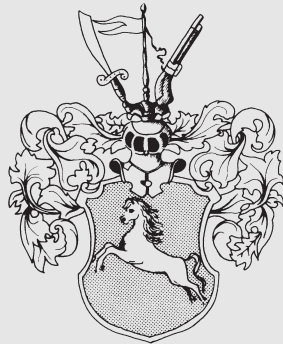


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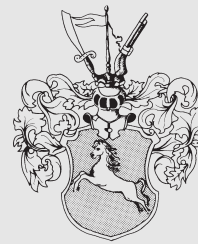
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Do you have suggestions or opinions about the content of this magazine? Would you like to write a line or two? Get in touch!  
Remember to notify us any change of address!



# Sabelskjöldarn

## 2020

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

### A word from our president

Watching the frosty- and snow-covered branches outside the window I sit down to summarize an eventful 2019, which to a large extent passed by in the sign of the family association.

During Easter, my family and I were paid a visit by Sabelskjöld relatives from Canada. We have met them several times previously, but now they were back in Sweden to show their daughter and her family where their ancestries originate. Then on Easter Eve we invited them for coffee in our home and on Easter Sunday, after their visit to the church, met at our farm in Kristdala.

In May, my family and I had the opportunity to participate during the recording of the television program "Everything for Sweden". One recording that created many nice memories. There is more to read about that experience in a separate article.

We spent the last weekend in August in Karlstad for what

we call a "middle meeting", i.e. an informal family meeting. This time we were about 25 members who met to explore our ancestry from Värmland (see article).

Many new acquaintances are also made through the family association. For instance, I was introduced to two gentlemen with whom I have later had the opportunity to go hunting with at the farm. It turned into a good hunting day, barbecues, coffee and hunting stories. All thanks to our family association. Now the board is planning for the coming the annual meeting on September 5, 2020, in Uppsala. I hope to see everybody there for the annual meeting and social activities. Please mark your calendars, more information to come!



*Regards from Staffan Svensson, chairman.*

### The 2020 Annual Meeting will be in Uppsala

The annual meeting for 2020 will be held in Uppsala on Saturday, September 5. In addition

to the usual annual meeting negotiations, we will also be able to view our nobility letter in original - a unique opportunity that you do not want to miss!

A detailed invitation with registration, exact locations and pricing will be issued separately before the summer. But you can go ahead and mark your calendars now. If you have a long way to go, it is usually advantageous to book hotel rooms well in advance, the same applies to travel by train.

A preliminary program looks like this:

10.00 Coffee and registration

At 11.00 Negotiations

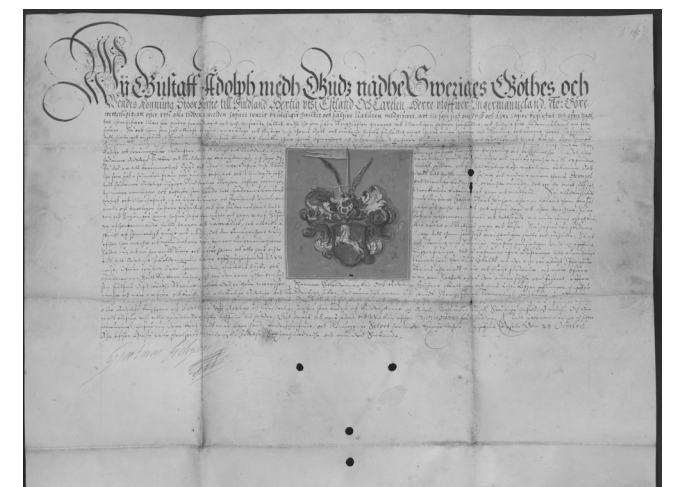
12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 The letter of Nobility is displayed

At 16.00 Annual meeting closure with coffee and cake

Welcome!

*Annica Triberg*



*The letter of nobility in original is kept in Uppsala at the university library.*

### No meeting in Uppsala

The meeting in Uppsala has been postponed until further notice due to the Corona pandemic. We hope to meet in Norrköping during the latter part of this year. More information will be e-mailed to you.

### In search of US members

One of our American members would like to have contact with others who live in the US.

If you are interested please contact Janice & Verle Jacobs  
Cambridge, Illinois jleejacobs71@gmail.com

### More pictures from All for Sweden and Christina Sittsers day



*Christina is designing clothes for the theater. Here is one of her drawings.*



*On Christina's day, arrow and bow are used, which is visible in the foreground. The treasure chest at the bottom contained a letter and a genealogy map.*



# The family on a trip in Värmland

One weekend in September 2019, the Sabelskjöld association held its annual meeting in Karlstad. We were twenty-five relatives who gathered to immerse ourselves in our family and this time focusing on the Kiessel branch, a family branch that is not quite easy to track through time. For example, there are many spellings, including Kiesel, Kysel, Kjessel and Ketzell. In Värmland the name is often seen as von Kiesel, and even then, it is spelled in several different ways.

On Saturday, we started by telling everyone what branch Sabelskjöld each participant originates from. We were represented by participants related to Karl Sabelskjöld's first marriage to Magdalena Strang, as well as from his second marriage to Ingeborg Rosenstråle and on to Jöns Sabelskjöld's daughter Elisabet Sabelskjöld and his son Karl Sabelskjöld.

Elisabet Sabelskjöld and Axel (von) Kiessel had nine children. Axel Kiessel, who died in 1701, was a cornet at Småland's cavalry. His two sons Karl and Magnus served at the Adelsfanan in Värmland. Karl married Ingrid (Ingel) Roos (of Hjälm-säter) and Magnus married Sara Beata Vigelia. Sara Beata was the daughter of church pastor Sven Vigelius and Sara Caméen from Sunne, also in Värmland.



Interiör från By kyrka. Foto: Thina Rydell

Eva Palmqvist, one of our members who was at the meeting and who has done a lot of research on the Kiessel family, gave us an interesting insight into Axel's dispute with the church pastor in Kristdala, Johan Bartholdi Duraeus in 1686. We also had the opportunity to talk about our various branches before we entered a bus towards Säffle for lunch at the idyllic Kanalkaféet.

This afternoon's first stop was Nolby Farm, which is now owned by Mats Jansson. He briefed us about the history of the farm. In 1660 Johan Anton Nieroth and his wife Christina Bonde were registered as Nolby's owners. These are the grandparents of Ingrid Roos. The farm seems to have been inherited by Ingrid's siblings before cavalry captain Karl von Kiesel is reported to be the owner of Nolby Säteri / farm in 1740. We were also given the opportunity to enter the house, where Karl and Ingrid once lived. Although the house was to some extent

renovated, it was a fantastic visit for us.

Karl and Ingrid belonged to "By" church at this time. Vicar Lena Skoting informed us that the existing church was inaugurated in 1779. On one of the exterior walls of the church are two tombstones. These are the tombstones of the sisters Karin Roos (dead 1640) and Maria Roos (dead 1641). They were Ingrid Roos's aunts. History clearly made its presence known to us.

The next visit was Southern New Church, which broke ground in 1757. Karl von Kiessel and Ingrid Roos were buried there in 1755 at the old wooden church. The parish name "Ny" was changed in 1885 when "southern" was added to separate the parishes. Here too, we received eminent guidance. We got to listen to the sound of the medieval church bell of the Ny church, now standing in front of the choir and dated to about 1425. This bell probably called Karl and Ingrid to church service, during their last years of life.

The evening ended in Karlstad where our American member Chuck Johnson enthusiastically told about his thoughts on DNA testing and our medieval ancestry from Rosenstråle. He also showed a flag with the family coat of arms. We had no idea that night would be our last meeting with Chuck. Only a few days later he quickly passed away.

Sunday was scheduled for a visit to Sandgrund where the artist Lars Lerin exhibits his fantastic paintings in several rooms. This weekend was a memorable one for many of us and an opportunity to talk to each other about our kinship.

Karin Larsson



Nolby gård where Mats Jansson told us about the farm. Photo: Thina Rydell

# Display your ancestry with our jewelry

Our beautiful rings and charms with the family coat of arms can still be ordered directly from the goldsmith Valdi jewelry in Kalmar. Both rings and pendants are available in different materials: silver, white gold or red gold. The rings are now also available in the precious metal palladium, which belongs to the group of platinum metals. Palladium is silvery white but resembles the hardness of white gold, though at a significantly better price.

If you want to order a ring, first go to a local jewelery and try out the right size. Keep in mind that this is a signet ring, so ask to try one of those.

If you are interested, please contact Valdi Jewellery directly: email to [info@valdismycken.se](mailto:info@valdismycken.se) or call +46 480-422 525.

Annica Triberg



Signet ring model 1



Pendant



Signet ring model 2

Pris	Silver	18K röd-guld	18K vit-guld	Palladium
Signet ring model 1	530 USD	1340 USD	1770 USD	1160 USD
Signet ring model 2	590 USD	2210 USD	2950 USD	1820 USD
Pendant round 15 mm	239 USD	330 USD	3578 USD	
Chain 50 cm	15 USD	prices are pending, ask for the price.		

Chain in silver can be ordered for the pendant, price SEK 149. Available in different lengths. 42, 45, 50 and 60 cm  
If you want a chain in red gold or white gold, contact us for a quote.

Gold, and especially palladium, has risen sharply in 2019, so there is a big difference in price compared to last year. Prices for the rings in gold and palladium are minimum prices, it is the daily price that applies. You are welcome to request a current quote.  
The size, i.e. the weight, also affects the price, except for the silver rings. There the price is the same regardless of size.  
Thanks for your continued interest, greetings Eva and Ylva!

VALDI

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## That's why there are so many Sabelskjöld's in Kristdala

Carl Jönsson, knighted Sabelskjöld, originally had no connections with Kristdala. This changed through the marriage with Magdalena Strang. The Strang family had, through business with the current king, come into possession of a considerable number of farms in Kristdala with Bråhult being the main farm. Carl only stayed sporadically in Kristdala, but his son Jöns made Bråhult his permanent residence. For the next generation, the younger Carl. and especially for his six daughters, Kristdala became the permanent address and has since then been firmly linked to the Sabelskjöld tradition.

We at Kristdala Hometown Association are constantly interviewing older people with historic knowledge about Kristdala. Most recently we filmed one of our society's older members, Arne Svensson, 91 years. He is a Sabelskjöld and Märta is his ancestor.

For many years, Arne lived next door to an "old aunt" - Nancy Bonell – she was also Sabelskjöld, a descendant of Ingeborg Sabelskjöld. I myself remember the lady as an odd old dweller in a big crow castle in the middle of Kristdala village. We children were a little afraid of her. Now I understand that she was a colorful and interesting person. She was born in Kristdala and had lived in the US for a while. After living abroad, she lived in Kristdala for a few years and then moved with her father to Eksjö, where he was a baker on the Kalmar military base, "I 21". After her father's death, Nancy returned to Kristdala. She was a foretuneteller who could see into the future and Arne told us that there were taxis from Oskarshamn with people who would have Nancy to tell them their future. When they arrived, the atmosphere was upbeat and cheerful, while the atmosphere on the return journey was depressed. Apparently, the future was bleak.

After Nancy died, her large house was bought by an electrician who intended to use the house both as a private home and for his business activities. But he only stayed one night in the house and the next morning he said to Arne: "No man can live in that haunted house!" The house was then sold in a couple of times and was finally demolished to give way to industrial operations.

To emphasize Kristdala's strong Sabelskjöld connection, it can be mentioned that both interviewers and filmmakers,

### The Family Association needs you

The association's nomination committee is not a super phenomenon with knowledge of the entire membership in the country, so the board would like you as a member to make an active election and support our nomination committee by announcing and telling us what you are willing to get involved in. In addition to board assignments, there are other functions in need of addition of new fresh ideas.

You, as a member, please don't underestimate your ability to use your creativity and forward-thinking, as well as your objective and positive outlook on working in an association with trust and faith in the future.

We would love to hear from you! The nomination committee preferably wants a pool of dedicated and resourceful people willing to step up and shoulder an assignment when the opportunity arises.

Do you feel the urge or have questions about the board's work? E-mail: [valberedning@sabelskjold.se](mailto:valberedning@sabelskjold.se) or [styrelsen@sabelskjold.se](mailto:styrelsen@sabelskjold.se)



*Nancy Bonell - picture from the book of Kristdala.*

as well as almost the entire board of the Kristdala Hembygds-förening, belong to the family.

This summer, as usual, Hembygdsgården is open this summer for five weeks. On July 13, we have Sabelskjöld evening where the Sabelskjöld association has promised to provide information and display of the bridal crown. For other activities we refer to our website: <https://www.hembygd.se/kristdala>

*Sven-Åke Johansson  
chairman of Kristdala Hembygdsförening*

### Membership fee and payment

You have received an invoice from PayPal and last day to pay was set for May 3rd. If you are paying an amount which exceeds 15 USD per member, the additional amount will be considered a gift to the association.

Your membership number is printed on the back of the magazine along with your name and address.

For questions regarding membership or address changes, e-mail [member@sabelskjold.se](mailto:member@sabelskjold.se) or [thina.rydell@sabelskjold.se](mailto:thina.rydell@sabelskjold.se)

## A tragic Christmas eve

Most people in the 1800s lived a quiet life, which rarely left traces to the afterlife, other than brief notes in house interviews, birth- and death books. However, of course, extraordinary situations occurred, the aftermath of which can be studied even today in, for example, court records.

In addition to the usual taxes, some farms had to carry out prisoner transportations, i.e. transport sentenced prisoners between detention and place of imprisonment for punishment. On Christmas Eve 1812, such transport took place between Kalmar and Gamleby. It was the prisoner Jonas Boman, who in Gamleby would be punished with "29 pairs of lashes" for burglary and theft. The person carrying out the transport was Sven Classon in Malghult, Kristdala. The whole transport was supposed to be done in one day, but considering that it was only daylight for about six hours around Christmas time and that Sven was also a church warden and had to be at the early ceremony on Christmas morning, he decided to stop over in Kristdala for the night. The prisoner was housed in Sven's home, so that the transport would then be completed on Christmas Day.

The prisoner was imprisoned with wooden blocks around his feet, so Sven considered that his aged grandfather Carl Svensson could be entrusted guarding the prisoner while Sven

and the others in the house went to church at three o'clock on Christmas Day morning.

Carl Svensson was born in Saxtorp, Kristdala and was the granddaughter of Ingeborg Sabelskjöld, one of the six Sabelskjöld maidens at Bråhult and the fourth generation Sabelskjöld.

Unfortunately, an axe was within reach of Broman. With this he could now free himself from the shackles. The aged Carl tried to prevent the escape but did not manage to overpower Broman or grab the axe. The prisoner cut Carl to death with the axe, stole what was of value in the house and then fled into the Christmas night.

Carl Svensson was buried on January 6th, 1813 and the same day his slayer Broman was arrested. Broman had a colourful past. He was born in Saltvik, in Döderhult parish, he had gone to sea and then endeavoured to become artilleryman but had been dismissed. He admitted to the crime in Malghult and was convicted of murder in the district court, later the softened to manslaughter in a higher court. However, both judgments meant the death penalty. His application for mercy was rejected by his Majesty the King. He was executed on Krokstorp's gallows hill June 30, 1813.

*Birger Bring*

## There is a Kristdala Church in Minnesota too

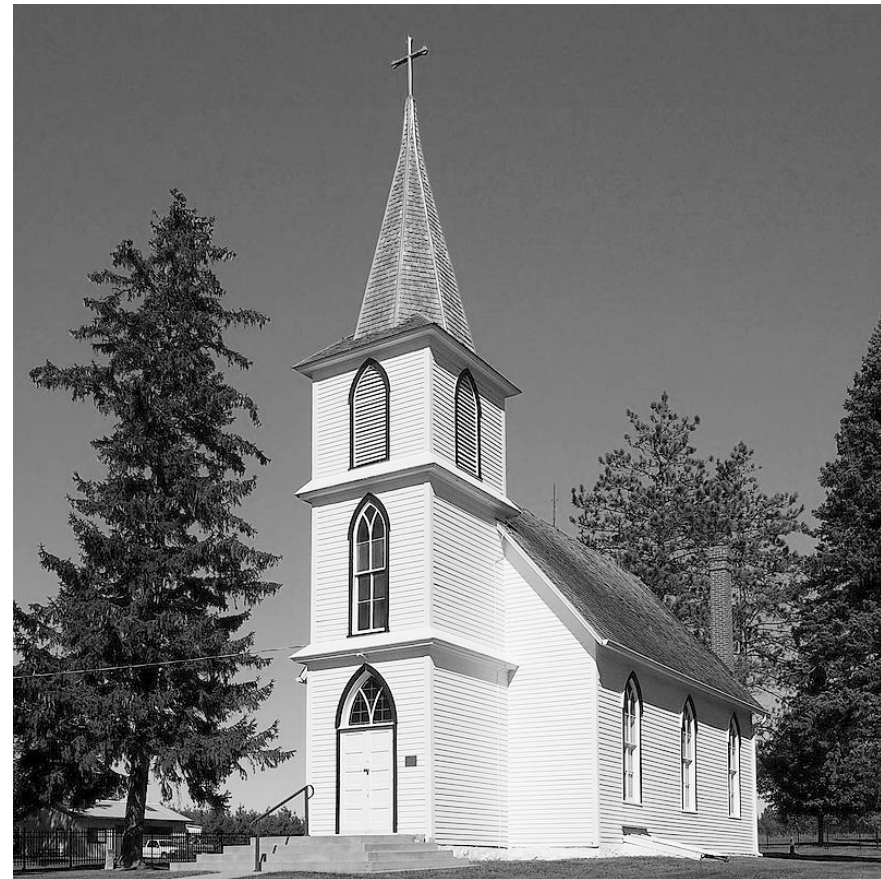
Did you think that Kristdala church, with clear links to the Sabelskjöld family, only exists in Småland? Like many other, not least Småland, towns, emigrants to the New World named villages, towns and churches that would remind them of their homeland.

Therefore, there is also a Christdala Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church in Minnesota. The congregation was formed on July 18, 1877, by Swedish immigrants who settled in Rice County, Minnesota. 13 families became the first members of the congregation. Sunday services were initially held at the house of one of the founders, AP Johnson, until a church could be built the following year.

On January 16, 1878, the congregation received land, donated by Peter Youngquist and Carl Hirdler, two early settlers who owned nearby farms. John Johnson removed the stumps and cleared the ground, which was 165 meters wide (east-west) and 297 meters long (north-south). Local workers then built the church in the summer of 1878. As timber, hardwood was used from the surrounding forest, called "Big Woods".

The cost of the original construction was \$230 and contractors were required to submit sealed bids by March 18, 1878. John Lundberg laid the foundation for \$73 and then finalized it for \$12. The carpenter work was completed by John Olson in Northfield, Minnesota, at a cost of \$145.

The last church service was held in 1966, but the church is now run by a non-profit association and since 1995 the church is listed as a historically important place in the United States, focusing precisely on that those who immigrated to the country to a large extent have shaped the country's current history.



*Christdala Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church*

*Gunnar Malmberg*



## All for Sweden in SVT (Swedish television) – helped us to grow



On April 20, we received a message from our contact page:

*Hi, I work as a genealogist for SVT's popular TV program "All for Sweden", where ten Swedish Americans get to learn more about their Swedish origin every year. We are currently working on an upcoming season and have a participant who looks to descend from the Sabelskjöld family. The participant, who is in her 20s, is Swedish in many different ways, but has a grandfather's grandmother born in 1888 in Illinois, USA who had 3 of 4 grandparents from Kristdala in Småland. Two of these were children of Karl Persson (1798-1865) and Brita Lisa Jansdotter (1798-1876). Brita Lisa's grandmother, Greta Olofsdotter (1736-1801) must have been the daughter of Elisabet Sabelskjöld (1699-1780).*

*We don't usually tell family stories that far back in time but try to focus on the emigrants and their closest relatives in Sweden. In this case, however, the participant is very interested in stories and tales, which makes the family Sabelskjöld very interesting. I have read a lot on the Internet and now hope to get in touch with someone in the association who has researched this and can tell us more.*

*Are there any places (houses, farms, etc.) around the family preserved? Is there anyone in the association who is responsible for genealogy and has mapped the genealogy more carefully? What do you know about the bridal crown and would it be possible to include it in a TV recording?*

*Thanks in advance! I would be very grateful if you can get back to us as soon as possible. Our recordings will start at the end of May. Best regards Fredrik*

I was both happy and proud. The letter was immediately passed on to some in the association that I thought could help, Karin Larsson's research group in genealogy and Birger Bring, who is knowledgeable in both the family and the districts around Kristdala. After further mail and telephone contacts, SvT decided that a descendant of Carls Sabelskjöld would be one of the participants in All for Sweden. However, we did not get a name and basically did not know more than what the first email indicated. But we received more membership applications than usual after the program was broadcasted. In 2019 we received almost 40 new and old members, which of course has meant an increased workload on the research group and for me in charge of membership.

*Thina Rydell*

When the television editors realized that we also had a well-preserved bridal wreath, they wanted to include it in the series as well, of course.

The recording took place, among other things, in a stairwell at Kalmar Castle on a windy evening in May 2019. Parts of my family and I were in place with the bridal crown and the intention was that the participant would not be able to, see us. So, there we were, in a staircase up to the castle, trying not to be seen. But once the recording started, a young girl with dark, long hair gently climbed up the stairs and greeted us in the direction before she was told to go down again.

When she saw the bridal crown, which was placed on a table, a "oh my good, so beautiful" was heard. When the recording was over and I was unpacking the bridesmaid again, she ran past the film team and threw her arms around my neck with tears in her eyes. She asked if she could borrow the bride's crown if she were to get married. The answer was of course given!

That's how I met Christina Sittser for the first time and I hope to see her again soon!

Christina did not win the competition, but she won our hearts with her spontaneous manner and genuine interest in her Swedish ancestry. If you missed the series it can be seen on SvT play, especially section 2 is interesting for us. There, the participants move into Kalmar castle and it is in that section Christina among other things try on our beautiful bridal crown.

After the series was aired in SvT, we have also been able to notice an increased interest in the Sabelskjöld family association



*Kalmar castle*

and many requests for membership. For example, one of the new members is Christina Sittser! Of course, we want to see her at one of our member meetings in the future.

*Staffan Svensson*

## Christina Sittser, a descendant of Elisabet Sabelskjöld

*Parts of the letter that Christina read about the family:*

Dear Christina,

We begin on 2 Jan 1590 with the birth of Carl Jönsson at Nyköping Castle where his father was a castle bailiff and his mother oversaw the kitchen staff. They lived in a real "Game of Thrones" where two of Gustav Vasa's sons fought for the crown. Carl's parents did well by allying themselves with who would become King Charles IX. His son, Prince Gustav, also grew up in Nyköping Castle. The Prince became King Gustav II Adolf who led Sweden into the power of the Great Power. Carl became the brave, noble warrior who, according to legend, saved the king's life.

Your lineage reached its social peak on the day Carl was honoured by the king for his courage and received his new surname, Sabelskjöld.

Nobility received benefits and Carl's family came to own several farms around Kristdala. The main residence was the farm Bråhult. But, as is often the case, things took a bleak turn. When Carl was buried at Blacksta Church in 1663, a new king had commanded that a quarter of the land donated to the nobility be returned to the crown. This eventually led to your family losing all land they owned. They could remain at Bråhult but now as trustee.

Your genealogy runs through Carl's son Jöns and his grandson Karl, whose six surviving children were all daughters - "Bråhult's honourable virgins". Without a son who could pass the name on, the name Sabelskjöld died the day Karl died in battle. Without the prospect of noble marriage, the six girls married peasants. One of them, Elisabet Sabelskjöld, married the farmer Olof Nilsson and they had their daughter Greta.

After that, life became more difficult for each generation. In 1818 Greta's son, his wife and daughter Brita Lisa

were sentenced to behead and confined in the dungeons of Kalmar Castle, charged with murder. The victim was a man who may have been caught assaulting Brita Lisa when she washed in the river. They sat locked in the cold dungeon for 14 agonizing months



while the authorities went through confused and contradictory evidence. Finally, an appellate court acquitted the family for insufficient evidence. But, acquitted or not, your family had fallen to the bottom of society.

Brita Lisa married a tenant named Karl Persson in 1823. And you, Christina, are a direct descendant of their two children, Stina Kajsa and Karl. Stina Kajsa was perhaps hoping for a new beginning in a country without nobility or unreliable promises from a king in the old world. She and her family left Sweden in 1873 and settled in New Windsor, Illinois. Her brother's daughter Amanda came after ten years later. Cousins Amanda and Nils Peter Nilsson fell in love and got married. They took on a new surname Rosén. Their daughter Esther gave birth to daughter Ruby, whose son, Wendell Sittser is your grandfather.

The name Sabelskjöld disappeared from your family. But many have your lineage in the veins. They are your relatives with whom you share Sabelskjöld's coat of arms. You can do more than just imagine what your ancestors' clothes looked like. You can wear the bridal crown of silver that has been in your family since the end of the 17th century. Never mind that it is only for weddings.

*Text from SvT play*



*Pictures from SVT Play - All for Sweden, part 2*