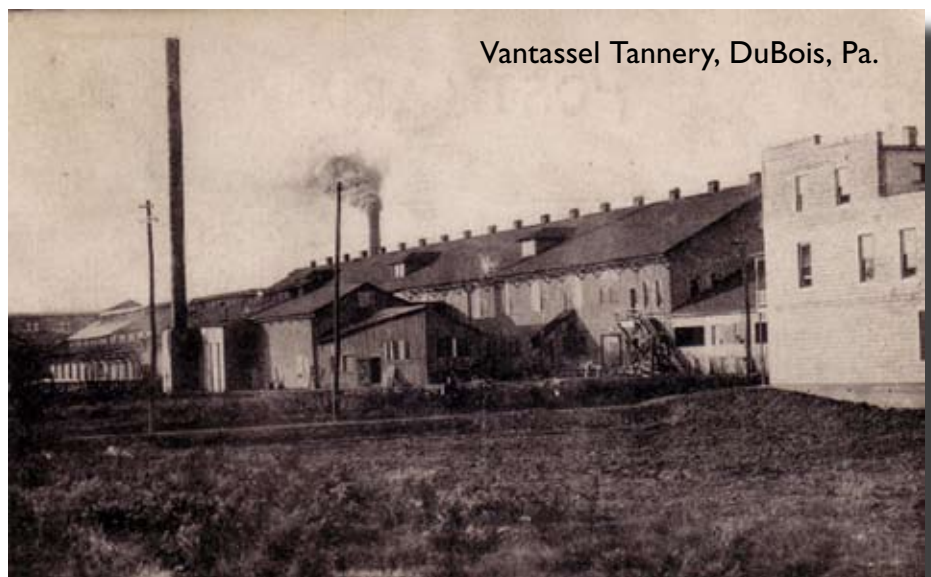
"With just \$5 in her pocket, she arrived in Dubois, and stayed at the home of her mother's sister Petronella."

clay in Småland. No nails were used the timbers were knotted in. Boards were used inside and then papered. The ceiling was boards. The outside was boarded too. They were then painted white and the corners were painted white. The roof was of halm (rye straw). It took an expert to lay the roof so it would be waterproof. They moved in- in the fall of 1894."

Johanna's daughter Fina had already departed for America in 1893. Her future husband Axel had left in 1887.

Like many other emigrants they held optimism that America would provide a better life for them. Although they both were born in Hinneryd parish, Axel Svensson and Fina (Josefina) Charlotta Johansdotter did not know each other until they had each begun their new lives in the small city of DuBois, Pennsylvania, USA. Fina's half-brother had moved there about a decade before and had asked her to come and stay with him.

In 1893, he sent money to Sweden for Fina to purchase a ticket to come to America. She left the port of Göteborg on 27 Feb 1893, arriving on 21 Mar 1893 in the port of Philadel-



phia on the ship SS Indiana. With just \$5 in her pocket, she arrived in DuBois, and stayed at the home of her mother's sister Petronella, or "Moster Nellie". Axel just happened to have been residing there at Moster Nellie's as a boarder and it was there that their paths first crossed.

Quite a few of Hinneryd's residents made this small city and its surrounding villages their destination, due to the similarities in climate and landscape as my grandmother had said, as well as letters sent back home to Sweden told of the region's plentiful coal deposits and vast forests which made jobs readily available for those who were willing to work hard. The majority of the Swedish immigrants came to this area from Kronoberg, Halland, and Älvsborg, although almost every other county was represented, too.

Axel worked 10 hours a day at the local tannery as a "currier"- a leather processor - making \$1.75 each day. He ran a dangerous machine. The tannery was a large operation and employed more than 500 and produced 1400 sides of leather per day.

Fina worked as a maid for the nephew of the founder of the city in his family's spacious Tudor-style mansion. The uncle had made his fortune in lumber and established the local tannery along with two other men in 1884 to make use of the hemlock bark left over from the lumbering business.

"Mother worked for J.E. DuBois. Aunt Jennie worked for Mrs. Watts. Aunt Jennie couldn't understand or talk English so she had to go next door and ask mother to translate for her at first."

"How sad it was for Mor (Johanna) to say goodbye to her daughter and two grandchildren"

After meeting at Moster Nellie's, Axel and Fina began spending time together and eventually fell in love. On the 28th of May 1897, they were united in marriage. The following year Fina gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. The year 1899 brought another lovely child, a son. It wasn't long, though, until Fina became very homesick and decided to return to Sweden in about 1900. Axel had planned to stay in DuBois a little while, and then move back to Sweden to be with his wife and two children.

"Mother went back to Sweden with Rachel and Harry. She missed her mother. Papa was going to stay a year longer and earn money. Mother wrote she didn't like it there and wanted to come back to America, she'd do anything."

aboard the Oceanic, accompanied by her half-brother.

"How sad it was for Mor (Johanna) to say goodbye to her son and daughter and two grandchildren. She had only one daughter left with her in Sweden."

Johanna didn't have to mourn for them for very long. Fina persuaded her mother and half-sister to settle with them in America. Once Fina and the children arrived securely back in America, Axel sent money to Sweden for his mother-in-law and sister-in-law to join them in America. All of Johanna's other children had already made the journey, some to Pennsylvania, some to Chicago. Johanna and her daughter packed up their possessions and commenced their voyage a year or so after Fina's departure.

"Axel had sent them money for the trip, \$45 each. From Gothenburg



Dubois Mansion,
DuBois, Pa.

After a brief stay at her mother's farm in Upsala Lillegård in Hinneryd, the longing for the taste of independence and the absence of her husband proved too great for Fina. She had finally decided that DuBois was truly her home. She returned to the USA with her small children in May 1901

to Hull, England after 2 days on the North Sea and then by train to Liverpool where they spent the night. ... It took only 7 days for the crossing to N.Y."

Johanna and her daughter moved in next door to Fina and Axel, in the →

part of DuBois known as “Swede Town.” It was aptly nicknamed too, as the streets in the area were inhabited by residents who had surnames like Benson, Nelson, Backlund, and Lundgren.

Swedish was spoken in most all of the homes, and their traditions were still held dear to the Swedes even in this new country. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church held their services in Swedish, and children in this part of town generally did not speak English until they began school. For a few cents you could pick up some penny candy at Segerberg’s store or a bag of dried yellow peas for the traditional Thursday pea soup dinner. Life was good in this little section of the city of DuBois, the Swedes felt they were “home, away from home”.

On a fine spring day in May of 1907, my grandmother Isabella Anna Sophia Swanson was born to Axel and Fina. All three of their children were incredibly beautiful and undeniably Scandinavian with their straw-colored hair, porcelain skin, and pale blue eyes. Fina was at finally at peace in her life; she now had everything she wanted near her beloved children, her loving husband, her mother and siblings. Life seemed perfect for this little family who had gone through so much.

However, the feelings of contentment were soon shattered. Just under a year and a half after the birth of my grandmother, tragedy befell the family again. Fina gave birth to another child who lived just a short time, then died. That same year Fina succumbed to death herself shortly thereafter, allegedly having been diagnosed with a serious kidney disorder or else from complications of the childbirth. Axel was devastated at the loss of his young wife. She was laid to rest at

only 35 years of age in the old Rumbarger Cemetery, leaving behind her mother, husband, and three young children. Four years later, her mother Johanna followed her in death from kidney troubles at the age of just 61. Axel was left alone to care for his children.

A loving father, Axel successfully raised his three children each of whom had the greatest respect and affection for him. He was a gentle and hard-working man, who not only worked at the tannery but also held jobs at the railroad and in the local coal mines to provide for his family. In time, the children moved out and began families of their own. Then in the late spring of 1944 Axel suffered a fatal stroke and slipped away at the age of 75. He was laid to rest near his wife and mother-in-law.

Isabella continued to carry on the Swedish traditions of her family each Christmas Eve. Her children, grandchildren, and eventually her great-grandchildren gathered to feast on Christmas ham, fruit soup, rice pudding, and potato sausages. This was an event she cherished very much. She saw her last Christmas Eve in 1998. She took

*“I held her aged hand
hand and quietly sang
some Swedish Christmas
mas carols”*

ill shortly after everyone left the holiday dinner and spent her final Christmas Day in the hospital. She was blissfully semi-conscious from the medicine that was flowing through her fragile veins. We knew that was the end of her time so we gathered to say our goodbyes. I was fortunate to have some of those last moments with her to myself. I held her aged hand and quietly sang to her some Swedish Christmas carols; she squeezed my hand gently and gave me a smile.

Early the next morning at the age of 91, my grandmother Isabella joined her mother, father, sister, brother, and

grandmother in Heaven. Still today as I see her handwriting in the pages of that notebook, I am reminded of the love my grandmother had for her family and her pride in her heritage; and I too can say, how proud I am to call myself a Swedish-American. 🇸🇪

Rhonda Serafini lives in Allegheny Mountains in north western Pennsylvania. She is a professional genealogist specialising in Swedish research.

www.swansonfamily.homestead.com

photos of tannery and mansion:
www.duboispostcardhistory.com

Join the DIS Society!

Are you still not a member of the DIS Society?

The DIS Society is the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden and produces this e-zine Rooted in Sweden. As a member you will also get access to the DIS-BYT database with over 12 million records, which covers a third of the total population who lived in Sweden before 1907. You will also get access to DISPOS, which is a tool to make it easier to find indexes to sources. It also provides a fast link to the Genline records.

We are already more than 25,000 members. You are also welcome to join the DIS Society. Annual fee: USD 18,- including e-zine Rooted in Sweden. USD 24,- including the Swedish magazine Diskulogen.

www.dis.se/english/

text:
Erica Olsen

Building your local history bookshelf

Stove builders from Malmö
From the book "Skånska arbetsbilder"
(Work pictures from Skåne)

Swedish local history publications are a great genealogy resource, offering information, stories, and photos you can't easily access any other way. Depending on the area you are researching, you might find village or church histories, diaries or memoirs, tourist pamphlets, and so on. Many are out of print but available through Swedish antiquarian booksellers.

Here are some tips for finding these publications—whether you'd like to purchase copies for yourself, or find out which libraries in the U.S. might have copies.

1. **Identify search terms.** Bookseller and library databases allow you to search by keyword as well as author and title. Try searching for place names, local industries, and so on. If you already have some books about the place you're researching, check their bibliographies for more search ideas.

2. **Learn your ABCs.** More precisely, learn your å, ä, and ö—the three letters found in Swedish but not in English. In some databases, you can put in o for ö (for example) and get good results; however, you'll need the correct spelling to search Swedish libra-

ry databases and to use dictionaries, glossaries, and lists, such as bibliographies, that are in alphabetical order. In Swedish, these letters appear at the end of the alphabet.

3. **Search Swedish library databases** at www.kb.se, the National Library of Sweden. Go to www.kb.se/english/find/ to use an English-language search screen. Search results appear in Swedish.



4. **Go to worldcat.org** for one-step access to online catalogs of libraries across the United States and around the world. Search results will indicate the distance a library is from you (based on the zip code you enter). University and public libraries in the U.S. have some Swedish local history publications, and you may be able to borrow them through interlibrary loan.



You do not need to register to search WorldCat. Registration is free, though, and if you register, you can maintain your personal reference list of books and the libraries where they are located.

5. **Find secondhand and out-of-print books** at www.abebooks.com. Some Swedish booksellers participate in



AbeBooks, but not as many as you will find on Antikvariat.net (see below). To restrict your search to booksellers from a certain country, choose Advanced Search.

6. Find a wide selection of Swedish secondhand and out-of-print books at Antikvariat.net. Through this website, you can search the databases of Scandinavian members of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers.



The site has about 100 bookseller members in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Between them, currently they are listing about 1.4 million titles. At Antikvariat you can set your search screen to appear in English, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, or Finnish. (Search results appear in Swedish.)

To see prices in dollars, set the price to USD. If you can't find what you are looking for, you can submit a "want list" and get email notification if and when the item becomes available.

7. Familiarize yourself with Swedish book terminology. Antikvariat.net has a glossary in Swedish explaining specialized terms and a list of Swedish abbreviations (which will clarify, for example, that s. means sida or sidor).

To fully decipher booksellers' listings, check a dictionary or compile your own glossary to remind you that sidor means pages. You can also consult Jerrold Orne's *The Language of the Foreign Book Trade* (American Library Association, 1976), which in-

cludes 18 pages of Swedish terms—handy if you need a reminder that klotband med skyddsomslag means cloth binding with jacket.

8. Search Google Books at books.google.com. As more books are digi-



tized, this website will become more useful for accessing previews or full text.

9. Catalog your collection at www.librarything.com. This social networking website is like a MySpace or Facebook for book collectors. You can catalog your books by accessing the catalogs of libraries around the world, as well as the database of online bookseller Amazon.com. Librarything offers

access to five Swedish library catalogs, including the National Library of Sweden's LIBRIS database. Registration is free if you are cataloging up to 200 books. To catalog more



than 200 books, purchase a lifetime membership for US \$25.

10. Take good care of your books. Store them on shelves away from direct sunlight, keep them as dust-free as you can, and provide adequate support, so that small books and pamphlets don't get lost between large items.

I've been building my personal library of books about Söderfors and the Vallonbruk (Walloon ironworks)

area for a few years now. My collection includes local histories published in the 1950s and 1970s and Johan Lundström's *History of the Söderfors Anchor-Works*, an English translation published by the Harvard Business School's Baker Library in 1970.

The prize of my collection is Lundström's original work, in Latin, published in Uppsala in 1791. I purchased it from a Swedish antiquarian bookseller through AbeBooks. I'd seen copies of this work bound in leather and priced above my budget; then I spotted one in the original paper wrappers, which made it surprisingly affordable. At the top of my wish list: a copy of the 1791 Swedish edition. 📖

Erica Olsen lives in California with roots mostly in Norway, but also in Uppland, Sweden.

She is a freelance writer and an archivist who has featured in *Rooted in Sweden* before (no 2).

postscript

Every Swedish genealogist sooner or later acquires their own emigrant story, a story of poverty, dreams, misfortunes, successes and adventures. My story is in many ways a typical emigrant story, and still it's unique, like everyone else's.

My grandmother's sister Anna left for America in 1924, at the age of 17. Her family had a place of their own. Her father farmed the land, and did what he could to support his family of six, but they were still very poor. Her parents thought that she would have a better life in the USA. She would go on the journey with Anna's cousin Gunnar, and they would be well received by her Uncle Nils in Ludington, Michigan.

Anna's personal aim was to return in a few years, and take care of her family financially. She spent her first years in the USA working as a house keeper. Back home her father had a

serious accident, which left him crippled, his legs being crushed by the timbers of a turned over cart. This left her frustrated; she was struggling herself, and unable to spare some money to help out her family back home.



She soon realised that her life was in America, and she didn't visit her native country until 1952. Her father had passed away three years earlier, but she was reunited with her mother and her four sisters, including the youngest, born in 1925, whom she had never met. She came for four more visits with some ten years between before she died in 1993. The relationship with her sisters was mostly restricted to letter writing.

I can still remember the last time she came to visit, in the 80's. To a young

boy, however, she was little more than an old, greyish lady with a peculiar accent. I probably didn't realise that her visit was just one of five visits to Sweden since her departure in 1924. Oh, how I wish that I could sit down and have a chat with her today. We would have a cup of coffee and she would tell me her very own emigrant story.

Joachim Schönström

DIS Society - Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden

The DIS Society was founded in 1980 to "to investigate methods and develop computer tools to support genealogy research, and in general stimulate Swedish genealogy". DIS is an abbreviation of Datorhjälp i släktforskningen, which means Computer Aid in Genealogy. The abbreviation DIS is used in the Scandinavian countries, where there are sister societies. The DIS Society is a non-profit organization. There are seven regional DIS Societies working actively throughout Sweden and arranging meetings about several topics in Computer Genealogy. We also have a force of sixty faddrar, which are members that are experts giving support and help in the use of different genealogical softwares.

Since 1980, the DIS SOCIETY has developed a genealogical software called DISGEN, which is the leading software in Sweden. The current version is 8.1e. Currently, the software is only available in Swedish, but print-outs can be made in several languages including English. The software is easy-to-use and has a good support for source registration, producing print-outs and family books. It also has a unique possibility to link your data to a Swedish map.

Since 1989, the DISBYT database has been used to find connections and exchange data between genealogists. In 1998, the database appeared on the Internet, making it even easier to find relatives. With more than 6000 participants and over 18 million records, the DISBYT database covers half of the total population who lived in Sweden before 1907.

The DIS SOCIETY publishes a quarterly magazine called DISKULOGEN in Swedish. From 2005, we have extended our efforts to also publish a newsletter in English called ROOTED IN SWEDEN, which is published as a pdf newsletter.

At present (April 2007), the DIS SOCIETY has more than 25,000 members. More than 600 are overseas members.
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