

# Sabelskjöldarn

[www.sabelskjold.se](http://www.sabelskjold.se)

# 2017

## A word from our president

I hope you had a good 2016 and are feeling excited about this New Year with our big anniversary coming up!

As always, last year went by very quickly. But it was also a very eventful year with several meetings with relatives; both with new acquaintances and with some a little more well known. When I sit down to write this, I am looking out on a gray and somewhat rainy sky, so it's actually quite nice to look back on some warm and wonderful memories.

In January last year, I received an email from the US that began with the line: "I'm your cousin." To my knowledge, I have no cousins, so imagine my first reaction! But as it turned out, she is a second cousin to my mother. Her name is Linda. She and her husband, Will, had planned to come to Sweden during the summer and wanted to take the opportunity to meet me and my family and some other relatives. They came in August and we spent several pleasant days together. Linda already knew that they were Sabelskjöldare, so of course, I took the opportunity to recruit them as members of the association. Welcome!

In the spring, we continued our efforts to arrange a new shelter for the gravestone in Lemnhult, which I wrote about in the previous paper. If only you knew how much time it can take to seek permission from different directions. But finally we got all the permits we needed and in September last year, Birger Bring, Peder Nilsson and I went to Lemnhult to install a new roof over the gravestone. See pictures on our Facebook page!

In the summer, there was a wedding in the Kristdala

church. The Bloomberg's, from the US, wanted to renew their vows and then take the opportunity to see the Sabelskjöld bridal crown. There were about a dozen relatives who attended the celebration. Read Coe Bloomberg's fine letter in the paper.

The Bridal Crown was borrowed twice last year. You are welcome to contact me if there are any couples who belong to the family and are planning to get married!

When early fall came, it was time for our annual meeting and our traditional family reunion. This time we met in the wonderfully warm and sunny Söderköping and there were about a hundred members attending. Obviously, there were several familiar faces, but also some new ones. How nice to see so many members and many thanks for a very nice day!

This year it is 50 years since our decision to form the family association at a meeting in Kristdala. On November 6th, 1967, an interim board was appointed, with Karl Rutegård as chairman. And parallel to this anniversary is the on going planning of our 400-year anniversary to be held in Stockholm on September 1st-3rd. The festivities will take place in the Foresta Hotel, Lidingö and will include a visit to the House of Nobility. I hope to see you in Stockholm in September!

*Staffan Svensson*



*Picture: Thina Rydell*

## Plenty of Mantefors family in Söderköping

For those who attended the annual meeting in Söderköping, the surname Mantefors sounds a little extra familiar. We gathered the "clan" in a picture!

Top row from left: Brothers Valdi, Bertrand, Tryggve and Torgny (they are standing in order of age). Bottom row from left: Karin (Valdis daughter), Birgitta daughter of Bertrand and her mother Gunni, Ann-Christine (the wife of Tryggve) and their daughter Linda. At the far right is Elsie (Torgny's wife). All with the last name Mantefors.

The name Mantefors comes from the farm Mantebo where their father Arvid's grew up. In his family there were 11 siblings; the first six were born in Kristdala, and the last five in Döderhult. Mantebo is a farm on Skrikebo homestead, Döderhult parish. In Mantebo, there was a school, at least one residential building and a chapel. Arvid and Tulli, the brothers' father and mother were Sabelskjöldare.

*About the family: Birgitta Mantefors. About the farm: Birger Bring*

# The annual meeting in Söderköping



The 2016 Annual Meeting was held on September 10th in Söderköping. Nearly a hundred descendants of livdragonen Carl Jönsson gathered at Söderköpings Brunn and in addition to the usual annual meeting negotiations, we also took the opportunity to visit the nice little local museum, St. Ragnhilds guild. The new board members are presented separately in the newspaper.

Members who have Sabelskjöld family ties to Söderköping through Carl J. Sabelskjöld and both spouses, Magdalena Strang (first marriage) and Ingeborg Rosenstråle (second marriage), came from many parts of the country.

In the latter half 1200, Svantepolk Knutsson, a powerful man with an odd first name, lived in Söderköping. He was the grandson of Valdemar the Conqueror ( "winner") of Denmark, whose wife was the daughter of the Swedish Earl Gut-

torm. Svantepolk was a descendant of King Cerdic of Wessex (about AD 500) through Valdemar the Conqueror. From Carl Sabelskjöld's marriage to Magdalena Strang, a daughter, named Brita was born. She married Per Nilsson Ulfsax, whose tombstone is in Lemnhult outside Vetlanda.

Their grandson Zacharias Ulfsax married Margaret Unicorn, who was a descendant of Svantepolk Knutsson. The couple had two daughters: Catherine Margaret Ulfsax (my guess) and Estrid Helena Ulfsax. They both married commoners.

Holmstein Eriksson (from the branch Rosenstråle bransch), is connected to Söderköping. On November 11, 1495, he gave two farms, in Kuddby parish (now the municipality of Norrköping,) to St. George's Hospital in Söderköping. Later, on August 6, 1515, he donated another two farms to the same hospital.

## Renewed vows in the ancestral church



*Helga Bloomberg tries on the family bridal crown with her husband - Helga och Coe Bloomberg in front of the altar with reverend Leif Norrgård.*

One summersday in 2016, Coe Bloomberg and his wife Helga stood in front of Reverend Leif Norrgård, in the Kristdala church. They wanted to renew their wedding vows in the church where Coe's ancestors had attended many generations before they emigrated to USA. Coe describes the occasion:

"I am proud to be Swedish because the people who shaped my life, my parents and grandparents were Swedish. My grandfather Arthur Gustaf Bloomberg and father, Arthur Eugene Bloomberg, were big, strong men who dealt with life in a decisive manner. And they married wonderfully caring women, for life.

I wanted to pass this history on to our daughter, Laura Anne Bloomberg. And so we went together to the annual Bloomberg reunion, in Woodhull, Illinois. While at the reunion, I learned of our Sabelsjold heritage.

So, the next year, in 2016, I set off for Kristdala to see the place of my ancestors, and for my wife and I to renew our wedding vows. We were joined in Stockholm by two of our daughters and our two grandchildren. Here are my memories from Kristdala. When we arrived at the altar, the Pastor firmly shook my hand and said "Welcome to the church of your ancestors." It brought tears to my eyes, as it does now as I write this. To see the font where my ancestors had been baptized over the course of fifteen generations was profoundly moving.

Relatives of mine, whom I had never met, came to the ceremony. Their attendance and kindness was very touching. Those present from our family sensed the joy of the ceremony; two old folks in their 70's renewing their commitment to each other."

*Coe Bloomberg and Annica Tribberg.*

*Photo: Thina Rydell.*



## The new board

The new board was elected at the annual meeting in Söderköping. In order for all members to get some insight into who we are, everyone had to tell us a little about themselves:

Staffan Svensson:

"I am 59 years old and I live at Mysingsö in Oskarshamn with my wife, Maud. I work as real estate engineer. In my spare time I devote myself to my farm in Kristdala. I have been on the family association's board since 1998. I am now the chairman, and also care for the bridal crown."

Karin Larsson:

"Genealogy is my hobby. I have researched since the early 1990's. I'm responsible for the Sabelskjöld research team and Facebook. I have worked as a cook and staff manager. Thina is my sister. I live in Kalmar with my husband Anders and two beloved cats."

Gunnar Malmberg:

"I live in Tranås, and I'm married to Marianne. We have three daughters and nine grandchildren. I was born in Oskarshamn and raised in Kristdala. I have worked as a teacher in Västervik. I joined and built the Volvo Bus in Gothenburg. I have been an industrial officer in Samhall. I have also been self-employed for many years, as well as a senior executive in recent years. I have been interested in the family for about 15 years. I started looking for ancestry, but tired. I wanted to know how people lived. I found relatives 'in America', and when I contacted Birger Bring, I found the relation with the Sabelskjölds."

Britt Stenervall:

"I was born in Stockholm, and now I live in Gubbängen. My mother was from Berga Kalvenäs and I slipped into the association through my cousin Boel. I'm a "contractual pensioner" at Folksam, an insurance company where I started as a post girl, continued as a damages regulator and then ended up at the switchboard. I still work there sometimes. I am active in the church, among other things. I have a daughter and two (soon three) grandchildren. I have been in the association since 2010 and take care of the shop."

Annica Triborg:

"I grew up outside Eksjö and "was born into the association" via uncle Karl Rutegård, who founded the family association in the 1960s. I live in Kalmar after spending many years in Stockholm and a number of years on the island Tobago in the Caribbean. I have worked as a journalist, with radio, television and various newspapers. Nowadays, I'm essentially an author, with over 30 books printed. I am married to Albert and with Albert's children we have a big and lovely family of our own."

Johnny Sigvardsson:

"I grew up in Rösstorp, near Bråbo, if you look on the map. I'm living in Målilla, and married to Marianne. We have two children and two grandchildren. I am a construction engineer and I have worked at Skånska Cement, at home, in factories and more. For the last 37 years I was a property engineer for the municipality of Hultsfred. I have recently been retired. Horrible! I recently joined the family association, thanks to my son Johan's interest."



*Upper row from left:*

*Staffan Svensson, Gunnar Malmberg, Karin Larsson och Thina Rydell.*

*Lower row:*

*Britt Stenervall, Tomas Sannerud, Birgitta Mantefors och Annica Triborg.*

*Johnny Sigvardsson is missing.*

Thina Rydell:

"I am the oldest child of five (my sister, Karin Larsson is number three). I live in Kalmar. I have three children and three grandchildren (and one more on the way). I have moved back to my parents' farm where I live with my three cats. I worked in different kitchens, and then studied at the university after my husband's death. I also worked for 15 years as a webdesigner. I was dismissed last year, after a reorganization. I work a lot with the Kalmar Vetsrantåg family association. I joined the association in 2004."

Tomas Sannerud:

"I live with my wife in Norrköping, I was born in Kristdala and I am the grandchild of the churchman, Erik Meurling. I have an older brother and a twin brother named Torbjörn. I entered the theological path in the 1960s and was a priest in 1972. I have been working with immigrant issues in Norrköping. When I became a father in 1981, my mother told me about my relation to the Sabelskjölds. I became interested and joined the association. My membership number is 972."

Birgitta Mantefors:

I am 47 and live in central Norrköping. I work at Skarphag School and teach new arrivals. In my spare time I meet with my two children Calle and Vanna. We have been involved in a lot of musicals, since my daughter, at the age of 13, was in the Östgöta Theater's set of "Sound of Music". I'm interested in my origins and when my uncle Valdi became a member and since my mom and dad (Gunnar and Bertrand) are members, I felt it was obvious to apply for membership myself. "for membership myself."

# Family stories in Kristdala



During Advent, Karin Larsson and I visited the Kristdala Historical Society...to lie! Or at least to wind half-truths with the tales of our family. I saw Karin, who is a very thorough person, feeling a bit uncomfortable when I twisted and turned some of the stories that exist around our family. However, this was not an evening of truth-telling, but there was, figuratively speaking, room for a good story in the crowded little red cottage in Kristdala.

There were plenty of Sabelskjöldare in the audience, but for all who were unable to attend, here is a summary of what we talked about. And maybe, if you are planning to take part in Stockholm in September, you will find some stuff for dinner conversation!

## What is a tall tale?

We can begin with some synonyms: Lying history, myth, poetry, fiction, history, ships, tall story, legend, scam, racket or fairy tale. According to the dictionary, a tale is: "a personal coherent story with appropriate excesses, which enhance the story. Can be directly untrue, but is said to be entertaining."

Some expressions that are often used to best package a tale are: "There is a rumor," "Legend says," "According to various sources," "It's said to have been like this," "It's not inconceivable that," "Possibly it was so," "What I've been told that ... "or" If we play with the idea ... "

## Memories from family parties

This is what I heard at family parties on my mother's side when I was a child: "Carl had a good time. He got land and farms in Småland from the king. He was in the army until 1629, when he finished as Sergeant Major. It was worse for the following generations. His grandchild, Carl, started drinking, pawned his property and lost the nobility letter while playing poker. He had only daughters, but it is rumored that he also had several illegitimate children ... "

The more serious part of the family sighed and asked for a refill and instead talked about Birger Sabelsköld's duel in 1668. What did really happen that day?

Until 1662 it was legal for nobles, knights and military commands to resolve conflicts, in the best film style, through duels with a sword or gun. After that it was illegal to duel. In 1668, Birger Sabelsköld still had to duel off, despite the new rules.

Birger was killed, one of the accomplices was dismissed from his military position, and another was exiled. In 1719, Queen Ulrika Eleonora, as one of her first decisions on the throne, banned both duels and fights.

A talkative aunt now felt the facts had become too tedious, so she interrupted gently: "Is it true that the king paid for Jöns and Brita's wedding? Why did he do it? It is said to have been in a hurry also ... Could it have been that the king needed to get Brita married a little quickly ...? And it was Brita who nursed the young prince of the royal family? No, I'm not saying that Carl would be the illegitimate son of the King in any way, but one can't help thinking ... "

## The Family name

We had not even come close to discussing how the family got their name. Could it have been as the pastor Erik Meurling wrote in the magazine *Smålandsryttaren* in 1928:

"When the Danes in 1612 traveled on several roads both at the east and west in Småland, Småland's riders fought with them. Yet, the memory of the distress and the ravages that passed over our landscape is still remembered. "Was there an ancestor among these brave and is this when our family got its name? Or is it one of these other theories that we are going to lean on?"

**Theory 1:** One of Småland's riders on Gustav II Adolf's time was Carl Jönsson, and he had already received the extra name Sabel. In a fight, the king was surrounded by enemies and the horse was killed under him. By his side he had the young rider, Sabel, and the king now sat on Sabel's white horse. Sabel was left-handed and defended the left side and the king swung to the right. Then they both could get through the enemies. The king turned to his rescuer, saying, "After this you shall be called Sabelsköld, for you have been a shield (sköld) for me."

**Theory 2:** Carl Jönsson was born in 1590 in Nyköping, son of Jöns Mårtensson and his wife Brita Larsdotter. The father was entrusted to Duke Charles (later King Karl IX) and the mother was a housewife at Nyköpingshus, for a time. That is, she took care of the kitchen staff and supplies. She was also a breast-feeding Duke Charles' daughter, Kristina. While other men, according to Karl IX, were so unreliable that they were executed, Jöns was reliable. To reward Jöns, Gustav II Adolf, Karl IX's son knighted Jöns son, Carl, who was a "dependable citizen".

**Theory 3:** Here we consider the concept of cartridge versus client. The lower (clients) served the higher (the cartridges) and, in return, they received lower protection and a chance of benefits. Did Carl Jönsson perhaps have early contacts with the High Court or King Family? Duke Karl Filip, younger brother of seven year old Gustav (future King Gustav II Adolf) spent the summers in Sörmland. Perhaps Karl Filip looked up to elder Carl Jönsson? Or was Axel Oxenstierna, Carl's patron? As a public chancellor, he probably met both Jöns and his son Carl and could put a good word about him with the king, which could have led to Carl being knighted.

**Theory 4:** Carl Jönsson gave his horse to Gustav II Adolf in a field battle when his horse died. Thanks to this brave act he was knighted. This theory may be the right one, Carl Jönsson served in Småland's riders and had access to a horse in the battles in which he participated. The horse also has a prominent place on the coat of arms. This is said to have happened during the 30-year war, and that fact we can immediately dismiss:



Carl was knighted in 1617 and the war did not start until the following year.

## The Ring

There is a tale about a ring which belonged to Elisabet Duraeus. She was married to Jön's son Carl who after the death of his father in 1696, was the head of the family. Elisabet was spending their assets and when someone pointed it out, and she said, "That we will be poor is as unlikely as this ring coming back to me." Then she took off her gold ring and threw it in Bråhultsjön. In 1701, however, Carl and Elisabet remained, blotted out. Then a fisherman came to her and knocked on the door. He had caught a pike and found her ring in the belly ...

A little closer to the truth is probably the fact that former kings had freely distributed land and farms to, among others, nobility. But long wars had been hard on the economy and a way to get more money was to take back the gifts. Karl XI's reduction in 1689 meant that Jöns Sabelsköld had to turn into a tenant. That he had his land taken from him is considered wrong today. See separate text on the last page where Birger Bring goes through the tours.

When first Jöns and then Carl died, Elisabeth could not find nobility as suitable spouses for her six daughters; "The well-known virgins" as they had once been called, were married to farmers around Kristdala. The family spread in Småland, but the name died since there were no sons.

## Dragonfire and the bridal crown

Around our bridal crown there are many tales, like this: Early on a Christmas morning, a man rode from Åsjögle to Mörlunda church in Småland. At Hovre-backe he saw a dragonfly light next to the road. He quickly threw steel into the fire, as the tradition dictates. On the way home, he got off the horse to investigate the place, and saw a beautiful bridal crown laying there. The man took care of it and rode happily to his home.

A dragonfire is said to be a light phenomena coming from

## Here lies the Grybe family under a door



*Grybes family tomb in Kristdala. Photo: Birger Bring.*

people who are fooled into falling into the marshes and then rises up like an illumination, forever dancing around the place where they died. This light would lead others to other people either to safety or to their death. To throw metal objects into the fire would obviously prevent the fire. Truth? Well, it's actually methane gas...not as exciting as lost souls.

Another story tells us that the bride came into the family when a man fished with a net in Lake Illern and picked up the crown in the net.

Another legend claims that in Småland Gullhanetorp there was a captain with so many daughters that he made a crown that they could all wear when they married. The last one in the line got the crown as a homestead and this is our bridal crown.

Truth? Yes, we know with certainty is that the current crown guard, Staffan Svensson's mother, as a child, played wedding with the crown in the 1930s. Then it lay in a sugar box in the attic. Now it is in the bank vault in Oskarshamn.

## The family society is begins to form

Around all tales and truths, an embryo of the family union began to be formed in 1955. My uncle, Karl Rutegård's, interest in family history increased, and in 1967 it was decided to form the family association "as soon as fifteen members exist".

Now we are over 600 and we will celebrate the 50th anniversary while it is 400 years since Carl Jönsson was knighted too. Karl Rutegård wrote to the 1970s association the reason he became so interested in the family:

"Whatever occupation and place of residence must change, a person never completely loses the childhood and adolescent's dear hometown, the farm, the village, the homestead and the family." Or, I would have supposed if uncle Kalle had lived, the question is whether we free ourselves from the stories either? Let them give our history a little extra lust. And, who knows ...

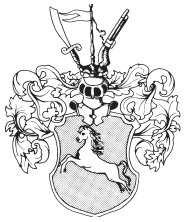
*Annica Triberg*

Our relative, the popular Swedish actor and comedian, Stig Grybe, died on February 1, 2017. He was close to 89 years old. The Grybe family belongs to the Sabelskjöld family through Stig's father, Johan Erik Johansson (1890-1959). If we go back, we end up at Elizabeth Sabelskjöld, one of the "Six Maidens of Brabo." Erik, who took the name Grybe, was the youngest of three siblings, all born in Åsjögle, Kristdala. At the cemetery in Kristdala, the Grybe family grave is beneath a large stone, carved like a door with both handles and hinges.

"The stone is certainly quite unique," says Bertil Josefson, cemetery caretaker in Kristdala to the newspaper, Östran. Erik married Hilma Näsström (1900-1987) and in 1928 the son Stig was born. Bertil continues: "Stig's father, Erik, was a watchmaker and as I have heard it, was his father's wish that his son would take over." But instead Stig wanted to become an actor and made his breakthrough in radio in 1957 playing the role of Ante Nordlund. He worked with Povel Ramel, Brita Borg and Martin Ljung and others. Stig's last film role, at the age of 82, was in the newly recorded Åsa-Nisse film from 2011. Stig's children, Stefan and Isabella Grybe, have appeared in various acting contexts. Isabella also as a TV host.

*Text Annica Triberg*

# Welcome to Foresta on Lidingö in September!



Many of our members will be attending at our 400th anniversary in September. Here's more information for everyone who has signed up. We will start the celebration at Riddarhuset on Friday, September 1st, at 14:00, at the entrance. Then there will be a guided tour.

We continue the celebration in Lidingö, with dinner at 19:00 at Millesgården restaurant called Lanthandel. We will stay the night at hotel Foresta. On Saturday, we will gather at 2:00 pm for coffee and sandwiches. Then there will be a lecture by Christopher O'Regan on how people lived in the 18th century in Sweden. In the evening, there will be a gala dinner and entertainment. A detailed program for all who have signed up will be mailed in August. Please check your spam-map.

Scandic Foresta, usually referred to as only Foresta, is located in southern Lidingö, just south of Lidingöbron's landing fortress and next to Millesgården. Foresta, originally known as Villa Foresta, was built for Wilhelmina Skogh as a private residence during the years 1908-1910 when she was the CEO of the Grand Hôtel in Stockholm. The villa was built after models from medieval knight's castles which she had seen on her many trips to Italy via Rehn valley in Germany. She named the house after her surname Skogh, which means forest. In Italian, it is Foresta. The castle is built from limestone from Gotland and the site, overlooking Lilla Värtan towards Stockholm, reminded her of the view from Färösund, on the island Gotland where she grew up.

She tried to donate the entire property to the city of Lidingö, but the city declined the offer. She was therefore forced to sell the entire property in order to be able to pay off her bank loans. In 1931 Anders Sandrew, a well known businessman in the film industry, bought the building and had a restaurant here for many years. Builder Nils Nessen bought Foresta in 1952 and opened a hotel in 1957 after extensive renovations. Among the famous guests staying at the hotel are The Beatles and Josephine Baker.

Foresta has been expanded over the years with separate hotel buildings behind the original villa and has undergone extensive renovations on several occasions, but the main building has retained its characteristic style of a knight's castle and is a wellknown landmark of Lidingö. Nowadays, Foresta is run by the Scandic hotel chain.

Address: Scandic-Foresta, Herserudsvägen 22, Lidingö  
Phone: 08-517 324 00. Website: scandichotels.se

## Find your way to Riddarhuset

The address is Riddarhusorget 10 with note that Riddarhuset is not located on Riddarholmen but on the Old Town side.

**By car:** It's hard to find parking here. Just park a bit away and take the subway. If you already have checked in at Foresta, leave the car at Ropsten and take metro number 13 towards Alby to Old Town.

**Subway/Bus:** From the Central, take subway 14, red line towards the telephone plan, towards the Old Town. From there about 5 minute's walk. Or take bus 59 from Central to Norra Hammarbyhamnen.

## Find the hotel Foresta

**By car:** Follow road 277 from Stockholm towards Lidingö. Drive across the bridge. Take the exit towards Herserud / Torsvik after the bridge. Turn right towards Herserudsvägen. Foresta is on the right. Guest parking is available on the farm (limited number, cannot be booked in advance) and along Herserudsvägen and up to Millesgården.

**Subway/Bus:** From the Central, take subway 13 towards Ropsten. From there, take bus 205 towards Sticklelinge or 221 towards Larsberg Högsåtra to Lidingö Torsvikstorg stop. From here 5-7 minute's walk. Go to [www.sl.se](http://www.sl.se), there are more options, where you can also see different ticket forms. **By taxi:** Taxi from Ropsten costs about 125 SEK to Foresta, from the Central station about 225 SEK if there is no rush traffic. Taxi Stockholm (+468-15 00 00) is reliable as well as Taxi Kurir (+468-30 00 00).

*Board of Directors*

## New members of the board

At the annual meeting in Söderköping, two good members retired at their own request, Treasurer, Peder Nilsson and Vice Chairman, Birger Bring. Bertil Stensgård, Kerstin Malm, and Gunnel Ohlson also retired.

Gunnar Malmberg Tranås, was chosen as the new treasurer, and Tomas Sannerud, and Birgitta Mantefors, Norrköping, Johnny Sigvardsson, Målilla and Karin Larsson, Kalmar were chosen as new deputies. More about the Board's new members can be found on page 3.

Since the meeting in Söderköping, Birger Bring, who has handled the task exemplarily for many years, has been replaced by Thina Rydell. She also holds a seat on the board, takes care of member questions and applications. Karin Larsson makes sure that the applicants' records are entered in the database.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please e-mail:  
[thina.rydell@sabelskjold.se](mailto:thina.rydell@sabelskjold.se) or call +46 702-69 69 11.

*Thina Rydell, member responsible*

## Sabelskjöld Mansion?

Charles "Chuck" and Michele Johnson, from the USA, were among the participants of the latest annual meeting in Söderköping. They are really enthusiastic and appreciative members of the association and have a big heart for their Swedish roots.

Just after the end of the annual meeting, "Chuck" came to me as the treasurer of the association and wanted to talk about his idea of a "Sabelskjöld Manor House", which he thought the association should have somewhere in Sweden, preferably somewhere in Kristdala. To emphasize that he was serious, he also handed a gift of 1000 dollars as a foundation for the realization of the project / idea. A thrilling thought, but at this time, just a thought!

It feels like a staggering project with a lot of money involved in realizing it, but at the same time a fun idea. We will discuss the matter within the Board and then bring it up again to see if there may be more interest so that at least one simple preliminary study can be conducted to investigate the matter a bit deeper. More about this later!

*Gunnar Malmberg, treasurer*



## A visit from South Africa

During a few days in June, Brian and Joan Musto from South Africa visited Kalmar. Brian is the descendant of O W A Forssman who we have written about previously (see *Sabelskjöldarn* 2013). We had arranged a visit to Kalmar County Museum. The staff let us into the magazine to look at some things, including a ruler that was made of wood from the ship *Ocatavia* when she was rebuilt from a bark to a frigate. Also, there were a couple of painted copies of the ship that was hired for the trip from Kalmar to South Africa. In the sewing workshop, Joan could try on a dress that was sewn for an exhibition for Forssman's brother Magnus and his wife Gustava who also left Sweden and traveled to South Africa. After the museum visit, we met several *Sabelskjöldare* in the *Krusenstiernska* garden for a nice ending to the afternoon.



*In the magazin, Annica Triberg, Joan Musto, Karin Larsson and Brian Musto.*



*In the garden from left  
Annica Triberg, Karin Larsson,  
Birger Bring, Joan Musto,  
Gunnel Ohlson, Brian Musto,  
Ulla Fransius, Mona Konnberg and Lena Ammert.  
Text and photo: Thina Rydell*

## How to spell in the database

Why is it spelled Karl in the database when he usually spelled his name Carl? And I know that my ancestor Margaretha spelled her name with an h, but the database shows only Margareta.

We receive many questions about why the spelling is changed. One can jokingly say that after our death, we will, at least in this case, equal with kings and queens!

In the guide "Genealogy, Basic," which is published by the Swedish Genealogical Association, one can read Spelling Rules and perhaps understand a little more. I quote some of the content, because it is relevant to how we spell name and location when we put the data into the Family Association database.

It was not until after the spelling reform of 1906 that spelling rules were implemented. This was the initiative of Fridtjuv Berg (yes, he spelled that way), during his time as Minister of Education. Spelling reform led to, among other things, the letter f being replaced by v. For example, ofer was over. The letter v replaced f, fv, and hv. Similarly, the letters dt were replaced with t or tt.

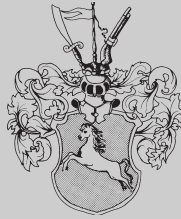
With the spelling reform, all words and names were spelled the same way. Formerly, everyone spelled a name the way they thought it sounded. In the old church books one can find many different spellings of the same names and places. If we take the name Per, there are many different spellings: Pelle, Pehr couple

Pähr or Peer, even if they are pronounced the same way. It can also be Peter, because a priest liked Latin. Some times, even Peter and Petter can be the same person. And Jan, Jonn and Johan are the same name. These names can sometimes be difficult to distinguish from the name Jonas, also written in various ways, such as Joon, Joe and Jons. So it is with Olof, Olov, Ol and Olle.

As for women's names, the name Kajsa can be both Karin and Catherine. Stina can be Kerstin and Magdalena was sometimes Malin. Margaret is also a name that is written in different ways and it can sometimes be written as Margeta or Margreta, and sometimes even as Marit.

To simplify the genealogy, a person should be consistent in the spelling of the names. Otherwise, it creates unnecessary problems and hinders communication with other researchers. Some simple rules are to exclude all silent letters (eg Pehr printed Per), to subscribe for the k-sound with a 'K' not 'C' or 'CH' (ie Kristina, not Christina), and not to use the old spelling (such as Gustafa Gustafva or to write Gustavagården). More can be read about this in the Genealogical Association's handbook.

*Karin Larsson*



**Chairman:** Staffan Svensson,  
Törnholmsv 41, 572 63 Oskarshamn  
Phone: +46 491-845 05,  
staffan.svensson@sabelskjold.se

**Members of the board:**  
Gunnar Malmberg, Tranås Phone: +46 706-829 200  
gunnar.malmberg@sabelskjold.se  
Annica Triberg, Kalmar Phone: +46 705-611 407  
annica.triberg@sabelskjold.se  
Thina Rydell, Kalmar Phone: +46 733-544 569  
thina.rydell@sabelskjold.se  
Britt Stenervall, Enskede Phone: +46 707-122 353  
britt.stenervall@sabelskjold.se

**Deputy members:** Karin Larsson, Kalmar  
Phone: +46 708-410 456 karin.larsson@sabelskjold.se  
Birgitta Mantefors, Norrköping,  
Phone: +46 709-186 456 birgitta.mantefors@sabelskjold.se  
Tomas Sannerud, Norrköping,  
Phone: +46 705-192 388 tomas.sannerud@sabelskjold.se  
Johnny Sigvardsson, Målilla,  
Phone: +46 703-752 334  
johnny.sigvardsson@sabelskjold.se

**Auditors:**  
Peder Nilsson, Kristdala, Phone: +46 491-711 21  
Christer Andersson, Hulfsfred, Phone: +46 491-740 35

**Preparing for new members of the board:**  
Rolf Svensson, Nyköping  
Phone: +46 706-639 505, chrolf2@bredband2.com  
Hans Nilsson, Trelleborg  
Phone: +46 410-180 18, hbgn@hotmail.se  
Sture Karlsson, Bockara  
Phone: +46 703-153 621

Sabelskjöldarn Editing and layout: Thina Rydell and Annica Triberg  
Do you have suggestions or opinions about the content of this magazine? Would you like to write a line or two? Get in touch!  
Remember to notify us any change of address!

## Did we loose the land in the wrong way?

In the 1500's, the state wanted to regain the estates of former rulers; mostly, Queen Christina. She had donated big estates to the nobility without anything in return from their side.

This was not, however, the case for Carl Sabelskjöld. He had married into his farms in Småland and Östergötland. His first wife, Magdalena Strang, had inherited Småland estates from her father, Hans Strang. The properties were used as collateral in a deal with King John III. Johan borrowed 3,500 daler from Strang, who received a considerable number of farms as collateral.

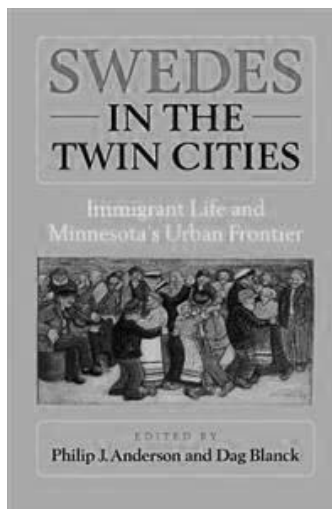
The state could not pay back the 3500 daler and for Strang-Sabelskjöld, over time, it became much more beneficial to keep the farms and forget the money. John III manipulated with coins, so the content of gold and silver would ensure the course. Large amounts of copper were added, and the value of the Swedish currency plunged. As a result of this, high inflation hit the country in the late 1500s

For Strang, it meant that in a few yers the value of the 3500 daler that the Crown owed him, dropped to not much more than a tenth, while the value of farms continued to rise. For a brief period, Carl Sabelskjöld managed to become the owner of the farms, but then everything returned to the old, and he risked getting the farms redeemed for 3,500 daler. The whole matter was "dissolved" by the Crown who took back the farms and explained the loan was repaid because of the high return that the farms had allegedly given Sabelskjöld during their possession! This was illegal, I believe.

The imbalance between the increase in value of cash and property can be seen from the fact that 3500 daler in 1577, is today equivalent to approximately 2.4 million SEK (according to the Royal Coin Cabinet), while the farms that were included in the pledge today have a combined assessed value of over 300 million.

*Birger Bring*

## "Never walk behind a swede in head-wind"



Olle Wästberg, a politician, journalist and diplomat, wrote a regular newsletter for several years which often focused on the Swedish-American relations and phenomena. Last fall, he reflected with generalizations about immigrants. It is hardly something new. Many of us have relatives who emigrated to the US to seek a better life and today we may think it was obvious they would be well received - just immigrants. Wästberg offers an interesting insight into settlers.

Wästberg refers to the book "Swedes in the Twin Cities" by Philip J. Anderson and Dag Blanck which came out in 2001. The following is a quote from a letter which a lumberjack in Minnesota wrote in 1901, in which he complains about the foul-smelling and exotic Swedes:

"Here we are more than fifteen white men in sixty Swedes, but we keep them short and they know who's the boss ... It is only in the evenings, I need to meet with the beastly creatures that are called Swedes ... To go behind a row Swedes is not for a man with a highly developed sense of smell. The stench can only come from a long line unwashed ancestors."

Note that the Swedes are not considered "white". They were just something terribly strange in society. And, who knows, maybe it was some of our ancestors who the letter writer was referring to.

The Title of the book "Swedes in the Twin Cities" refers to the two cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis in Minnesota

*Annica Triberg*