

no 9
2010-09

ROOTED IN SWEDEN

Genealogy Workshop
spreading the word at my workplace

Mini theme: Naming traditions



Grimeton Radio Station

The Swenson Center

DISCOUNT

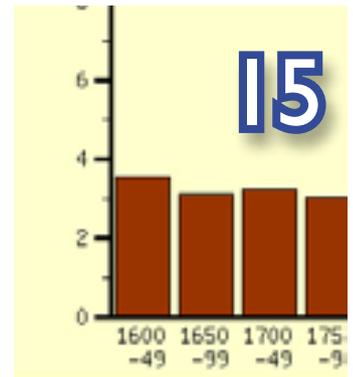
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firstly...

I would like to express my regrets that the Summer issue of *Rooted in Sweden* for various reasons has turned into an Autumn issue. For all *Rooted* readers, I hope it has been a Summer of rest, relaxation and research.

This issue contains a kind of mini theme with a focus on names. Names are of course at the centre of all genealogy, and essential to a successful research is the understanding of the naming tradition. In recent years, that is the last century or so, the naming tradition has changed with the disappearance of patronymicons. People no longer inherit their father's first name in their surname, and the likes of Persson, Svensson and Nilsson are used as family names, generation after generation. There are rules that say what names you can and cannot adopt, and a board that makes decisions in each case. You cannot take existing names or brandnames. Applegate and Winslet have been rejected as they are names of famous actors,



whereas Summercloud, Mango and Puma have been approved.

A century ago, and before that it was easier to change your name. The other day, my boss told me about her ancestor who wanted to pick a family name, and chose the same name as the village blacksmith, because he liked the name. For us this would be unthinkable. I wonder what the blacksmith thought!

The soldier's name is something every genealogist will encounter sooner or later. These were used to tell the Hans Hanssons and the Nils Nilssons apart. Normally they would no longer use their soldier's name after the dismissal, but in many cases they were

kept by the next generation. The typical soldier's names were later spread to the trades people of the parish, the taylor and the blacksmith and so on.

My family name is a typical soldier's name adopted, not by a soldier but by a forest ranger, and inherited by generation after generation since the 1770's.

I hope this will be an enlightening theme and that it will help you all in your quest for relatives of the past. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at editor@dis.se. If I can't answer, I'll guide you to some one who can.

Joachim Schönström

Swedish naming traditions

18- pände års No	Födelse-		Kön	Dopnamn.	Civilstånd						Föräldrarnes namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten.	
	År och månad.	dag.			äpta	oäpta	äpta	oäpta	äpta	oäpta		
	År	och	dag.	m.	q.	m.	q.	m.	q.	m.	q.	
1	Jan	10	1	Johan	1							Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten. Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten. Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten.
2	Jan	19	1	Sten Charlotta	1							Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten. Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten. Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten.
				Ernst August	1							Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten. Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten. Förädrarnes Namn, stånd, embete, yrke, hemvist, nationalitet, och tros- bekännelse (om främmande) samt stället för nedkomsten.

text:
Olof Cronberg

Knowing the Swedish naming traditions is very helpful in tracing your ancestors. As the topic is often discussed and ever present, it's time for a repeat of an article from an earlier Rooted in Sweden, no 3 from 2006.

The given or first names, the children received at the baptism. Usually, it took place within one or two weeks. If it was a long way to church or in later 19th century, it could take a longer time to get baptized. If the child was considered to be in poor condition, the child could be baptized at home, but the normal procedure was in church. If baptized at home, it is noted in the church re-

ords ("döpt hemma för dess svaghets skull – baptized at home due to weakness").

In the rural parishes, the children usually received only one name, while in the towns and in 19th century, it was more and more common with two or three names. Below are lists of the most common names at different years. The name lists 1700, 1800 & 1900 are extracted from those birth years in the DISBYT database. The names from 2000 are from Statistics Sweden.

When doing research in Sweden, you realize that there are naming

1700	1800	1900	2000
Anna	Anna	Maria	Julia
Kerstin	Maria	Anna	Emma
Karin	Brita	Elisabet	Wilma
Brita	Stina	Ingeborg	Hanna
Margareta	Katarina	Margareta	Elin
Maria	Kristina	Kristina	Linnéa
Katarina	Kajsa	Rut	Amanda
Elisabet	Kerstin	Linnéa	Ida
Sara	Greta	Ester	Matilda
Ingeborg	Margareta	Elsa	Moa

differences in Sweden. Some names are more common in northern Sweden and other names in southern Sweden. Examples of male names more common in Skåne in southern Sweden: Jöns, Jeppe, Mårten, Truls. In Central Sweden Jöns would be Jon or Johan, and Mårten would be Martin. Jeppe and Truls are uncommon. In areas of Sweden with a Finnish po-

pulation, names such as Mikael and Henrik are more common. They are rare in southern Sweden.

There are also differences in time. The name Per was common in 1700, but was replaced by Peter or Petter in 1800. Later the name is not unusual, but not on the top ten list. In the same way, the female name Sissela, became Sissa which became Cecilia.

There were no exact rules. The child could be named after a deceased relative, or a prominent witness, or just have a popular name. However, there are some rules seen very often.

1. If a widower or widow remarried, the next child of the correct sex inherited the name of the deceased husband or wife.
2. If a child died, it is common that the next child of the same sex inherited the name of their older sibling.
3. If a son receives the name of the grandfather without being the first child, you will often find that the grandfather has died in the year before the child's birth.

If there is more than one child with the same given name in a family, it is likely that the older child has died. Rarely there could be more than one child with the same name. I have seen it once in Skåne and once on Gotland. The reason is then that the younger child is named after another relative than the first child.

There are two main types of surnames: patronymics and family names. The patronymics changed for every generation and were not converted to family names until late 19th century. Surnames ending with –son or –dotter are patronymics, for example Andersson and Andersdotter. The daughters were called Andersdotter, which simply means Anders' daughter just as Andersson means

Maria Persdotter, his name could be Anders Persson, but in some cases he still got his father's first name as a patronymic. I have seen examples where the father's first name was so rare, so there was no doubt about who the father was. In most cases, it is hard to guess the father of an illegitimate child based on a patronymic name.

Patronymics were dropped earlier in the towns and replaced by family names. I have seen a few cases in 18th century where the patronymic name was used as an inherited family name. However, it is very rare that women uses a surname ending

1700	1800	1900	2000
Anders	Anders	Karl	Filip
Per	Petter	Johan	Oscar
Olof	Nils	Erik	William
Nils	Erik	Gustav	Viktor
Erik	Olof	Oskar	Simson
Lars	Johan	Nils	Anton
Johan	Johannes	Axel	Erik
Sven	Lars	Gunnar	Alexander
Jöns	Karl	Olof	Emil
Hans	Jonas	Jon/John	Lucas

Another population group changing surnames were the soldiers. They got soldier's names when they were recruited. At some period, the names were created as above, but at other periods they were just adjectives such as Stark (Strong), Frisk (Healthy), Ståhl (Steel) or Envis

Example of the use of patronymics	Olof Jonasson 1745-1802	In this case Anders surname is Eriksson, because his father's first name was Erik. Although Erik during a period used Hörberg as a surname his son didn't adopt that name. The reason was that Hörberg was a soldier's name, which Erik received when he was a soldier for Horsby Kvädaregård, Tarsled parish. (Can anybody guess why he used Hörberg and not Horberg as a surname?). Maria used the surname Olofsdotter, not because her husband was an Olofsson, but since her father's first name was Olof.
Erik Olofsson Hörberg 1778-1838	Brita Persdotter 1747-1793	
Anders Eriksson 1810-1856	Olof Månsson 1752-1782	
Maria Olofsdotter 1780-1855	Kirstin Bengtsdotter 1755-1782	

Anders' son. The surname of the child thus depended on the father's given name. The normal spelling of the -son names are with two s's as opposed to the tradition in America, thus Andersson and not Anderson.

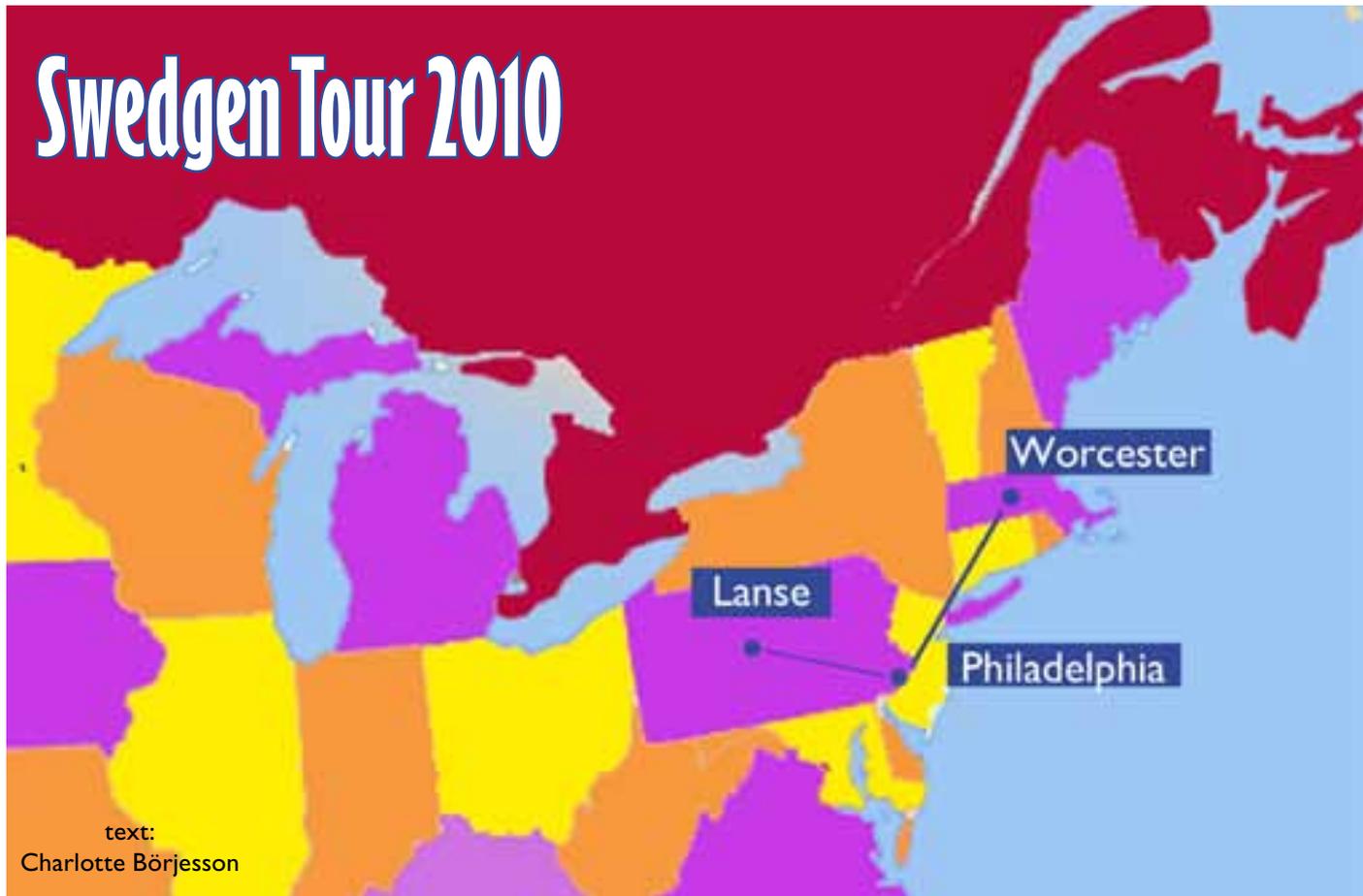
Of course, this was a problem if the child was born illegitimate. In the birth record the child's surname is seldom written. Sometimes the child's surname was just a modification of the mother's surname. If Anders was an illegitimate son of

with –son before the end of the 19th century, so if I see a womn called Andersson before 1870, I would assume it to be an error until proven otherwise.

When creating a family name, one often used a part of the place that one was from and added another element. Family names from Malmö could be Malmberg, Malmborg, Malmqvist, Malmgren, Malmstedt or Öberg, Öman or Ögren.

(Stubborn). Sometimes they were funnier: Alltidglad (Always happy) or Näsvis (Cheeky). These names were used during the time they were soldiers. Often the following soldier inherited the surname, but not always the children. I am a descendant of a soldier called Per Näsvis (where Näsvis was derived from the village Näsby), but for some reason his children didn't use the surname... 🐘

Swedgen Tour 2010



Have you hit a brick wall in your Swedish research or don't know where to begin?

A group of Swedish genealogists will be touring the United States this October to teach and assist Swedish-Americans in how to find their roots and how to do Swedish research.

The group, SWEDGENTOUR, has been successful in helping many individuals get started with their research as well as breaking down many brick walls. This year the group will make the following stops:

- Saturday, October 2,
Worcester, Massachusetts
Worcester Public Library
3, Salem Square

- Friday, October 8,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Free Library of Philadelphia
1901, Vine Street
- Sunday, October 10,
Lanse, Pennsylvania
Holy Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church
1167, Maple Street

The group will lead a Swedish genealogy research day that will include presentations and demonstrations on how to use the various resources for Swedish genealogical and historical research. There will be presentations of Swedish genealogical online resources, Swedish genealogical CDs and Swedish emigration. There will also be a preregistration for those who want to have individual research help.

The Swedish tour participants will be Anneli Andersson, Anna-Lena Hultman, Charlotte Börjesson and Siv Bergman. Kathy Meade, the U.S. representative for Genline will also be accompanying the group.

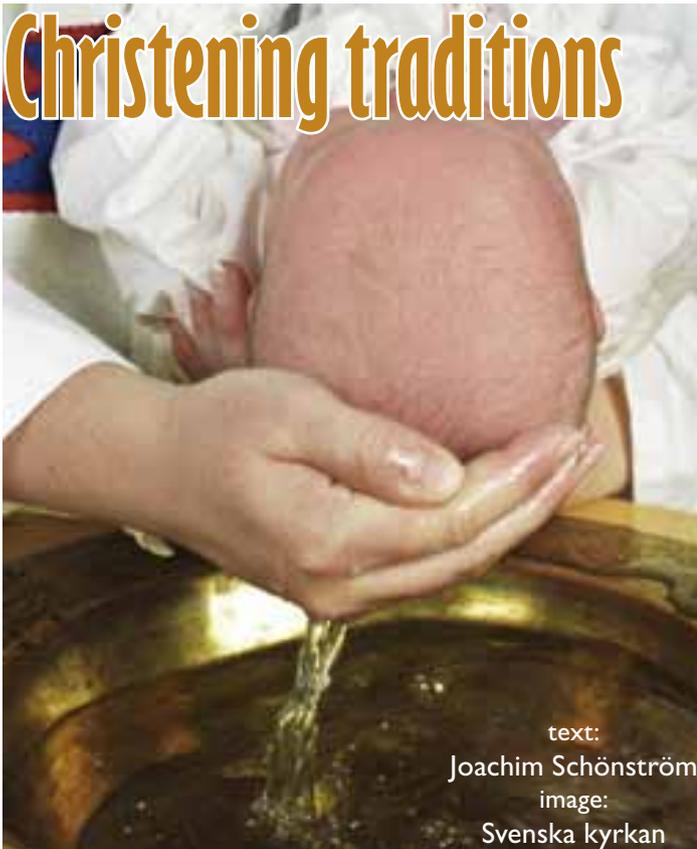
More information about the workshops and the lectures will be available at:

www.swedgentour.dis.se/2010

Here you will also find information about how to sign up for a one-on-one session. 📍



Christening traditions



text:
Joachim Schönström
image:
Svenska kyrkan

not be present at the church christening as she was not yet churched. It wasn't appropriate for the father either to be present. Instead, the family was represented by the godparents. Usually, the godparents were close relatives to the family, such as siblings to the parents or the child's grandparents. This is a good thing to have in mind

The traditions of the christening are rooted in the ancient superstitions of pre-Christian times. Even in modern days, the notion of fate is connected to giving birth to a child.

In the peasant tradition it was important to stay friends with destiny and there were numerous ways of protecting the child during the pregnancy. And after the child was born candles had to burn all night in every room, and a piece of metal should be kept in the cradle to protect the child until it was christened. Through the christening the evil spirits of paganism lost its powers over the child. A child that died un-christened was lost to eternal bliss.

In olden days, the child had to be christened within eight days after its birth, according to church laws. This meant that the mother could

when you're looking for clues in the search for a missing person in your research. The Godparents are often stated in the birth books with names, occupations and home residence. Watch out though, the godparents might just as well be neighbours of the family. 🙏

swedish class

“Kyrktagning” –
churching of women

In Sweden, the churching of women after birth remained a custom until the late 1880s.

With its origin in the Old Testament, the mother, after giving birth, was regarded as being impure. For six weeks she was not allowed to visit church or work outdoors.

After six weeks the priest was notified and the ceremony of welcoming the mother back to the parish community took place before the ordinary Sunday service.

Unwed mothers had to endure a different mid-week churching where they weren't allowed to take the priest by the hand and had to kneel directly on the hard church floor instead of a stuffed stool.

Join the DIS Society!

Are you still not a member of the DIS Society?

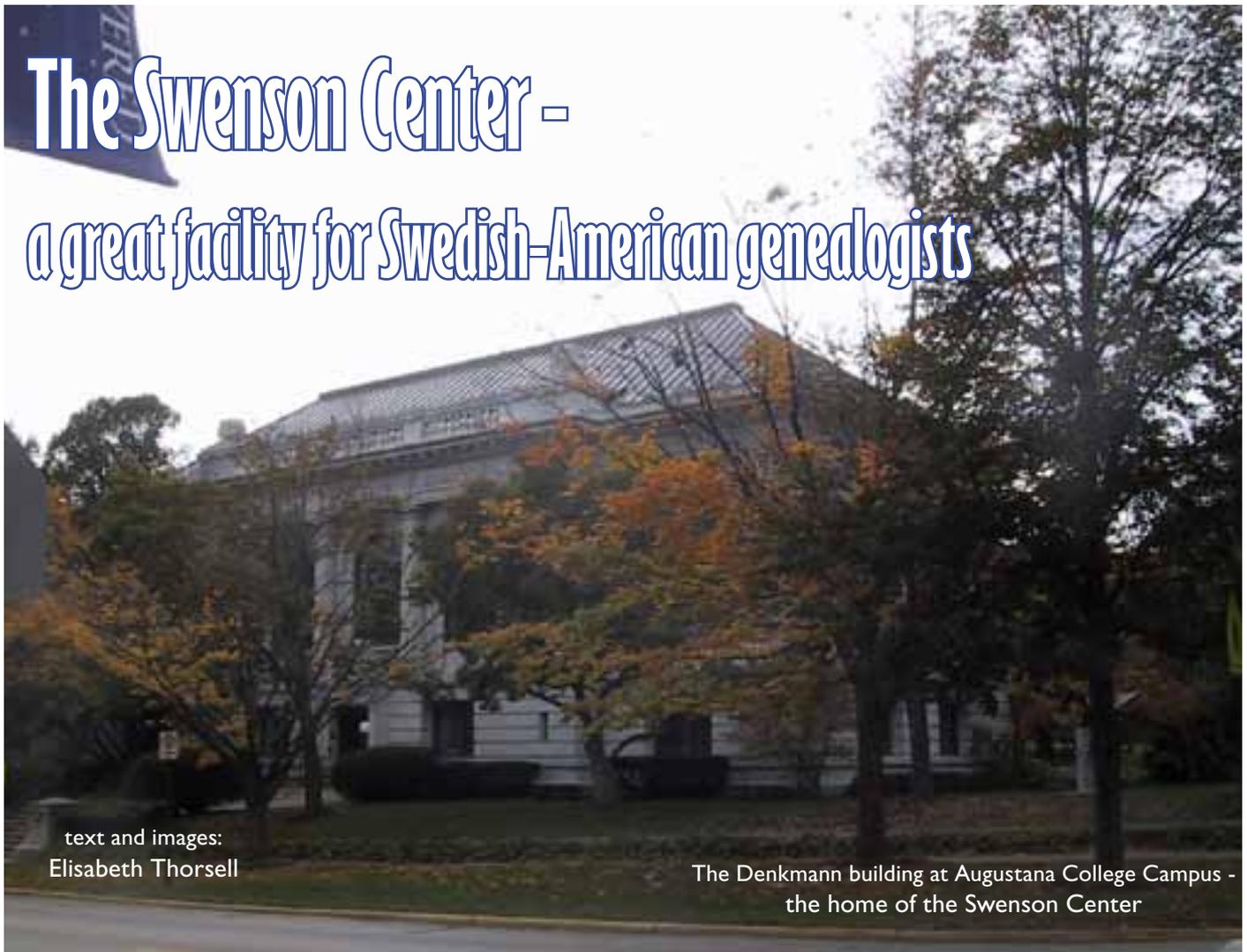
The DIS Society is the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden and produces this e-zine *Rooted in Sweden*. As a member you will also get access to the DISBYT database with over 22 million records, which covers a third of the total population who lived in Sweden before 1910. You will also get access to DISPOS, which is a tool to make it easier to find indexes to sources.

We are already more than 27,000 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/

The Swenson Center -

a great facility for Swedish-American genealogists



text and images:
Elisabeth Thorsell

The Denkmann building at Augustana College Campus -
the home of the Swenson Center

One of the important resource centers for Swedish-American genealogy is situated in Rock Island, Illinois, and is in short called the Swenson Center. Editor of Swedish American Genealogist (SAG), Elisabeth Thorsell is well acquainted with the Swenson Center and gives us a short introduction.

The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center (SSIRC) or just "Swenson Center" was founded in 1982 by a donation from Birger Swenson, former CEO of the Augustana Book Concern, and his wife Lyal. Birger and his wife did not have any children, but felt strongly that an institution was needed to research and take care of

the heritage left to the younger generations of Swedish-Americans from their elders.

The Swenson Center has been located since the start on the campus of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and has grown by donations of money and archival documents and book collections. The Swenson Center is a national archive

and research institute providing resources for the study of Swedish immigration to North America, the communities the immigrants established, and the role the immi-



A Swedish-American newspaper from the archives. →

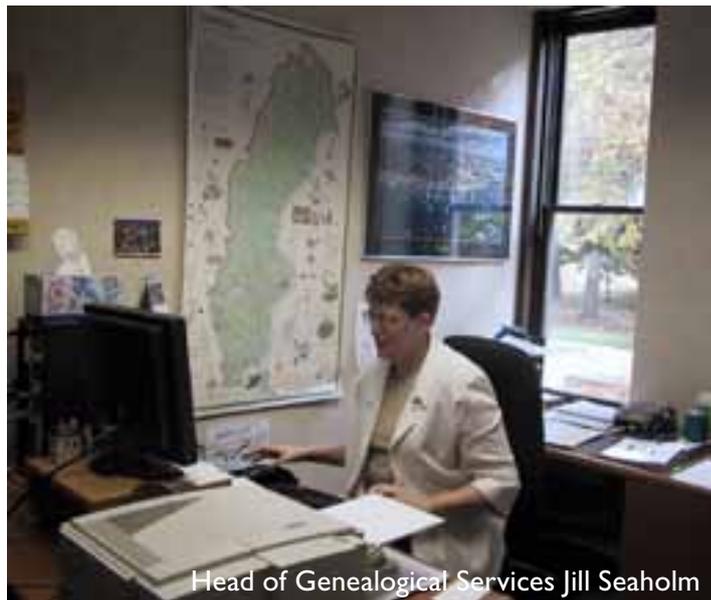
grants and their descendants have played in American life. This is achieved by promoting and initiating academic research in the field and by collecting and cataloging Swedish-American archival and library materials. Another major role for the Center is to assist people researching their Swedish-American family history.

Academic conferences have been sponsored or co-sponsored by the Center on a continuing basis since 1987. Many of the conferences have been documented in book form or in academic journals.

One of the big supporters of the Swenson Center was Nils William

Olsson, PhD., the grand old man of Swedish-American history in the U.S. Dr Olsson donated most of his huge library and archives to the Swenson Center. He and his wife Dagmar also donated money to a scholarship fund, The Dag-

mar and Nils William Olsson Research Fellowship, which is awarded once every year to a graduate scholar, and enables this person to



Head of Genealogical Services Jill Seaholm



Excerpt from N.W. Olsson's scrapbook with a letter from Swedish prince Bertil

spend a couple of weeks at the Swenson Center doing research in the archives and the book collection. The scholarship is not open to genealogists.

The Swenson Center's library collection contains approximately 20,000 volumes relating to the Swedish-American immigrant experience in North America, Swedish genealogy, and Swedish local history. To support its main mission of providing resources

for the study of Swedish immigration to North America, the Center has over the years gathered an extensive collection of books, periodicals and newspapers published for and by Swedish immigrants during the mass emigration period of 1840-1930. These publications promoted and encouraged the use of the Swedish language in churches, organizations and among other social groups throughout the United States and Canada.

The archival holdings at the Swenson Center reflect the Swedish immigrant experience in North America and includes a wide range of personal papers such as diaries, journals and correspondence of Swedish immigrants and clergy active in the Augustana Synod. The Center's archival holdings also contain photographs, organizational and lodge records.

Included in the archives is also a great collection of pictures, which can be searched online.

For many genealogists the most useful part of the Swenson Center is the collection of microfilms of

the Swedish-American churches, many hundreds of rolls. They can be searched by visiting the Swenson Center or by mailing a Research Request that can be found on their web site.

An important part of the Swenson Center is the quarterly publication Swedish American Genealogist (SAG) founded in 1981 by Dr. Ols-son, and geared towards all aspects

of Swedish-American genealogy, but also publishing news about what is happening in the genealogy field in Sweden. 🇸🇪



Researchers in the research room

The Swenson Center

Dag Blanck - Director

Christina Johansson - Head of Library and Archival Services

Jill Seaholm - Head of Genealogical Services

Susanne Titus, Library and Genealogical Services Associate

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center

Augustana College

639, 38th Street

Rock Island, IL 61201-2296

Tel: (309) 794-7204 Fax: (309) 794-7443

All of them speak and read Swedish!

Web site

www.augustana.edu/xl3856.xml

Picture collection

www.augustana.pastperfect-online.com/36000cgil/mweb.exe?

E-Mail

sag@augustana.edu

in short...

Ancestry Magazine

ancestrymagazine.com

Discontinues Publication

Ancestry magazine has been around for 25 years as a valuable resource for genealogists.

Over the past few years, the staff at the magazine has found that, with the expanded accessibility of family history content published online at Ancestry.com, they can reach a larger and broader audience than the limited distribution of a print publication.

Single copies of past issues, will be available for purchase in the online store. They are also available electronically, at Google Books:

www.books.google.com

In the press release, the staff wish to thank the readers and contributors for sharing their enthusiasm for all things genealogy.

Minnesota Census

A new collaboration between EmiWeb and Minnesota Historical Society has been set up. The collaboration means that the organisations synchronize their data bases with the help of advanced technical solutions.

Close to 6 Million records from the Minnesota census will be available at

www.emiweb.eu



Ancestry + Genline

This summer, Ancestry.com acquired Genline AB. According to Ancestry.com, evaluations have started as to how the extensive historical documents will be made available to subscribers. So far no changes have been made. More information on this will be presented as it develops.

Grimeton Radio Station

text:
Lars G Johansson
images:

Grimeton World Heritage



In a small parish in northern Halland, with the curious sounding name Grimeton, a radio station is situated. It was built in the 1920's for long wave telegraphy, primarily across the Atlantic.

The parish name Grimeton seems to have its roots in an Anglo-saxon naming tradition, but it derives from the Old Norse name for farm: tun. The Grime tun should be the origin. Who Grim was, we will probably never find out.

We know more about Grimeton Radio Station. It has been declared an historic building and is also one of the 14 Swedish cultural heritage sites that have been listed on UNESCO's list of sites judged as priceless for humanity.

How is that? How can it be that a relatively modern industrial he-

ritage is considered to be so important that it can be mentioned with places like Machu Pichu, Skara Brae, the pyramids of Egypt and the Chinese wall? And what on earth does this world heritage have to do with genealogy?

The first thread

To find out the answers to these questions, we have to widen our scope a bit, and start investigating some threads from the end of the 19th century. The first thread involves a few engineers of the rather young technology of electronics, who had begun to understand that electricity in different ways could be used to create frequencies, invisible wave movements, with which you could send information, at least shorter distances.

At the turn of the century, the most prominent figure in this work, the

Italian Guglielmo Marconi, undertook the experiments with wireless transmission of information from a place in Cornwall, England, called Poldhu. That is where



he, through his Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, had built a station for “the big experiment”, a wireless transmission across the Atlantic. Earlier, he had established that it was quite possible to transmit wireless signals to recipients beyond the horizon, contrary to the predictions of the great mathematicians of the time. Radio signals were thought of as linear and, according to the expertise, would simply disappear into space because of earth’s curvature. As it turned out, this was not the case, even if Marconi himself probably did not entirely understand how

*”So, at 16.00 on
12th December 1901
it was time...”*

small town of Porthcurno, there was already a telegraph company, Eastern Telegraph Company, established in 1876. The founder, Sir John Pender, was involved in the vast project of laying an underwater wire between Europe and America. A functioning Atlantic cable had been laid out in 1866 and Pender now saw the opportunity to make big money through continued projects, such as a cable to India. Naturally, he did not approve of Marconi’s experiments with wireless telegraphy. A technology he regarded as a lethal competition to his profitable cables.

today, both techniques live on in harmony, side by side. The cable traffic still holds the biggest part in Transatlantic communication, now with fiber optics.

So, at 16.00 on 12th December 1901 it was time; at the receiving station in St John’s New Foundland, Marconi and his helpers receive the letter S, with the three short signals of the Morse alphabet. The great experiment was a success and the tests were later repeated both between sea and on shore stations. The skeptics had to bow for the facts. The wireless telegraph could start its victory parade across the world.

Memorial of Guglielmo Marconi in Poldhu



it worked. Now it was vital for him to find a place as far west as possible, with open sea towards northern America.

Land’s End, the westernmost point of England, seemed like an appropriate site for the purpose. But there was a catch: there, in the

The battle was legendary! Pender set up a spy station (wireless, ironically!) a short distance from Poldhu to find out what the Italian was up to, and Marconi did what he could not to reveal anything to the cable people. In reality, they were never serious competitors despite the initial cock fight. Even

Together with the German physicist Karl Ferdinand Braun, the inventor of the cathode-ray tube, Marconi received the Nobel Prize in 1909. Just eight years after the great experiment, the world clearly had accepted and grasped the scope of Marconi’s invention.



The second thread is about the quick response to the new wireless technique. Even the people in power in Sweden, quickly realized the advantages of the technique of the new times. The breakthrough came in 1920. This is when the parliament voted for the building of a “great radio station” for electronic wireless communication between the mother land and the ever more important United States of America.

The reason for this grand investment in a new technique was that World War I, in a very tangible way, had shown the vulnerability of the cable network. Sweden was connected to the States via England, and to other parts of the world via a cable to Germany and so on. The warring nations had quickly cut these connections. During the war years, Sweden was virtually cut off.

The enormous economical development of USA and the rest of North America, had a growing influence on the “old world” and for Sweden to be isolated from this development was not acceptable.

In 1920 the parliament granted a sum of nearly five million Swedish kronor, about 78 million in today’s value (\$11 million), for the building of this great radio station that would make the country independent from the cable network of other countries. The Grimeton site was selected for both military and geographical reasons.

This site, 15 km from the coast, was regarded as protected from possible naval attacks, a strategy

which gives us a picture of the range of the military resources of the time. More importantly probably, was that from this part of the west coast of Sweden, you had more or less open water, no land masses and no obstructing mountains on the great circle across to New York.

There, on Long Island, was the mother station of the world wide network of long wave stations that the inventor, Swedish-American Ernst Alexandersson, had started building. From Poland in the east to Hawaii in the west, the world was connected through his long wave generator, the so called alternator.



Telegraphist Lars Kålland transmits a morse message with the old alternator

The third thread on the subject is of course more known in genealogy circles and perhaps does not require a description in so many words. To the great country in the west, a significant part of the nation’s population, had moved – or escaped – primarily during the latter part of the 19th century. Because of the interruption of com-

munications, that The Great War had caused, common people on both sides of the Atlantic had become a lobby group pushing for a modernization of communications.

Never before had the need for functioning communications been greater, and never before had there been a way of communicating faster than four weeks, except of course for the vulnerable Atlantic cable. Marconi’s invention turned four weeks into four seconds! Has someone ever taken a greater step in the history of human contact? In comparison, the cellular phone is pretty modest; after all it is just an extension of the Marconi’s idea.

A phone call to USA now takes as long as directly after the building of the radio station in 1925, even the delay is still there!

All this combined is what has made Grimeton what it is. It was the first opportunity of Swedes and Swedish-Americans to contact each other quickly. Sure, it was expensive →

sive, and by our standards today, complicated, but, what are you not prepared to do to tell the parents back in the old country that they have become grand parents? Or that a beloved family member has passed away? This was probably worth a few dollars.

To make even short life signs at a reasonable cost possible, standardized telegrams with fixed rates were made at Christmas time. Such a telegram could be sent to the USA for just five Swedish kronor (80 cents). To Cuba or Mexico it would be 7,50 and 8 kronor. Other types of telegrams to America would cost around half a krona per word, depending on where in the country

”What about the German legation? Was Grimeton a gateway to the rest of the world even for Germany that, like the rest of the warring nations, were rather isolated?”

the receiver would be. The telegrams would have a minimum of ten words. These sums may seem small, but five kronor at this time would be about 125 today.

Of the once world wide network of long wave stations, only Grimeton is left. The technique is the same as at the grand opening in 1925, only a bit more worn after many years in operation, and it is still

fully functional.

This is what has put Grimeton on the UNESCO list of world heritage, the only communication heritage.

On a few occasions every year, the Grimeton radio station friendship society, Alexan-

der, turns on the transmitter. For example on UN day every year, Grimeton radio transmits a mes-

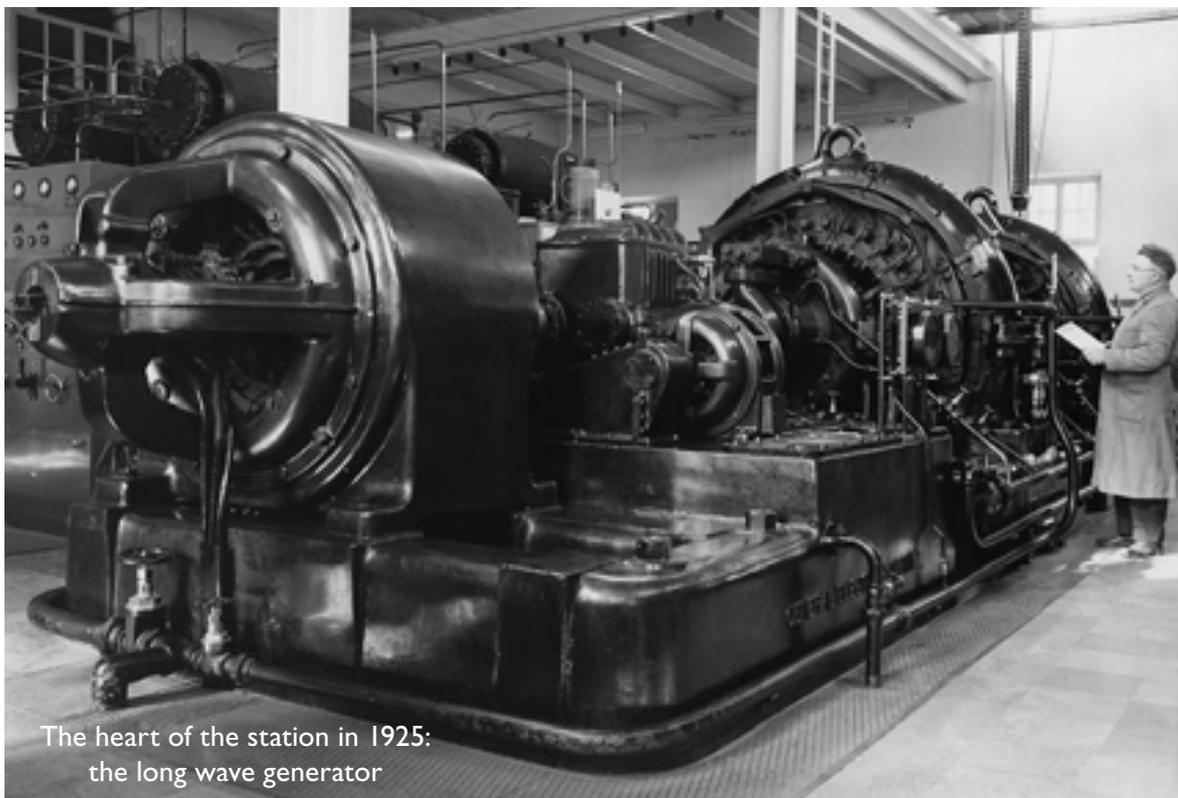
sage to humanity from the UN secretary general Ban Ki Moon. This transmission is intercepted by enthusiasts across the world. They often send confirmations that they heard us and tell us what kind of antenna they have used, how the sound quality was, and so on. In our times’ social media, like YouTube, they submit clips of their reception.

There has not been much research on the traffic from Grimeton Radio Station. One can imagine that it has been particularly important in times of unrest, especially since the isolation during The Great War was the main reason for its existence. But who were they who normally took advantage of the new technique? What was the extent of the private traffic?

The emigrants and their relatives in the home country had been an important lobby group for better communications between America and the old country. In an official capacity, the transmitter had surely been frequently used. During World War II, when the radio station enjoyed a second period of greatness, was it only the Swedish government that had access to the transmitter?

One can imagine that the British embassy

→



The heart of the station in 1925: the long wave generator

also took a great interest in securing the connection to the USA. What about the German legation? Was Grimeton a gateway to the rest of the world even for Germany that, like the rest of the warring nations, were rather isolated? And, not least, what civilian contacts were done through Grimeton, even in war times. We do not know today.

A foundation for research on civilian communication is contacts with the public who used telegraphy. I do not think the archives will reveal much on this matter. If any archive items survived the test of time it would be those of official concern.

Research in this area is required, as well as systematic information exchange with other institutions, museums, authorities and others involved in these matters. A few tentative efforts have been made,

for example with Telegraph Museum in Porthcurno, Cornwall, but there is so much more to be done. We at Grimeton Radio Station are especially interested in reaching those with knowledge on telegram communication between Swedes and their emigrant relatives. Such an addition of information could mean a lot for the research on the station.

Alexander

The association Alexander was founded in 1996 by earlier employees at the radio station and by persons interested in industry and culture history in order to keep and bring to life the old technique. In study circles and working groups personal ability to attend and run transmitters and machinery is being developed and passed on to others.

Today, the radio station is open for the public all year round. During the summer months, our visitors' centre is open daily, with several guided tours of the facility. The rest of the year we arrange guided tours for pre-booked groups.

All genealogists are especially welcome, and all Swedish-Americans will of course be treated to a cup of coffee on their visit!

During summer the station is shown to the public in co-operation with the Varberg Tourist Office. During other seasons the station is shown to groups by agreement. The members of Alexander are in charge of the arrangements as to guiding and service.

www.grimeton.org
www.alexander.n.se



Grimeton visitors' centre

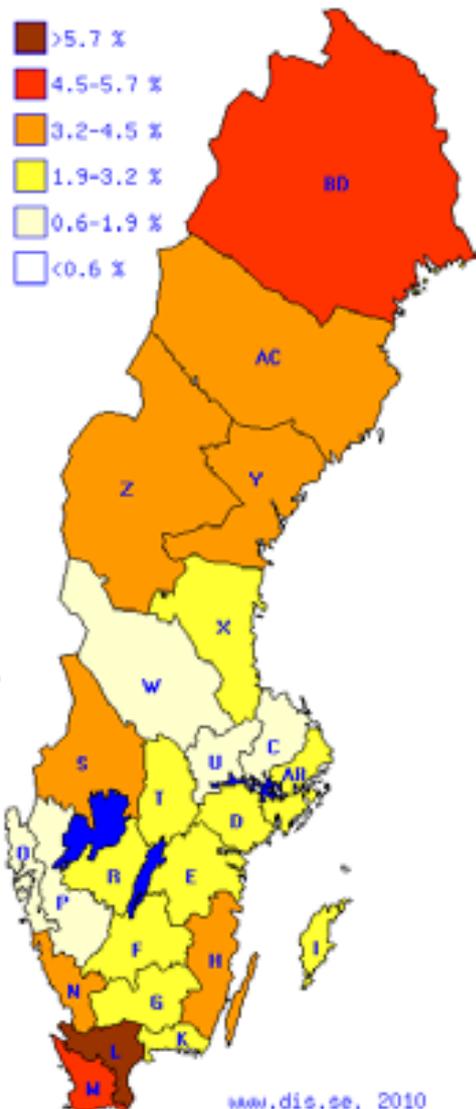
Historical name frequency of Nils

% av alla namn
i Disbyt



Discount

text:
Olof Cronberg
translation:
Joachim Schönström



Discount is a statistical chart of the Swedish naming tradition.

With its 22,2 million records of people living before 1910, the DISBYT database makes up almost half of the Swedish historical population. It also makes a splendid statistical base. The feature Discount is built on these statistics.

In Discount you can see how common different names were in earlier times. You can watch the frequency of the name vary from decade to decade between 1600 and 1900. You can also see the variations in different parts of Sweden. Every unique person is counted once on the year he or she was born. The most common names are normalized to current spelling.

Discount works for given names as well as family names and patronymics. County for county you get statistics for the chosen name. A top list is included for given names and surnames.

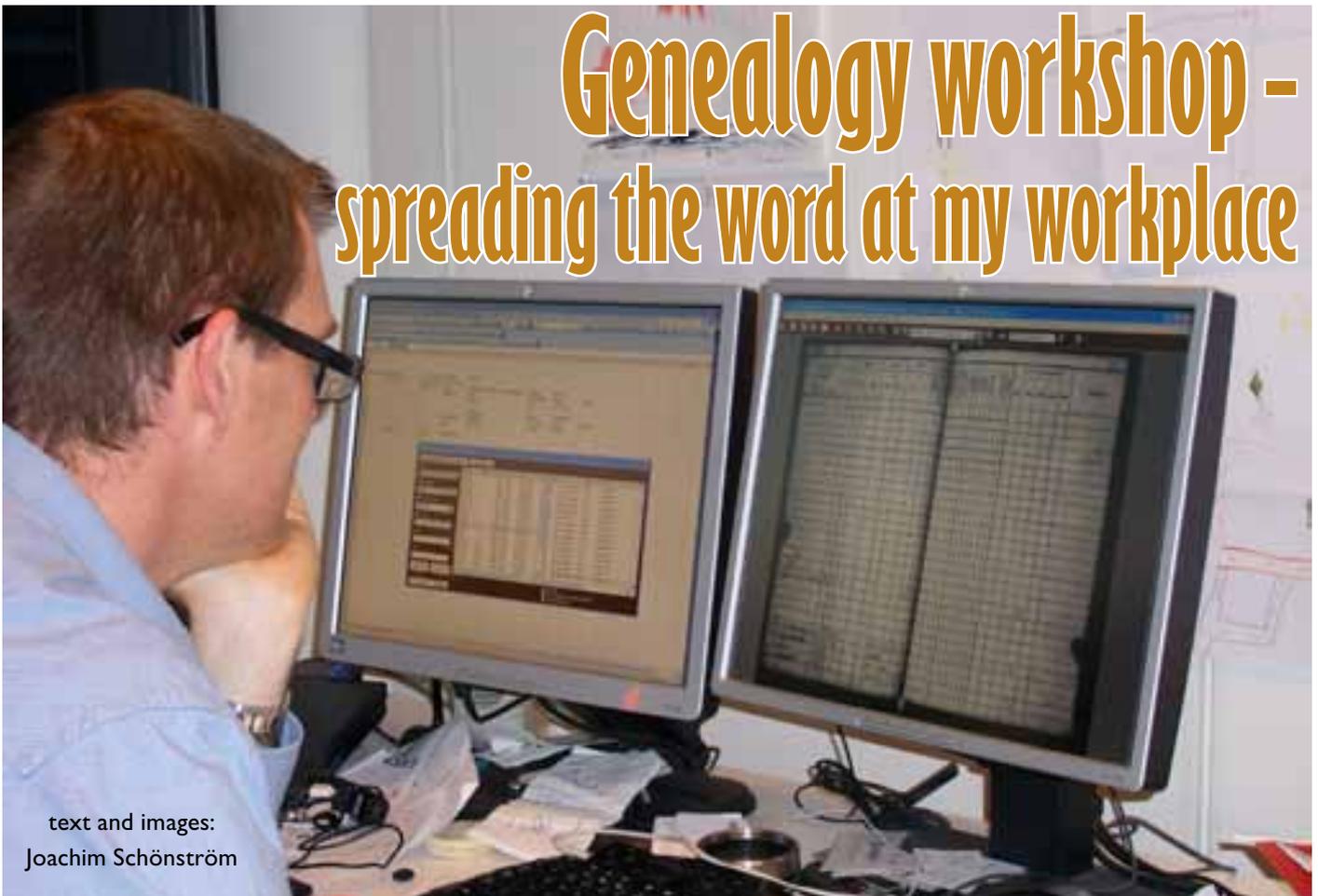
The database is now updated with the names present in the Disbyt database at Nov 1, 2009. Currently, the database consists of names for 10,5 million unique individuals.

These are the features available today. In the future, we will be able to add more functions. If you have any ideas, please send an email to discount@dis.se. 📧

The Top List of

	Name	Frequency in Disbyt	Per cent of Disbyt
1	Lindberg	19241	0.23
2	Lindström	18539	0.22
3	Bergström	18144	0.22
4	Lundberg	17653	0.21
5	Berg	17218	0.21
6	Lundgren	16613	0.2
7	Lindgren	16310	0.19
8	Sandberg	14154	0.17
9	Forsberg	13216	0.16
10	Berghund	12735	0.15

Genealogy workshop - spreading the word at my workplace



text and images:
Joachim Schönström

For some time now, I've thought about the possibility of introducing genealogy to friends and family, and how to go about it. Last spring, I decided to try it at my work place, and it turned out to be a great success story.

I work at a technical consultant firm called WSP. WSP is a global company with some 10,000 employees. 2,200 of these work in Sweden. In my unit in Malmö, Skåne, we are about 20. We have a very open climate at my workplace. There is an unwritten policy stating that we focus on having fun at work. To achieve this we arrange frequent after work activities. As we specialize in road design in my unit, my colleagues are almost exclusively civil engineers, and our after work activities tend to be the ex-

pected ones, like ten pin bowling, billiards and go-karting. Once in a while we try to do something different, like wine tasting and a visit to the theatre. As I have a slightly different background to my colleagues, with a humanist education, I try to do my bit and arrange more "cultivated" events.

For some time I have thought about the possibility of arranging a genealogy workshop as an after work activity. I have wondered if my colleagues were up for it. As I have bothered them many times with in promptu lectures on genealogy, I have had many opportuni-

ties to evaluate their response to it. So, I did feel pretty confident, and finally I gathered the courage to suggest a genealogy workshop. The response was better than I expected. Those who couldn't make

"At first, they were all frustrated by the manual searching. They're all spoiled by the precise searchability of the google era."

it were very sorry to miss the chance, and we ended up being 12 participants, including two descendants from Irak and Hong Kong respectively, with no chance of

finding anything in the Swedish church records.

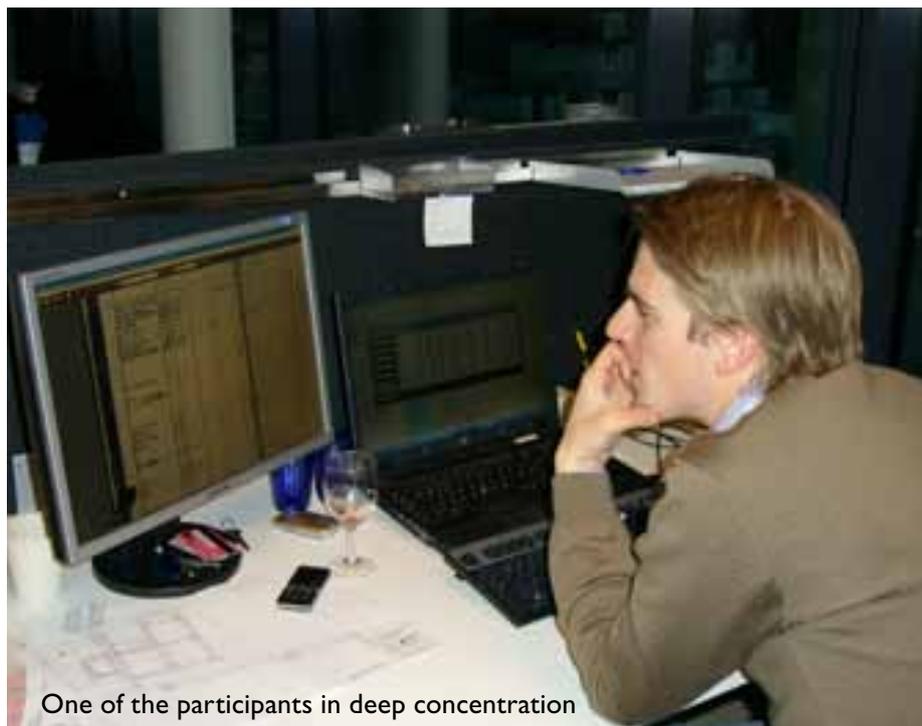
I got in touch with Genline's sales department just to find out how I could arrange a short term group subscription, and I was connec-

ted to Helene Johansson. She was absolutely thrilled when I told her about my concept of a genealogy workshop at my workplace. And Helene told me that this is exactly what she is eager for, spreading the word like this. If I can get one or two of these 12 people interested in genealogy, it was all worthwhile. You'll be able to see it in their eyes, she said. They'll get a certain look in their eyes. And they will be hooked. She ended up giving me the temporary subscriptions for free!

I now felt the responsibility to make something out of it. At the same time I felt pretty confident that my colleagues would find genealogy exciting, as long as they would be able to trace back at least a couple of generations.

In preparation, I had asked for names and dates of the ancestors they were investigating. So I did some preliminary research and concluded that they all had good chances of tracing their ancestors at least one step back.

We started out with a brief introduction with a presentation of DIS and all available resources. And a very brief look into the system of the church records. I ended the presentation with a short look at Genline's search program Family Finder. Doing all this, I realised that it probably required at least half a day of lectures for them to fully understand the basics of genealogy. Still, I wanted them to jump right in and try it themselves. Helene had warned me that 12 people is rather a big group of beginners to handle by yourself, which I soon became aware of.



At first, they were all frustrated by the manual searching. They're all spoiled by the precise searchability of the google era. One missed one person because the entries in the birth records weren't in chronological order. When I explained, it finally dawned on her: there were no computers in the 1800's. You couldn't sort by date. The minister put down the births in ink when they were known to him. He didn't have a delete or undo button. Another one had the wrong birth parish on her ancestor as it turned out. Brutal, but pedagogical. You have to have reliable sources, or alternative ways in. We solved the problem a few days later and she could make up for lost time on her own.

One of the participants didn't need any help at first, and proudly announced that he had reached the 1820's, finally ran into trouble and it turned out that he had followed the wrong family for three generations. He was a bit too quick pick-

ing among the common names in the birth records. This was also a good lesson to learn. Don't take anything for granted. *Verify, verify, verify.*

One of the luckier participants came across a parish with ministers with particularly readable handwriting. He reached the early 1800s without much effort. He was also the one who experienced the most tragic family fates, with three small children lost to tuberculosis within three weeks.

The most touching and rewarding moment of the evening for me was when our Iraqi descendant participant, who helped out another participant who had had to cancel in the last minute, had got lost in the church records and was pretty frustrated and had her jacket on, ready to go home. Suddenly she had a breakthrough and understood the system. When I checked on her an hour or so later, she had taken off her jacket and told me that

she had missed her bus long ago. She had obviously taken to the investigative side of genealogy.

Although it was a hectic time for me as a first time workshop tutor, I enjoyed every second of it thoroughly. I was so proud of my “flock”, the way they plunged into the search with good spirits and high morale. Collectively, we experienced a great number of human stories on that night. And

I’m pretty sure that I did see that special look in the eyes of a couple of the participants. The look that Helene at Genline told me about.

So, this is my message to all Rooted readers. If you ever thought: “It would be fun too...” or “Maybe I should just...” Just go for it! Take the plunge! At a workplace. In a group of friends, a family reunion, or in another pastime society. With the right group of people it’s sure

to be a success. If you need advice, I’m here to help you, or I can direct you to one of the many more experienced tutors in the DIS organization.

And, don’t forget. Spreading the word can be very rewarding and much, much fun. 🐼

the digital race

Update on Swedish Online Resources

	SVAR	Genline	Ancestry	ArkivDigital
Church records -1860	Practically complete - complementary scanning in production	Complete	Värmland’s län and partly Älvsborg’s län.	Complete - Blekinge, Dalarna, Gävleborg, Göteborgs och Bohus, Halland, Jönköping, Kalmar, Kristianstad, Kronoberg, Malmöhus, Norrbotten, Skaraborg, Södermanland, Uppsala, Värmland, Västerbotten, Västernorrland, Västmanland, Älvsborg, Örebro and Östergötland’s län. The rest are in progress.
Church records 1860-95	Same as above. Complete vital records (SCB extracts).	Complete vital records (SCB extracts). Complete for husförhörslängder	Same as above	Same as above
Church records 1895-1939	In production	In production	-	-
Vital records 1898-1939	Complete SCB extracts	Complete SCB extracts	-	In production
Taxation records 1642-1820	Complete	-	-	Partly
Census indexes	1860,1870 partly 1880, 1890,1900 complete 1910 in production.	-	-	-
Other records	Convicts, military records Indexes of seamen, villages and farms, Various printed church records	Various printed church records	Emihamn passenger lists. US census. Swedish death book 1947-2006	Court records, probate records, military records, school records, prison records, name registers
Fee - lowest fee	50 kr (7,- USD) for 3 hours	75 kr (10,- USD) for 24 hours	Free to try, but 42,- USD for a month	135 kr (19,- USD) for a month
Fee - annual fee	995 kr (137,- USD)	1395 kr (192,- USD) (DIS Members offer)	280,- USD	1045 kr (144,- USD) (DIS Members offer)
Web site	www.svar.ra.se	www.genline.com	www.ancestry.com	www.arkivdigital.se

postscript

This time Postscript contains a rather belated report from DIS' annual meeting and functionaries gathering which took place in Linköping on 13-14 March.

Among other things an annual economic report was presented which showed positive figures thanks to a steady increase in members and sale of the Disgen software. The number of member passed 26,000 in 2009, and as many as 75 % of these use Disgen. The surplus will be invested in a fund for the development of the Disgen software.

As it was DIS' 30th anniversary, the meeting on Saturday ended with an anniversary dinner. Some 120 people enjoyed a three course dinner and listened to several speeches. The DIS society was celebrated by the different regional societies as well as other genealogy associations. A number

of diplomas were awarded to DIS functionaries for long and faithful service.

The dinner also served as a going away-party for Olof Cronberg who stepped down as chairman, after three years at the helm. People lined up to celebrate Olof for the amazing work he's done during his 22 years on the DIS board.

At the meeting Olof handed over the chairman gavel to Daniel Berglund. Daniel introduced himself as a genealogist since eight years, three years as an active participant in the Disgen development work. Daniel presented four improvement areas for DIS to focus on in the near future:

- A well functioning web site
- Internet based research
- More "community" thinking
- Acceleration of the development of Disgen, Disbyt, Dispos etc



Olof Cronberg and Daniel Berglund Sunday was spent in different workshops where the functionaries discussed the present and the future of the DIS society.

As this was my first annual meeting and functionary gathering, I had of lot of impressions to process on the train home on Sunday evening. I was happy to have met all the people I had only been in touch with electronically. It was great fun meeting with so many people who share the same interest. But, most of all, I felt a deep respect for the people of the board, who work hard to direct this large society, with so many strong wills, in one direction. 🌲

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 eight 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 8.2a. 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 6,600 participants and over 22 million records, the DISBYT database covers half of the total population who lived in Sweden before 1910.

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 (September, 2010), the DIS SOCIETY has more than 27,000 members. More than 600 are overseas members.

Address: The DIS Society, Gamla Linköping, SE-582 46 LINKÖPING, SWEDEN

Phone: Int prefix+ 46 13 14 90 43. Fax: Int prefix +46 13 14 90 91. Email: dis@dis.se Web address: www.dis.se

Annual fee: USD 18,- incl Rooted in Sweden. USD 24,- incl the Swedish magazine Diskulogen.