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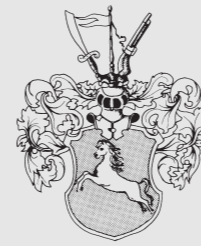
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Do you have an opinion or idea about the content of the paper?  
Do you want to write a line or two? Please let us know! Also please  
remember to inform us about any address changes.



# Sabelskjöldarn

2015 [WWW.SABELSKJOLD.COM](http://WWW.SABELSKJOLD.COM)

## A word from our president

The past year has been a year full of events in the Sabelskjöld family for example the big family gathering and the annual meeting at Julita manor in Södermanland. For those of you who didn't have the opportunity to attend, I can announce that our previous president Rolf Svensson after many years as president decided not to seek re-election. I now have the honor to continue his work as president of the association. Who am I? My name is Staffan Svensson and have my roots in the Kristdala area. My interest in our family history came to me through my mother, who was active in the Sabelskjöld Family Association. I have also been on the board since 1998. My immediate family also manage the Sabelskjöld bridal crown, which in 2014 was a popular object. Several of our American relatives, who were visiting Sweden last year, wanted to see the bridal crown

when they visited Kristdala, which we are more than happy to show. There was a lot of coffee and cinnamon rolls along with interesting conversations, in our yard. My term as president of the association covers four years and during that time we will celebrate our big anniversary. Our 400-year anniversary! A good part of our work will be around this celebration - there is a lot of planning to be done. Furthermore, I would like to invite you to submit articles to our magazine. Later this year, we will have an "in-between meeting" at the House of Emigrants in Växjö, see below. I thank you for your attention and hope to see you soon.

*Staffan Svensson, president*



## A family question

### Question:

A couple of days ago I searched the birth records for 1697 for Råby-Rönö parish in Nyköping. As a Sabelskjöld descendant I was startled when the name "Brita Sabelskjöld" appeared as witness in a baptism. I have not been able to figure out from the Sabelskjöld- and Kristdala books who she was and what she did there in 1697. Was she perhaps living at Blacksta, which is not so far away?

*Yours sincerely Leif Tengholm från Nyköping  
Sabelskjöld descendant on my mothers side*

### Answer:

This is interesting and, as far as I can judge, not previously known information. No doubt, she belongs to the Sabelskjöld family, since there was no other family with that name then. The only Brita Sabelskjöld known from this time is Carl Sabelskjöld's daughter in his second marriage. He had two daughters named Brita. The daughter Brita in his first marriage died before 1678. Brita appears in Maria Agrigonia's diary, see Sabelskjöldarn 1997, where the two sisters in law are said to have travelled a lot. The diary shows that Brita's first husband John Grubb died in 1669 and the couple had at least two children, but nothing is known about their lives as adults. Brita remarried Anders Andersson but he died in 1695. It has not been known if Brita also survived her second husband but your data seem to show that this was the case. We continue to look for Brita's descendants - there might be a new branch of our family tree.

*Karin Larsson  
Genealogy research team*

## Eleven times connected

Yet another member of the family is born! On 6 November last year, Melinda and Hans Kastman's son Noel was born. Investigation from the genealogy research group has clarified that he is related to the "six well born ladies at Bråhult" eleven times! He connects to Märta Sabelskjöld six times, Elisabet Sabelskjöld four times and Ingeborg Sabelskjöld once. Many relatives have multiple ties to our family but Noel Kastman is, what we know at present, the one with the most connections.



*Noel Kastman*

## Meeting at the House of Emigrants in Växjö

On Saturday 22 August the society will arrange a meeting for those of you who are interested in the Sabelskjöld genealogy or to meet other relatives at the House of Emigrants in Växjö.

We begin at 11 am with a guided tour. After lunch we'll meet in the newly renovated reading room at 1-5 pm. The association's research team will also participate and can answer some of our questions.

We will also organize a dinner Friday night at the Kafé de Luxe in Växjö where we can talk about

what we will expect the House of Emigrants to show us. For booking hotels, see special offers at [hotels.com](http://hotels.com) or book at Stadshotellet, phone +46 470-134 00 or Hotel Varend, phone +46 470-77 67 00. These two are within walking distance from the House of Emigrants. Price: Only Saturday 350 SEK / person including lunch. Friday dinner and Saturday lunch included 575 SEK / person.

Register before May 22 through our website or e-mail to Staffan Svensson: [staffan.svensson@sabelskjold.se](mailto:staffan.svensson@sabelskjold.se). When we have received your registration we will send out payment form and detailed program. We look forward to a nice meeting!



## New banknotes



Sveriges Riksbank (The National Bank of Sweden) will in autumn 2015 and autumn 2016 issue new banknotes. These will carry pictures of well-known Swedes. Of course we are pleased that our cousin Greta Garbo will adorn the new 100 kronor banknote. Göran Österlund is the artist and he has called the collection "a cultural journey". Garbo has prominent company - other notes portrait Astrid Lindgren, Ingmar Bergman, Evert Taube, Birgit Nilsson and Dag Hammarskjöld.

*Birger Bring*



## The Sabelskjöld musical heritage

Within such a large family like ours, it is obvious that many professions and skills are represented. Most of us are not any public persons, but there are exceptions. Several members of the Sabelskjöld family have been, or are, active in the music industry. Here are some well-known names, at least in Sweden.

### The Körling family

Sven Magnus Körling was for many years, organist in Kristdala church. His musical activity was mainly performed within the church. His son Sven August was a trained music director and was elected into the Royal Academy of Music. He composed several classical pieces, of which some were sung and recorded by Jussi Björling.

Sven August's sons, Sven and Felix both composed music. The better known of the two was Felix Körling. He wrote several songs for children and they are still sung today. His most known song is perhaps his setting of Gustav Fröding's poem "En glad trall" (A happy tune), which after Körling's setting became better known as "Tre trallande jäntor" (Three singing girls).

Felix was for many years leader of the church choir in Halmstad. He was apparently a popular choir director who came up with small surprises and practical jokes. But he also required top performance from his choir members. A lady, who sang in the choir, has in her memoirs told about a choir rehearsal in the church. Körling was not pleased with the performance so his voice echoed in the church: "It sounds like pigs screaming in hell - da capo!"

More about the music family Körling can be read in Sabelskjöldarn 2005.

### Wille Crafoord

Wille Crafoord was born in 1966 in Stockholm and his connection to the Sabelskjöld family goes through Johan Jacob Crafoord who in 1756 married Eva Margareta Tornerefelt of Sabelskjöld family.

As a member of the band "Just D" Crawford was one of the first to introduce rap and hip hop in Sweden. From the mid-90s, he has broadened his repertoire with songs, couplets and even participation in the Eurovision Song Contest. Crafoord has worked with several well-known Swedish artists such as Nanne Grönvall, Gösta Ekman and Bo Kaspers band. He has been awarded both Karamelodiktstipendiet and the Ulf Peder



*Felix Körling with his father Sven August, who's mother Anna Lotta Persdotter was a descendant of Elisabeth Sabelskjöld.*

Olrog award. Crafoord also became World Championship winner in Helsinki in 2010, when he, as a member of the Swedish "snapsviselandslag" won the world championship in "snapsvisediktning"<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Singing snapsvisor (shot songs) is the old and odd Scandinavian art of drinking and singing at a party. New drinking songs are composed all the time and there is even a World championship dedicated to it.

### Benny Andersson

Benny Andersson is the thirteenth generation after Carl Jons-son knighted Sabelskjöld. Like so many others in the Society he is descendent from one of the "well-born Maidens" at Bråhult, namely Martha Sabelskjöld.

Benny began his career as a member of the band Hepstars. Towards the end of the Hepstars era Andersson started to write own songs. The most famous were "No Response" and "Sunny Girl". In the 1970s, Benny began a collaboration with Björn Ulvaeus which eventually led to the formation of ABBA. Great success followed both as a performer and songwriter. Benny, Björn and Stikkan Anderson wrote songs such as Dancing Queen, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, and Waterloo, the latter winner of the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974.



*Benny Andersson på turne med BAO. Foto Tina Schuster*

After his time with ABBA Benny went on to new music genres. More success came with the musicals Chess and Kristina. Playing music is still important for Benny and he is now performing with the Benny Andersson Band, where many of the country's most popular artists are included. Alongside popular music, Andersson has also written works for symphony orchestra, hymns and film music. 2007, he was elected member the Royal Academy of Music.

*Birger Bring*



*Several summers Wille has toured on horseback with a show performing in parks, estates and farms.*

## About Brita Lisa's (Lisken's) further life

In Sabelskjöldarn 2012, Peder Nilsson wrote about "Manslaughter in Humleryd". One of the main characters in that story was Brita Lisa (Lisken) Jaensdotter. Brita Lisa was one of my ancestries. My grandmother never mentioned anything about these events or about the people who were involved. Probably she knew nothing about it. Brita Lisa's father is mentioned in contemporary files with slightly different first name: Jaen, Jan, John and Jon. Surname is always Svensson. I choose to call him Jaen, that was how I saw his name the first time. The mother's name was Ingeborg Persdotter (Phersdotter). 20 years old Brita Lisa was accused in 1818 with her parents, Jaen and Ingeborg to have killed their neighbor. The whole story from beginning to end seems both contradictory and complicated. Over time, a conflict between the families escalates, provocations, rumors, fears and speculation takes the upper hand over common sense and reason. In the end a person gets killed. Sven Johannesson dies as a result of violence against the head.

Brita Lisa had washed clothes in a water well that belonged to a neighbor, Sven Johannesson. It is not clear if Brita Lisa knew that she could not use her neighbor's well. When Sven becomes aware of Brita Lisa's doings he rushes to the site to berate her. Lisa later reported that Sven acted brutally. Among other things, he "dipped" her into the water and when she tried to escape he chased her. Brita Lisa said that she feared for her life. In the midst of this turmoil Jaen and Ingeborg came to relieve their daughter. In the very inflamed situation, no one seems to be able to think clearly. The three Svenssons attacks Sven violently. In the court proceedings it is assumed that one of the three inflicted Sven with the lethal wound. There were no eyewitnesses to the incident and none of the accused admitted having killed Sven. After all it is not clear if they actually know that Sven died. In 1819, they had been in custody for 14 months and under the threat of the death penalty if they were found guilty. They then were released because of lack of evidence but with a clause saying that they could be prosecuted again if new evidence came forward. This did not happen. About four years after that Brita Lisa, Jaen and Ingeborg were released Brita Lisa married Karl Persson in 1823. Between 1823-1843 Brita Lisa had seven children, the last one stillborn. The first child was born in 1823, his name was Johan

## Reunion at Julita manor September 2014

Julita, September 6, 2014. The morning came with dense fog. However, looking out the windows at Julita farm over lake Öljaren in western Sörmland we could follow how the sky gradually cleared up. I had travelled by train from Järfälla northwest of Stockholm to Västerås, to meet a relative whom I until now only had been in contact with over internet - a second cousin to my mother. Now we met in real life and teamed up for the Sabelskjöld meeting. During the day, we talked a lot about our common ancestors, about differences but most of all similarities - exciting! We were about 155 people from the Sabelskjöld family. After formal meeting procedures we went outside and got a nice view of the garden and Lieutenant Arthur Bäckström private homes. Bäckström was the last owner of Julita and remained a bachelor without heirs and donated the estate to the Nordic Museum. He died in 1941, 80 years old, and a short time thereafter Julita opened as a museum. Get more information about Julita: [www.nordiskamuseet.se](http://www.nordiskamuseet.se).

What is then the connection between the Sabelskjölds

Peter Karlsson. Johan Peter is to become the key person in the drama that follows;

The year is 1885. Brita Lisa had died nine years earlier so she was spared yet another tragedy in the family. Johan Peter is over 60 and is on his way home travelling by horse and cart from a business trip to Oskarshamn. His wife Stina Kajsa is waiting for him to come home. Down the road he sees a neighbor. Johan offers him a ride, they're going in the same direction. Shortly a murder will be committed. The neighbor is Sven Magnus Nilsson born in 1855, a married man with two small children and a third on it's way. 30 year-old Sven Magnus suffers from severe mental disorder. He hears voices, voices that order him to kill. In the court proceedings Nilsson later states that he received an "order by an evil spirit, or from Satan" to assassinate John Peter Karlsson. Using a kitchen knife Nilsson stabs his victim repeatedly until Karlsson dies from exsanguination. These data can be read in the verdict.

Other circumstances have been added, however not present in the verdict. The information alleges that it was an axe that was used and that the perpetrator tried to conceal his deed, by hiding the body in a ditch. This ditch came to be known as "old man's ditch." Nilsson was also alleged to have been drunk, and that he deeply regretted his doings afterwards and that he even tried to take his life but failed. There were also rumors saying that Sven Magnus was jealous of Johan because Johan was doing so well while Sven Magnus felt he wasn't. Sven Magnus Nilsson could not be sentenced to prison. He was considered to be severely mentally disturbed. Instead he was locked up and possibly received treatment at a psychiatric hospital.

These were two very tragic and violent events with consequences which certainly affected many, especially in the past.

*Maja Svärd Järfälla, Stockholm*

*Thanks to:*

*Peder Nilsson: article on "Manslaughter in Humleryd" in Sabelskjöldarn 2012. Robert Molin: second cousin to my mother, for highlighting me on the article about the murder in Flinsbult by Lars-Göran Edinius. Barbro Nordlöf: sister in law to my mother's cousin, for the article "En sorglig historia (A sad story)". Veine Sjöo: author of the book "Historik över Bråbygd (The history of Bråbo)".*

and Julita? On the above website it says among other things: "In 1526 King Gustav Vasa<sup>1</sup> managed to get a bill through the parliament saying that the state was to take over all monasteries and their assets". The following year, a parliament session held at Västerås banned all monasteries and thus completed the transition from catholic to protestant church in Sweden. Julita now reverted to the crown and became a royal estate. Large parts of the monastery buildings were demolished and new houses were built. The farm was occasionally bestowed to noblemen or run by a bailiff. This is where Jöns Mårtensson comes in. He was for some years Marshal at Julita. Jöns married Brita Larsdotter at Julita farm in the year 1587. Jöns and Brita were the parents of Carl Jönsson Sabelskjöld, born 1590 in Nyköping – founder of the Sabelskjöld dynasty. Many thanks to the board and the others for a nice day!

*Maja Svärd*  
*Translator's note: <sup>1</sup> Gustav Vasa king of Sweden 1523 – 1560 who pushed for Protestantism partly in order to gain the rich Catholic Church's assets.*



## News from the genealogy research team

The genealogy team began the new year by taking a closer look at a few individuals from early generations of the Sabelskjöld family. We got information from Leif Tengholm about Brita Sabelskjöld, daughter of Carl Sabelskjöld and Ingeborg Rosenstråle. Brita was married to John Grubb in her first marriage and to Anders Andersson in her second marriage. Brita and Johan had two children. What happened to them? We have not yet found so much information. The search continues. Next line in the Sabelskjöld family that we looked more closely at was Elizabeth Sabelskjöld, daughter of Jöns Sabelskjöld and Martha Stråle af Ekna. Elizabeth was married to Axel Kiessel, and they had nine children. Here we have been able to identify two of Elizabeth's and Axel's children. Carl von Kiessel and Magnus von Kiessel. Both Carl and Magnus were officers in Adelsfanan<sup>1</sup> and lived in Värmland. Magnus had nine children in his marriage with Sara Beata Vigelia. Unfortunately it is not possible to manually enter all the children and their descendants into our database. That would generate several generations and numerous individuals, a problem we share with other old and extensive families. Our genealogy research group manages the Sabelskjöld genealogy database. It contains quite a number of descendants of Carl Sabelskjöld senior. These are presented both as family tree and as a text file on the CD and USB memory that is updated regularly. If you are interested in buying the CD or USB-stick please order from our website. We also hope that there are many descendants who want to contribute with their genealogy in GEDCOM file format. Do you have more information about Brita or Elizabeth Sabelskjöld? Do you have family history that you would like to share with us and enter into the database, please contact [genealogy@sabelskjold.com](mailto:genealogy@sabelskjold.com)

*Karin Larsson*

<sup>1</sup>Adelsfanan was the oldest Swedish cavalry regiment – an elite unit where all officers were noblemen.

## Rent our bridal crown



*Wedding coming up? Rent our unique bridal crown!  
Please contact Staffan Svensson for more information.*

The Sabelskjöld Family Society keeps a bridal crown which is known as "the Sabelskjöld bridal crown". It was made available to the Society in 1970 by Sabelskjöld descendants with the intention that it could be used at weddings within the family. We have reasons to believe that the old crown is an artifact connected to our history and that it will be used in the family for many generations to come.

## How it all started, history of Sabelskjöld

Certainly, many of our members are well versed in the history of our family. However, each year a number of new members join the society whom may not be up to date on the quite extensive material about the Sabelskjölds. Therefore, here is some basics on our family history.

Carl Jönsson was the son of Jöns Mårtensson and Brita Larsdotter. Jöns was for a time bailiff of Julita and later had the same position at Nyköping castle. Jöns and Brita married in 1587 at Julita and their son Carl was born January 2, 1590 in Nyköping.

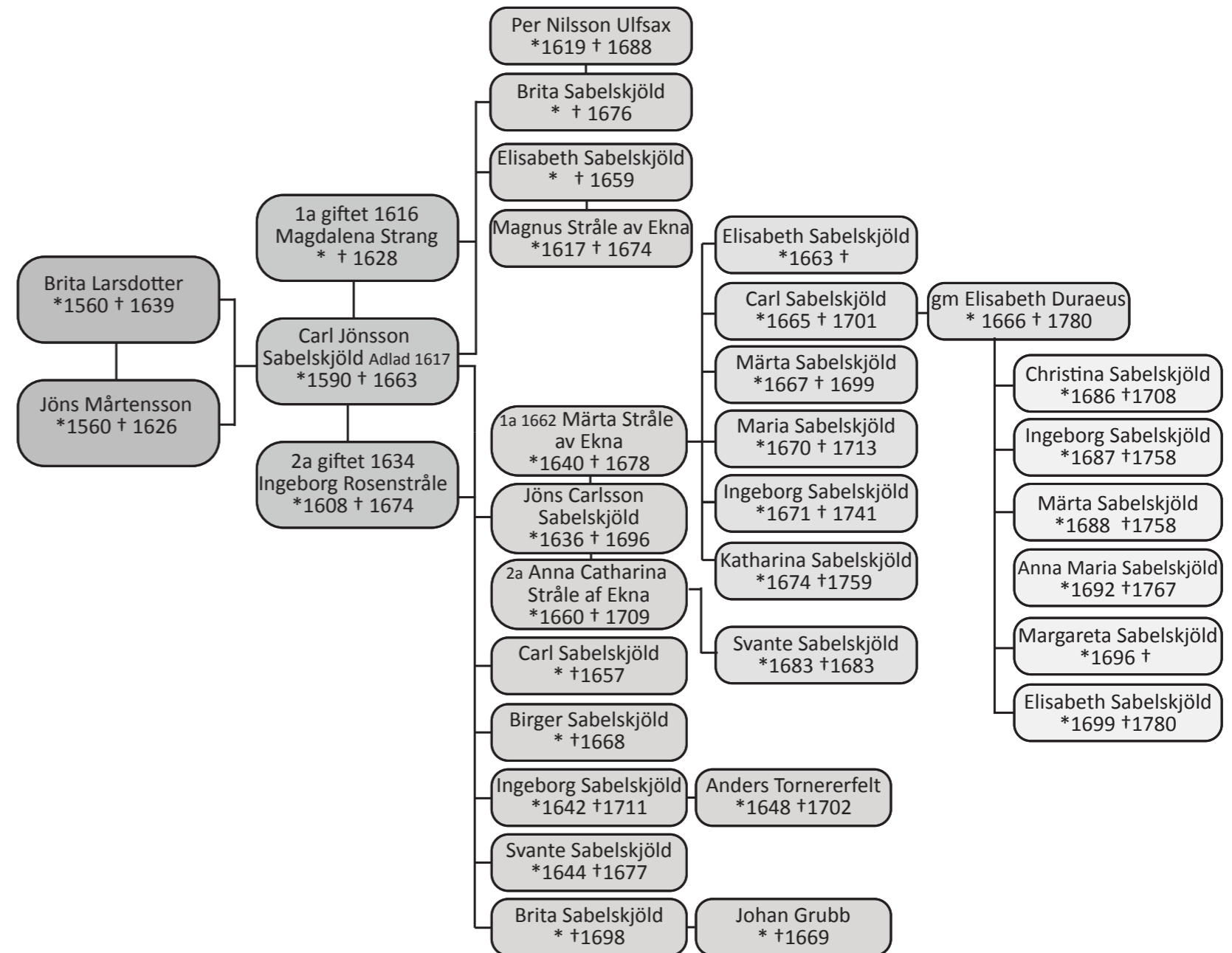
The province of Södermanland was ruled at that time by Duke Charles, who later became King Charles IX, whose son Gustavus Adolphus was to lead Sweden to one of the main military powers in Europe. It is known that Jöns and Brita had contacts with the Duke Charles' family and it is likely that Carl and Prince Gustavus knew each other, they were almost the same age.

Carl went for a military career. As an officer in the Småland Husarer he participated in several battles with the Poles and Danes and eventually reached the rank of major. In 1629, he left the cavalry and concentrated on managing of family farms. There is a legend saying that Carl once helped Gustavus Adolphus out in a battle when the king's own horse had fallen, taking the king on his own horse and then they teamed through the enemy lines - the one right-handed, the other left-handed. This is said to have been the reason for Carl being knighted. Sometimes this event is placed in the Thirty Years War, sometimes said to have occurred at the battle of Stolbova.

There may be some truth in this, there were plenty of opportunities for a young cavalry man to show off in these warlike times, but the details in the story is obviously incorrect. Carl was knighted in connection with Gustavus Adolphus's coronation in 1617, but the letter of nobility doesn't explain the reason for being knighted. The event, if it really occurred, could not have taken place during the Thirty Years War. Carl was knighted in 1617 and the war didn't begin until the following year. Sweden was not a belligerent part until 1630, and then Carl had left the warrior life. Any battle at Stolbova is not known. It is true that the Ingrian War ended with the Treaty of Stolbovo, a small village south of Laduga, but no battle was fought there.

Carl was married twice. He first married Magdalena Strang, daughter of Hans Strang. Hans had lent a considerable sum of money to King John III and as security held a large number of farms in Kristdala parish. Magdalena inherited these farms and as her husband Carl had full control over them. It should be noted that the holding of the farms was not by fiefs but the result of a business deal.

Carl and Magdalena had two daughters, Elizabeth and Brita. Elizabeth married Magnus Stråle af Ekna and Brita married Per Nilsson Ulfsax. Descendants of both these branches are present in the society. Magdalena died in 1628 and Carl remarried Ingeborg Rosenstråle 1634. The couple got six children: Jöns, Carl, Birger, Ingeborg, Svante and Brita. Carl died in 1663 at the farm Ekenäs in Södermanland and he is buried in Blacksta



*Illustration Thina Rydell*

church. After his father's death Jöns became head of the family. He also married twice both times to girls from the family Stråle af Ekna.

The Sabelskjölds were now at their peak but the setbacks began to pile up. Jöns settled on the farm Bråhult in Kristdala parish but that and all other Sabelskjölds farms were nationalized in 1689 in Charles XI's reduction. The Sabelskjölds stayed at Bråhult but now as tenants. Jöns died in 1696 and was buried in Kristdala where his funeral weapons still hang. Of Jöns' seven children Carl was the eldest and now become the new head of the family. Carl was married to Elizabeth Duraeus daughter of Johannes Duraeus a pastor in Kristdala. The couple had six daughters living at Bråhult. In the year 1700 the Great Northern War broke out and in the fall of this year Carl departed with the army to the Baltics. At midsummer time 1701 Elisabeth got the news about his death - Carl had died during the campaign somewhere in the Baltics. The exact circumstances of his death

are still unknown. Elizabeth's already strained economy now became catastrophic. The daughters could not be married off to nobles but became farmers wives in Kristdala and the name Sabelskjöld disappeared.

Sabelskjöld family is now very large. Most of us are just ordinary people but there are also more familiar persons in the family - Raul Wallenberg, Greta Garbo, Benny Andersson and others.

The documentation about the family continues. The six daughters from Bråhult have given rise to a large number of descendants mainly in eastern Småland. This part of the family has been relatively well documented, but there are of course plenty of Sabelskjölds from other branches of the family tree. Much remains to be done. The genealogy group within the Society welcomes your genealogy work about our family.

*Birger Bring*



## The bridal crown in the woods



*Our president, Staffan Svensson helps to try bridal crown.*

*Michael Peterson scrutinize the bridal crown.  
Photo Annica Triborg*



In 2013 Michael Peterson appeared in the Swedish TV-show "Allt för Sverige - The Great Swedish Adventure" (see Sabelskjöldarn 2014) and as a result found that he belonged to the Sabelskjöld family. However, the production team concentrated to another line of his ancestry. With the new information about his Swedish ancestors Michael returned to Sweden in July 2014 to meet relatives and also visit the places where his family had lived. This time he brought his wife Christina and her daughters Alyssa and Jessica. Kristdala church was one of the stops and when Staffan Svensson asked if they wanted to

see the old bridal crown especially the girls were enthusiastic.

As we drove deeper into the woods on winding roads and eventually stopped outside Staffan's red cabin, the visitors were somewhat hesitant. A valuable bridal crown out here? When Staffan presented the crown hesitation turned to joy, the girls tried it on and Michael scrutinized it closely. Afterwards we had coffee and cinnamon buns in Staffan's kitchen (one of the many occasions that Staffan writes about the President's column!) and Michael found that his travels to Sweden had been a valuable experience.

*Annica Triborg*

## How I joined the Sabelskjöld Family Association - voices from the annual meeting



"I have been a member of the association for a few years now, but I have known for a long time that I belong to the Sabelskjöld. So I googled and found the website with contact information. The meeting at Julita was my first annual meeting. It was interesting to be there and I was thrilled with all long-distance members, especially those who came from the United States. Now I am in the genealogy research team, so there will certainly be more genealogy work for me in the years to come."

*Bert Myde, Sollentuna*



"In the 1960s my dad and his brothers were invited to a family reunion. But they were so shy that they dared not to go. I was a kid, but heard this being talked about in the family. Much later, when one of my father's cousins wrote a book about his family and I saw the Sabelskjöld Coat of Arms, I understood what they had been invited to. Now I am a member and realized that our neighbors in Tällberg, where we have a summer house, also belong to the Sabelskjöld!"

*Göran Johansson, Bromma*



"In high school I was doing genealogy as my special work together with a friend. I thought, if we didn't find enough we could always fabricate something. Who would check? Well, we didn't have to, instead I discovered that I belong to the Sabelskjöld so I didn't have to lie! I later joined the association in order to use the bridal crown at my wedding. It was not so heavy, but it was a hard job to remove all the hairpins that kept it in place on my head."

*Katarina Hyttinen, Eskilstuna*

## About the Sabelskjöld headstone on Lemnhult cemetery

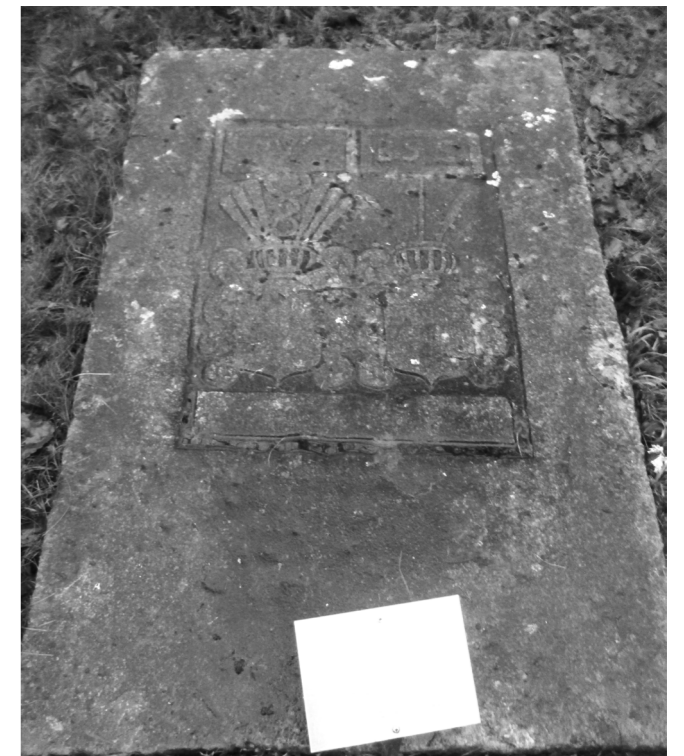
At the renovation of the late medieval church in Lemnhult in 1826, the floor was lowered. This led to removal of several gravestones previous located under the floor, to be moved to the outdoor cemetery. Since then, "our" grave slab remained outdoor unprotected except for a period in the 1990s when arranged with a wooden roof that covered the slab wintertime. This wooden cover has not been used in the last decade.

The Sabelskjöld Family Association has raised the issue of paying for a more permanent protection of the slab, which remained in the old cemetery when the new church was built elsewhere in 1871. Some old graves were moved to the new cemetery.

Our stone is still located in the old cemetery operated by the Lemnhult Society for Local History, and is classified as a historic monument. On the slab there are two coat of arms engraved: The Sabelskjöld and the Ulf sax. In memory of Brita Sabelskjöld 1620 - 1676? And Per Nilsson Ulf sax 1619 - 1688? Brita was the daughter of Carl Jonsson Sabelskjöld 1590 - 1663 in his first marriage to Magdalena Strang.

Brita and Per were married before 1642 and had 8 children. Per was born on the Ulf sax family farm Holma in Lemnhult's parish. After the marriage the couple moved to Hult in Karlstorp's parish. Ulf sax was a noble family from the province of Småland dating back to the 1400s. In a second marriage Per Ulf sax married Anna Armskjöld. Five children were born in that marriage. *Monika Mörk*

*Member of the Sabelskjöld Family Society since 1968, with triple connections to Elizabeth and Ingeborg Sabelskjöld, hoping that Lemnhult old cemetery can be preserved as historical monument for future generations.*



*The slab has been weathered and the text and image on it is currently difficult to interpret because it consists of an easily weathered rock.*

## The ALMA-prize goes to our relative Barbro Lindgren



The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is the full name of one of the finest literary prizes for children's and youth writers. The prize is known as the ALMA-prize and in 2014 it was awarded our relative Barbro Lindgren. The jury's motivation was:

*"Barbro Lindgren is a literary innovator. With linguistic boldness and psychological tone she has renewed not only the picture book for the youngest but also the absurd prose narrative, the existential children's poem and the realistic portrayal of youth. With perfect pitch she portrays as well moments of joy, happiness and antics as life's mystery and the proximity of death."*

Barbro Lindgren, who is not related to her namesake Astrid, lives on the island Öland. Her stories are often humorous and have their very own warm tone that speaks directly to children, whether regards frisky prank or serious thoughts. There

has been many books over the years, among them there the evocative "Loranga, Masarin and Dartanjang" from 1969, the popular books about little Max along with illustrator Eva Eriksson and the lovely "Mamman och den vilda bebin" (Mom and the wild baby) from 1980. In the fine autobiographical series "Jättemligt" (Top secret) "Världshemligt" (Very secret) and "Bladen brinner" (Burning leaves) (1971-73) Barbro Lindgren describes a young girl growing up.

Barbro's grandmother's father was Charles William Fallenius, the son of the notorious Fallebogöken<sup>1</sup>. Charles William didn't belong to the Sabelskjölds but his wife did, she was Barbro Lindgren's great-grandmother. Her name was Maria Josephina Kjörning and she belonged to the Körling family from Kristdala known for their musical talents. Her ancestor was Ingeborg Sabelskjöld one of the noble ladies from Bråhult. Congratulations Barbro.

*Translator's note:<sup>1</sup> Fallebogöken –nickname for Carl Johan Nilsson who migrated to America and became one of America's best known tricksters.*

