

# the Timen Stiddem Society

NEWSLETTER



The family history newsletter for the descendants of the immigrant from Sweden in the seventeenth century to New Sweden (Wilmington), Delaware, encompassing the surnames: Stidham, Steadham, Stedham, Stidam and Steddom among many others.

ISSUE 52  
FALL 2011

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# The Sweden Tour



## Our Swedish cousins at the "Gathering" in Malung

Front row: Marianne Nilsson, Birgitta Gunnarsson, Lilian Gustavsson, Christian Erlman and Emma Erlman (on lap). 2nd Row: John Moah, Violet Moah, Leif Moah, Margaretha Lycke, Kerstin Sandgren, Kerstin Eriksson, Barbro Eriksson and Carina Nordigårds. 3rd Row: Per-Lennart Gunnarsson, Stig Gustavsson, Sonya Gustafsson, John-Erik Gustafsson, Göran Nordigårds and Joakim Boland. Back Row: Mathias Sandgren, Johanna Sandgren and Hans Sandgren.

The Hotel Ibis, a former ship now afloat in Gothenburg Harbor, provided the Stiddem delegation's first place of rest in Gothenburg.



# To Sweden and Back

The Timen Stiddem Society's historic first tour of the Fatherland forges new relationships with distant cousins, while taking in the country's sites and warm hospitality.

*By David Stidham DCM-1*

**A**t our 2009 National Stidham\* Family Reunion in Wilmington, Delaware, we decided to hold the next reunion in Sweden, the fatherland of our Stidham\* Family. Our immigrant ancestor and Society namesake, Dr. Timen Stiddem, lived in Sweden and traveled to America the first time in 1638 aboard the ship *Kalmar Nyckel*, serving as the ship's barber-surgeon. Dr. Stiddem eventually settled in America in what is now Wilmington, Delaware, and served the colonists and First Americans as Delaware's first doctor of medicine.

By traveling to Sweden, we hoped to find out more about Timen and his father, Luloff Stiddem, a master builder in Gothenburg. We thought we might also travel to Hammal, Sweden, or Hammel, Denmark, to discover Timen's birthplace. (Timen wrote in his will he was "born at Hammell," but unfortunately for us, failed to identify his country of birth.) Besides travelling to some of the places important to our Swedish ancestry, we also wanted to experience the culture and beauty of Sweden. And, we hoped to meet some of our Swedish cousins we learned about through the writings of the Swedish historian, Margaretha Hedblom (see Issue No. 49).

Our first task was to find someone to organize and lead a group of us to Sweden. Most fortunately, honorary member, Aleasa Hogate, stepped forward and volunteered to



Featured in the pages of Gothenburg's newspaper, *Posten*, on August 11, 2011, is David Stidham photographing the Luloff Stiddem artifact at the Gothenburg State Museum.



Swedish cousins gather for a group photo for us to remember them by, at the open-air living history museum in Malung.

help. More than help, Aleasa spent countless hours and days planning and putting together an unbelievable trip agenda, and even came along as our “tour guide.” Aleasa had been to Sweden several times before and had numerous contacts in Sweden. She not only arranged for us to accomplish most of our goals, but added many delightful pluses. For those of us who were fortunate to go on this trip, it was truly a “trip of a lifetime,” and we are forever indebted to Aleasa Hogate.

Unfortunately, our “goal” of finding Timen’s birthplace in “Hammell” was not possible. His birth in the little hamlet of Hammal in Sweden had already been disproved. Also, we learned there are no readily available records to search for his home in Denmark, which would have been a several day side trip of our limited agenda. So we decided to leave the “Hammell” search for another time. Nevertheless, we were able to visit several historic places and buildings important to our family’s history, along with many other historic and cultural sites throughout Sweden. Several participants on the trip have written about some of these interesting places elsewhere in



Malung: Refreshments at the open-air museum.



Mellerud: Aleasa Hogate gives glass blowing a try.

Fly to Gothenburg, Sweden on August 8.



this newsletter. What I will try to do below is give an abbreviated report of our 12-day trip to Sweden. To get the full story, however, you should talk with my fellow travelers (see list on page 14) and ask to see the hundreds and hundreds of photographs and yards of video that were shot on our trip “to Sweden and back.”



Gothenburg: Esther Stidham at Fort New Alfsborg.

The 21 people who made up the “Stidhem Delegation 2011” (that’s what Aleasa put on the neat yellow lanyard-name badge holders she had made for us to wear during the trip) first met together in the Gothenburg airport early Monday morning. My wife, Esther and I, were fortunate to be part of the delegation. We all had left home the day before from all over the USA—from Wilmington to Washington State. Most were with the Timen Stidhem Society, and several were our guests from the New Sweden Centre. We were soon joined by Margaretha



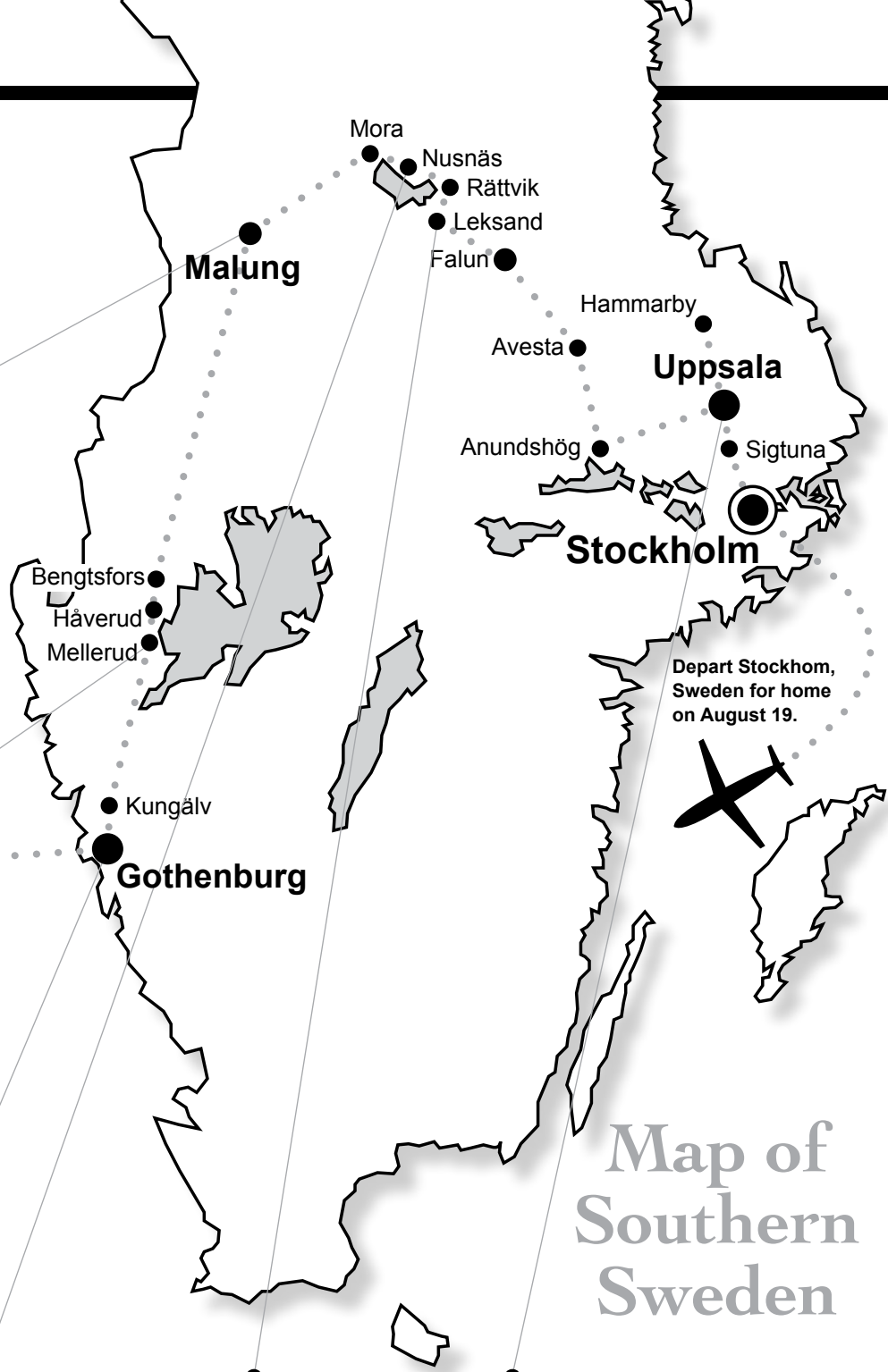
Nusnäs: Carol Stidham at the Dala Horse Factory.



Leksand: Boarding church boat.



Old Uppsala Church: Items on display for visitors



## Map of Southern Sweden

## The Sweden Tour: Day by Day

### Monday, August 8th: Gothenburg

Tour of Gothenburg  
Replica of Swedish East India Company’s ship, *Götheborg*  
Milles monument

### Tuesday, August 9th: Gothenburg

Gothenburg City Museum  
The Christinae Church  
Walking tour of former fortress Gothenburg

### Wednesday, August 10th: Gothenburg

New Alfsborg Fort  
Tour of Gothenburg

### Thursday, August 11th: Various Cities

Kungälv: Kungälv Church and view of fort Bohus  
Mellerud: Dalslands Glashytta (glass blowing demonstration)  
Håverud: Dalsland Kanal (canal), aqueduct and locks  
Bengtsfors: Straw House Museum

### Friday, August 12th: Malung

Lunch with our Swedish cousins  
Malungs Hembygdsgård – open-air living history museum  
St. Olaf Church

### Saturday, August 13th: Malung

Tour of Malung  
Family Gathering

### Sunday, August 14th: Various Cities

Mora: Anders Zorn Museum  
Rättvik: Artist Village  
Nusnäs: Dala Horse factory  
Leksand: Rowing a church boat

### Monday, August 15th: Various Cities

Falun: Kristine Church and Falun Mine  
Avesta: World’s largest Dala Horse  
Anundshög: Viking “stone ships”  
Uppsala: Old Uppsala Church and Uppsala Cathedral

### Tuesday, August 16th: Various Cities

Uppsala: Uppsala University and Linnaeus Gardens  
Hammarby: Carl Linnaeus’ summer home and Rambo apple tree  
Sigtuna: Walking tour  
Stockholm: Royal Palace (new)

### Wednesday, August 17th: Stockholm

Vasa restored ship  
Tour of Stockholm  
Farewell Dinner

### Thursday, August 18th: Stockholm

Tour of Stockholm

### Friday, August 19th: Depart for America



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

**Above: The view of Gothenburg from the vantage point of atop Keiller's Park.**

**Right: Stiddem Delagation receives a private tour aboard the Götheborg.**



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

## Sweden Tour Attendees

David Stidham DCM-1 and his wife Esther  
 Kay Wootten-Schechinger DCM-23 and her husband Herman  
 Thomas Stidham DCM-26 and his wife Shirley  
 William O. Stidham DCM-68 and his wife Carol  
 Karen Stidham Scott DCM-88  
 Judy Stidham Wright DCM-92  
 Noria Stidham Gerig DCM-101 and her husband Warren  
 Beverly Rasor DM-427 and her husband Douglas  
 Lynn Shea DM-470 and her husband Ron  
 Aleasa Hogate AM-518  
 Janet Anderson, President, New Sweden Centre  
 Donna Draper  
 Rebecca Draper  
 Melanie Howard

Bengtsson, a friend of Aleasa's who took us on a quick bus tour of Gothenburg. From the high hills of Keiller's Park, we got our first good view of Gothenburg and Gothenburg harbor. Gothenburg, sitting on the river Göta Älv, is Sweden's second largest city and Scandinavia's largest port. Margaretha stayed with us most of the three days we spent in the Gothenburg area and was most helpful making our experience there rewarding. Following the bus tour, we found ourselves checking into a ship to spend the night, as if to emphasize Gothenburg's important location by the sea. The Hotel Ibis was a decommissioned ship permanently tied to the wharf and retrofitted into a hotel. We were to spend three nights in the Ibis. Each morning, Esther and I were awakened by the sound of gulls just outside our room window (porthole?) overlooking the river.

After freshening up a bit at the Ibis, our group made its way to the *Götheborg*, a reconstructed 18th century ship of the Swedish East India Company. (See Noria Gerig's article on page 27). We were given a private tour of the ship, after which we examined the nearby Milles "Kalmar Nyckel" monument overlooking the river. The granite monument is a twin to the Milles monument at Fort Christina Park in Wilmington, Delaware, both of which were sculpted in 1938 in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the landing of the *Kalmar Nyckel* ship in America and the founding of the Swedish colony of New Sweden.

From the Milles monument, the group dispersed in different directions to explore Gothenburg on their own. We took advantage of Göteborg City Cards we had purchased to gain entry to many of the city's museums, tours and attractions. Some explored the river in more detail aboard sightseeing boats, while others visited botanical gardens, museums, and a giant Ferris wheel, or took time to walk the historic streets, or to shop. That evening, we reconvened at the Ibis for a "welcoming" dinner where I unfurled a six-foot Timen Stiddem Society banner, which we displayed from time to time during our trip. Also, a member of the Swedish Colonial Society in Sweden, Ewert Ardwidsson, gave us a brief talk on the history of Gothenburg. Ewert was to accompany our group the next day and was a great source for history about old Gothenburg and our ancestor, Luloff Stidden.

Tuesday morning was basically spent exploring the old neighborhood where Luloff Stidden lived from about 1621 to his death in 1639. Our first stop was the Stadsmuseum (Gothenburg City Museum), where we were given a special tour by curator Lars Olof Lööf and Ewert Ardwidsson. The museum had several exhibit rooms featuring different historic periods. The room of most interest to our group was the 17th and 18th century exhibit. There, we saw some of the actual tools Luloff Stidden used in his job as sheriff or prosecutor in old Gothenburg, and a model of the old city during Luloff's time. We could look up his neighborhood on a computer and read (in Swedish) a little about him and his neighbors. From the museum, we went next door to the old German church, Tsyke kyrkan (Christinae Church or German church), where Luloff and his family worshipped. We then walked around the old city which was originally the fortress of Gothenburg, where we saw historic buildings, part of the original fort wall and moat and Luloff's burial site. (In the next issue of the *Newsletter*, I will go into more details about Luloff's Stidden's life in Sweden, including from a translation of the online Swedish report I mentioned above.)

On our last day in Gothenburg, we all



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

**Ewert Ardwidsson was a great source for history about old Gothenburg and our ancestor, Luloff Stidden.**

*[At the Gothenburg City Museum] we saw some of the actual tools Luloff Stidden used in his job as sheriff or prosecutor in old Gothenburg, and a model of the old city during Luloff's time.*

took a scenic boat trip to the mouth of the harbor to Nya Älvsborg (New Älfvborg Fortress). It is the best restored ancient fort in Sweden. It was built in the 17th century to repel Dutch invaders, and later used during World War II, and as a prison. After return-



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

**From the boat, we could see much of Gothenburg's waterfront.**



The only extant part of the old city wall in Gothenburg is at Charles Gate.

ing from the fort, the group again split up to take advantage of the City Card. Esther and I took a boat tour to explore the old moat canal and the main river on a much smaller canal boat. These boats ride low in the water in order to pass under the several bridges crossing over the canal. At one bridge crossing, it was necessary to actually get down in the floor of the boat to pass under the low bridge tresses. From the boat, we could see much of the city's waterfront, shipping centers, ferries and cruise ships from all over the world, and great views of the *Götheborg* and the Viking, the largest sailing ship ever built in Scandinavia and also retrofitted into a hotel. After our canal tour, we walked around Göteborg University and were awed at the beauty of some of the buildings. We ate dinner in the Saluhallen Kungstorget, a huge indoor market where fresh foods, spices, teas, fresh bread, cheeses, every type of fresh and exotic food

imaginable from all over the world was for sale. Quite a culinary experience.

Thursday morning, we left Gothenburg and began travelling north into the interior of Sweden, heading for Malung. Our first stop along the way was at Kungälv (King's River). We viewed the fort at Bohus where Luloff Stidden lived before moving to Gothenburg, then toured the old Kungälv church, one of the most beautiful in Sweden. Margaretha Bengtsson is the organist at this church and she play several hymns while we were there. (See page 24 to read Kay Wootten-Schechinger's report about this and other churches we visited in Sweden.) From Kungälv, we travelled to Mellerud to see a glass blowing demonstration by Johnny Persson at the Dalsland Glashytta (Glasshouse). Ask Aleasa about her experience blowing glass there. While in Dalsland,

PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

The Anders Zorn mansion and museum in Mora. Zorn one of Sweden's best known artists.



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

we stopped at Häverd to see a unique engineering sight—the Häverd Aqueduct—a series of locks and an elevated aqueduct on the Dalsland Canal to facilitate boat travel through a scenic gorge. Our final stop before Malung was at Bengsfors to visit the Straw House Museum—an interesting exhibit about the history of and uses of straw.

By Thursday evening we had made it to Malung, where we would spend the next three days. Malung is where Anna [16] Stedham would live after immigrating from America in 1714, and is where many of Anna's descendants still live. Our time in Malung, which was a highlight of our Sweden trip, is described by Karen Scott on page 22.

We left Malung on Sunday morning on our way to Stockholm. Our first stop on Sunday was at Mora to tour the Zornsamlingarna Vasagatan—the museum for Anders Zorn, one of Sweden's Internationally best known artists, famous for his portraits and nude studies. Many of his statues, paintings and wood carving are on display in the museum, and his adjacent home is open to the public as a museum. Nearby sits his studio—a log cabin constructed in the 1200s.

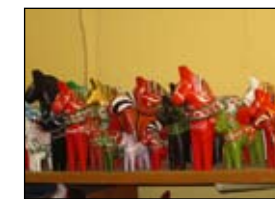


PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

Colorful Dala Horses line the shelves at the Dala Horse factory in Nusnäs.



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

Straw items on display at the Straw House Museum in Bengsfors.

We left Mora and travelled to the scenic Lake Siljun area. There we visited an artist colony, Rättviks Hantverksby, to shop for souvenirs, and then to Nusnäs to tour the famous Dala Horse factory. Our lodging that night was a beautiful hotel, the Stiftsgården,

*Our time in Malung was the highlight of our Sweden trip.*

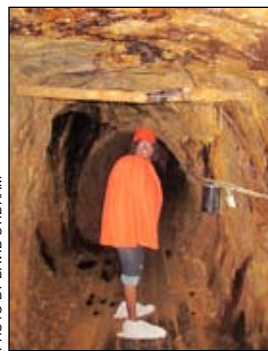


PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

**Esther Stidham deep in the Falun mine.**

on the shores of Lake Siljun. As soon as we checked into our room, Esther and I heard some beautiful music coming from outside our windows. We followed the sound of the music along the lake shore to an open-air concert where we enjoyed some traditional Swedish music for a while. Back at the hotel, we ate dinner with the group, which then left for Leksand where we had the experience of actually rowing a church boat. Boats similar to the one we rowed were probably used in New Sweden to transport churchgoers from Penns Neck (New Jersey) across the Delaware River to the Crane Hook Church in Delaware (see Issue No. 34).

**O**n Monday morning we left the Lake Siljun region for Falun. Falun was the second largest city in Sweden during the 17th century, largely because of the huge copper mine located there—the Falun Mine. The mine, first used over 1,300 years ago, was the source of most of Sweden's wealth and military might in the 17th century. We toured the mine museum, then

donned raincoats to enter the mine itself. The tour took us to the 67 meter level in the 450 meter deep mine. We were told it took about 200 oxen per year to provide the hide for leather rope used in the mines (manila rope rotted too quickly in the damp mine environment). Guess what meat is used for the famous Swedish sausage from Falun? I was particularly interested in some of the large-diameter waterwheels at the surface which were used to haul ores and to pump water out of the mine. One of the waterwheels still preserved, the Cruetz wheel, is 15 meters (49 ft.) in diameter.

From Falun, we stopped at Avesta to see the world's largest Dala Horse, then continued on to Anundshög, Västerås, to explore ancient Viking stones—sort of a Swedish Stonehenge. (See William Stidham's article on page 21 to learn more about the Viking ship stones.) Our destination Monday afternoon was Uppsala, a center of learning in Sweden. At the Uppsala Cathedral, we met Hans Odöo, a journalist and photographer who also portrays the botanist, Carl Lin-

**Scenic Lake Siljun near Rättvik**



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM



**The wheelhouse for the 49 ft. Cruetz waterwheel at Falun mine**

*The [Rambo Apple] tree, formerly common in Sweden, was reintroduced from America during the Carl Linnaeus 300th Anniversary celebration.*

naeus, in living history interpretations. Hans gave us a tour of the Cathedral (where Linnaeus and other famous Swedes are buried), and the King's palace, and then took us to Galma Uppsala (Old Uppsala) to see the old church there and some ancient burial mounds (Kungahögarna). On Tuesday we visited the Uppsala University Library, after which Hans gave us a tour of Linnaeus's gardens in Uppsala where Linnaeus developed his taxonomy system of plant classification still used today. From Uppsala, we went to Hammarby where Linnaeus had a summer home (Linnés

Savje) and did much of his work. Hans-Bjorn Eriksson and his wife, Boel, managers of the Linnés Savje, gave us a tour of the summer house and showed us the Rambo apple tree, which was planted on their site. The tree, formerly common in Sweden, was reintroduced from America during the Carl Linnaeus 300th Anniversary celebration.

**F**rom Hammarby, we drove to Sigtuna, once the capitol of Sweden, now a quaint village, to pick up Ami Berg, another of Aleasa's friends. Ami traveled with us during our stay in Stockholm to point out places of interest. One of the first of which was the Drottningholms slott (Drottningholm Royal Palace) on the outskirts of Stockholm. With its gold-gilded gates, magnificent gar-

**Far left: Judy Wright and Karen Scott at the world's largest Dala horse in Avesta.**

**Below: Drottningholm Royal Palace on the outskirts of Stockholm**



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

**Above: Changing of the Guards ceremony at the Royal Palace in Stockholm.**

**Right: Aleasa Hogate and Hans Odö (as Linnaeus) at the summer home in Hammarby with the Rambo apple tree in the background.**



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

*Yes, our experience in Sweden will be a trip we will never forget.*

dens and pools, and beautiful statuary, this palace is only where the king and queen live. The Stockholms slott (Royal Place of Stockholm), where they work, is in the city center, in old Stockholm.

Stockholm is the capitol of Sweden and is filled with museums, historic sites, and beautiful architecture of all sorts. Like in Gothenburg, we bought City Cards to gain admittance to the many attractions. Our first stop on Wednesday morning was a personal tour of the *Vasa* ship by Fred Hocker, the *Vasa*

Museum director of research. (See Noria Gerig's article on page 13 about the *Vasa*). After the *Vasa*, we were on our own again to explore Stockholm. We were able to get around fairly easily by bus, train and tram. Esther and I, along my sisters Karen and Judy, visited the Skansen open-air museum (19th century town recreation), and the Stockholm Aquarium. We were attempted to ride some of the thrill rides at the Gröna Lund riverfront park next to the aquarium, but thought the Ferris wheel we rode in Gothenburg was enough thrills for this trip. Thursday was another day to tour Stockholm, what Aleasa called our last "Swede fling." Esther and my sisters and I went to Junibacken, a popular children's museum, then hopped on a tour boat to see the city from the harbor. We later joined up with the rest of the group at the Royal Palace in old Stockholm to see the changing of the guards—an elaborate ceremony of uniformed guards on foot and on horseback, playing a number of wind instruments and performing intricate maneuvers on horseback. After touring the nearby Stockholm Cathedral, Esther and I said goodbye to the group and headed to the airport for our flight to Rome. The rest of the group sans Aleasa left for home the next morning. Aleasa stayed a few days with friends in Sweden, then a few more with her son in England before heading home.

**Y**es, our experience in Sweden will be a trip we will never forget. Especially the beautiful churches, forts, palaces and other historic sites; the museums, beautiful scenery and artwork. Most of all, we will never forget the warmth and hospitality of the Swedish people, like Hans and Ewert and Magdalene, and our cousins in Malung. And we learned so much—about our family history, the history of Sweden, and Swedish culture and religion. Just ask us. For example, ask us what the *Vasa* and McDonald's milk shakes have in common? Or, how was the breakfast horse meat? Or, what about God's hand? How small is the world's smallest Dala horse? What was the robot lawnmower in Malung thinking? What is a Fish Church? Where did we find Rev. Eric Björk's painting? Why are all the buildings around Falun painted red? Why are the king's canons pointed directly at the cathedral in Uppsala?

## The Stone Ships of Anundshog

*By William O. Stidham, DCM-68*

**O**n the outskirts of the town of Vasteras, in the vicinity of Uppsala, there are raised stones placed in the form of five ships near the Anundskog burial mounds. These five ships in the shape of Viking long ships make it the largest concentration of stone ships in Sweden. It is believed that the stone monuments were built during the ninth century. No one knows for sure why the ships

were built. Each ship has a midstone in the center. It is believed that the stone is placed there to symbolize the ship's mast.

The largest ship is about 174 feet long and 82 feet wide. The second ship is 115 feet by 52 feet. The remaining three ships are somewhat smaller. The fifth ship is still to be restored. Scholars have suggested that the stone ships symbolize the ships of important leaders or chieftains used as an escort of honor on their journey to the kingdom of the dead.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM O. STIDHAM

## Visiting Our Malung Cousins

By Karen Scott DCM-88

Our Sweden trip couldn't have been nicer. Of course, the highlight was the three days we spent in Malung with the "Stidham cousins." They certainly went out of their way to make our visit memorable. The activities were informative, the meals good and the people fantastic.

My sister, Judy Wright, and I stayed with a couple who would probably be considered well-to-do. They are both retired and now just take it easy and do what they want, when they want. They have a lot of fruits and vegetables growing in their yard, which I think keeps them busy right now. Everything was starting to bear fruit while we were there.

They took us on several site-seeing trips in

their car; one included a visit to their "summer home." They say they don't go there often, since it is very small. These little retreats have been passed down through families who used to use them when they would take their livestock to the forest to graze during the dry season. Most houses are much smaller than the average house here. They definitely live more moderately than we do.

The food was somewhat like ours, but different in some respects, too. Many meals (buffets usually) during the entire trip often included a lot of cold meats, sliced cheese, sliced tomato for sandwiches, then a hot meat and rice or potatoes and lots of bread. I lived a lot on cheese sandwiches. While at our host

John-Eric and Sonya Gustafsson in front of Sonya's summer house.



family's home, she prepared moose patties (like hamburger patties) that I didn't like very well, but Judy did. Some of the others in the Stidhem delegation who stayed at the hotel, told about the kangaroo that was served at one meal.

We visited so many museums, churches, and visitors' attractions, I could never name them all. Just a few that really interested me were the second highest Ferris wheel in Gothenburg, the Church Boat ride in Sollelön that we actually rowed, and the Falun Copper Mine, where we descended deep into the earth to see where the copper was mined to provide the ore for weapons and cannons during Sweden's early wars.

We saw the Kristine Church in Falun, where Anna Stidhem was taken to live after her parents died in America. The Rev. Eric Björk adopted her and he and his wife returned and lived out their lives there.

We also visited the Dala Horse Factory in Nusnäs, where we could see some of the horses being painted by hand. They are completely handmade and have become the symbol of Sweden. Of course, some souvenirs were purchased there.

Stockholm provided many beautiful sights, including the Royal Palace, where we saw the changing of the guards, the Vasa Museum, where we viewed the ship that set sail in 1628 and sank in the Stockholm Harbor on her maiden voyage. It was salvaged in 1961 after 333 years, and is now on display, almost 95% original. The Kalmar Nyckel was built later in an attempt to replace this ship as well as many that were lost in war.

This is just a few of the places we saw. Believe me, our tour leader did a great job scheduling some special events that we would not have been able to see or do by ourselves.

Sweden is a beautiful country. The people are very environmentally conscious and think Green. We saw no litter and very few homeless. We felt very safe when out on our excursions. In fact, I didn't even see a policeman until we were in Stockholm. Crime is very low there.

We had a wonderful trip, but were glad to get home. 13 days is a long time to be away from one's "things" and family. It is a trip I will never forget and I am so happy I decided to go. Judy and I had a great time being together and enjoying a very memorable experience.



Above: John-Eric Gustafsson, Judy Wright, Karen Scott and Sonya Gustafsson



Left: Gustafsson home where we spent three wonderful nights.

Below: John-Eric's summer house







PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

## Churches in Sweden

*By Kay Wootten-Schechinger DCM-23*

**Above: Interior of Christine Church in Gothenburg, Luloff Stidden's church.**

The churches that we visited in Sweden were all Lutheran Churches. We visited eight altogether and each one demonstrated the pride that the people had and have of these churches with the architectural significance. Christine Church (Tyska Kyrkan) was located in Gothenburg (pronounced Yeutebory) and our ancestor's father Lulof helped establish it. It was a German Church and people must have come from Germany in order to belong, and that is true to this day. Even pictures do not do it justice as to the beauty of the artwork and sculpture inside. The church's painted glass windows depict the various prophets and evangelists. Ger-

man is spoken there. Also in Gothenburg is the Cathedral and the seat of the bishop in the Diocese of Gothenburg. This church features impressive Doric columns and a beautiful Baroque altar ornamented with angelic figures. As we traveled to Malung, we stopped in Kungälv to visit King's River Church (Kungälv kyrka). The entire ceiling of the church is covered with paintings done by the Gothenburg painter, Erik Grijs. We stopped here to see its beauty but also to listen to our tour Guide, Margaretha Bergtsson, play the organ. Again, the beauty of the sculpture, paintings and furnishings are inspiring and educational as to our Biblical heritage.

In Malung, we visited a more contemporary church that had to be built to replace a historic one due to the disrepair. Although it is contemporary, there was history there with some of the old art work. After a delightful visit with family, we visited the Falun Kristine Church in Falun. This is the church where Timen's daughter Anna's adopted father was the pastor when he returned from America. It was here that I noticed that the service bulletin referred to the worship as the morgonmassa (morning mass). Most notable is the alter piece and the pulpit. There were also two chandeliers and wooden sculptures made in 1687. Prominent also was the chasuble and cope from 1666. The christening font is made of Swedish marble. Continuing to ride the bus to Stockholm, we visited the Uppsala Cathedral. This Cathedral dates back to the 13th century and is 118.7 m (389.4 feet) in height and the tallest church building in Scandinavia. It was originally built as a Roman Catholic church used for Swedish monarch coronations but after the Protestant Reformation, it has been a Lutheran Church of Sweden. Among its many famous people buried or honored in this church is the Dag Hammarskjöld memorial. Above the altar are 12 saints sculpted in beautiful wood.

During our travels we were exposed to the way the 17th century Christians got to church for worship. Getting to church was far without the modern convenience of motor vehicles and so they went by row boats. The boats held 20 people and each person had an oar to row to their destination and back to home. Twenty of us tried this journey and it was more than many of us could handle without falling into the boat. When the oar gets into the water too deep for us to manage it will push the rower back in the boat falling on the wet floor. I wouldn't want to have missed it for the world and that experience certainly made me humble.

In Stockholm there are three Lutheran Churches which make up the Diocese of Stockholm, of which we visited two. In the Stockholm Cathedral (Storkyrkan) the most striking feature is the silver altar. It is made of ebony and silver and was donated to the Cathedral in the 1650s by Councilor of the Realm, Johan Adler Salvius and his wife. The central section was made in Germany and the doors in Stockholm. Also an unusual



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

**Left: The Stiddem delegation outside the Christine Church in Gothenburg.**

**Below: Hans Odöo (right), journalist and Swedish member of the Swedish Colonial Society, tells Carol Stidham, Tom Stidham, Donna Draper, Lynn Shea and Noria Gerig a little about the history of the Cathedral Church in Uppsala.**



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

visual object is the Seven-Branched Candlestick made of bronze 12 feet tall, believed to have been made in Germany in the 15th century. Storkyrkan also has a magnificent organ with 53 stops. The Cathedral is the local church of the inhabitants of Old Town (Gamla Stan) and was given the status as a cathedral in 1942 in the new diocese of Stockholm. With the mention of bishops so



frequently, I questioned the term of bishops in Sweden and learned that they are elected for life. The marriage ceremony for King Carl XVI Gustaf and Silvia Sommerlath was held in this Cathedral in June 1976. Another of the churches in this parish was St. Clara's. It was known for its early graves and grave markers which dated back to the 13th century. In Sweden as in the U.S., the church is experiencing the conflict between liberal and conservative theologies.

There were so many beautiful objects, icons, statuary and paintings of each in all of the churches, but due to limited print space, all the information was not appropriate for our newsletter. I do hope that the information teased your appetite to visit Sweden, our heritage.

PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM



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Top: Judy Wright, Karen Scott, Margaretha Bengtsson (the organist), Esther and David Stidham in front of the altar in the church in Kungälv.

Above: Bill and Carol Stidham, and Ron and Lynn Shea join in a hymn being played by Margaretha Bengtsson on the organ in the church in Kungälv.

Right: Interior view of the Kristine Church in Falun.



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

## THE SWEDEN TOUR

# Visiting Two Maritime Treasures

By Noria Gerig DCM-101

Upon arrival in Gothenburg, we had the privilege of having a privately guided tour of the Swedish ship *Götheborg*. The original ship was an 18th century sailing vessel built in 1738 and had made three lucrative trips to China. On the third trip she ran aground on a submerged rock at the approach to the Gothenburg harbor. No one was killed and a large part of the cargo was rescued. The newly reconstructed Swedish ship *Götheborg* was launched in 2003 and has since retraced the original ship's long journey to China. She will soon make a voyage to New Orleans and ports along the U.S. East coast.

Once upon a time, the only way to get to another continent was by sea. In 1628, the Swedish warship *Vasa* set sail on her maiden voyage and immediately sank in the Stockholm harbor. The wreck was salvaged in 1961 after 333 years under the sea. The restored vessel is 95% original and remarkably well preserved due to the cold water of the region. Today, she is one of the world's foremost tour-

ist attractions with a special museum built just to house her. The ornate carvings are a feast for the eyes. Our TSS delegation had the pleasure of a personal tour of the archives in the museum by Fred Hocker, the Director of Research at the *Vasa* museum.

The ship-shaped *Vasa* Museum in Stockholm, which houses the restored *Vasa* ship.



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM



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Above: A model of the restored *Vasa* showing some of the ornate and colorful carving, which originally decorated the ship.

Left: The reconstructed ship *Götheborg* moored in the Gothenburg harbor. Note the Kalmar Nyckel monument to the left of the ship.

## We Crossed the Atlantic, Became One Big Family

By Aleasa Hogate AM-518



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

Stiddem Delegation with Swedish presenters at Linnaeus' summer home in Hammarby.

*After eight months [of planning], a final itinerary was formulated.*

When visiting Alaska several years ago, I remember standing at a viewpoint, enthusiastically looking in amazement at the mountain range that loomed ahead. Assuming the largest one was the infamous mountain, I was awestruck when a large cloud in the background of the range moved to reveal the Mount McKinley, hidden behind the cloud that now dwarfed all the other mountains. Planning the Stiddem Delegation Tour of Sweden was a similar experience. In 2009, when hosting the tour of Swedish Sites in the Delaware Valley for the 9th National Stidham\* Family reunion, helping them plan their visit to the fatherland of their ancestors seemed to me then as a mountain range, with details that would be easily managed. Little did I know the monolithic task hidden behind the cloud.

Originally, I only intended to share the information from the wonderful places Joe and I had visited in Sweden and provide them with an itinerary that would take them to the places of special significance to the Stidhams\*. After contacting several tourist

agencies on their behalf, it became apparent that there were no tour packages that would fulfill this objective. In fact, five or six agencies turned me down, because of the extensive itinerary I had put together. Dean Anderson of Anderson's tours, agreed to work with me, but it became apparent in order to facilitate the plan, I needed to accompany the group. So I began contacting people in Sweden, who, like me, wanted to make this visit really special, including Margaretha Bengtsson, Ewert Ardwindsson, Johnny Persson at the Dalsland Glashytta (Glasshouse), Hans-Bjorn Eriksson and his wife, Boel, Ami Berg, Hans Odöo and several Stidham\* descendants who lived in Malung. Because of their generosity and friendship with the Stidham\* cousins in Malung, the group was given the royal treatment. It is unlikely that such a tour can ever be repeated.

After eight months of communicating via e-mail and phone with contacts, museums and hotels in Sweden, Dean Anderson and those planning to go on the trip, a final itinerary was formulated. The hours of using Google maps to calculate the time we would need between stops paid off. We made every stop within 5 to 15 minutes of the schedule, because those on the tour were all very cooperative and prompt. By utilizing "City Passes" with public transportation in both Gothenburg and Stockholm, folks had some free time to do things on their own, as well as the planned itinerary. This helped keep cost at a minimum, which was one of the things I was asked to do.

Traveling together with such a cooperative group of folks, who seemed to savor and enjoy all the places we visited, made all my planning rewarding. We seemed to become just one big family, even though some of us were not actually Stidhams\*. Taking this journey with them made me even more aware of how the first settlers who came on the *Kalmar Nyckel* had to work together to establish the New Sweden Colony.

*You're invited  
to join...*

## THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

**Did your know:** Descendant Members of the Timen Stiddem Society can join the Swedish Colonial Society as Forefather Members? It's true! Take advantage of your relationship to Dr. Stiddem by becoming a member of the premier organization dedicated to the preservation of the history of the New Sweden Colony and all its inhabitants, including the Stidham\* family! To learn more, please visit our website at:

[www.colonialswedes.org](http://www.colonialswedes.org)

