



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- The **Smörgåsbord** is set for **Friday, October 21st at the BraeBurn Country Club with cocktails at 6:30 PM and dinner at 7:30 PM.** Reserve your spot now either online or by mail for the biggest Club event of the year!
- The mailing form is included in this newsletter. Prices are \$25 for Adults, non-members and guests \$30, and kids (12 and under) are \$15.
- Please note that the **Smörgåsbord** is on a **Friday** this year. Reservations made after October 17 will cost \$30.
- **Carrie Anderson's** detailed and engaging story about her trip to Sweden last month is featured in this newsletter. Our 2010 Lucia represented the Club during the homecoming festivities in Barkeryd.

In the News



- [Spotify](http://bit.ly/spotify_info), a free music streaming service from Sweden, debuted in the US last month. The service allows streaming music to be played on computers for free (and mobile devices for a monthly fee). The 15 million plus song database includes a large selection of Swedish music. More info: http://bit.ly/spotify_info
- [SVT programming](http://bit.ly/svt_programming) in late October includes a show called "Allt för Sverige", billed in English as "The Great Swedish Adventure". Americans with Swedish roots will compete to win a trip to meet their relatives in Sweden. No word on whether the program will be available on [SVT Play](http://bit.ly/svt_play).
- A CNN Travel reporter tells us exactly what's wrong with Stockholm: http://bit.ly/cnn_stockholm

Travels of Lucia #23

by Carrie Anderson

Lucia 2010

Our adventure started in Stockholm. We stayed at a bed and breakfast in Mälärjöden with a wonderful host and a German family. She showed us the traditional breakfast complete with muesli, yogurt, assorted deli meats and cheeses, crackers, bread, hard-boiled eggs, jam, strong coffee, and of course Swedish caviar in a tube. We wandered around Gamla Stan, Drottningholm Palace, T-Central, Skansen, Vasa Museum, and of course did some shopping at Åhlens, H&M, and other places. The weather was beautiful! Now I understand why everyone rode their bikes-especially after seeing the price of gas! I loved being able to walk the streets and see the architecture, fashion, and of course, all the people.

After our stay in Stockholm we headed to Barkeryd on Saturday morning to prepare for the festival. We met Anita and Pelle Johansson, our amazing hosts and now our friends. We followed them to their lovely house and ate lunch before we went to visit the Festival site. It was a beautiful day. We also visited the pink church and Anita shared the story with me about the Barkeryd candle I would be receiving. It was amazing to hear more about the Swedish-Texas connection, and actually visit the sites we've read about. I went to sleep nervous, but excited about the festival. We woke up Sunday morning to rain. Anita kept saying it would go away, and it finally did. As we walked over to get ready for the parade the sun was out. We followed the folk dancers in the parade, and the military band was behind us. As we walked in, Alf Carlsson introduced my family and myself, and gave me a hug.

After the parade, we had some free time as the folk dancers performed a few dances. Maureen Bengtsson from the Vasa Order of Jönköping came up and introduced herself and stated she would also ask a few questions on stage. Everyone was so friendly at the festival and I even got to visit with Inga Lissa Calissendorff, who brought a bus full of friends from Linköping. (Inga Lissa wanted me to tell everyone hello for her!) The time was nearing for my speech, and I kept reading and practicing pronunciation with my note cards. Anita, my parents, and I hid behind the stage and peeked through as it started to pour. Luckily there were tents up so the guests had some shelter. Gunnell Pettersson introduced Anita, then Anita introduced me, and then it was my turn. Looking out from the stage I only saw my brother, sister, grandfather, and a few brave souls facing the rain. Everyone else was luckily under the tents. I made it through my speech, and then Maureen joined me to ask about my great-grandparents' immigration to America. She presented me with a certificate from the Vasa Order, and her information for me to write to her, which I plan to do! After that Gunnell gave me the symbolic replica of the Barkeryd candle.

As the saying goes, "All Good things must come to an end!" We had to say goodbye to Anita, Pelle, and the people of Barkeryd. We headed out that night to continue to discover my family's Swedish roots. The next day we met my father's family. We met Torborg Erickson, the widow of grandfather's cousin Roland and her children Kerstin and Robert, and Robert's daughter Ellen.

We also met Bengt Gustavsson, who is Torborg's nephew. My grandfather Darrell knew Torborg, Kerstin, and Robert from his previous visit to Sweden and their visits to South Dakota. My great aunt Aileen and Torborg keep in touch through the mail, email, and phone calls.

After introductions we went to a former castle for lunch in Vingåker. It was great to meet family and we began comparing family trees, information, and stories. It was amazing to hear the family history and even see the genealogy tree dated back to the 1500s. They took us to see a small island where a family member lived in the 1600's. He was known as "Karl from the Island." We went to Lännäs where Bengt had spoken to a man that was doing genealogy research for the town. He came with us all as we travelled to Yxtorp where my great grandfather was born and lived until leaving for the USA. The house is still standing and it was amazing to see the place in person. We had wonderful dinner at Bengt's house and were joined by Robert's son Frej and Bengt's brother Erik. After our meal we headed out to downtown Örebro. We were able to see the beautiful castle where the King stays on his visits, and the downtown area. During our stroll downtown, we took in all the public art and met Bengt's son, Linus.

That night we had to keep moving as we were making our way to Mora, though we would have loved to spend more time with our cousins. We stayed in a log cabin at the Kilsbergen Resort, and the next morning headed out to Mora. We found the shops, and were amazed as you could catch a glimpse of the behind the scenes making of the Dala horses.

The next day we made it to Lillhärdahl after driving through miles of forests and scenic lakes. This time, however, we were on our own, as we didn't know anyone here. We had only a genealogy chart that had been prepared by my great Aunt Aileen. In addition, my grandfather had been there 22 years ago. We drove around Holmen and Högen, the communities where my great grandmother's family lived. We tried to visit the tourist bureau but it was closed.

Luckily my father talked to someone at the mailbox that said the same people that owned the restaurant operated the tourist bureau. We ate lunch at the restaurant and were about to give up our search when my father started asking the owner questions and shared the genealogy information.

Sussanne, the owner, made a few calls and in no time we were on our way to meet complete strangers that opened their houses to us. With their help, they showed us where my great-grandmother's house used to stand, and another family invited us in and showed us the house where my great-grandmother was born. This family had bought the homes from a timber company that had purchased the houses from families leaving for America in the early 1900s. This fits with our family story, as my great grandparents migrated in 1903 and 1904.

After exploring Lillhärdaahl, we headed back to Stockholm as we were nearing the end of our trip. We stayed next to the largest IKEA in the world. We ended our trip with more shopping, more Gamla Stan, and visited the Nordic Museum, National Cathedral, Sergels torg, and City Hall. The trip flew past, even for an 11 day trip with 12 hour days we couldn't possibly see everything. We all hope to go back very soon and see all of our new friends and family.

First and foremost I would like to thank Anita and Pelle Johansson for opening their home to us and showing such kindness, and to the wonderful people of Barkeryd. Thanks to The Swedish Club of Houston for allowing this trip to happen and for supporting me with airfare. Thank you to Inga Lissa Callissendorff for starting this connection, and also Margaret St. Clair for preparing us for this journey. Lastly, I would like to thank my family, my grandfather for making the trip with us, and my Aunt Aileen for her tedious research and relationships that connected us to our ancestors.



Left: Near Lilhärdaahl where my great-grandmother was born. (The original house was torn down, but this is where it would be standing.) Lake Orrmo in the background.



Right: The day of the festival in Barkeryd. Anita, my father, my sister, my brother, and my grandfather.



Left: In Lillhärdahl in front of statue of Härjulf and Helga with my grandfather, sister, and brother.



Right: Near Yxtorp in front of my great-grandfather's house with Swedish family and friends.



Left: With my farfar, Darrell, in Mora.



Right: My father and grandfather in front of the house where my great-grandmother grew up.

Application for the Swedish Club's 2011 Lucia



Our 2011 Lucia will be presented at the Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration on December 10th at 4:00 PM at Christ the King Lutheran Church, near Rice Village.

Lucia Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Single young woman 16-24 who is a member of the Club
- Able to attend the Swedish Traditions program in December
- Able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration & Parade in Barkeryd, Sweden in August 2012 (round-trip airfare provided from Houston)
- On her return, Lucia must write an article for publication in The Swedish Club News.

Participants are also needed for the Lucia procession, which is made up of female attendants, ages 5-20, and star boys, ages 5-15. Attendants & star boys wear all-white clothing and accessories. The Club can provide some articles of clothing, but individuals are encouraged to use their own.

Lucia candidates only: In addition to the application, you must also write a short essay about your Swedish connections, your interests & why you want to represent the Club in Sweden. You must also provide a current photo of yourself. Applications must be postmarked by October 7, 2011.

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2011 LUCIA CANDIDATES, ATTENDANTS & STARBOYS

Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (____) _____ - _____

Email address: _____

I would like to be (circle one): Lucia / Attendant / Starboy

Mail to: The Swedish Club % Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr, Houston, TX 77035



Swedish Texan Profile: Chain emigration from Barkeryd

SM Swenson and his uncle, Swante Palm, were two of the first immigrants from Barkeryd. Once they were established, they persuaded others from Sweden to join them. The first group to arrive in 1848 was made up of three families - the Swensons, Palms, and Hölds. These three groups purchased farms close to one another and settled down in patterns similar to their previous patterns in Sweden.

The three families encouraged others from their homeland to join them and their appeals helped create a chain emigration from Jönköpings Län, which soon became self-sustaining. The arriving Swedes would find themselves on a trip from Barkeryd to New York through Houston and onto colonies near Austin. Their numbers grew from 48 to 153 by 1860. They would work off their passage, purchase land, marry within the Swedish group and raise families. This pattern held for almost three generations.

Information summarized from *The Swedish Texans* by Larry E. Scott.

Smörgåsbord Reservation Form

Friday October 21, 2011

(Form must be received by *Monday October 17*)

Please make checks payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and mail to:
Swedish Club of Houston % John Stavino, 807 Mulberry Ln. Bellaire, TX 77401

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

_____ Adult members x \$25.00 = \$ _____

_____ Adult non-members x \$30.00 = \$ _____

_____ Children (12 & under) x \$15.00 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club News is published 6 times a year by the Swedish Club of Houston. Articles, photos, etc., are welcome.

We would especially like personal news of our members, explanation of family traditions and Swedish culture, news of Swedes and of Sweden, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

Please send your news to newsletter@swedishclub.org or by post to the return address below.

THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Sara West
4023 Sherwood West
Kingwood TX 77339-1037

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED