



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston  
*Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986*



**President's Column**  
by Margaret St.Clair

It is summer again in Houston, and the heat and the humidity are in full force. By the time you read this, we'll be close to the halfway point of summer. But, because we live in Houston, you know that we have a lot more summer ahead of us. I don't know about you, but our weather makes me want to get out of town in search of cooler climes. The ideal place would be—Sweden! Unfortunately for me, Sweden is not on my itinerary this year. But I have already done some traveling to a cool place this summer and that was to Illinois to visit my family. One day we decided to visit a bit of Sweden in the U.S.—Bishop Hill. Many of you may not be familiar with the place, so I hope that you will take time to read my story on page 4.

How about you? Have you traveled, or are you planning to travel, to some cool, interesting places this summer? If so, why not send your story to our Newsletter Editor, Laura Millikan, for publication. We'd love to hear from you. Who knows, your travels may inspire the rest of us to go there too!

Ha en skön fortsättning på sommaren. Vi ses i hösten.\*

*Margaret*

\*Have a nice continuation of your summer. See you in the fall.

## From the Editor . . .

My husband called it his "Sweden week." And what a week it was!

On Wednesday, June 21, we heard Kent Lundberg and the One Way Brothers EP Quartet and EP Band at Spring Woods United Methodist Church. If you didn't get to hear this great gospel (a la Elvis Presley-style) group, you missed a real treat! The room was alive with energy and enthusiasm.

And my husband had a great time the next day telling his co-workers about this group that came from Sweden to America to sing Elvis songs. Whenever any of the group members spoke it was very obvious, in spite of their excellent English, that they were Swedish, but when they sang it sounded just like Elvis!

Then on Sunday, June 25, we went to Palm Valley Lutheran Church in Round Rock, Texas, for the annual meeting of the Texassvenskarnas Banrytareförening (Texas Swedish Pioneers Association). The meeting observed the 168<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Swedish pioneers in Texas and the arrival in 1838 of S. M. Swenson from Barkeryd, Småland, Sweden. It also marked the 139<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival here in 1867 of the first large group from Småland, Sweden, who were the founders of the Association. And what a great day it was, remembering and celebrating those early pioneers and meeting and making friends with present-day Texas Swedes.

A great time was had by all! I encourage you all to make your plans now to attend next year!

*—Laura Millikan*

## The Swedish Club's Lucia: A Brief History

The Swedish Club of Houston, Texas, and the Hometown Association of Barkeryd, Småland have a long history now of working together on a youth program to maintain and teach Texas/Swedish history. The program started in 1984, when Inga Lisa Calissendorff was a Trustee in the Texas Swedish Cultural Foundation in Houston, Texas. She had heard a lot about Barkeryd and that this was the historical birthplace for the Swedes in Texas. Inga Lisa tried to find out if anyone had been there and the answer was "no."

In the summer of 1984, Inga Lisa and her husband, Gusten, decided to visit Småland and try to find this interesting place called Barkeryd. They thought they were lost while driving through the darkest forest of Småland on a small narrow road, but suddenly they came upon a small country church and soon after a beautiful homestead museum. They stopped at the museum and had the opportunity to meet Evert and Gunvor Jonsson, representatives for the museum. The contact was made, and the Calissendorffs and the Jonssons became the best of friends. Both agreed on the importance of once again establishing the relationship between the two countries.

In 1986, the Swedish Folkdance group of Texas went to the Texas Swedish Festival in Barkeryd to dance and bring greetings from the Swedish community in Texas. The Jonssons and the Calissendorffs then came up with the idea of having the Swedish Club of Houston Lucia visit the festivities in Barkeryd on the first Sunday of August each year. She would bring greetings in Swedish and learn the history of the immigrants. Many times the Lucia has found her roots in the area, and this has become a unique experience for our Lucia representative and her family, as the people of Barkeryd have a vast knowledge of the immigrants.

In 1988, Inga Lisa contacted Scandinavian Airlines and asked for a donation of a yearly ticket for the Lucia of the Swedish Club of Houston to represent this historical area in Sweden. SAS graciously agreed to this request.

During the Christmas Tradition event of 1988, Kathy Dewitt was crowned the first official Lucia and in 1989 visited Barkeryd, representing the Swedish settlement in Texas. This summer Maren Stavinotha, the 2005 Lucia, will be our representative to the festivities.

Listed below are all the Swedish Club Lucias who have represented us so well:

1987 - Barbara Wueggarts  
1988 - Kathy Dewitt  
1989 - Emily Dryselius  
1990 - Desiree Gay  
1991 - Jenny Olsson  
1992 - Amy Acord  
1993 - Rebecca Cadwallader  
1994 - Betsy Philen  
1995 - Elizabeth Webb  
1996 - Veronica Llanos  
1997 - Kelley Mauritzson  
1998- Kristin Klatt-Larsson  
1999 - Karoline Melrose  
2000 - Kathryn Armstrong  
2001 - Allana Clarke  
2002 - Cathy St.Clair  
2003 - Sjerrie Colburn  
2004 - Frida Sellman  
2005 - Maren Stavinotha

A very strong youth program came out of the necessity to build a stronger friendship between Barkeryd and Texas. "The Lucia from Texas has become an important part of the yearly festivities in Barkeryd." said Alf Carlsson, former President of the Homestead Association, Barkeryd, Sweden.

*[The information for this article was originally submitted by Inga Lisa Calissendorff and Evert Jonsson, and translated by Leif Mauritzson.]*

Applications are now being accepted for the 2006 Lucia. See application on page 3.



Lucia Celebration, 2005



## 2006 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA

Applications for the Swedish Club of Houston's 2006 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2006 Lucia will be presented at the annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 2006, 4:00 p.m., at Christ the King Lutheran Church in the Rice University Village. This is particularly appropriate, as the church was founded by predominantly Swedish-Americans and was the second church in Houston begun by the Swedish Lutheran Church in America.

Candidates for Lucia must be single young women between the ages of 16 and 24, who are members of the club (either individual or as part of a family membership, including granddaughters). They must be able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 9, and also must be able to represent the Club at the Texas Day Celebration and parade in Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August 2007. Round-trip airfare for our 2006 Lucia will be provided from Chicago to Sweden, but the Lucia is responsible for her own ground or air transportation to and from Chicago. On her return to Houston, the Lucia must write an article for publication in The Swedish Club News about her experience in Sweden.

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 and star boys wear all-white clothing and accessories. The Club can provide some articles of clothing, but individuals are encouraged to use their own.

For nineteen years, the Lucia program has provided a wonderful way to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd, Sweden. As an ambassador of the Club, our Lucia will be in a parade and send greetings to the people of Barkeryd from The Swedish Club of Houston.

**NOTE:** Lucia candidates, in addition to completing the application below, must also write a short *essay* about their Swedish heritage, their interests and why they would like to represent the Club in Sweden, and must provide a *current photo* of themselves. The application must be postmarked by **September 26, 2006**.

For questions or further information, call Nancy Webb (713-661-1011) or Diana Rodionov (281-636-8153), co-chairs of the 2006 Lucia program.

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### THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2006 LUCIA CANDIDATES, ATTENDANTS AND STARBOYS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be (check one): Lucia \_\_\_\_\_ Attendant \_\_\_\_\_ Starboy \_\_\_\_\_

Lucia candidates only: Please include your **essay** and **current photo** with your application, postmarked by **September 26, 2006**.

Mail applications and enclosures to:

The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Nancy Webb, 3707 Darcus, Houston, Texas 77005

Lucia Candidate Requirements: (1) single, 16-24 years of age; (2) member of The Swedish Club of Houston (either individual or as part of a family membership, including granddaughters); (3) available for the Club's Christmas Traditions program on December 9, 2006; (4) able to represent The Swedish Club of Houston at Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August 2007; and (5) write an article for The Swedish Club News on your return from Sweden.



# EXPLORING BISHOP HILL

by Margaret St.Clair

Where, you may ask, is Bishop Hill? Well, Bishop Hill is a tiny Illinois village (population ~ 125), and it is about 160 miles west of Chicago.



Colony Church

Ever since I was a child visiting my Swedish grandparents in nearby Galva, I have heard about Bishop Hill, and have been there several times over the years. On a recent trip to Illinois, I once again made my way to Bishop Hill to take another look at the village which is now a National Historic Landmark.

Bishop Hill was founded in 1846 by a group of about 400 Swedes who left their homeland to come to America in search of religious freedom. They were led by Erik Jansson, and their goal was to establish a utopia where they could live together in harmony with their religious beliefs. They found their "Utopia on the Prairie" in western Illinois, which Jansson named Bishop Hill after his hometown in Sweden, Biskopskulla.



Colony Church Sanctuary

Nearly a quarter of the immigrants died the first winter. The survivors, holding their property



Steeple Building -  
a Colony Children's School

communally, began to build the colony as a testament of their faith. More immigrants arrived from Sweden, and during the next 15 years, the communal village grew to over 1,000 people. They built 20 large

commercial buildings and farmed 12,000 acres of land.

In 1850, Jansson was murdered, which disrupted the religious unity of the commune. However, Bishop Hill continued to thrive



Bishop Hill Colony Store

economically and it was considered a major center of commerce in western Illinois. In 1861, the Colony was dissolved due to financial mismanagement and lessening of religious unity.

In 1896, the first efforts were begun to preserve the Bishop Hill Colony. Today many of its residents are descendants of the original colonists. Many Colony buildings, as well as those built after the Colony, are open to visitors and they are occupied by museums, shops, restaurants and craftsmen.

Concerts, exhibits and festivals are scheduled throughout the year which reflect Bishop Hill's Swedish heritage. Some of the events are Midsommar celebration in June, Jordbruksdagarna (Agricultural Days) in September, Julmarknad (Christmas Market) in November and Lucia Nights in December. To find a more complete schedule of events and to read more about the history of the Bishop Hill Colony, log on to [www.bishophill.com](http://www.bishophill.com) and [www.bishophillartscouncil.com](http://www.bishophillartscouncil.com).

Bishop Hill is a very special place to visit. (Even the King and Queen

of Sweden have been there!) The Bishop Hill Colony has long been recognized as one of the most significant forces in the immigration of Swedes and other Scandinavians to the United States. So if you ever find yourself in the Chicago area, take a little trip off the beaten path and explore Bishop Hill!



The Red Oak  
Luncheonbord

## Belated Congratulations . . .

Congratulation are long overdue to long-time Swedish Club of Houston member Dr. James H. (Jim) Steele, D.V.M., M.P.H., who was selected as the recipient of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) 2005 James A. McCallam Award, presented at the AMSUS annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, on November 2, 2005. The citation read: "In recognition of a lifetime of outstanding accomplishments in the field of medicine and health by a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine."

Dr. Steele also received The Surgeon General's Medallion for Exemplary Leadership in Veterinary Medicine Resulting in a Lifetime of Outstanding National and Global Public Health Achievements and the U.S. Public Health Service Chief Veterinary Office Award in Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to Veterinary Public Health, both in June, 2005.

Dr. Steele is Assistant Surgeon General (Ret.) with the U.S. Public Health Service and Professor Emeritus with the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston. He offers the following thoughts for the rest of us . . .

### GOOD NEWS . . . . LIFE BEGINS AT 80

Remember this: The first 80 years of life are the hardest and the second 80 are a succession of birthday parties. Once you reach 80, everyone wants to carry your luggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your telephone number, how many grandchildren you have, or promises made to be three places at one time, they just look at you and smile because you are 80.

Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70, people are mad at you for everything. At 80 you have a perfect excuse no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain.

Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age they expect you to retire to a house in Florida and complain about your arthritis (they used to call it

lumbago) and understand them (actually your hearing is about 50% gone).

If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.

So please, folks, try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. People forgive you for anything. If you ask me, life begins at 80.

### ADDENDUM ON REACHING 90 (in 2003)

The 80s were great. Now that I have reached the 90s—friends ask, "How are you?" My immediate reaction is to question, "What happened to the 80s?" They were great.

Now I wish you all the same. I hope you have a great time getting to the 90s. Now to the 100s. CHARGE!!

—James H. Steele



June, 2005 - Dr. James H. (Jim) Steele, wearing his Assistant Surgeon General Medal of Honor, awarded for 60 years of Public Health service

## LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SWEDISH ANCESTORS?

If you do not know as much as you would like about your Swedish ancestors, or you do not know where to look, help has arrived in the form of two resources, one in Waco and the other in Sweden.

*From William D. Buckner, Manager  
Periodicals/Genealogy Division, Waco-  
McLennan County Library:*

### **Genline: Swedish Church Records Online**

Swedish-Americans seeking information about their ancestors should add the Waco-McLennan County Library in Waco, Texas, to their resource list. The Waco-McLennan County Library is one of only 16 museum/libraries in the U.S., and the only one in Texas, that provide public access to the Genline: Swedish Church Records Online database. This commitment to public access is shared by the Scandinavian Friends, Forsgard-Olson Vasa Lodge #757, and Forsgard-Olson Heritage Society who have provided financial support to add Genline to the Library's resources.

Genline is a digital image database of Swedish church records, in Swedish, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and is a primary source of genealogical information in Sweden. Currently, over 15,318,373 images of birth/baptismal, confirmation, marriage, death/burial, church ledgers and household examination rolls are available. Images are digitized from a copy of the microfilms from The Swedish National Archives.

The database is easy to use if prior knowledge of the ancestors' county or parish is known. To help patrons in this regard four CD-ROM products are also available at the Library—Emibas, Swedish Census 1890, The Swedish Emigrant No. 1 & 2 and Sveriges Dödsbok (Swedish Death Index) 1947-2003.

While Genline is not keyword- or surname-indexed, Genline AB, publisher of Genline, continues to develop the resource to make their product user-friendly.

Genline is available in the Genealogy Division at the Central Library, 1717 Austin Avenue, in Waco, Texas. Library staff are available to assist visitors in using Genline. Several volunteers are also available to help patrons translate the records from the original Swedish. It is recommended that you call in advance. For more information, call Bill Buckner at 254.750.5945.

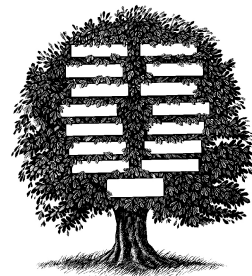
### *From Mrs. Sonia Holz in Nykvarn, Sweden:*

Dear American friends,

1.4 million Swedes left Sweden because of poverty and other reasons and settled in the United States. We would like to help you find your ancestors, and therefore is it important that you forward to us the following information:

- a) if you have their names when they arrived in the States - otherwise the name they were registered with when they arrived
- b) when did they arrive - about is enough
- c) where did they arrive and where did they settle
- d) birth dates and places
- e) if possible, copies of old documents that are of Swedish origin
- f) letters written to them from Sweden
- g) pictures that they got from Sweden - check on the back of the photo
- h) Please forward all this information to me:  
Mrs. Sonia Holz, Odens väg 10, S-15534  
Nykvarn, Sweden or by e-mail:  
[s.holz@telia.com](mailto:s.holz@telia.com)

If I can't do the research I will forward it to a college in our well-known research group. I have been doing research for 15 years.





## Rambo Apple Friendship Project

A variety of apple tree grown from Swedish seeds brought to America in 1640 by New Sweden colonist Peter Gunnarson Rambo, and extinct in Sweden for nearly 300 years, has been sent to Sweden as a living memorial honoring all Swedish-American immigration. The project has been undertaken with the support of the King of Sweden and several cultural, education and historic institutions as part of celebrations being planned for 2008, the next Swedish-American Jubilee year.

The Rambo apple is still being grown in the United States but became extinct in Sweden because of a severe winter in 1709-1710. Its “offspring,” have arrived in Sweden as a gift in the name of friendship from Swedish-America and to encourage academic research and scholarly discussion in Sweden and America.

The Ramboäpplena Project is working in cooperation with the Swedish Project “Linnaean Landscapes,” Swedish Agricultural University, the Nordic Museum, and the American Swedish Historical Museum and is supported by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, through the King Gustaf VI Adolf Fund for Swedish Culture. Plantings are planned for sites identified with Carl Linnaeus, whose system for classifying nature is still in use.

The Rambo trees will also be planted at cultural and historic locations in Sweden, including Stockholm, Uppsala, Gothenburg and at the Emigrant Institute in Värmland. “This living memorial to our ancestors symbolizes the millions of Swedish-Americans who crossed the Atlantic for a new life in America, bringing with them reminders of what had been left behind,” noted Project Chairman Herbert R. Rambo. Plantings are also planned for locations in America.

28-year-old Peter Gunnarson Rambo (1611-1698) arrived as a laborer for the New Sweden Company at Sweden’s Colony on the Delaware River, which during its brief existence encompassed Delaware, Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. As a freeman, Rambo began a rise to prominence as a member of Colony Governor Johan Rising’s Council, and he went on to serve 27 years in important positions during Swedish, Dutch and English governments. The distinctive Rambo surname is derived from Ramberget, a small mountain

overlooking Gothenburg harbor, the historic Swedish gateway to America.

Noted naturalist Per Kalm, a student of Linnaeus, tells the origin of the Rambo Apple in his diary from his stay in America and in a supplement to his book, “Travels in North America, 1747-1751.” Apple varieties of that age are very rare in the world, and the Rambo apple is of special interest because it has its origin in Sweden and is so closely connected both to Swedish and American history.

The Rambo apple, as it is known in America, has become part of American folklore because of John Chapman, a/k/a “Johnny Appleseed,” who is said to have claimed the Rambo apple as his favorite. He planted and sold them from nurseries he established in several locations throughout the mid-Atlantic section of America. The Rambo is the first apple of the season and was once widely grown. It is an excellent apple for cooking and making cider.

More recently, the Rambo apple entered pop culture as the source of the hero’s name in the “Rambo” book and movie series starring Sylvester Stallone. Author David Morrell wanted a “strong-sounding name” and selected “John Rambo,” after his wife brought home a bag of Rambo apples.

American Coordinator James D. Seagers II and Swedish Coordinator Hans Ling lead the Rambo Apple Friendship Project. Americans on the Committee are Loren W. Anderson, Professor Robert M. Crassweller, Dr. John Gardner, Aleasa J. Hogate, Doriney Seagers, Earl E. Seppala, J. H. T. Rambo, M.D., and Dr. Kim-Eric Williams. In Sweden the committee includes Gunilla Åhman, Professor Stellan Dahlgren, Erik Gustavson, Professor Hans Norman, and Dr. Mariette Manktelow.



Herb Rambo, in the persona of his ancestor, Peter Gunnarson Rambo, and Aleasa Hogate, in the persona of her ancestor, Anders Larsson Dalbo, hold a Rambo apple.

—submitted by Aleasa Hogate

## SWEDISH FOLK DRESS

When referring to Swedish folk dress, they are known as Härad, Socken, och Province dräkt (Regional, Parish or Provincial dress), which are all correct terms.

Originally, folk dress was the apparel of peasants, following fashion trends of the time. Peasant dress differed from styles worn by nobility or people living in cities. Workers wore specific dress indicating their trade—smocks or aprons. Today, a folk dress is valued at thousands of dollars; these “works of art” are lovingly worn, then passed on to the next generation.

In Stockholm’s Nordiska Museum some 400 original District dresses are displayed, essentially from every area. Information has been acquired through intense study and research of clothing long stored in trunks and attics. Most often saved was a person’s “finest wear”—a festival or wedding dress with a white apron. “Second best” dresses with colorful striped or flowered aprons are discovered in good condition. Least preserved were the blue linen work clothes, generally worn out.

For centuries each region kept the same design for their parish dresses, which are not truly “uniform;” although VERY similar, each has its own characteristics.

Renewed interest in folk dress occurred in the 1920s, but **not** during the War Years, then again in the 1950s, 70s and 90s—generally every 20 years. This is possibly due to folk dance groups desiring authentic Regional dress from areas where the folk dances originated.

Long ago Swedish women sheared sheep, spun and dyed the wool, grew the flax for linen and wove all the materials for their Parish dress, taking years to complete! Dyes for yarn and cloth came from roots, leaves, bark or natural products available locally.

Northern Sweden usually had darker colors, often black or shades of brown; other regions could compound lighter colors.

Variations in dress and accessories indicate if one is single, married or widowed. All the rules must be followed concerning a person’s marital situation when making a folk dress. Never out of style, regional dresses include features from the Middle Ages! One item from the 1500s is the wide band of handmade lace on the cap. Another is chamois skin leather for

bindings on the edges of vests and purses, around skirt hems and for aprons and vests.

Makers of folk dress utilized many forms of artistry, from making the cloth to the final intricate handwork completing the garment. A young woman must allow for future changes in her size—like motherhood! The “all important apron”—one of a woman’s finest accessories—was useful in covering the skirt front which might be partly open, due to waistline expansion!

Style of dress determined many things: (1) Single girls had long hair, held by a birch bark band or ribbon, or a white cap. (2) Married women wore colored caps or a white scarf covering their hair. Their shawls had fringed edges, with **none** on the single girls’. (3) Widows wore black dresses with a dark blue apron or of black/yellow stripe and a head scarf. (4) Boys and girls both wore dresses of inexpensive yellow cloth, sewn with tucks and folds to be let out as the child grew. Boys had striped bib-aprons and dresses opening in back. A girl’s dress opened in front with a striped apron tied at the waist. At about the age of seven, boys began wearing britches. (5) When a man wore his boot tops turned up, this indicated his newborn child was a **son**, turned down—a **daughter**!

A person’s location in Sweden dictated how dress styles changed. Near the sea there was more variety and availability for different styles of dress. Men often dressed in “nautical style.” Individuals living inland had difficulty changing their styles due to lack of trade goods. Men wore knee britches of moose hide or cloth. In prosperous times, imported fabrics (satin, cotton, velvet, or brocade) were purchased. Scarves, metal buttons and jewelry “updated” some parish styles.

At times women wore as many as four skirts—each with an appropriate apron—indicating wealth and standing in the community. Often, the top woolen skirt was pulled up over a woman’s shoulders to keep her warm—those churches were COLD! The State Church of Sweden dictated the manner of dress! 40 Days after Easter was the day to dress without a jacket—with the weather still cold, jackets were worn **underneath** their blouses! September 29 was the date to wear jackets again! It was important **NOT** to break the rules of the Church Dress Code. By 1862 the dress code was finally relaxed and the strict Church Calendar was discontinued.



In the early 1900s a “Swedish National dress” was designed especially for **all** of Sweden, not for just a particular area like a Parish folk dress. This increasingly popular dress, made of cotton or wool material, features blue and yellow Swedish flag colors and bands of embroidered daisies.

When dressed in parish dress a person represents a specific area in Sweden and should take great pride in wearing the garment “in all its glory.” Swedish folk dress shows cultural zeal, preserves our heritage, reminds us of our “roots” and forms a strong and lasting bond between our two countries—keeping alive tradition **and** our Swedish ancestry.

*By Jean Quist Sellstrom, for April 23, 2005, speech given to the Swedish-American Historical Society visiting Central Texas Swedish areas.*



(l. to r.) Jean Quist Sellstrom, her husband, Jim, and their daughter, Liz Cadwallader, in authentic Swedish folk dress, at the June 25, 2006, annual meeting of the Texas Swedish Pioneers Association in Round Rock, Texas.

## U.S. President Bush has Swedish ancestors

U.S. President George W. Bush is descended from one of America’s earliest Swedish immigrants, according to David W. Emmi, Senior Deputy Governor of the Philadelphia-based Swedish Colonial Society. Mr. Emmi and the Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, Governor of the Society, made the announcement at the society’s annual meeting Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Radnor, Pennsylvania.

President Bush’s lineage has been traced to Måns Andersson, a settler who sailed from Gothenburg, Sweden, aboard the ship “Kalmar Nyckel” ([www.KalmarNyckel.org](http://www.KalmarNyckel.org)), arriving in the New Sweden Colony on the Delaware River in 1640. Andersson started to farm tobacco and built a farm that he named Silleryd. Researchers believe that the farm could be named after Sillerud in the western Swedish province Värmland.

According to the research, Andersson was married twice. His second wife was also the daughter of a Swedish immigrant. They had six children, including a son, Christoper Mansson, born around 1652. Mansson had eight children by two marriages, including Ann Mounts who in 1727 married Robert Mercer. Multiple sources confirm that “Ann Mounce” and Robert Mercer are ancestors of President Bush.

“George W. Bush and his relatives are very interested in this information. These are their oldest known European roots,” Mr. Emmi told the Stockholm newspaper, “Svenska Dagbladet.”

The Bush family joins the ranks of other prominent Swedish-Americans, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, author Carl Sandburg, Nobel-prize winner Glenn T. Seaborg, inventor John Ericsson and astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, among many others.

The Swedish Colonial Society, founded in 1909, is the oldest Swedish historical and cultural organization in America. Many of its one thousand members are descendants of immigrants who settled in present-day Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in the seventeenth century.

The New Swedish Colony, the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware Valley, lasted from 1638 to 1655 when it was taken over by the Dutch and then by the English a decade later.

For more information, visit the society’s website: [www.colonialswedes](http://www.colonialswedes).

*From the kitchen of . . .*  
*Margaret St.Clair*

*(Editor's note: The following recipes were made by Margaret for the May, 2006, Swedish Club Board meeting. They were delicious!)*

### **DANISH APPLE "CAKE"**

- 2 lbs. Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and diced
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup water
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Cook apples in water until the consistency of applesauce. Stir in sugar and vanilla. Cool.

\* \* \* \* \*

- 1 cup plain bread crumbs (store-bought)
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup butter

Combine bread crumbs and sugar. Melt butter in heavy frying pan. Add bread crumb mixture, stirring constantly (Important! It is very easy to burn!) over low to medium heat until golden brown. Cool.

\* \* \* \* \*

- ½ pint whipping cream
- apple jelly, for garnish (optional)

Whip cream, adding a little honey to sweeten, if desired.

\* \* \* \* \*

In glass bowl, layer applesauce, bread crumb mixture and whipped cream in several layers, starting with apples and ending with whipped cream. Decorate the top with dots of apple jelly.

Chill well before serving. Serves 6.

### **SILLSALLAD** (Herring Salad)

- 1 (16 oz.) jar pickled beets, well-drained (save juice!) and diced
- ¼ cup beet liquid + ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 (12 oz.) jar pickled herring in wine sauce, drained (with onions removed), and diced  
(Note: Usually I buy the herring in a regular grocery store. Sometimes, though, I purchase instead 3 (4 oz.) jars of herring pickled in dill at IKEA.)
- 1 large Granny Smith apple, peeled and chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- ¼ cup walnuts

Combine all ingredients together. Best when made a day in advance of serving.

If you have Swedish or other Scandinavian recipes you would like to share, please send them by e-mail to: [ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net) or by post to: Laura Millikan, 6102 S. Sumac Dr., Pearland, TX 77584.

**CHECK OUT THESE HELPFUL WEB LINKS:**  
<http://www.lexikon.nada.kth.se/skolverket/swe-eng.shtml> - Swedish-English Dictionary

<http://8sidor.lattlast.se> - 8 Sidor: Dagens lättläst Nyheter (8 Pages: Today's easy-to-read news); click on the "ear" icon to hear the news read in Swedish.

<http://www.sr.se> - Sveriges Radio

<http://svt.se/> - Sveriges TV

And don't forget our Swedish Club of Houston website: [www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org)

*FYI...*

### **SWEDISH PASSPORT BACKLOG**

Jan Dryselius, Consul of Sweden, reports that the authority responsible for issuing Swedish passports is woefully behind and delivery of passports is taking much more time than usual.

### **News from the Swedish Embassy in Washington, D.C.**

In the fall of 2006, the House of Sweden will open its doors to Washington D.C. and to the world. In addition to housing the Swedish Embassy, House of Sweden will host various events and exhibitions showcasing central themes of Swedish Society.

Friends of House of Sweden, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, was recently created in order to fund major exhibitions, commercial and cultural program activities that will take place at House of Sweden.

The exciting programs and activities planned for House of Sweden cannot happen without support from individuals. Each of you is invited to become a member of Friends of House of Sweden. Maybe you or someone you know might be willing to become a Founding Member of Friends of House of Sweden, which is a one-time contribution of \$5000.00 or more.

You can read more about the House of Sweden and membership at the website [www.friendsofsweden.org](http://www.friendsofsweden.org).

If you are interested in learning more about benefits and privileges associated with the Founding Members Program, please contact [houseofsweden@houseofsweden.com](mailto:houseofsweden@houseofsweden.com).

### **DID YOU KNOW???**

#### **SWEDISH CLUB BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS**

Following is the schedule of upcoming board meetings, which are all held at IKEA:

Wednesday, August 9

Wednesday, September 20

Wednesday, October 18

Wednesday, December 6

We gather in the upstairs dining room at 6:30 p.m. and enjoy a Swedish meal together. Then at 7 o'clock, we adjourn to a meeting room. You are most welcome to join us for the meal or meeting or both! We'd love to hear your comments and ideas! For more information or questions, please contact President, Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978.



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# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston  
Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

## 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 that is not in the general news, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

Please send **YOUR NEWS** to [ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net) or by post to the return address below.

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Events Line = 713.774.2739



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