

SOURCE
RESEARCHING
in
SWEDEN

by: MRS. DOROTHY R. MCKINLAY



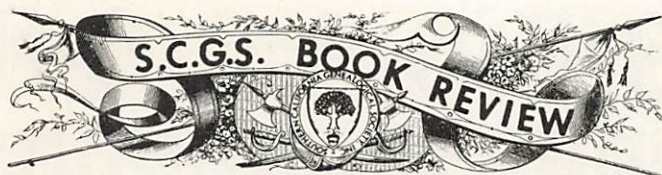
ny search for ancestors in Sweden by Americans must begin on American soil. Hence, the search becomes a two-fold project; one dealing with the family in the United States or Canada, the other with the family in Sweden. The Swedish portion cannot be properly studied or surveyed until the American segment is known.

A researcher must seek every scrap of information he can find in the United States before venturing abroad. Two things must be determined: first, the correct family surname (thousands of Swedish immigrants changed their names upon entering the United States); and second, the locality or parish where the immigrant lived must be identified. Some of the suggested sources are listed below:

1. FAMILY BIBLES
2. DIARIES
3. PHOTOGRAPHS
4. VITAL STATISTICS
5. LETTERS
6. NATURALIZATION DOCUMENTS: permanent records

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

DCCGS



Blue Ridge Mountain Kinfolks

Published by Author: Larry King, 1001 Lincoln St., Manchester, TN 37355

This 6" x 9" blue cloth-bound book is primarily about the FISHER, GILBERT, HALL, HARTLEY, HILL, KING, KIRBY and LAWSON families of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The geographical area covered is that in which so many pioneer families lived and from where numerous of their descendants migrated and settled in other parts of the country.

Genealogical and Biographical information is recorded in the 335 pages on the above principal families and members of descendant families over a period of up to 12 generations. Some of these descendant families are: Alley, Anders, Anderson, Bartee, Bedwell, Byrd, Cole, Compton, Cornett, Corvin, Crockett, Delp, Eanes, Evans, Funk, Grubb, Harrington, Hash, Hittle, Huddle, Huff, Jackson, Jenkins, Johnson, Keith, Kilbourne, Martin, Mathews, McKinnon, Miller, Osborne, Poole, Porter, Reynolds, Rhudy, Richardson, Scott, Sexton, Shuler, Snow, Sutherland, Taylor, Thompson, Tipton, Vaughan, Vaght, Waddell, Walker, Williams, Wingate and Wright.

The book is very well indexed with the names of 5,500 people on which information is given in the text. Additionally, the book is illustrated with 414 photographs, mostly of recent generations, but some are of the early settlers in their declining years.

Price per copy \$15.00.

remain in the clerk's office of a respective county. These include early naturalization records; Declaration of Intention, a record of the alien's intent to become a citizen, showing name, age, birthplace, and dates of arrival; Petition and Record, a record of naturalization papers granted, showing date of application, name and address of applicant, renouncement of foreign allegiance, affidavits of witnesses, and court order admitting citizenship. A "person who has been naturalized according to the law is entitled to a certificate which is issued under the hand of the Clerk". However, clerks are not allowed to issue certifications unless legally ordered to do so. CLERKS OF THE COURT MAY FURNISH UNCERTIFIED INFORMATION. From 1906 to 1956 records are maintained in:

CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20520

After 1956, the records are in the custody of District Offices.

LAND RECORDS: deeds from the respective county, including land that had been homesteaded. The Homestead Act of 1862 made it possible for immigrants to buy land from the Federal Government inexpensively. The Land Record Office in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. has some records and they will also be found in the County Clerk's office of the local County Court House. In both cases a complete description of the land is necessary.

FLYTTNINGSBETYG (official exit permit): this document is issued by the pastor of the parish in Sweden and gives the full name of the person, his date of birth, his place of birth, character reference, his knowledge of the Catechism and the Bible, and his destination.

9. PASSENGER MANIFESTS: since 1820 vessels have been required to divulge the names of passengers, sex, age, occupation, country of nativity, and destination. Most of these have been deposited in the National Archives. For information write:

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PASSENGER LISTS (NNCC)
National Archives (GSA)
Washington, D.C. 20408

A pamphlet, "Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, 1820-1850" has been published, and is available in most genealogical libraries.

10. CENSUS RECORDS
11. MILITARY RECORDS
12. CHURCH RECORDS: although not required to keep records, many parishes did. An individual search must be made, although a microfilm project is underway to copy immigrant Swedish church records. Queries may be made to:

Lutheran Theological Seminary Archives
1100 East 55th
Chicago, Illinois 60615
13. SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS: immigrants were hungry for news of their homeland, and native-language newspapers proliferated. Columns were often devoted to family news. Microfilming is being done, and a letter will furnish information as to which newspapers have been filmed and where copies may be obtained:

Augustana College Library
Rock Island, Illinois 61202
14. CITY DIRECTORIES: "Between 1850 and 1930 more than one million Swedes emigrated to North America -- over one fourth of the population (of Sweden). This period has been called 'the years of the American Fever', alluding not only to the epidemic speed by which the urge to emigrate spread. At times, certain parts of the Province of Småland in Southern Sweden were threatened by total depopulation (From: Sweden's House of Emigrants.)

Armed with the correct surname, geographical location, and parish, a genealogist is ready to tackle research in Sweden. There he will find that a very efficient system has been in operation for over two centuries. There are excellent records of all Swedish citizens.

15. **VITAL STATISTICS:** the duty of the established Lutheran Church is to maintain records of its parishioners, even though they may not attend church services. Every birth, death, marriage, removal from the parish or entry into it is recorded by the clergyman or his staff. This has been in operation since the latter part of the 17th century. Records remain in the parish until they are 100 years old, at which time they are transferred to the provincial archives, called Landsarkiv. Administratively, Sweden is divided into 24 districts called Lan, something like the States in America. A Lan is different from a Landskap, which is a geographical concept. Beginning researchers often confuse the two terms.



continued next issue

Who Knows The Answer ?

RICHARDSON Need info. on desc. of Rev. Sampson RICHARDSON my Gt. Grandfather of E. Ten n.4 sons migrated west before 1900 settled in Az. & Ca. Their names Nathaniel, Jonathan, Milton and Asa. Want to correspond with children of Vivian, Leroy or Mary RICHARDSON who were born in Kingman, Az. Mrs. Merlyn Reed, 1112 Mohawk, Topanga, Ca. 90

RETFERFORD Need info. on parents, wife and siblings of Alexand
 REATHERFORD RETFERFORD who lived in Virginia, Tennessee ar
 RETTERFORD Kentucky. His children lived in Bourbon County, K
 REDIFORD in 1830 and later in Ind. and Missouri. Need info.
 on Retherfords, Reatherfords, Redifords, or
 Retterfords anywhere. Dale E. Retherford, 2929
 Sisal Place, Hacienda Heights, Ca. 91745

CODDINGTON Wish to correspond with anyone doing research on
 PORTER CODDINGTON family. Need parents of Calvin
 THOMAS CODDINGTON - possibly John, b. New York ca.
 1800. His wife was Sarah Ann PORTER, dau. of
 John PORTER and Dinah THOMAS. Marian Bonse
 7928 Adore Street, Downey, Ca. 90242

ANTHES Would like to correspond with others working on th
 BUSH ANTHES family (U.S. and Germany) and the follow
 DOWNEY ing Southern families of the 1700's and 1800's:
 FORTSON BUSH, DOWNEY, FORTSON, KILGORE, McINVA
 KILGORE PILGRIM, RADFORD and STANFORD. Roderick
 McINVALE Bush, 5892 Karen Avenue, Cypress, Ca. 90630
 PILGRIM
 RADFORD
 STANFORD

STROUP Need information on Barnet STROUP, Militia,
 Northampton Co. Pa. 1776. Was he related to
 Phillip STROUP, b. ca. 1767 who lived in Mifflin
 Co. Pa. in 1790? Bill Bonser, 7928 Adore Street
 Downey, Ca. 90242

RESEARCHING

in

SWEDEN

by: Mrs. Barbara McKinlay

Continued from page 75 of Volume XIII, No. 3

LIST OF ARCHIVES

1. Landsarkivet in Uppsala comprises the län of Stockholm, Uppsala, Södermanland, Örebro, Västmanland and Kopparberg. Address: S-571 04 Uppsala.
2. Landsarkivet in Vadstena comprises the län of Östergötland Jönköping, Kronoberg and Kalmar. Address S-592 00 Vadstena.
3. Landsarkivet in Visby for the län of Gotland. Address: P.O. Box 142, S-621 00 Visby.
4. Landsarkivet in Lund comprises the län of Blekinge, Kristianstad, Malmöhus and Halland. Address: Fack 2016, S-220 02 Lund.
5. Landsarkivet in Goteborg comprises the län of Göteborg and Bohus. Alvsborg, Skaraborg and Varmland. Address: P.O. Box 3009 Geijersgatan 1, S-400 10, Goteborg.
6. Landsarkivet in Härmösand comprises the län of Gävleborg, Västernorrland, Vasterbotten and Norrbotten. Address: Nybrogatan 17, S-871 01 Härmösand.
7. Landsarkivet in Östersund for the län of Jämtland. Address: S-831 01 Östersund.
8. Stadsarkivet in Stockholm for the city of Stockholm. Address: P.O. Box 22063, Kungsklippan 6, S-014 22 Stockholm.
9. Stadsarkivet in Malmö for the city of Malmö. Address: St. Petrigången 7 A, S-211 22 Malmö.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

10. Stadsarkivet in Borås for the city of Borås. Address: P.O. Box 851, S-501 15 Borås.
11. Stadsarkivet in Västerås for the city of Västerås. Address: S-721 87 Västerås.
12. Stadsarkivet in Örebro. Address: Fack, S-701 01 Örebro.
13. Stadsarkivet in Uppsala. Address: Uppsala kommun, P.O. Box 216, S-751 04 Uppsala.
14. Stadsarkivet in Gävle. Address: Gävle centralarkiv, Stapeltorgsgatan 5B, S-802 24 Gävle.
15. Stadsarkivet in Karlstad. Address: Stadhuset, Drottninggatan 32, S-652 25 Karlstad.
16. Stadsarkivet in Eskilstuna. Address: Kriebsensgata 4, S-632 00 Eskilstuna.
17. Stadsarkivet in Norrköping. Address: Norrköpings kommun, Stadsarkivet, S-061 81 Norrköping.

2. Husförhörslängder (Household Examination Rolls); in visiting members of his parish, a clergyman was expected to record information for these rolls, which may include data about all members of the household, their names, occupations, birth dates, birth places, departures, arrivals, and occasionally their marriages and deaths. Other bits of information, such as education, physical condition, criminal record, etc. may also be found. The earliest of these is 1600. Rolls will be found in the archives, and after 1750 in the National Bureau of Statistics.

Statistiska Centralbyrån
Fack
Karlavagen 100
S-102 50 Stockholm

3. Personakt (Personal Records); since 1946 each person has a personal record which he takes with him if he moves to another parish. If he dies or emigrates, it is sent to the National Central Bureau of Statistics.

4. Names and addresses of living persons; available in each lan, arranged alphabetically.

5. Census Records; the lan archives and the Kammararkivet.

6. Real Property Records; also available in the lan archives and the Kammararkivet.

Kammararkivet
Fack
Fyrverkarbacken 13-17
S-100 26, Stockholm

7. Probate Records; available in each lan.

8. Police Records; the police of the chief ports of embarkation kept records of all emigrants passing through the ports. Names were recorded, occasionally the trade or profession, the age, sex, parish of nativity, and destination. These records are at the repository in Växjö, address below:

Emmigrantinstitutet
P.O. Box 201
S-351 04 Växjö

9. Royal Lineages; available at the House of Nobility, address below:

Riddarhuset
P.O. Box 2022
S-103 11 Stockholm

10. Military Records; are kept at the Royal Swedish Military Record Office, address below:

Krigsarkivet
Fack
Banérgatan 64
S-104 50 Stockholm

11. Emigrant History; founded in 1965, the Emmigrant-institutet contains letters, diaries, photographs, passenger lists, newspapers and church registers, as well as police records. Send letters to Emmigrantinstitutet as shown in item 8.

12. Genealogical Societies; these groups have been active for many years, and each publishes a magazine.

Personhistoriska Samfundet
Riksarkivet
Fack
S-100 26 Stockholm

Genealogiska Foreningen
Arkivgatan 3
S-111 28 Stockholm

No article would be complete without mention of the remarkable information available through the L.D.S. Church. Their new microfiche files contain vital information on immigrants who have been filed on by members of the church. In addition, the parish registers found in the regional archives have been microfilmed and are available. Address your inquiry to:

LDS Genealogical Society Library
50 North
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

A reminder: as is always the case when you are working with research in another country, you may encounter information that has to be translated, or you may wish to hire a person trained in research. Agreement should always be reached beforehand so that the two people concerned are in complete understanding as to the size of the task and the fee to be paid.

All letters of inquiry should be accompanied by two (2) International Postal Coupons which can be purchased from most first class post offices in the United States.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Everton, George B. editor: THE HANDY BOOK FOR GENEALOGISTS. Everton Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 368, Logan, Utah 84321.

Heiss, Willard: "NATURALIZATION RECORDS" Appeared in GENEALOGY magazine, July, 1975 (Number 15).

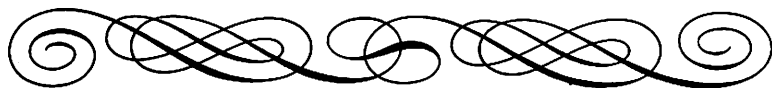
Johansson, Carl-Erik: CRADLED IN SWEDEN : Brigham Young University Press, Provo, Utah, 1971.

Pine, L. G.: THE GENEALOGIST'S ENCYCLOPEDIA, MacMillan Co., 866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, 1970.

TRACING YOUR SWEDISH ANCESTRY: Swedish Institute; 1974; this is an excellent pamphlet upon which much of this article was based. It is available upon request from:

Swedish Consulate
615 South Flower Street
Los Angeles, California 90017

Mrs. Barbara McKinlay



Free Louisiana Help

Mr. Douglas L. Stutes, 2120 Brooks Drive, Apt. 105, Suitland, Maryland 20028 has offered to check his extensive indexes for references to individuals living in Louisiana during the 1700's and 1800's. All he asks for this fabulous service is a Self Addressed Stamped envelope. Gentlemen like Mr. Stutes add a complete new dimension to genealogical sharing.

The Editor



Children with Swedish Parents in Omaha in 1891

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

There are many treasures in the huge collections of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, a place that is so full of information that it is almost overwhelming. It is a pleasure just to walk the aisles on the ground floor, where the books in the U.S.-Canadian collection are kept, and read all the titles on the spines and wonder what is hidden there. I

do this sometimes and then keep looking and reading the sections for states, where I know many Swedes settled, and now and then something very interesting is found.

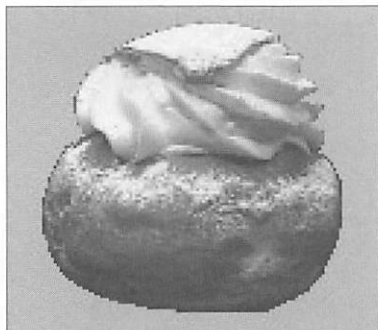
There was a midwife in Omaha, Nebraska, *Mrs. Louise Mohr*, who kept her own records of the babies she delivered from 1879 until 1902, and for several years she also noted

the nationality of the parents. There is a copy in the library of the list she kept, and I have excerpted all the "Swedish" babies for 1891.

[The call number for the book is 978.2254/O1 V2m, and there is also a microfilm of it: FHL US/CAN Film 1320740 Item 2]

1891 Mar. 15	twin boys, to Emma and Frank Lind, 2312 N. 27th Street
1891 Apr. 17	girl, to Tinne and Peter Forstlund, 21st Str. and South
1891 May 27	boy, to Mary (American) and Geo Wheeler, 27th Str and Patrick Ave.
1891 Jun. 4	girl, to Cicilia and Sam Nichols, 27th and Grant Streets
1891 Jul. 11	boy, to Ella and John Green, 28th and Dodge Street
1891 Jul. 23	boy, to Mary and Richard Sardien, cabinet maker, 40th and Nelson Streets
1891 Aug. 1	boy, to Anna and Nels Lenstadt, 26th and Douglas Streets
1891 Aug. 14	girl, to Louise and Herbert Lindquest, Mason and 22th Streets
1891 Aug. 27	girl, to Selma and John Hutgreen, 3713 N. 19th Street
1891 Oct. 7	girl, to Emma and Charly Karlson, 28th and Dodge Streets
1891 Oct. 17	boy, to Mary and Anton Larson, milkman, Florence Lake
1891 Oct. 31	girl, to Berta and Herman B. Engstedt, 1017 N. 23rd Street
1891 Nov. 16	girl, to Anna and Herman Larsen, tailor, 16th and Leavenworth Streets
1891 Dec. 26	boy, to Amanda and Peter Nelson, 27th and Burt Streets

A Swedish Tradition: the *semla*



This year you are supposed to eat your first semla on Tuesday Feb.24.

A *semla* is a bun made of ordinary coffee-bread dough, preferably with some cardamom in it. You make round buns and bake them as usual in the oven. Then, when you want to make a *semla*, you slice off the top, dig out some of the inside, mix that with ground almonds and a drop of milk. Then you put it back into the bun, top it with whipped cream and then the sliced-off piece is put on top, as a hat, and finished with a sprinkling of finely granulated sugar (*florsocker*). Then it is ready to eat, either

as it is or in a bowl with hot milk.

The *semlor* (pl.) are to be eaten on the first Tuesday in Lent and each Tuesday until Easter. Traditionally you first eat fried salted pork in slices and brown beans, and then a *semla*.

Lots of bakeries can't wait until Lent, but start selling them directly after Christmas, which is cheating the tradition. The *semlor* are known since the 1700s, when King Adolf Fredrik died in 1771 after eating too many.

u. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

Whannistun up Sprinnu född, lafvan nu litan tid och en full man
ovolyft: Mägan upp som ett blomstran, och fullan up; flyga
bort som en stygga, och blifvan icke. Och ofvan nu färderna
inlåtan till sin ögon, och druggen mig som sig i natten.
Go vill finna en annan man. Han; Han mynnar när sin

Num: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20.

Jonas Jacob Wallberg.


Sweden
Misc
1.8

A Swedish Alphabet from the 18th Century

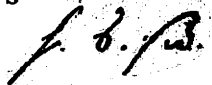
By ELISABETH THORSELL

The alphabet on the lefthand page was written by Jonas Jacob Wallberg, born 1762 in Östergötland, and died there in 1810. His father was a surveyor, Mathias Jonas Wallberg, and as was common in those days, the son was educated to follow his father's footsteps and also become a surveyor. An important part of the job was to make maps of villages, to show who owned what fields, which also meant that he had to have a good hand-writing, and probably had to start at a very young age to acquire a good hand.

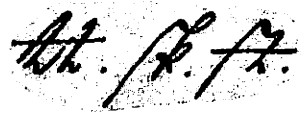
We do not know, but perhaps can assume that this alphabet is one of Jonas Jacob's youthful exercises. It is written in German script (*tyska stilen*), which was very common in Sweden during the 1700s.

In the first row we have all of the small letters, from a to ö, but there seems to be too many of them? This is because Jonas Jacob has also written some of the more common combinations, like  (ff) and the

several types of s



where the last one is a double ss. There are also some common combinations with s and t, like these:



They are tt, sk and st. Always when you see a letter that looks too large, remember these combinations.

Next comes the capital letters, and there is nothing exceptional there, except perhaps the S, which does not look like an S.

The long text is a citation from the Bible. It is from the Book of Job, chapter 14, and it reads like this:

Menniskan af Qwinno född, lefwer en liten tid och är full med // orolighet; Wäxer upp som ett blomster, och faller af, flyr // bort som en skugge, och blifwer icke. Och öfwer en sådana // uplåter Tu Tin ögon, och drager mig för Tig i rätten // ho will finna en renan när them, ther ingen ren är.

In King James Bible the text goes like this:

- 1: Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.
- 2: He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.
- 3: And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?
- 4: Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

There are a few things to note in the text. The letter u has a squiggle on top to show that there is a vowel there, otherwise it might get lost in all the other undulating letters. Jonas Jacob also writes th, where modern Swedish writes d (ther = där).

It does not show in this text, but it was common to write double letters like mm as just one letter with a squiggle on top (my computer will not do this). So always put some importance on the squiggles.

Do not think that all old Swedish is difficult to read like this one. Usually the researcher works with records where you can almost guess what is in them. In a Birth record you expect to find information on the baby, his parents, their home, and the

sponsors, and not much more. The format is easily learnt, and that goes for Marriage and Death records also. The difficulties are usually met when you try to decipher people's titles, but an old dictionary will be a good help.

Probates are more of a challenge, as farming tools and houseware have many names, but we will try them later on.

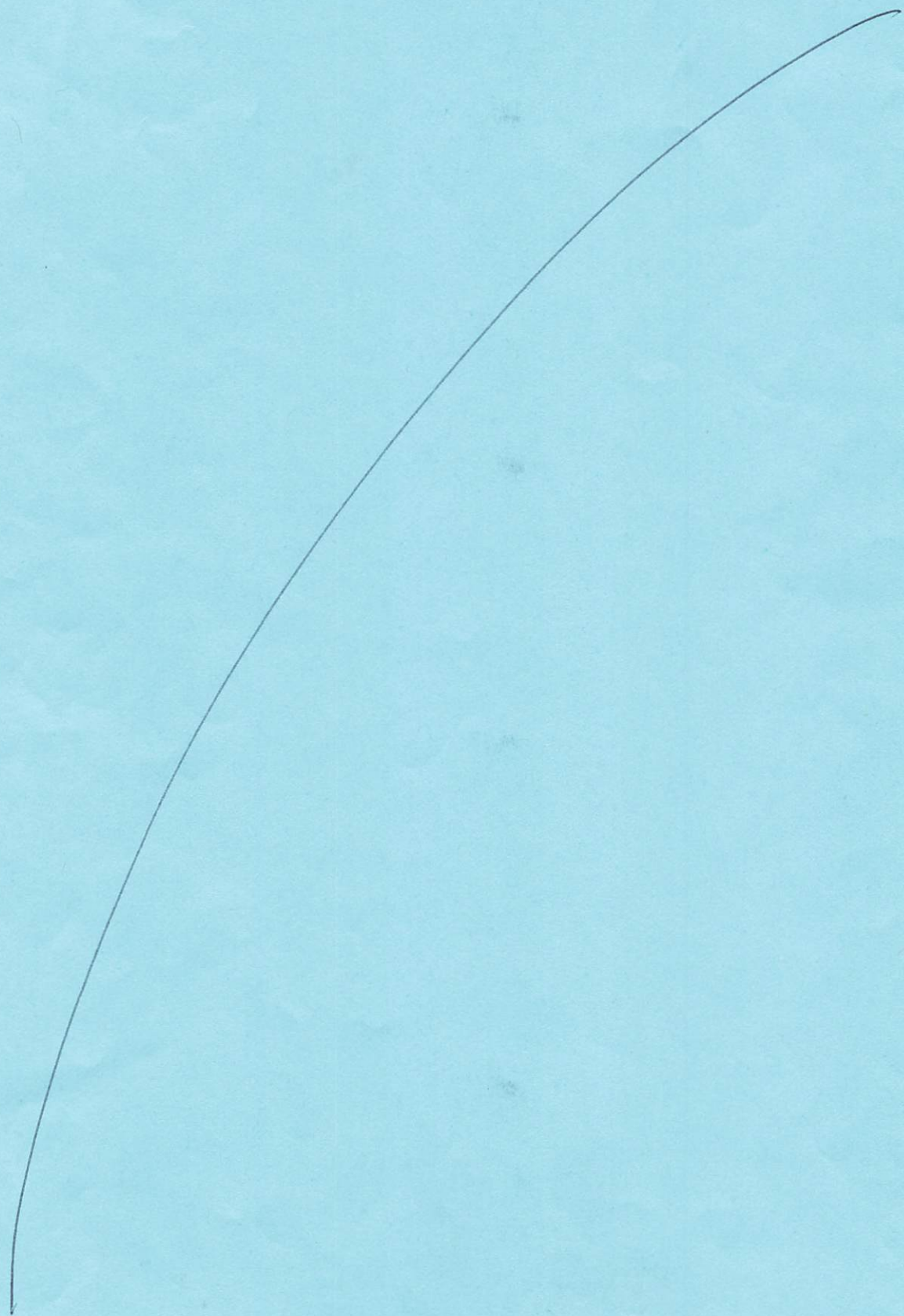
There has already been studies in old hand-writing published in SAG, but the new format makes better pictures possible. Reading hand-writing is also something very basic, that you need to practise all the time. Even an experienced researcher has to sit down and take a close look, when a parish gets a new clergyman and the script changes.

A good tip

When you are reading old script, take out a notebook and write down the text in your own hand, preferably in print.

When you come to a word that you can not read, try to figure how many letters there are in this word, and then leave empty spaces for those letters, then go on with what you can read.

Next, put away the notebook for the day. When you take it out again, and look at the text, then you say "of course, that word is Åseda" or whatever it was. The brain keeps working on this problem and might come up with a solution after having had some rest.



Sweden
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1.13

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!

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

10. Anton Andersson Siknäs, Nederkalix	1874 Jul. 18	I U.S.A. 1892 II Canada?	Fargo (dead in Fargo 1897?) Quebec, Canada
11. Robert Johansson Siknäs, Nederkalix	1865 Nov. 12	U.S.A. 1886	North Dakota?
12. Oscar Fredriksson Siknäs, Töre	1907 Aug. 24	Canada 1926	Winnipeg Canada
13. John Sundström Siknäs, Nederkalix	1886 Oct. 21	Canada 1906	Quebec Canada (died in the 1930s)
14. Anton Andersson Rönnbäck Siknäs, Nederkalix	1861 Jul. 6	U.S.A. 1882	
15. Per-Olof Sennström Nederkalix	1859 Nov. 20	U.S.A. 1881	Clinton, Canada?
16. Ida Rebecca Sennström Nederkalix	1878 Aug. 26	U.S.A. 1903	
17. Johannes Persson Siknäs, Nederkalix	1860 Nov. 4	U.S.A. 1884	
18. Karl Fredrik Lindberg Siknäs, Töre	1890 Oct. 6	U.S.A. 1910	
19. Ida Andersson Siknäs, Nederkalix	1872 Aug. 5	U.S.A. 1893	
20. Olof Teodor Olsson Bäck 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
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Ridhusgatan 16,
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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 book-keeper, led her and the rest of his family to a number of places in Sweden until they finally settled down at Skärkehylte, Långaryd parish,



An almost forgotten tragedy at sea

Sweden
Misc
1,18
Sweden

The story of the *Empress of Ireland*

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

The *steamship Empress of Ireland* was launched at Liverpool on January 27th, 1906; she displaced 14,191 tons, and had accommodations for 1,700 passengers and a crew of 500. Her service speed was 18 knots (33 km/h). She had 2 propellers. She was owned by the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company.

On her departure on her fatal voyage on 28 May 1914 from Quebec City just 1,057 passengers and 417 crew were aboard, as she sailed down the St. Lawrence River that late Spring afternoon. Dinner was served; the Captain, Henry Kendall, entertained prominent guests at his table – actor Laurence Irving and his wife (he was the son of Sir Henry Irving); Sir Henry Seton-Karr (former British M.P.) and his wife were amongst the number.

Some years before, when Commander of the ship *Montrose*, Captain Kendall had been responsible for the arrest of the infamous murderer Dr. Crippen, and perhaps he would have told his guests of this adventure.

The catastrophe

At 1:35 a.m., the ship's lookout, Jack Carroll, reported: "A ship's masthead spotted on the starboard bow!" It was a squat, graceless freighter, far ahead. Shortly afterwards, a blanket of fog descended, then lifted, and they saw that the boat was heading directly towards them. The *Empress* gave a long blast on the foghorn, then the fog descended again. Captain Kendall gave the order to go full speed astern, and the liner stopped as the engines were reversed.

Within two minutes, the ships

were about one length apart, and he gave orders to his engine room to go full speed ahead, to reduce the shock of collision. Just at that moment, the freighter came right in, and cut the *Empress* in a line between the two funnels.

The freighter was the *S.S. Storstad*, a Norwegian collier of 6,028 tons, and fully laden with coal. It was commanded by Captain Thomas Andersen, said to be a strict disciplinarian. For this reason, no doubt, First Officer Alfred Tuftenes, in charge on the bridge, didn't wake his captain until just before the collision. Had he done so, a thousand lives might have been saved.

Captain Kendall later reported: "When he struck me, I had stopped my engines. I shouted to him to keep full speed ahead, to fill the hole he had made and then he backed away!"

The ship began to fill, and almost immediately listed over to starboard. The wireless operator quickly sent out an S.O.S. Very few passengers even heard the collision, and others didn't stand a chance, being trapped in their cabins. Within five minutes, the ship was listing so badly that it was impossible to walk on the deck.

The first lifeboat just dropped into the water; the second one was more successfully launched; others were

almost impossible even to reach. In fourteen minutes, the ship went down, in 110 feet of near-freezing water. After the *Storstad* took aboard nearly all the survivors, they were later transferred to two smaller ships, the *Eureka* and the *Lady Evelyn*, which then took the survivors to Rimouski, a city on the Saint Lawrence inlet.

The inquiry

Lord Mersey, who had presided over the Inquiry regarding the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912, and would do so again when the *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German submarine off southern Ireland, presided over the Board of Trade Inquiry into the sinking of the *Empress*.

Convened in Quebec City on June 16, 1914, the Inquiry found the *Storstad* at fault. A Norwegian Inquiry, conducted at the Norwegian Consulate General in Montreal, ultimately exonerated the *Storstad* and its captain, Thomas Andersen. To this day, the two conclusions are irreconcilable. The *Storstad* was seized as requested by the CPR in a \$2,000,000 lawsuit for damages and sold for a sum of \$175,000 to Prudential Trust.

This was Canada's worst peacetime maritime disaster.

	Saved	Lost	Total
First Cabin -	36	51	87
Second Cabin -	48	205	253
Third Class -	133	584	717
Crew (Including Musicians)	245	175	420
Total -	462	1015	1477

Third class passengers with a destination in Sweden

Anderson, Mrs. Alvin, Minneapolis, MN	Gothenburg	lost
Anderson, A., Vancouver, B.C.	Malmö	lost, body identified
Blomqvist, August, Winnipeg, Manitoba	Gothenburg	lost
Blomqvist, Mrs., " "	Gothenburg	lost
Blomqvist, Fred " "	Gothenburg	lost
Blomqvist, Erik " "	Gothenburg	lost
Carlson, A., Minneapolis, MN	Gothenburg	lost
Clausen, David, Lethbridge, Alberta	Gothenburg	saved by <i>Corsican</i> 31 st May
Engstrom, John, Minneapolis, MN	Gothenburg	lost
Erickson, Eric J., Rossland, B.C.	Gothenburg	lost
Erickson, Nels I., Bellingham, WA	Gothenburg	saved by <i>Corsican</i> 31 st May
Evans, Russell, Chicago, IL	Gothenburg	lost
Fransen, Oscar, Fernie, B.C.	Gothenburg	lost
Gustafson, John, Minneapolis, MN	Gothenburg	lost
Johnson, Andrew, Minneapolis, MN	Malmö	saved by <i>Corsican</i> 31 st May
Johnson, Alida, Chicago, IL	Gothenburg	lost
Larson, Nels, Omaha, NE	Gothenburg	lost
Lindqvist, Jonas, Shellbrook, Sask.	Gothenburg	sailed on <i>Empress of Britain</i> 11 June
Lindqvist, Martha, Shellbrook, Sask.	Gothenburg	" " "
Nelson, Gust., Minneapolis, MN	Gothenburg	lost
Nilson, Sigfrid, Kamloops, B.C.	Helsingborg	saved by <i>Corsican</i> 31 st May
Olsen, Gustav, Racine, WI	Gothenburg	lost
Parsk (Barsk), Maria, Chicago, IL	Gothenburg	to Chicago 1 st June
Peterson, G., Sherbrooke, Que	Gothenburg	lost
Samuelson, Carl, Omaha, NE	Gothenburg	lost
Swan, Chas, Minneapolis, MN	Gothenburg	at Montreal 6 June
Swanson, Amandus, Kamloops, B.C.	Helsingborg	saved by <i>Corsican</i> 31 st May
Swanson, Martin, Maple Creek, Sask.	Malmö	saved by <i>Corsican</i> 31 st May
Towlander, Mrs., Winnipeg, Man.	Gothenburg	lost
Vinquist, C.J., Omaha, NE	Gothenburg	lost

This passenger list found at

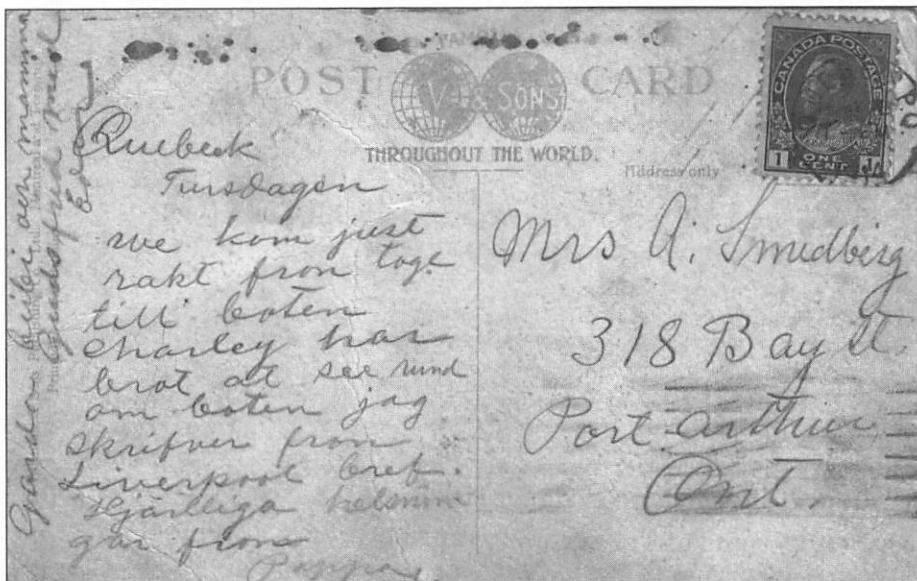
http://www.sea-viewdiving.com/shipwreck_info/empress_home/passengerindex.htm

Postcard from victim

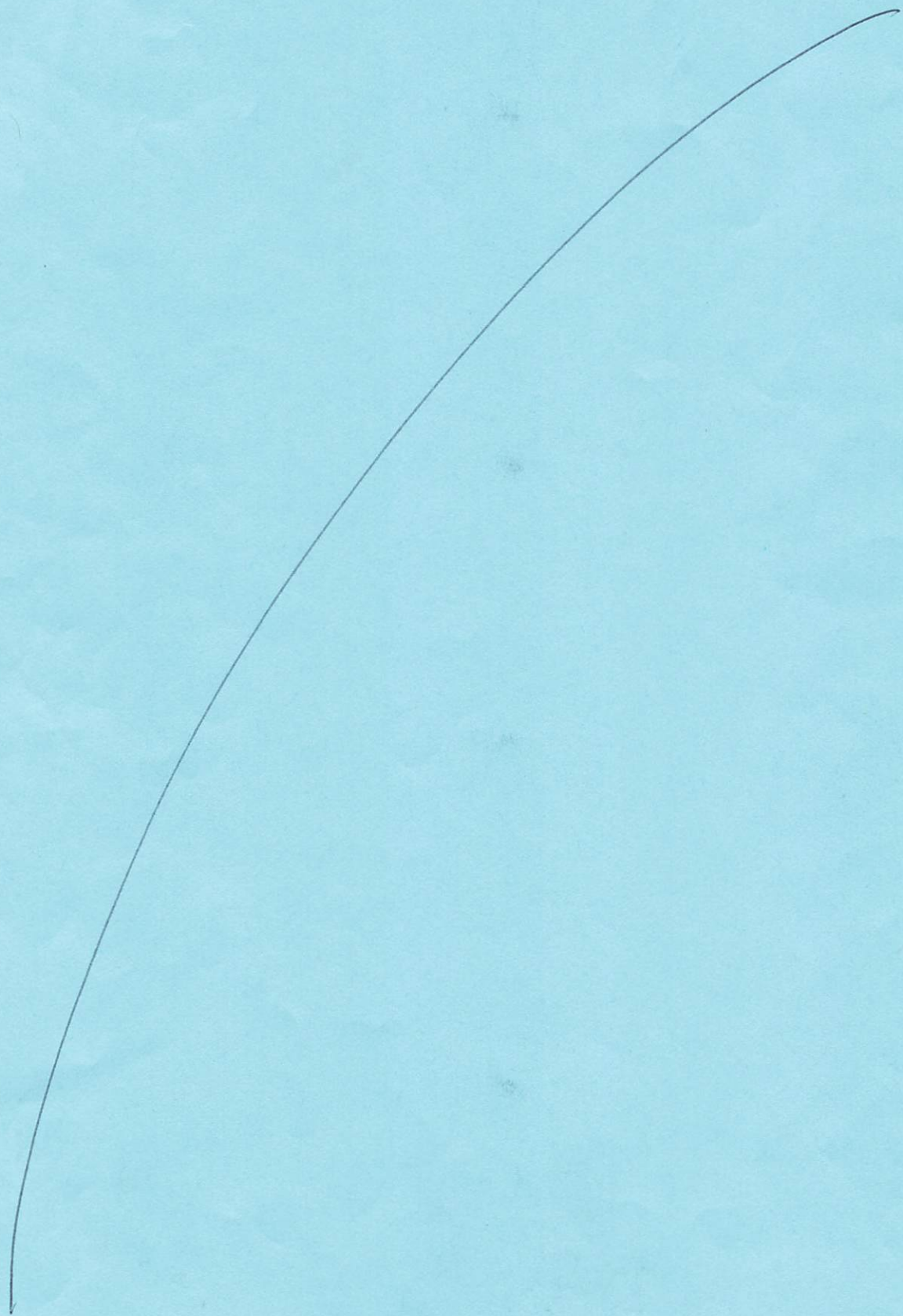
The *älänning* Rafael Smedberg and his son Charley, age 10, from Port Arthur, Ont., decided to go back and visit relatives on Åland and in Finland. Just after boarding, Rafael wrote a postcard to his wife, and told her that they had just arrived at the ship and that Charley was eager to inspect the boat. He would write more from Liverpool, and wished the ones at home God's peace.

(We kom just // rakt från toge // till boten // Charley har // brott att se runt // om boten[.] Jag skriver från // Liverpool brev. // Hjärtliga hälsningar från Pappa .

Across the card: Garda, Bibi [illegible name] och mamma // Guds frid med Eder)



Postcard belongs to Don Arril. Thanks to Elinor Barr and the Swedes in Canada project.



From Stubborn Swede Railroad Inspector to Civil War General

Sweden
Misc
1.19

Sweden

BY JOHN E. NORTON

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Ernst Mattias Peter von Vegesack was born 18 June 1820 on the island of Gotland, scion of a Swedish military family with German roots. His parents were Eberhard Ferdinand Emil von Vegesack, a captain in the army and later customs officer, and his wife Ulrika Christina Sofia Lythberg. The family earned their Swedish nobility in 1664, and were granted baronial privileges in 1802.

Like many young noblemen, Ernst began his own military career at the age of 15, when he joined the Swedish Army's *jägare* (rifle) company at Visby. He rose through the enlisted ranks in the conscript Gotland Artillery. He was commissioned as brevet second lieutenant of the Dala Regiment in 1840, and promoted to first lieutenant in 1843. He worked as a licensed surveyor in Kopparberg province during the great land reform of 1844-1850. He also saw peacetime duty overseas as an artillery battery officer in the Swedish Caribbean colony of St. Barthélemy in 1852-1853 and in 1854. After returning to Sweden, he was promoted to captain and company commander in the Dala Regiment in 1857. In 1858 he became intrigued by the new technology of the railroad industry, and was named traffic chief/inspector for the new Gefle-Dala Railway between the Baltic seacoast town of Gävle and the inland province of Dalarna, a career change that brought unexpected results and later fame from an unlikely quarter.

It is said that his decision to head for America as the Civil War broke out was encouraged by an unfortunate 1860 confrontation with a prominent railroad passenger, over a shipment of Baltic herring. Swedish Member of Parliament Liss Lars Olsson had chosen to return home from Parliament to Dalarna via the Baltic

seacoast town of Gävle. Olsson had reached an agreement with his business friend and railroad executive director, Per Murén, that he could ship all personal baggage at no cost.

Olsson chose to interpret "baggage" liberally, and tried to load 20 cases of salted Åland Baltic herring in Gävle, as a speculative investment to be sold at home in Dalarna. von Vegesack refused to treat it as baggage, insisting it instead be shipped as revenue-producing freight, or not at all. As the train pulled out of Gävle, the herring boxes remained on the loading dock. Olsson made a shouted appeal, "My herring, my herring!" to Per Murén, standing at trackside. The executive director demanded an explanation of von Vegesack. A heated discussion followed, and von Vegesack resigned. He, along with other Swedish officers hoping to gain battlefield experience, then sought permission to come to America to fight for the Union. He left Sweden on 7 August 1861 with three other lieutenants and a young engineer.

Von Vegesack's entry into Union Army service was smoothed by American Secretary of State William H. Seward, whose intervention landed Ernst a commission in September 1861 as Captain in the 58th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and assignment to staff duty at Newport News. In that capacity, he was privileged to witness, and report home to Sweden, the famous 9 March 1862 sea battle at Hampton Roads between Swedish engineer John Ericsson's ironclad *Monitor* and the Confederate *Merrimac*.

Von Vegesack tired of staff duties at Newport News, and requested reassignment to the field, asking to follow McClellan into battle during the ill-fated Peninsular Campaign

aimed at Richmond. He was refused, so resigned his commission to join McClellan's corps as a volunteer during the siege of Yorktown and battle of Williamsburg. For bravery shown during the battle of Hanover Courthouse, he was promoted to major and joined McClellan's general staff as adjutant. Though suffering from malaria, he later helped cover McClellan's retreat from Richmond to the James River, distinguishing himself in the battle of Gaines Mill.

For his services there, he was promoted to colonel, and given command of the 20th Regiment New York Volunteers, made up largely of German Turners, many who were refugees (or children of refugees) from the socialist revolutions of 1848. He soon became an acting brigade commander, and led the Third Brigade of Gen. Smith's Division in the disastrous battle of Bull Run, 30 August 1862. By the time of the bloody battle of Antietam, 16-17 September 1862, he was a regimental commander, and successfully stopped a Confederate breakthrough by reinforcing the Union center with his Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, and Germans. Shortly after, he was made brevet brigadier general. In that capacity, he participated in the bloody, unsuccessful battle of Fredericksburg 11-13 December 1862, and again on 3 May 1863, when Fredericksburg was finally taken. A day later, he and his unit participated in the disastrous battle of Chancellorsville, where he was nearly captured and his unit almost wiped out. His regiment had, by then, served out its enlistment, and on 10 May 1863, the unit was welcomed home to New York and mustered out.

Von Vegesack was then attached to General Meade's Army of the Poto-

mac, becoming Meade's adjutant in time to participate in the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863.

He left Union service on 3 August 1863, and returned to his homeland as a national hero, receiving a saber and gold medal for "bravery in the field" from King Carl XV. In 1864 he was promoted directly from Swedish Army Captain to Lieutenant Colonel and made commander of the Västerbotten Rifle Corps. He became commander of the Hälsinge Regiment in 1868, and was military commander of Gotland 1874-84. He also served as M.P. and representative of Gotland in the Upper Chamber of Parliament from 1878 to 1887. He was promoted to Major General in 1884 and put in command of Sweden's 5th Military District. He retired in 1888.

His Civil War service was not forgotten by the United States. Following the Civil war, he was named a member of "The Union League," and was promoted to permanent brigadier general in the U.S. Army in 1865. On 26 August 1893, he was giv-

en the United States' highest military award, The Congressional Medal of Honor, for bravery during the battle of Gaines Mill, while covering McClellan's retreat. The citation was simple: "While voluntarily serving as aide de camp, successfully and advantageously charged the position of troops under fire."

He died on 12 January 1903 in Stockholm, a stubborn railroad inspector turned stubborn general, and a national hero on both sides of the Atlantic. He married in 1865 to Edla Amalia Sergel, daughter of the manor owner Johan Gustaf Sergel, and his wife Carolina Magdalena Dubois, but had no children.

More reading

In 1904, the Augustana Synod periodical *Prärieblomman* published a biographical sketch of Major General Ernst von Vegesack, written by its editor, Anders Schön. Schön tells the delightful story of von Vegesack's short railroad career and the famous herring incident that apparently

hurried his decision to emigrate. Modern Swedish author and war historian Alf Åberg published a 1996 popular history, *Svenskarna under stjärnbaneret*, about the Swedes who fought in the Civil War, with frequent mention of von Vegesack. He cites von Vegesack's Civil War letters, now found in Sweden's *Krigsarkivet* (War Archives), of which Åberg served as director. For a general history of the Civil War, one can read Bruce Catton's masterful works *Mr. Lincoln's Army*, 1951, *Glory Road*, 1952, and *A Stillness at Appomattox*, 1953. Many state adjutants general published Civil War unit histories, giving rosters and insight into the operations of those commands, often down to company level.

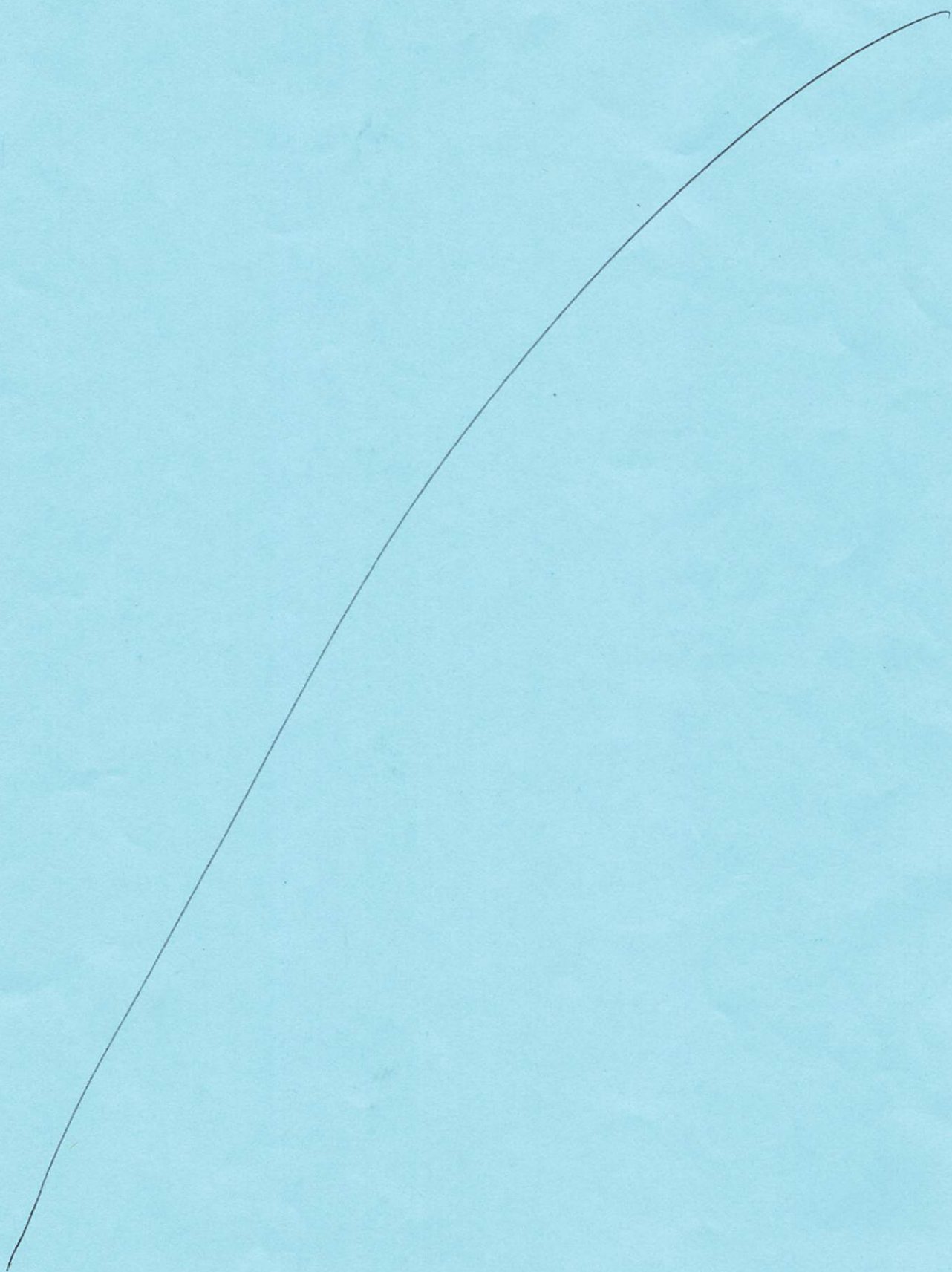
John E. Norton

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Ernst von Vegesack in the Battle of Antietam. From *Illustrerad Tidning* (Stockholm) 29 November 1862. Nr 48.



The emigration from the Tornio Valley (Tornedalen)

Sweden
Misc
1.20

Sweden
emigration

People left Sweden from all parts of the country, even the far north

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

BY STURE TORIKKA

The emigration to North America from Norrbotten, in northern-most Sweden, started in earnest during the latter half of the 1870s. In the Tornio River Valley (*Tornedalen / Tornionlaakso*) the emigration perhaps did not start in earnest until the 1880s. This article focuses on the first emigrants from the Tornio Valley, who left their homes in the summers of 1865 and 1866.

At times it happened that men from the Tornio Valley found employment as sailors, and it is easy to imagine that some of them arrived at various ports in America and mustered out and stayed behind when their ship set sail again.

From the village of Niemis (present day name: Luppio) in Hieta-niemi parish we find the share-cropper's son *Emanuel Mansten* who went to sea first in 1853. He came home for short periods and found time to get married and father children. He left again but came home regularly. In 1860 he is recorded as "sailor, sailing in foreign waters." In the court records from Nedertorneå District Court in 1883 concerning some unrelated matters, he tells that "he had made several journeys to America." Emanuel Mansten, later known as a photographer in Haparanda under the name of *Andersson*, emigrated in 1875 without his certificate of moving out (*utflyttningsbetyg*), and this was his first actual emigration. His other travels to and from America were when he was a sailor. He came home a year later, but did not stay. Instead he made another journey to and from America.

Stranded sailors

It happened sometimes: some people traveled to and fro and found it difficult to settle in one place. As early as 1858 the sailor *Peter Tumber* arrived in the port of New York, where he mustered out and stayed when his ship continued. His real name is said to have been *Tornberg* and he was born in Nedertorneå. In contrast to Mansten, he stayed in the U.S. Perhaps he was the first person from the Tornio Valley to settle in the U.S.?

Peter Tumber found work on American ships and travelled along the Mississippi river and around the Gulf of Mexico. During the Civil War he served in the Union navy and took part in several sea battles. In 1867 he moved to the harbor city of Erie, Pennsylvania, and spent the rest of his life as a farm owner.

During the Crimean War (1854-1856) a number of Finnish sailors were stranded in some of the larger American ports, and some of them stayed on in the U.S. There are sources that claim that about a hundred Finnish sailors served in the Union navy during the Civil War.

Many reasons for emigration

As in Norrbotten, the major wave of emigration to the U.S. did not start in Finland until some decades later. Reasons and backgrounds for migration are numerous, and that is why the phenomenon of migration has existed among our ancestors at all times. The Finnish-speaking people

of Norrbotten have for centuries walked or skied to northern Norway in times of poverty. They had open harbors without ice there, which made life easier than at home. When the copper works started at Kåfjord in Northern Norway in the 1820s this gave work opportunities for a growing population in the river valleys and along the coast. This is true not only for the Tornio Valley but also for large parts of northern Sweden and northern Finland. People even did move there from as far away as Dalarna. One of the first men from Tornio Valley was the fisherman *Michel Harnesk* and his family from Övertorneå who arrived in Kåfjord as early as 1827.

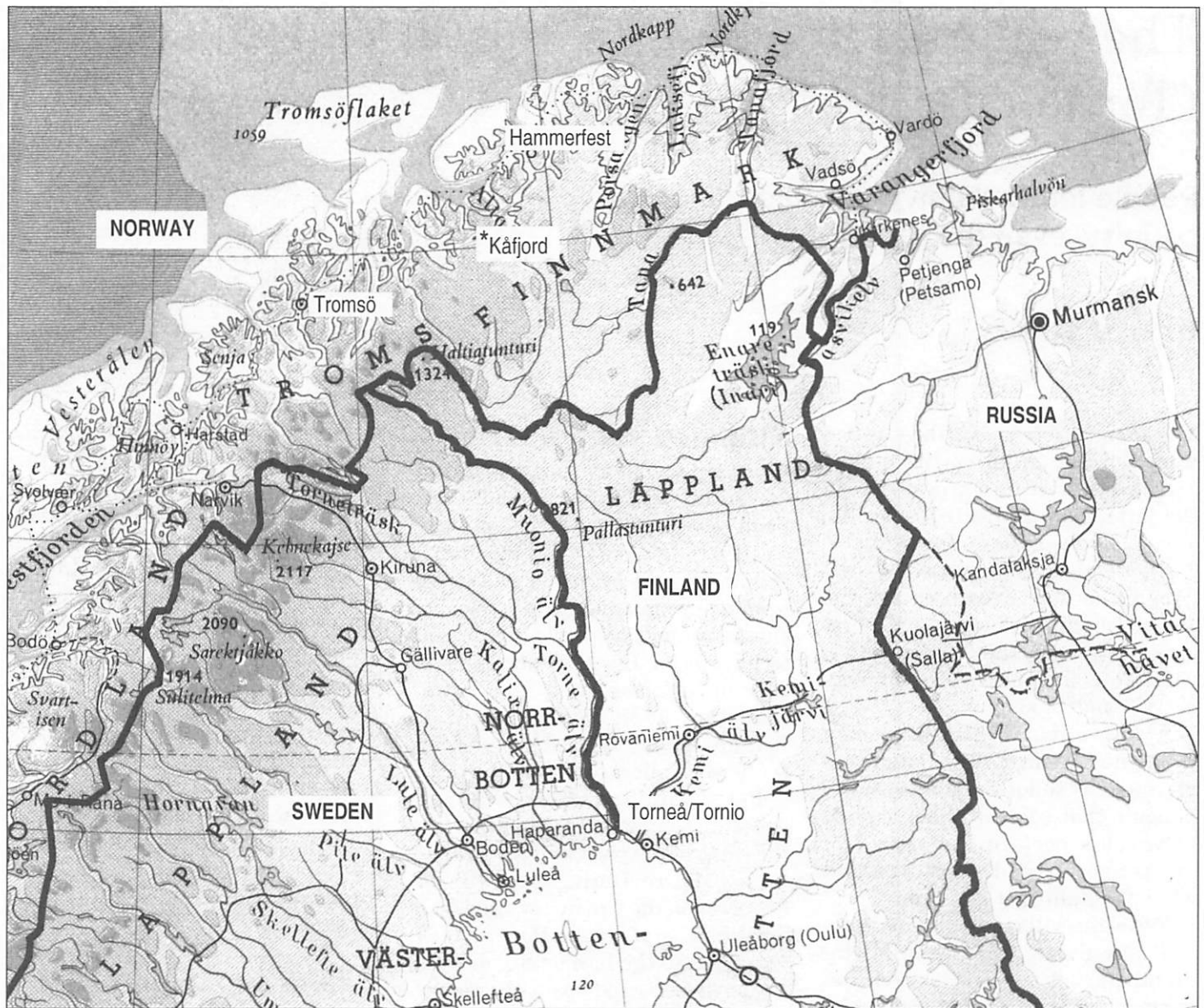
Miners as emigrants

The copper works in Kåfjord suffered decline in both production and economy from the end of the 1860s. In 1866 the English investors wanted to close down the whole operation. The economic situation for the Kåfjord Copper Works was problematic.

There had not been any emigration from Finnmarken before then, but in 1864 there were 20 emigrants to America from Alta. Most of them travelled by way of Tromsø, where two ships from Bergen were boarded by 200-300 emigrants. Among those who left because of the bad times at Kåfjord were a large number of *kvän-er* (Finnish-speaking people). As the Civil War was going on in the U.S. at that time, it was a good time for the American copper works. At the same time many men were joining the

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY





Union army, and there was a lack of skilled miners. The agents that had been sent to northern Norway by the Quincy Mining Company of Michigan promised the *kväner* in the Norwegian mines prepaid tickets. This was a big help and an enticement for the Tornio Valley and the Finnish people there, as they had never before received such a good offer. One might guess that the Tornio Valley people did not hesitate long before they started on their second emigration, this time for North America. During the next two decades between 700 and 1,000 "Finns" arrived in the U.S.

Three early emigrants

Thus the first wave of the Tornio Valley people left from northern Norway during the spring and summer of 1864. Who exactly these emigrants were has not been stated.

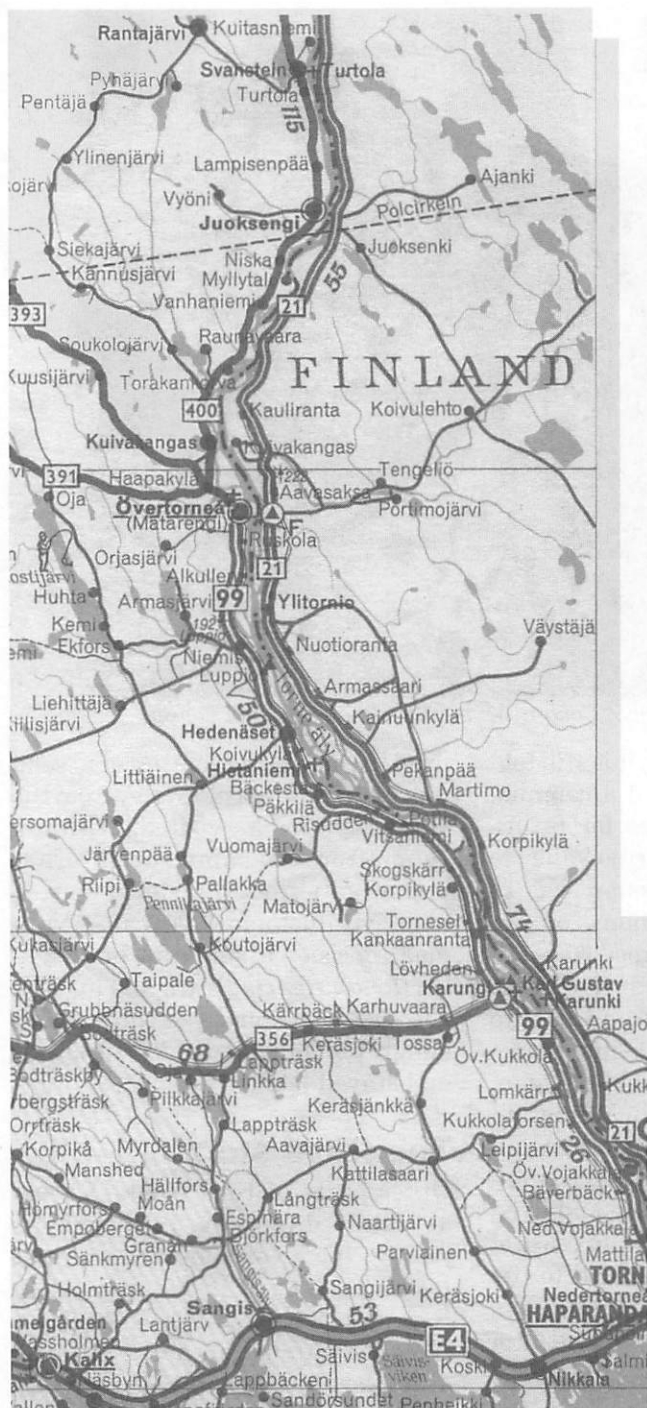
The emigrants were born on both shores of the Tornio river with individuals from the Swedish parishes of Nedertorneå, Karl Gustaf, Hieta-niemi, and Övertorneå, as well as from Karunki and Alkkula (Ylitornio) on the Finnish side of the river.

On the first emigrant vessels in 1864 were found, among others, *Anders Rovainen*, who was born in Övertorneå, *Petter Lahti*, born in Nedertorneå, and *Mickel Heikka* from Finnish Övertorneå.

Lahti was a farmer's son who

emigrated to Norway in 1853 and in 1864 to North America. He settled in Franklin, Minnesota. Rovainen was a farmer's son from Haapakylä, who came to Norway in 1858 and went on to the U.S. later. He is said to have started a new settlement in Franklin, Minnesota, already in 1865. In that area a little colony of Finns was established. Anders was the father of Johan Abraham Rovainen, born in 1865, whose tombstone states that he was the first Finnish baby born in Minnesota. Finally, Mickel Heikka





The Tornio Valley.

also emigrated in 1864 from Vadsö in Norway and settled in Franklin, Minnesota.

Petter Lahti was an unusually interesting man in at least two ways. First, it is known that he emigrated with his family in April 1864 on a Norwegian sailing ship from Hammerfest to Montreal in Canada. Anders Rovainen is said to have been on the same voyage, which lasted for seven weeks. From Montreal the

group of travellers went on to Quebec and from there to Chicago and finally reached St. Peter in Minnesota after many weeks on the road. Lahti also functioned as a link for the later Finnish-speaking immigrants to the U.S. He was also recruited as a soldier for the Union army, an event which happened during the fall of 1864. He was a soldier for about ten months until the peace was concluded the following year.

According to other sources, it says that Anders Rovainen did not arrive until 1865.

Three phases of emigration

To sum up: we first have sailors from the Tornio Valley who jumped ship or stayed behind and settled in the U.S. Then we have the miners from the Tornio Valley who left from northern Norway. In the third wave we have the emigrants who arrived directly from their homes in the Valley.

In most cases the emigrants during the 1860s and 1870s travelled by way of northern Norway. In Norway they boarded a ship at Vadsö or Hammerfest and travelled to Trondheim or Bergen. From there they either went on a direct ship to Quebec in Canada, or in some cases, New York, but most often they went to Hull in England, and then on the railroad to Liverpool, where they boarded ocean liners. They probably had to wait a few days in England.

According to information from *Isak Rova*, who was probably the first

direct emigrant from the Tornio Valley, arriving in New York in September 1865, the total travelling time from the moment they left their home until landing in New York was one month and two days. Rova and his family travelled on a steamship. It is more difficult to say how long a voyage by sailing ship took, as it depended on the weather. A typical time for the crossing was between twelve and eighteen days, if you went on the older type of ship that combined sail and steam. Those ships were more susceptible to bad weather than the next generation of pure steamships, which normally took eight days for the crossing. But in the total travelling time one must also count the time used for land travel. So Rova's 32 days can function as a median time for the Tornio Valley emigrants during the latter half of the 1860s, at least for the ones travelling by steamships.

The pioneers from the Tornio Valley

Rumors about the possibilities in "the promised land" of America reached people back home amazingly quickly. The first man from the Valley who asked for a moving certificate [*flyttningsbetyg*] to go to America did so in the beginning of April 1865. Something had happened in Lappträsk village of Karl Gustaf parish – "America Fever" had hit.

Stories spread very quickly and already in April 1865 four families from Lappträsk with a total of 24 individuals went to the parish minister in Karunki and explained that they wanted to leave their country and move to the other side of the Atlantic. They needed a written permit that listed their family members and their conduct. These four families all had Swedish names and had their origins mostly in the parish of Nederkalix. Their mother tongue was evidently Swedish.

The first family was the former farmer *Erik Magnus Jakobsson* and his wife *Florentina Sandberg* and their four children. They asked for a moving certificate for "Norrge. Amer-

ika,” and then went to northern Norway. But further than that they never went; there was no voyage on the Atlantic. Instead they returned to Lappträsk from Norway during late fall of 1865. This was the first planned direct emigration from the Tornio Valley. What happened to them in northern Norway that made them change their plans is not known. When they returned they also brought a fifth child, Johan Fredrik, born in Hammerfest in September 1865.

Next were three other Lappträsk families: farmer *Lars Olof Bergström* and his wife *Lisa Greta* and their four children; farmer *Henrik Wilhelm Lithner* and his wife *Greta Lena* and their three children; and farmer *Johan Bäckström* and his wife *Johanna* and their five children.

From the same village came the lodger *Anders August Sundkvist* who wanted to leave during the month of June. He changed his mind and returned his permit in early July. It has been said that a moving certificate was valid only for one month from the date of issue, otherwise it was cancelled. Sundkvist returned his permit well within the month.

Johan Välimaa

Now the Finnish-speaking neighbors were waking up. Naturally it was another man from Lappträsk who had been caught by the talk about *Amerika* in the village. Farmer *Johan Välimaa* and his wife *Eva* and their three children at Kauppila farm in Lappträsk asked for their moving certificate for *Norra Amerika* in July 1865. Johan Välimaa was born in Hietaniemi and had come to Lappträsk through his marriage. This seems to be the first Finnish-speaking family from Swedish Tornio Valley who aimed to go to America, but it is not certain that they were the first to cross the Atlantic. According to a local tradition in their new home in Minnesota, they had travelled on a clipper ship (and these needed several weeks for the voyage).

In Deer Creek Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota, where the



Finnish log cabin from 1865, Cokato, Minnesota. Photo by Joan Dwyer.

Välimaa finally settled, it is still told that *John Walimaa* had a commission to find good places for future immigrants from the Tornio Valley to settle. Part of his mission was to regularly report back home on the possibilities to earning good wages in the U.S. During the first five years he travelled from the East Coast to Minnesota and had had time to live in both Pennsylvania and Michigan. After about eight years in Minnesota he and his family travelled by train to Pendleton in Eastern Oregon. They travelled twice there and lived for a while in Astoria on the coast of Oregon. Later they returned to the area of New York Mills in Minnesota, where John Walimaa purchased a larger farm of 120 acres. The place was named Heinola.

In the early 1900 John's wife Eva died and John decided to return home to die and be buried in the soil of his ancestors. His five children stayed in the U.S. In the late summer of 1907 he came back to his ancestral village of Koivukylä (*Hedenäset*), but had already caught pneumonia. He died only a few weeks later, in early October, and was buried in the cemetery of his home parish Hietaniemi, in the same soil as his fathers.

During the 42 years John Walimaa

lived in the U.S. he continued to send reports back to Tornio Valley from the various places he visited. Within a year after his immigration other immigrants from the Valley started to arrive. Just a few days after Välimaa's decision to emigrate, his neighbor *Johan Henrik Perttu* and his wife *Elisabet* also started to think about emigration but changed their minds and stayed home.

The Rova story

Other parts of Karl Gustaf parish also started to move. In Korpikylä, just by the river shore, the farmer *Isak Rova*, born in Haapakylä in Övertorneå, and his wife *Greta Toljus (Torikka)* and their four children asked for their moving certificate in the middle of July 1865. This is the second totally Finnish-speaking family from the Swedish side of the Tornio Valley who emigrated directly to the U.S., but may well have been the first ones to land on American soil. In a letter sent home three months later Isak tells that they had arrived in New York just "1 month and 2 days" after leaving their home in Korpikylä. The Rova family arrived at Castle Garden, New York, on the 7th of September 1865.

Isak also tells that the family had

been forced to stay in New York for three weeks as their travelling money, which they had in gold coins, had been stolen. Later in September they all went to Chicago, where they stayed, even though their first intention had been to go to fertile Minnesota, where the Federal government distributed farmland for free.

This immigrant family ended up in the big city of Chicago with more than 200,000 inhabitants. Like John Walimaa, Isak Rova also wrote back about the possibilities of a good income that were offered. After only seven weeks in the U.S., Isak knew almost everything about his new fantastic homeland. He tells about the fertile soil, lots of game in the forests, and fabulous earning opportunities. This is one of the exaggeratedly positive rumors concerning America that went the rounds in the home parishes of the emigrants.

However, Isak Rova did not get to reap the benefits of these fine earning opportunities, as he died of consumption after only about four years in Chicago.

More immigrants

In Lapträsk village the interest in America grew and farmer *Johan Henrik Ekman*, his wife, and five children got their moving certificates only a few days after the Rovas. But they also changed their minds and stayed in their home village.

As said above, Karl Gustaf has more than their share of emigrants in 1865, but from nearby Hietaniemi we find the settler [*nybyggare*] *Johan Sundbäck*, his wife, and eight children from Saarijärvi who left their home. The Sundbäcks arrived in New York on the bark *McRathbone* on 4th November 1865, and later became farmers at Manistee in Michigan.

The settler *Karl Petter Nilsson* and his family from Kiilijärvi received their moving certificates just two days later. Another settler from Kiilijärvi was *Elias Eliasson* and his family who left another ten days later. He is probably identical to "Olof Olofsson," who arrived on the *Mc-*

Rathbone in early November 1865.

All of them were Swedish-speaking emigrants.

From northern Norway the emigration kept growing among the miners from the Swedish Tornio Valley and Finland.

In 1866 the parishes that did nothing in 1865 started to move. In Övertorneå the dug-out dweller *Isak Parpa*, wife, and one son from Haapakylä decided to start on this long journey, and got their moving certificates in June 1866. Parpa, who was Americanized to *Barberg*, became a farmer in Cokato, Minnesota. They were followed by the dug-out dweller *Isak Brännström* and his family from Kuivakangas. They are supposed to have lived for some time in Cokato, but arrived back in Övertorneå already in July 1867. Their only child, son Karl, died in America only two months after arrival, which might have been a contributing cause for their return. Isak Brännström later became a Laestadian preacher and drowned in 1873.

And more

Hietaniemi had three emigrating families in 1866: farmer *Johan Paloniemi* and his family from Vitsaniemi; former farmer *Per Välimaa* and his wife *Maria Magdalena*, and one child from Vuomajärvi; and former farmer *Johan Mäki*, his wife, and children from Koivukylä.

Johan Paloniemi was called *John Palm* in America, and settled in Dassel, Minnesota.

Per Välimaa was called *Peter Peterson* and lived with his family in Holmes City, Minnesota. His wife was a sister of John Walimaa's.

From Karl Gustaf parish came the former farmer *Johan Jakob Haara* and his family from Keräsjoiki, and they seem to have settled in Holmes City, Minnesota. From the same parish came the farmer's daughter *Eva Pipping* from Korpikylä, who seems to have travelled alone. She later married a man named *Viinikka* from Kukkola. They married in Cokato, Minnesota.

Nedertorneå also sent their first

emigrants in 1866: former farmer *Nils Arik Koski (Holk)* and his wife *Maria Gustafva* (they settled in Bandon Township, Franklin, Minnesota, where he died 1906); farmer *Anders Sepponen* with his wife *Eva Lisa* and two children, who settled in Cokato; farmer *Per Selvelä* and his son *Johan Oskar*; farmer *Nils Selvälä* from Karsikkojärvi travelled alone. He built himself a cabin in the woods of Cokato in 1867, after having lived for some time in Red Wing, Minnesota. The servant girl *Brita Johanna Törnigren* travelled alone (after arriving in Minnesota, she married Nils Selvälä); the farmer *Erik Lappiniemi* with his wife *Helena* and six daughters.

From the city of Haparanda the only immigrant was the young man *Karl Gustaf Strömberg*.

In northern Norway the emigration went on as before, as well as from the Finnish side of the Tornio Valley. From there, for example, left *Anders Kauvosaari* from Finnish Övertorneå. He is supposed to have travelled in 1866 and afterwards lived in Holmes City, where he called himself *Anderson*. Also *Gustaf Frisk (Sukki)* left and later lived in Franklin, Minnesota.

A break in the immigration

Almost immediately after the start of the emigration there is a decrease in the number of emigrants. From Övertorneå no emigrants are officially recorded for the period 1867-1870, only emigrants with destinations like Norway and Finland.

Of the ones that went to Norway some will probably show up in the U.S. later on. There are no emigrants from Hietaniemi, Nedertorneå, or Haparanda, and just two from Karl Gustaf; it is a bit strange. In 1871 Övertorneå has one family recorded and two single individuals, but none from Hietaniemi. From Karl Gustaf four single people emigrated in 1871 as well as two families. Nedertorneå had eight emigrants and Haparanda just one. There is no change in the

emigration from northern Norway: emigration continued.

The stream of emigrants from the Tornio Valley is still not constant, for some years no emigrants were recorded. From Hietaniemi the emigration to North America continued in 1873 with six individuals, 1874-1875 no emigrants were recorded, 1876 just one, 1877 five, and in 1878 six. The picture is the same in the other Tornio Valley parishes. But in the 1880s the emigration increases and from now on grew every year, and that is true for all the Tornio Valley parishes. In the upper valley the emigration starts a few years later.

From then on the number of emigrants from Tornio Valley has grown every year, and does not decrease until the economic crisis during the later 1920s. But we find emigrants still during the 1930s, as well as a few during the 1940s, 80 years after their forbears' daring decision to emigrate and after their laborious and demanding travels both on land and at sea.

More information?

This is a compilation about the first pioneers from eastern Norrbotten who emigrated to North America. The information can never be complete, but if any of the SAG readers knows anything about those early immigrants I would appreciate hearing from you.

It is with great joy that I can see that Övertorneå *kommun* has accepted these findings on the earliest emigration from this area. What in 1866 was regarded as the start of a negative development concerning the population has 140 years later changed to a positive view; as a possibility to promote the area both commercially and as a tourist goal. In July 2006 the municipality has realized the unusual project of inviting two of the descendants of the first emigrants from the municipality, *Isak Parpa* and his wife *Eva Maria*. These descendants from Cokato, in fact living in the same buildings and on the same farm as

Isak Parpa had built in 1866, have through their own contacts with their local mayor received an official paper linking Cokato and Övertorneå as sister cities. The descendant *Harvey Barberg* solemnly handed the document to the *kommunalråd* [councillor] of Övertorneå at the big stage during the Övertorneå summer market.

The circle has been closed.

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Translation by Elisabeth Thorsell and Christopher Olsson.

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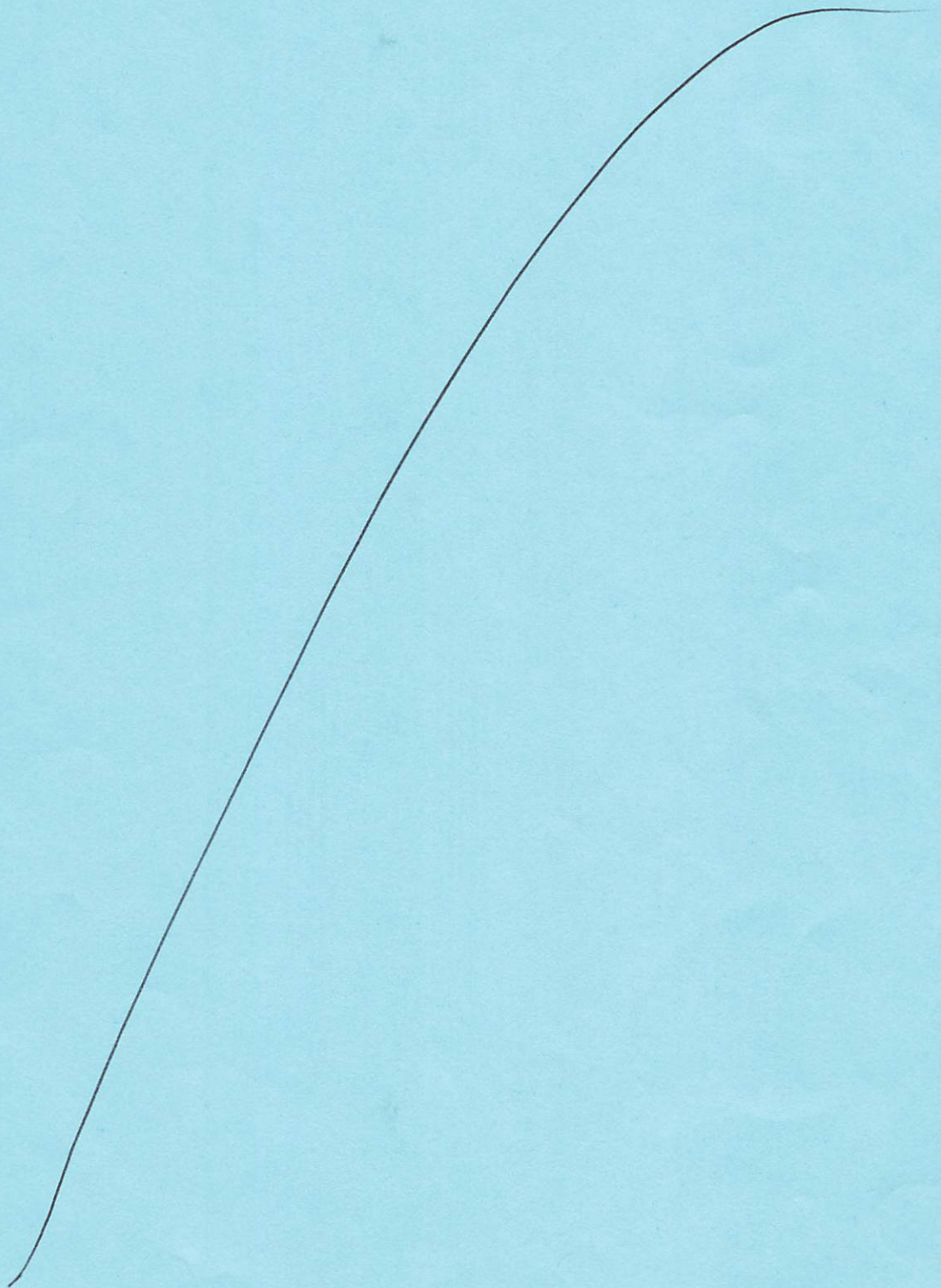
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The first "savusauna" [smoke sauna] built in 1868 on the Parpa farm near Cokato, Minnesota. Now moved to Cokato Open Air Museum. Photo by Joan Dwyer.



Sweden 1.23

WITH ROOTS IN SCANDINAVIA

The House of Emigrants, Växjö, Sweden

Exhibits Define Why, When, How and Where of Emigration

By Pamela Schwannecke Olson

Karl Oskar looks determinedly ahead towards the new world: Kristina poignantly turns back to see her beloved homeland a last time. They are the subject of an evocative sculpture by Axel Olsson which stands in a place of honor at the House of Emigrants in Växjö, Sweden. The two-fold theme of this natural-wood carving illustrates the philosophy undergirding the only institute in the world devoted specifically to emigration and immigration research.

Sweden's House of Emigrants or Utvandramas Hus with its research center, The Emigrant Institute, contains a rich collection of primary and secondary records pertaining to emigration from Sweden to many countries throughout the world. In addition to making this inventory of global material available to researchers, the Institute seeks to enhance the visitor's understanding of the cultural forces promoting mass emigration from Sweden to not only the United States and Canada but also to Denmark, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and even South America through a series of museum-type exhibits.

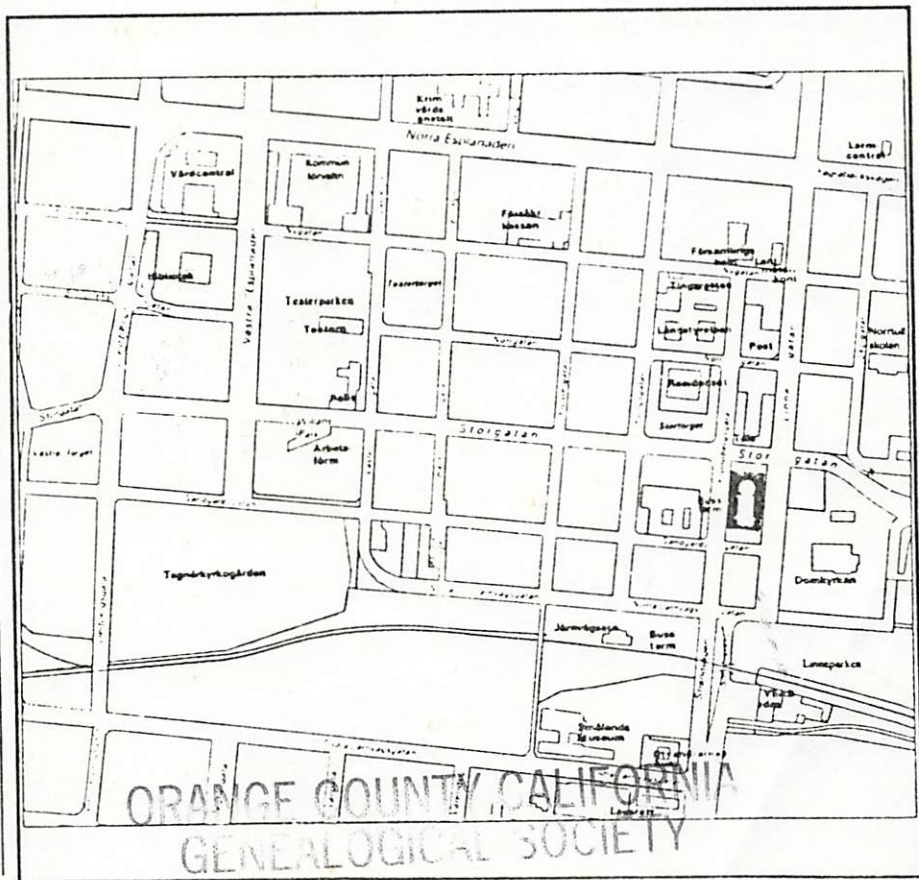
In May 1989, it was my privilege to tour the House of Emigrants as a representative of Heritage Quest and also to spend some time reading microfilm in their research room. Archivist Lars-Göran Johansson conducted me and my husband around the Emigrant Institute discussing the exhibits in detail, providing a preview of the research facilities, and showing us the environmentally-controlled storage archives and the computer room. He explained the details of their holdings and future acquisition plans. This article will emphasize the background of emigration as presented in the educational material incorporated in the exhibits. A second article will be devoted to a description of the fantastic variety and extent of research materials collected and indexed by the Institute, as well as to information on how

the researcher can access these collections.

Prospective researchers, Mr. Johansson emphasized, should begin their visit with a thoughtful study of the museum-type displays. This series of definitive exhibits has been developed in response to the needs of Americans seeking their Swedish roots and Swedes seeking their American relatives. The exhibits, such as the *Dream of America* and the Australian exhibit, are designed to enhance the researcher's understanding of the reasons behind each historical wave of emigration. These waves were set in motion by political, religious social, and economic forces within both Sweden and the United States. The Archivist emphasized that it is vital for the researcher to understand these forces in order to make intelligent deci-

sions for focusing his or her research agenda.

The statue of Karl Oskar and Kristina stands at the entrance to the Moberg Room, in recognition of the influence author Vilhelm Moberg's literary trilogy, *The Emigrants, Unto a Good Land, and The Last Letter Home*, had on the development of the Emigrant Institute. His books were later made into the popular motion pictures: *The Emigrants* and *The New Land*. Chartered in 1965 by Gunnar Helén (Governor of Kronoberg), the Utvandramas Hus moved into its present modern facility on the shores of Lake Växjösjön in 1968. That year, author Moberg donated his original manuscripts and research materials to the Institute. The Emigrant Institute is under the leadership of Director Ulf Beijbom, author of *Swedes in Chicago, A Demographic and Social*



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Study of the 1846-1880 Immigration (Chicago 1972). Annual grants from the Swedish state, Kronoberg regional government, Växjö municipal government and extensive private donations, led by the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, enable the archivists to constantly add to their collections and exhibits. After Vilhelm Moberg's death in 1973, his writer's cottage was moved to the Institute and his personal belongings are exhibited in the Moberg Room.

A real person formed the basis for Vilhelm Moberg's stories about Karl Oscar and his wife, Mr. Johansson informed me. He explained that the author did the same type of research for his books that today's family researchers do, utilizing official records, diaries and interviews both in the U. S. and in Sweden. Mr. Moberg found the diaries of Andrew Peterson in the Minnesota Historical So-

1830s resulted not from an increase in the birth rate, but because significantly more children survived. Three factors led to the increase in population: the introduction of potatoes as a nutritious source of food, the widespread use of smallpox vaccine, and a prolonged period of peace. As the death rate dropped and the population grew rapidly, those without enough land searched in vain for work. There were few towns in Sweden in the 1800s. Thus moving to a town or city was not an alternative for those without employment on a farm. This *push* factor corresponded with a *pull* from America of available land and opportunity. The first stream of emigrants, mainly workers unable to own land, left Sweden in the 1850s. Exhibits illustrate these themes through dioramas of a Småland cottage, a shipping agent's office in Göteborg, a Minnesota log cabin, and the California gold rush. Other displays in-

to deal with the crisis. Mass emigration resulted. Fifty thousand left for Germany, 100 thousand went to Denmark and 1.2 million emigrated to the United States. Earlier emigrants wrote to encourage relatives and friends to join them. Drawing my attention to a diorama of a lonely old lady in a hut, Mr. Johansson pointed out that many families had all their children leave during the second wave of emigration. This old lady, the documents show, subsisted by selling coffee to travelers.

Turning from exhibits illustrating the *why* and *when* of Swedish emigration, Mr. Johansson discussed *how* and *where* — the two questions asked by researchers. The fact that the largest number of emigrants left from the provinces of Småland, Halland, and Varmland often helps focus the search and pinpoint a place, he noted. Early emigration was by cart and railroad to nearby ports such as Kalmar and Karlsham. Later the railroad went directly to the major exit ports of Göteborg (Gothenburg) and Malmö.

The major shipping lines in Göteborg established representatives all over the country in the local parishes, making it easy for prospective emigrants to learn the cost of the trip. These agents were authorized by the local governments and enjoined to present realistic information on the situation in America. The tickets were a type of contract. An emigrant could buy a ticket covering the complete fare from home in Sweden to final destination in America. The cost ca. 1870 was 105 Kronor. At that time, 100-140 Kronor was the annual servant's wage. In 1869-1875, the trip took 16-24 days from Göteborg to Hull, England; 3-7 days from Hull to Liverpool, England; and 10-14 days from Liverpool to New York. Ships of the White Star line took 69 days from Liverpool to Melbourne, Australia. In 1869, a new law formally organized the transportation. All representatives in the ports were required to give the Police Department a copy of the contract and the Police Department organized the passenger lists.

The trip generated many types of papers useful for research. Persons leaving their parish in Sweden were required to have an Attest from the parish pastor which they took with them to their new



ciety and drew on them along with immigrant Peterson's last letter to his brother in Sweden to create the milieu for the lives of his characters.

The four historic reasons for emigration were all depicted by author Moberg in his trilogy, Mr. Johansson pointed out. Those emigrants wished political and religious independence from the controls of the state and the church. Economically, Sweden was experiencing a land and employment crisis. Almost entirely a farming nation prior to 1900, Sweden had a major population increase starting in the 1820s. The baby boom during that decade and the

clude models of sailing ships and portray the hardships of the emigrants' voyage. Exhibits are identified in both Swedish and English Audio tapes on both languages accompany the displays and explain the themes to the visitors.

The second wave of emigration began with a series of crop failures followed by a total, nationwide crop failure in 1868. This second wave peaked in 1869 and again in the 1880s. Excerpts from the diaries of that era record the terrible situation. Farmhands and maids were fired. Beggars swamped the roads. Acts of charity by the more fortunate were inadequate

WITH ROOTS IN SCANDINAVIA

parish in America. The paper attested to the baptism, confirmation and church standing of the emigrant. When the Emigrant Institute microfilmed church records

of the 1930s. Also during this decade, Sweden began to develop her social welfare system. The records of those who returned are also available at the Institute.



in New York state, they found many of these Attests in the church files. Each emigrant's name was also entered on a parish *Utflyttningslangd* (a list of those leaving the parish). Some left without official sanction and in those cases the church records for that individual often are blank, and the entries having suddenly stopped. The most important records of the emigration are the Malmö and Göteborg Police Passenger Lists and the American and Canadian Passenger Lists. In many cases, there were letters to and from contacts in the new land. The archive holdings contain 35,000 *America* letters catalogued by writer, recipient, and place name in both Sweden and North America.

Emigration slowed after the turn of the century. The economic situation had changed. By 1910, sixty-five percent of Swedes were living in towns. Farming was not the only option for employment. In North America most of the open land had been claimed. Many Americans do not realize that not all immigrants took out United States citizenship. In fact, 300,000 Swedish immigrants returned to their mother country—one-fifth of those who originally sought a new life. Economic exigencies influenced many to leave the United States during the Great Depression

dish. The bond with Minnesota is so strong that the Institute sponsors Minnesota Day on the 2nd Sunday in August each year. Last year a special exhibition celebrated the 350th anniversary of Swedish settlement in Delaware. Swedish visitors of all ages flock to the Institute. Many are studying emigration in enrichment classes or gymnasium (high school) and the Institute is a popular excursion for all levels of school children.

The House of Emigrants, located at Strandsvägen 4, Växjö, Småland, is open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. An admission fee of 10 Kronor (currently less than two dollars) is charged to see the exhibits on the first and second floors. Among the treasures on display are several major works of art. Large canvases such as Geskel Saloman's *Emigrants Arriving at Gothenburg* and *The America Letter* by Jacob Kulle fascinate the visitor, as does the three-dimensional *Arrival in New York* by Willy Turesson. Carl Milles' study for an emigrant monument decorates the inner courtyard. Visitors may view a 35-minute film tape about the Emigrant Institute, purchase books and postcards, and relax in the coffee shop.

Those planning to visit the Emigrant Institute should be forewarned that they receive over 35,000 visitors per year and are extremely busy in the summer. The city

Of particular interest to Swedish visitors searching for relatives in America is a map showing each town in the United States named for a place in Sweden. There is a New Sweden in Maine, Nebraska, and Texas. A majority of emigrants from Småland province settled in Minnesota. Chicago County was ninety percent Swe-



of Växjö is in the heart of Småland's crystal kingdom and there are many interesting things to see in the area. Växjö Tourist Information is just a few blocks from the Institute at Kronobergsgatan 8. Hotels in the city are very convenient and reasonable accommodations can be found in small towns twenty minutes away.

Forty percent of the American visitors utilize the research department during their stay. A fee of 25 Kronor is charged to use the records and includes expert service from the permanent staff. A future article on the Emigrant Institute will take you on a tour with Archivist Lars Göran Johanson through the reading room, library and behind the scenes into the archives and computer room where selected collections are being fully indexed. Information will be included to assist you in using these collections. ■

JEWISH GENEALOGY

cont from p. 47

According to Kurzweil, "Sallyann Sack has not only written what is surely the most thorough guide to genealogical sources in Israel. She has also offered an absolutely convincing case that a trip to Israel will serve the Jewish family historian well. And, at the same time, she has transformed the genealogical quest from a pastime into a pilgrimage. Now that her book exists, many Jewish genealogists will wonder how we got along without it. I consider the book essential." ■

- Miriam Weiner is a columnist and lecturer on Jewish genealogy. For more information on this subject, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Weiner at 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094.

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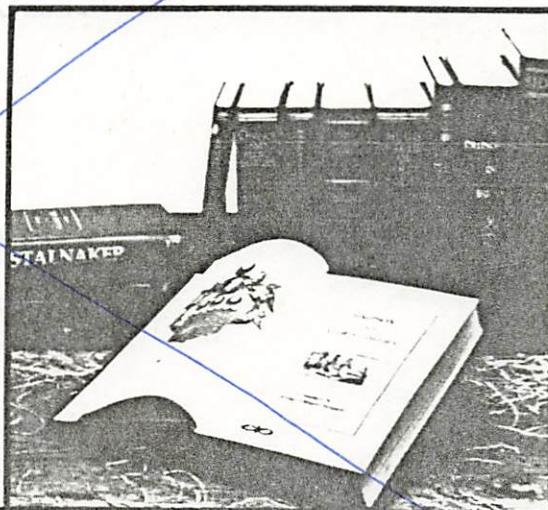
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