

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

From the President's
Keyboard
Page 2

Current Stidham* News
Page 5

SWEDEN TOUR COVERAGE

To Sweden and Back
Page 10

The Stone Ships
of Anundshog
Page 21

Visiting Our
Malung Cousins
Page 22

Churches in Sweden
Page 24

Visiting Two
Maritime Treasures
Page 27

We Crossed the Atlantic,
Became One Big Family
Page 28

Calendar of Events
Page 30

TSS Marketplace
Page 31

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.

From the President's Keyboard



David R. Stidham
President, 2010-2011

Hello, cousins all. Congratulations, for you are now reading only the second "super" issue of the *Newsletter* (the first being Issue #15: Stidhams in the Civil War, North & South). This special, 32-page issue is crammed full of photographs, reports and stories about the recent and historic TSS-sponsored trip to Sweden. But, before I get into that, let me address some important TSS business.

First, a reminder, it is that time of the year again—time to renew your TSS membership. Remember, membership is on a calendar year basis, and renewals are due January 1st. Even if you joined in the middle of the year, you must renew in January. (If you joined in mid-year, you should have gotten all the back issues for 2011—if you did not, please contact the editor.) A membership renewal form will be included in the next issue of the *Newsletter*; but if you want to get ahead, feel free to send in your 2012 dues (\$20) now. Send it

to our membership secretary (address on the back cover).

We are also approaching the end of an election term—the current officers and board members' terms expire at the end of the year. So, I am looking for nominations for the 2012-2013 term. Richard Steadham (your editor) has agreed to continue in his present position, and I will continue as Historian. As founding members, Richard and I are also automatically on the Board of Directors. According to our By-laws, that leaves the elected positions of President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and two or more At-Large Board Members. The current elected Board members (myself as President; Leslie Shamus, Treasurer; Kay Wootten-Schechinger, Membership Secretary; and Tom Stidham, Kenneth Steadham, and Butch Stidam, At-large members) are eligible for re-election. I hope others will consider running for one of these positions. The only requirements are: being a Descendant Member and wanting to better your Society. Another (unwritten) requirement is to have access to email. Due to our geographic diver-

the Timen Stiddem Society

Issue 52 • Fall 2011

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

David R. Stidham (DCM-1)

TREASURER

Leslie Shamus (DCM-33)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Kay Wootten-Schechinger (DCM-23)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard L. Steadham (DCM-2)

AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Kenneth E. Steadham (DCM-5)

Thomas E. Stidham (DCM-26)

Ules G. Stidam, Jr. (DCM-180)

ADDITIONALLY

David R. Stidham is the Society's Historian and Stidham* Family Tree Webmaster.

Richard L. Steadham is the Stidham Sumame DNA Group Administrator and Timen Stiddem Society Webmaster.

The *Newsletter* is the official publication of The Timen Stiddem Society. It is published four times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. It is distributed to all members as a benefit of membership. The objectives of the Society are to encourage and promote the accurate recording of family data, vital statistics and individual accomplishments of Dr. Timen Stiddem and his descendants.

Membership dues are \$20 annually (January thru December), for which a member receives up to four issues of the *Newsletter*. All members are classified as either Descendant or Associate Members based on lineage from Dr. Stiddem or not. Anyone with an interest in this Society is eligible to join as an Associate Member. Note: Stidham* followed by an asterisk, refers to all spelling variations of the surname when speaking of Stidhams in general. This spelling is the most commonly used form of the name by Timen Stiddem's descendants today. ID numbers [in brackets] are from *The Descendants of Dr. Timothy Stidham, Vol. 1 and 2*.

Disclaimer: The Society and its officers disclaim responsibility for any errors or omissions, although accuracy is always strived for. It is each researcher's own responsibility to verify any data presented in these pages against the original evidence, if that is of importance to them. Each contributor is responsible for their own material not violating existing copyright laws.

The Timen Stiddem Society is a family association member of the National Genealogical Society and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. In addition, the Society is an organizational member of the Swedish Colonial Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a life member of the Old Swedes Foundation, Wilmington, Delaware.

To contact the Editor, email: RLSteadham@mac.com or regular mail: Richard L. Steadham, 4333 1/2 Utah Street, San Diego, CA 92104.

On the web at: www.timenstiddemsociety.org and www.stidhamfamilytree.com

Copyright © 1998-2011, The Timen Stiddem Society

Unique Christmas Gifts

For the Stidham* who has to have everything!



T-shirts



Hats



Coffee mugs



Tile coasters



Mousepads



Wall clocks

Clothing, hats, drinkware, tote bags and more, all with Timen Stiddem Society graphics on them! To browse the entire collection, just go to our online store at Cafe Press:

www.cafepress.com/timenstiddemsocietyshop

sity, it is necessary to conduct most business via email. So, let me know by December 1st if you are willing to continue for two more years (in your current position) or want to give it a try as a newbie. Ballots will be included in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

Another recurring event is also just around the corner—Christmas and other holiday celebrations. Thanks to Richard Steadham's initiative, we now have a great selection of Timen Stiddem Society related items (T-shirts, mugs, mouse pads, etc.) just in time for this season of gift giving (including a gift to yourself). Check out all the neat TSS stuff (on-line) at Cafe Press (see box at right).

Now, back to our just completed trip to Sweden. To sum it up quickly, I think all the participants will say it was "a trip of a lifetime." Thanks to Aleasa, Kay, Karen, Bill and Noria for helping me put on paper the wonderful experiences we had in Sweden. Maybe this issue will inspire others who were on the trip to contribute something for future issues of the *Newsletter*. In the next issue, I will go into more detail about some information we learned on the trip about Luloff Stiddem and his son, Timen, information that may challenge the whole Stidham* DNA study!

My wife, Esther and I, were fortunate to be a part of the group and we had a blast. We also decided to take advantage of our trip "over the Atlantic" to see a little more of Europe. I shared a little of our extended trip with Richard, and he suggested I write about it here. I don't want to bore you with a lot of details, and certainly won't force you to watch our "slide show," but hope you enjoy this...

And Now... the Rest of the Story

Esther and I left the Stiddem delegation a day early, leaving Stockholm on Thursday afternoon (August 18th) and arrived in Rome late, finding our B&B near the Vatican even later. Friday morning we spent relocating to a hotel for our two additional days in Rome. Using Metro and buses, we were able to get around Rome easily. We visited St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museum, and the other usual tourist spots: Castle Saint Angelo, the Coliseum, Roman Forum, Pantheon, Fountain of Trevi, and a number of churches. We found Rome to be dirty (especially compared to immaculate Sweden) and stinky. The narrow streets, shops and numerous water fountains were interesting. We got a kick out of

the (illegal) east Indian street vendors who were selling all kinds of junk, but quickly ran away or hid when the police approached. St. Peter's and the other great churches in Europe were a wonder to see, but to tell the truth, the churches in Sweden were much more elaborate and colorful.

We left Rome on Saturday for Venice. We intended to spend most of the day in Venice and take a night train to Paris. However, when we got to Venice, we learned the night trains were all booked thru September. So we spent a few hours walking the canal streets of the city and enjoying the canal traffic. We also visited Santa Maria Gloriosa Dei Frari church, which had an incredible sculpture piece of four black slaves in tattered clothing and grimacing faces holding up a whole lot of "nobles and saints" — all white of course. This was one of the very few depictions of black people we saw in the artwork of Europe.

We took a train to Milan with the intention of going on to Nice, France and eventually Paris. However, a train agent told us we could catch a train in Milan the next morning for Paris, even though we did not have a reservation. This gave us a chance to walk around Milan a bit, and got to see the Duomo church, one of the largest Gothic churches in the world. After trying to sleep in the Milan train station, we caught the train for Paris. We had to play "musical chairs" until we entered France and finally were assigned seats.

When we arrived in Paris on Monday afternoon, we asked someone how to find the train to our hotel. You have heard about how unfriendly the French are—right? Well, our experience was just the opposite. This woman, and others we asked for help, were extremely nice and helpful. We stayed in the town of Saint Denis just north of Paris. Our hotel was next to a Metro station, and we found the subways and trains in the Paris area very easy and handy to use. We spent three



Esther and David Stidham in front of the famous Trevi Fountain in Rome.

days traveling all over Paris and neighboring Versailles.

One of the more interesting sights was the Basilica of Saint Denis just a few blocks from our hotel. Most all the kings and queens, as well as princesses and princes of France from the 10th century onward, are buried here (including Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette).

In Paris, we visited the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triumph, the Louvre, Notre Dame, Petit Palace, Hotel des Invalides (including the tomb of Napoleon), the Chateau de Versailles (which was unfortunately closed), and much more. Paris has huge streets, narrow streets, beautiful gardens, fantastic architecture, statues everywhere (many very weird; most nude), shops and restaurants and vendors everywhere.

We left Paris on Thursday morning for Iceland, arriving about the same time in the morning (gaining hours). We rented a car for two days, which turned out to be a wise choice. Wise especially for two of more people, since the guided tours we wanted to take cost about the same as the car rental, plus we could go anywhere,

stop anywhere and see whatever we wanted, rather than what we could do and see on a tour bus. Thursday, we drove along the north and south coastlines of the Keflavik peninsula, and spent the evening walking in the capital city of Reykjavik. On Friday, we drove up into the Pingvellir national park, and saw geysers and hot springs (though no match for Yellowstone), glaciers, volcanoes, and waterfalls. We also drove through the rift where the American and Eurasian tectonic plates are separating at the rate of 3 mm annually. On the drive back to our guesthouse in Keflavik, we drove through miles and miles of desolate lava fields—no houses, no vegetation (except the moss covered lava rock), no livestock, hardly no other automobiles. Really weird and like being on another planet.

We got back to Massachusetts Friday night, gaining another 5 hours. We had been up and about since about 1 am Friday (Massachusetts time), so we were ready for a rest when we got home about 8 pm. Our Sweden and Europe and Iceland adventure was priceless, but, as they always say, it was "great to be home."

Current Stidham* News

Recording Life's Milestones: Births, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, honors, events and deaths

DEATHS

Colwin Gaywood [2434] Steadham, a 97 year-old longtime resident of Mobile and Grand Bay, and current resident of Grove Hill, AL, passed away at his home on Thursday, August 25, 2011. He was born in Whistler, AL on October 20, 1913 to George Lindsay [1172] and Katie Grimes Steadham. Mr. Steadham served in the Merchant Marines for 13 years achieving the rank of chief engineer and was a veteran of World War II. He retired from Ingall's after many years of service as an engineer. He was the author of two books and became the "Mobile Bay Swim Champion" at the age of 19 after swimming from Arlington Park to Point Clear. Mr. Steadham was preceded in death by his first wife, Juanita Hatchett Steadham, parents, three brothers, and three sisters. He is survived by his wife, Irma Graham Steadham



Colwin Gaywood [2434] Steadham

of Grove Hill; son, Royce Linwood Steadham of Mobile; step-children, Loree DeLozier (Vance) of Warrensburg, MO, Renee Graham of Mobile, and Ronald Graham of Biloxi, MS;

two sisters, Rebecca Gregory of Plymouth, MA and Mitzi Boardman (Paul) of Robertsdale, AL; daughter-in-law, Belinda H. Robertson of Bainbridge, GA; five step-grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren; a step-great, great-grandchild; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Funeral services will be held from the chapel of Radney Funeral Home on Dauphin Street on Monday, August 29, 2011, at 2 p.m. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 12 noon until the service hour. Interment will be in Union Baptist Church Cemetery. (www.radneyfuneralhome-mobile.com)

Kenneth [2842] Stidham, 76, passed away Sun., Aug 7, 2011 (Viola, KS). Visitation: 12 -8 pm, family present 5:30 - 7, Tue. Services: 10 am, Wed, Aug 10, both at Webb-Shinkle Mortuary, Clearwater. Preceded by parents, Roy [1384] and Lula Stidham;

WEDDING BELLS

Jennifer Evans and Beau Stidham were united in marriage by Steve McGuire on July 16. The wedding and reception were held at Grand Oaks Event and Business Center, Grove City.

The bride is the daughter of Phil and Nancy Evans of Circleville. The groom is the son of Rhonda Stidham of Circleville and Rocky Stidham of Sacramento, California.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a white, strapless gown and carried a bouquet of red roses. Serving as maid of honor was Heather Evans, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Daniela Echeverria, Kim Glick and Tahnee VanSickle.

Performing the duties as best

man was Nick Stidham, brother of the groom. Ushers were Tyler Evans, brother of the bride, Tyler Cassidy and Jason Beavers.

The bride is a 2002 graduate of Logan Elm High School and a 2006 graduate of Otterbein College. She is employed as a teacher at Teays Valley East Middle School.

The groom is a 2004 graduate of Logan Elm High School and a 2009 graduate of Otterbein College. He is employed as a teacher at Logan Elm High School. The couple resides in Circleville.

Rocky Stidham is the son of Troy [7050] Stidham.

(Circleville Herald, October 6, 2011, Circleville, OH)



daughter, Carolyn Scott; brother, Ronnie Stidham, and grandson, Jacob Stidham. Survivors: wife of 55 years, Carolyn, sons, David Stidham, Terry (Carol) Stidham, Mike (Melodi) Stidham, all of Wichita; 4 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Memorial: Progressive Hospice, 3500 N. Rock Rd., Bldg 400, Wichita, KS 67226. (www.legacy.com)

Gerald D. [4193] Stidham, age 84, passed away Saturday, March 19, 2011. He was born in Muskegon, Michigan on July 7, 1926 to Hugh [1975] and Eathel (Wilson) Stidham and served his country in the US Navy during WWII and the Korean Conflict. He married the former Margaret Micka in 1946. After their divorce, he married Marguerite (Melcher) VanderWall in 1972. Mr. Stidham had been employed as a millwright at S.D. Warren Paper Co. until retiring. He will be missed by all who knew him. The family would like to express their grateful appreciation to the care givers of Christian Care Senior Care and Brookhaven (Rosewood). **SURVIVORS** Sons, Donald (Darlene) Stidham of Muskegon, Dennis (Cynthia) Stidham of Moorland TWP; grandchildren, Erin, Jared, Nathan, Amy, Sara; 6 great grandchildren; sister, Deannie "Dolores" (Edmund) LeRoux of Huron, South Dakota; former wife, Margaret Stidham. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Marguerite; brothers, Lonnee, Bobby, Edward; sisters, Betty, Loretta, & Shirley. **MEMORIAL SERVICE** Saturday, March 26, 2011, 1:00 PM and visitation 1 hour prior to the service at the Clock Chapel - Muskegon with Rev. Ken Shady officiating. Military Honors provided by Muskegon County Council of Veterans & Navy Honor Guard. **MEMORIAL:** Christian Care. (*Muskegon Chronicle*, Muskegon, Michigan, March 24, 2011). Gerald D. Stidham was a charter member of the TSS, DCM-135.

Stidham named Player of the Game in Babe Ruth World Series

A jubilant Parker Stidham with sister Samantha after the game.

Parker Stidham, son of Kent and Staci Stidham of Beaverton, Oregon, pitched a 3-0 shutout for his Tualatin Hills, Oregon team over their rivals Newton, Massachusetts in the first semifinal game of the Babe Ruth 14 & Under World Series Baseball Tournament, held August 26 to September 1, 2011 in Glen Allen, Virginia.

Parker allowed only four hits while striking out eight. As a batter, he went 1-for-3 with two RBIs and wound up player of the game. Parker's team finished their season as the World Series Champions, beating the host Glen Allen team in the finals. Parker is the grandson of TSS Board Member Tom Stidham and his wife Shirley.

Leslie "Tom" Whisman [son of 2680], 86, of Murray [Kentucky] died Saturday [1 Oct 2011] at Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Mr. Whisman was the former president and CEO of the Bank of Lyon County. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, a member of First Baptist Church of Murray, and a 1951 graduate of University of Kentucky with a B.S. in business administration. He was a member of Hazard, Ky., Kiwanis Club. He is survived by his wife,

Mary Sue Sherrard Whisman; two daughters, Susan Lynn Whisman of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Vicki Williams of Murray; one son, Leslie Wayne Whisman of Franklin, Tenn.; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Leslie Aaron Whisman. His parents were Leslie Stivers and Victoria [2680] Stidham Whisman. Services will be at 3 p.m. today [3 Oct 2011] at J.H. Churchill Funeral Home, with Sam Rainer offi-

ciating. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Eastern time Tuesday at Jackson Cemetery in Jackson [Kentucky]. (*The Paducah Sun*, Paducah, Kentucky, 3 Oct 2011)

Phillip Steadham [Steedman descendant], 61, of Paducah [Kentucky] passed away at 9:20 a.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at Norton Hospital in Louisville, KY. Phillip was a member of Bellview Baptist Church and worked in advertising sales with Bristol Broadcasting. Phillip is survived by his wife, Kathy Steger Steadham; a daughter, Erin Steadham Peterson and husband Chad of Erlanger, Ky.; two sons, Jonathon Blackman of Eddyville, Ky., and Landon Blackman of Paducah; two grandsons, Alex Peterson and Owen Peterson; a sister, Alyce Steadham Kerns and husband Loyd of Atlanta, Ga.; a brother, Ernie Steadham and wife Darlene of Jacksonville, Fla.; sister-in-law, Teresa Steadham Olson of Nashville, Tenn., and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Randy Steadham. His parents were Elbert Poney Steadham and Nellie Mae Potts Steadham. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2011, at Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Mike Nolen officiating. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens. (*The Paducah Sun*, Paducah, Kentucky, 18 Aug 2011)

Sam Choate [husband of 7552], 82, died Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011, in Tulia [Texas]. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Kornerstone Funeral Directors Chapel with the Rev. Ed Soules, pastor of First Assembly of God Church in Tulia, officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery by Kornerstone Funeral Directors of Tulia. Mr. Choate was born Oct. 2, 1929, in McIntosh County, Okla., to Aaron David and Ozella Choate. He attended schools in Stidham and Haskell, Okla. He served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952 in Korea and Japan. He mar-



Sam Choate

ried Emma [7552] Stidham on Aug. 5, 1958, in Clovis, N.M. He was an electrical Construction Foreman for D.R. Florence Construction Company, working in Rockwall and Tulia for 37 years. He was a member of the VFW in Tulia. He is preceded in death by his parents; a son, George Choate; a brother, Lowell Choate; and three sisters, Helen Choate, Sue Jones and Betty Pofahl. Survivors include his wife, Emma Choate of Tulia; three daughters, Sammie Artho and husband Paul of Canyon, Tammie Patterson and husband Ed of Waxahachie and Bonnie Abraham and husband Jason of Canadian; a son, Johnny Choate and wife and Nikki of Hobbs, N.M.; two brothers, Kenneth Choate of Alma, Ark. and Charlie Choate of Tucson, Ariz.; a sister, Lois Cantrell of Haskell, Okla.; and eight grandchildren, Kati Artho of Canyon, Maddie Abraham and Luke Abraham, both of Canadian, Sam Patterson and Abby Patterson both of Waxahachie and Lincoln Choate, Sawyer Choate and Sayler Choate, all of Hobbs. (*Amarillo Globe-News*, Amarillo, Texas, Oct. 7, 2011)

Eva Bernice Hurt Stidham [wife of 3025], 85, of North Robbins Court [Richmond, Kentucky], widow of Millard [3025] Stidham, passed away Tuesday, September 27, 2011,

in Berea Health Care. Mrs. Stidham was born March 11, 1926, in Madison County to Stanton "Tan" and Melda Farmer Hurt. She was a homemaker and enjoyed quilting and croqueting. She was a member of the Lancaster Road Church of God and was known for her love of her church family. Survivors include: two sons, Lester [5815] Stidham (Shirley) of Waco and Leon [5816] Stidham (Gail) of Lexington; four grandchildren, Kimberly Edward (Rickie), Tony Stidham (Patrina), David Stidham (Amanda) and Angie Stidham; two stepgrandchildren, Ashley and Patrick Edwards; and four great-grandchildren, Zachary Carraway, Erica Stidham, Leah Stidham and McKenzie Edwards; and a very special friend, James Dozier. In addition to her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by: her brothers, Lester Hurt and James Virgil Hurt; and three sisters, Willie May Hurt, Aretta Rhodus and Lucille Ballard; and a special friend, Troy Farthing. The funeral service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Friday, September 30, 2011, at Combs, Parsons & Collins Funeral Home with the Rev. Butch Payne officiating. Burial will follow in Richmond Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Pallbearers will be Tony Stidham, David Stidham, Zachary Carraway, Ralph Coyle, Fred Lainhart, Daniel Horn and Jon Lainhart. A special thank you to the Berea Health Care Facility and Dr. David Greene for all of their excellent care. Honorary pallbearers will be the Ladies of the Lancaster Road Church of God. (*The Richmond Register*, Richmond, Kentucky, 28 Sep 2011)

Hazel Jean Steadham [Mrs. Alfred Edward [4924] Steadham], age 73 a cosmologist of Thomasville, Alabama, died September 22, 2011 at her daughter's home. She was born December 28, 1937 in the Liberty Community. She was a member of Liberty Baptist Church. She is sur-

vived by daughter, Merita (Warren) Harrell of Thomasville, Alabama; son, Ricky (Martha Jo) Steadham of Thomasville, Alabama; son, Harvey (Tammy) Steadham of Thomasville, Alabama; son, Derry (Hope) Steadham of Grove Hill, Alabama; daughter, Sandy (Danny) Bedwell of Fulton, Alabama; son, Nick (Emily) Steadham of Grove Hill, Alabama; mother, Eunice M. Drinkard of Thomasville, Alabama; two brothers Richard "Tiny" (Marlene) Drinkard and Jerry (Brenda Jo) Drinkard both of Thomasville, Alabama; 14 grandchildren, Candis Harrell Busby, Aaron Harrell, Jesse Harrell, Brandon Steadham, Amanda Jo Steadham, Dannon Bedwell, Daniel Bedwell, Danielle Bedwell, Galen Steadham, Hagen Steadham, Kerri Steadham, Kalli Steadham, Dustin Steadham, and Alex Steadham; 2 great grandchildren, Ally Busby and Ty Busby. Visitation will be held at Liberty Baptist Church on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 10:00 am until the 11:00 am service time with Rev. Bill Faircloth and Rev. Johnny Kendrick officiating. Burial will be at Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery in Thomasville, Alabama. (Obitsforlife.com)

Inez [6368a] Stidom Leslie (1924 - 2011), age 86 of Lincoln Park [Michigan], died August 8, 2011. Beloved wife of the late James. Loving mother of James (Edith), Robert (Brenda) and Jonda (Jeff) Heater. Inez is



Inez [6368a] Stidom Leslie

also survived by 7 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Visitation Wednesday August 10, 2011 from 2-9 p.m. at the Allen Park Chapel of Voran Funeral Home, 5900 Allen Rd. (313) 928-2300. Funeral service Thursday [Aug 11th]. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery. (www.voranfuneralhome.com, 9 Aug 2011)

Leonard Ralph Stidham [son of Carnegie Cornelius Stidham, a Steedman descendant], December 13, 1927 - September 1, 2011, was born in Electra, Texas on Dec. 13, 1927. He moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico at the start of his high school years when his father bought a meat market there. Ralph enjoyed playing football, singing with a beautiful baritone voice, violin, and fun with good friends. Upon graduation from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve his country during World War II. After an honorable discharge, Ralph enrolled at New Mexico State University where he majored in Chemistry. There he met Fama Louise Jones at the Baptist Student Union and the First Baptist Church of Las Cruces. They married in 1949 and were happily together for 62 years. He was called back to the Navy during the Korean War. He finished a Master's degree in Mathematics and worked in the early days of computing. Ralph and Fama have four children: Marila, Mark, Lisa, & Martin. In 1962 he moved with his family to Costa Mesa, California and began working as an aerospace engineer for North American/Rockwell. He worked on the Apollo Project, the Space Shuttle, and other projects. He joyfully served as a deacon and choir director for many years at several Baptist churches. Among his favorite things was taking his family on wonderful camping trips to most of the National Parks in the western United States and Canada. He also instilled in his children a love of music. He was a master "do-it-yourself" kind of person taking on a variety of projects and interests.



Leonard Ralph Stidham

Eventually, he retired to Fallbrook, California where he worked four acres of avocados. He is survived by his wife, his four children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson. His only sister, Ruth Jeannine Polston, preceded him in death earlier this year. He will be greatly missed by his family who are very thankful for such a wonderful husband and father. He is resting in God's eternal peace through Christ. Visitation will be held Sept 7, 2011 from 10:30 AM to 11:30AM with the funeral starting at 11:30AM at Poway-Bernardo Mortuary Committal service will be Thursday Sept. 8, 2011 at 11:00AM at Miramar National Cemetery. (http://www.powaybernardomortuary.net)

Mary Carol Stidham [wife of 5162], passed away on June 19, 2011. She was the beloved wife of the late Henry James [5162] Stidham and devoted mother of Earl Alonzo Stidham, Felicia Stidham, Victoria Stidham-Thompson and the late Anthony Thomas Stidham. She was the loving grandmother of Michael and Justine Stidham and Amanda Kates and great-grandmother of Sommer and Cheyenne Stidham. She was the devoted sister of the late Patricia Stevens. (http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/)

James Perry Digman [husband of 8396], 79 of Atmore [Alabama] died Thursday Oct. 20, 2011 at his residence. He owned and operated Digman Construction, born in Escambia County on December 18, 1931 to the late James Elbert and Naomi Singleton Digman. He was a Deacon of Pine Level Primitive Baptist Church, a Veteran of the Korean War. Three sisters, Essie Ziglar, Willie Gagner, and Arrie Jean Lambert. Survivors are his wife of 56 years, Thelma [8396] Steadham Digman of Atmore [Thelma is daughter of Aubrey Lee [4889] Steadham]; one daughter, Deborah Edwards and husband, Bernie of Bratt, Florida; one sister, Edna Earl Lambert of Nokomis; two grandchildren, Joshua James Edwards and wife, (Heather Findley) and Amanda Nicole Edwards and six great-grandchildren, Hunter Edwards, Cody Edwards, Jacob Edwards, Tanner Lane, Jacob Findley, and Brysen Findley. Services were held Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011 at 3 p.m. from the Pine Level Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Henry McClain, Elder Gene Freeland and Elder Edward Morgan officiating. Interment followed in Pine Level Cemetery. Active Pallbearers will be, Bobby Ziglar, Clark Ziglar,

Autrey Ziglar, Miles Gagner, Charles Steadham, John Davis II, Benjamin Davis, and David Ziglar. Honorary pallbearers were Rick Gibson, Marion Hamilton, Mac Myrick, Howard Smith, Tony Stewart, Brett Gagner, John Calvin Davis, Sr., Scott Lambert, Chad McMurphy, Jamie Ziglar, John Davis III and all Ministers and deacons of the Primitive Baptist Faith. (*The Atmore Advance*, Atmore, Alabama, 25 Oct 2011)

ADVANCEMENT

Dana Stidham, Will Raymond and Terri Buckner recently took the oaths of office as new members of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority [North Carolina].

Ms. Stidham was appointed by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, Mr. Raymond is an appointee of the Chapel Hill Town Council, and the Orange County Board of Commissioners appointed Ms. Buckner.

Ms. Stidham's professional career has included serving as a Planner with the Town of Chapel Hill; Herndon, VA; and Round Rock, TX; and an internship with the Lower Colorado River Authority.



Dana Stidham

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Haverford College and a Master of Science in Architecture, Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin.

A Carrboro resident for six years, Ms. Stidham has served on the Town's Environmental and Transportation advisory boards. (*The Blue Thumb*, Newsletter of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority, Carrboro, NC, September, 2011)

WEDDING BELLS

Lucy Duran and Nathan Steadham were united in marriage on July 10, 2011. The wedding took place at the Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Witnesses in attendance were Lally Duran, Lucy's sister, and John Jordan, a friend.

Lucy is the daughter of Francisco and Rosamaria Duran of Tecate, California. Nathan is the son of Richard (DCM-2) and Karen Steadham of San Diego, California, the grandson of Lyndell H. [8559] and Dorothy Steadham Gantenbein.



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

At 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.



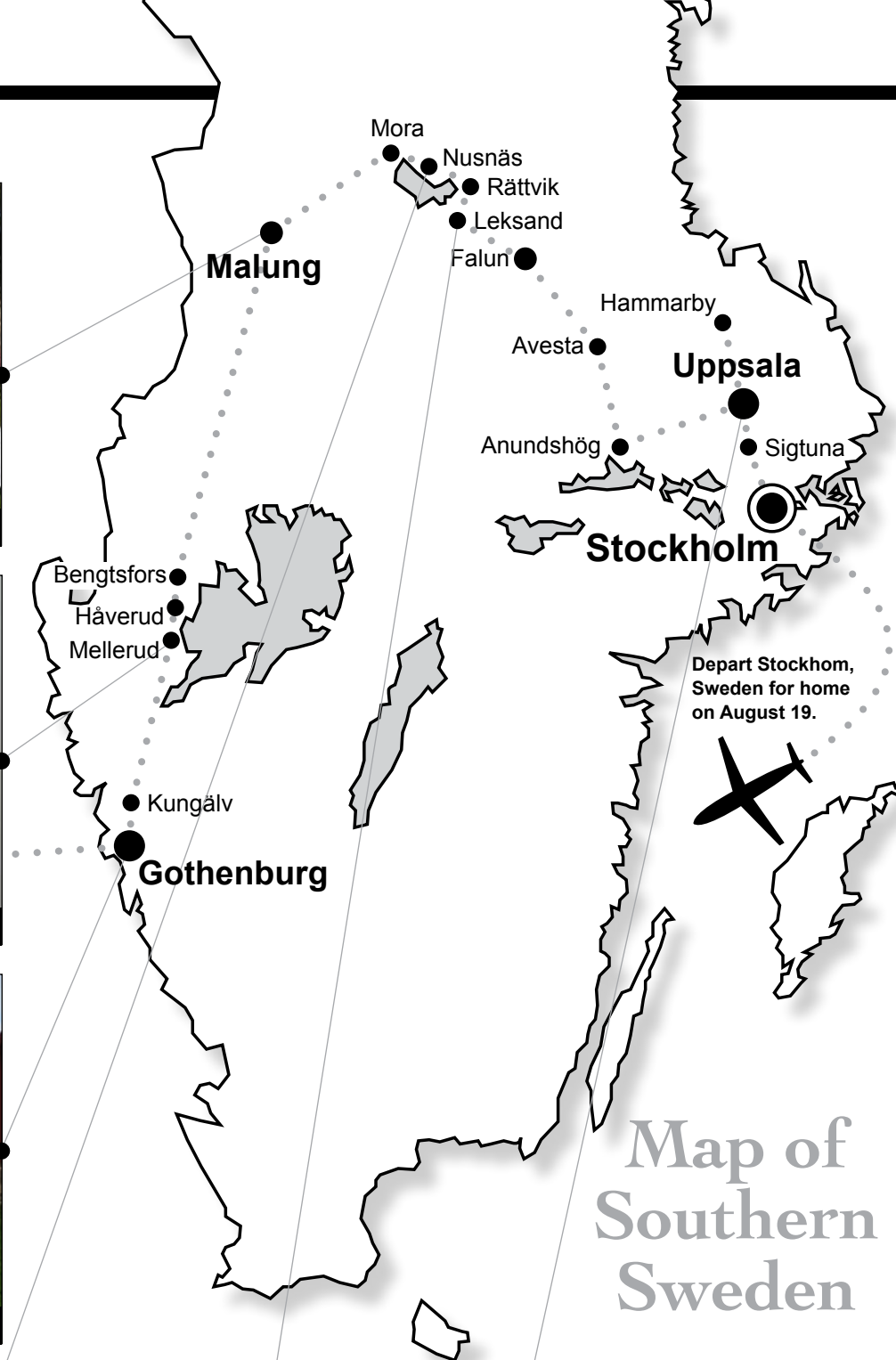
Mellerud: Aleasa Hogate gives glass blowing a try.



Gothenburg: Esther Stidham at Fort New Alfsborg.



Nusnäs: Carol Stidham at the Dala Horse Factory.



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

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.”

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



Leksand: Boarding church boat.



Old Uppsala Church: Items on display for visitors



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

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



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

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

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.

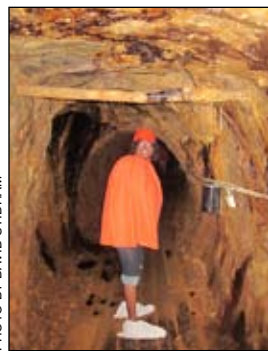


PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

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 church goers from Penns Neck (New Jersey) across the Delaware River to the Crane Hook Church in Delaware (see Issue No. 34).

On 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 use 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 Odöö, 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.

From 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.

Yes, 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

On 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 Nusnas, 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, 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 Kungalv to visit King's River Church (Kungalvs 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 Hammarskjold 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



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

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



PHOTO BY DAVID STIDHAM

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





Calendar of Upcoming Events

A roundup of programs and events concerning New Sweden, the Delaware River Valley, family history and gatherings worth noting this quarter

Dec 3 Lucia & Julmarknad

American Swedish Historical Museum
1900 Pattison Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19145
www.americanswedish.org
Adults: \$7; children 4-12: \$4; children under 4 are free

Drop in for our family friendly Lucia Fest, with Lucia processions at 1 pm and 3 pm. The Christmas Market includes your favorite holiday deli items, Christmas decorations and gifts and the SWEA bakery tables and will be open all day. The Swedish Christmas Café will be serving à la carte holiday foods and sweets for your refreshment. Reservations are not required, but tickets may be purchased in advance on our website.

Dec 3-31: A Swedish Christmas

Old Swedes Church
606 Church Street, Wilmington, Delaware
www.oldswedes.org
10 PM until 4 PM

Visit the Hendrickson House to experience Christmas Swedish style with traditional decorations and tours that focus on how the settlers of New Sweden would have celebrated the holidays.

Dec 11: Sankta Lucia Celebration

Old Swedes Church
606 Church Street, Wilmington, Delaware
www.oldswedes.org
Sunday, December 12, 2010; 2 PM until 5 PM

Join us for a traditional celebration of the Feast Day of Sankta Lucia, a holiday that is still marked by light and music in Sweden today. The Delaware Swedish Colonial Society sponsors the annual December celebration of Sankta Lucia at Old Swedes Church. Following the ceremony, join us for Swedish refreshments and tours of the Hendrickson House Museum, decorated for a Swedish Christmas.



TSS Marketplace

Send check (made payable to the Timen Stiddem Society) to:
Leslie Shamus
TSS Treasurer
4905 Vireo Drive
Flowery Branch, GA 30542

All prices include shipping and handling!

Volume 1 (Revised Edition)

The Descendants of Dr. Timothy Stidham, 2007 – \$60

Volume 2

The Descendants of Dr. Timothy Stidham, 2005 – \$50



Memories of New Sweden Note Cards – \$10

Packet includes Six full color cards measuring 4.5" x 6.5" each, with scenes of historic New Sweden sites from various artists. Includes watercolor of Timen Stiddem's home by Tom Bullen.

The Timen Stiddem Society Lapel Pin – \$5

Die struck, soft enamel pins in the colors of the Swedish flag with raised polished metal. Great conversation starter!



Back Issues of the Newsletter – \$3

Issues #1 (Premier) through this issue. Here's your chance to complete your set!

Timen Stiddem Society merchandise now for sale at Cafe Press!



Thanks to CafePress.com, we are now selling a number of products with Timen Stiddem Society graphics on them. Please feel free to browse our store and buy anything you like! A percentage of everything you buy goes to support the Timen Stiddem Society!



T-shirts, coffee mugs and a whole lot more!



www.cafepress.com/timenstiddemsocietyshop



In Upcoming Issues

New information discovered during Sweden Tour concerning Timen's father, Luloff Stidden

Old-Time Life in a Quaker Town

Barber-Surgeons in the 17th century

TSS News

Programs, initiatives and events worth noting

Current Stidham* News

Births, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, honors, news and deaths receive attention for acknowledgement to the wider Stidham* family.

Your articles about your own family's history?

All contributions to the *Newsletter* from members and readers are appreciated. Short stories, feature articles, photographs, copies of vital statistic records and certificates, current news—all are welcomed!

Email the editor at: RLSteadham@mac.com

Membership Application

If you know someone who might be interested in joining the society, please photocopy the form below. Have them send in the completed form, along with a check made payable to The Timen Stiddem Society in the amount of \$20.00, to:

**Kay Wootten-Schechinger, TSS Membership Secretary,
209 E. State Street, Millsboro, DE 19966**

Or email: kay.wootten@verizon.net

I would like to join **The Timen Stiddem Society** as a **Descendant Member**. My known descent from Dr. Stiddem is:

(You may enclose any documentation you have showing your lineage, or simply name your ancestor by generation back to Dr. Stiddem. Use separate sheet if necessary.)

I would like to join **The Timen Stiddem Society** as an **Associate Member**. I have an interest in this family's history, but don't knowingly descend from Dr. Stiddem.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

The Timen Stiddem Society
209 E. State Street
Millsboro, DE 19966

Membership dues for 2012 now due

This is your last paid issue covering your 2011 dues for membership. To continue receiving this award-winning publication, please renew your membership by sending \$20 to Membership Secretary, Kay Wootten-Schechinger, address noted above right. Thank you!