

SVENSKBYBORNA IN CANADA

2005 JUBILEE

On June 25-26, in Wetaskiwin, 350 descendants attended the first ever reunion that represented all the families that emigrated to Canada and the US.

As the guests registered and picked up their souvenir orders, they were entertained by Swedish-Canadian talent. The Buskas Trio played some old-time tunes and were followed by another Buskas family, Seig and his daughter Gayle. Just before the dinner program started, dancers performed ballet, jazz, lyrical, tap and Ukrainian numbers.

There were 14 guests in attendance from Sweden and we quickly involved them in the entertainment. Pastor Steffan Beijer led us in the Helan Går, a toast for Midsummer and the choir led us in singing "Ja mä hon leva" the Swedish birthday song.

Our highlight of the evening was our guest speaker, Jörgen Hedman who educated us on our ancestors' journey from Estonia to Gammalsvenskby, Ukraine and the arrival, for many, in Sweden in 1929.

The evening wrapped up with fellowship and a dance.

Early Sunday morning, we all gathered at the Calvary Lutheran Church in the country for church. Pastor Ted Hill was assisted by Bishop Steve Kristiansson and our visiting Swedish priests, Steffan Beijer and Karl-Erik Tysk for the service, sermon and communion. The church was full with no room to spare. The Swedish choir sang Old Swedish hymns.

Following the service, we gathered in the tent next door for lunch and an afternoon program. Jörgen Hedman continued the Gammalsvenskby saga with stories about the Gammalsvensk Swedes living in the Ukraine today and about the future of the descendents in North America today. A short video about life today in the Ukraine was played. At the urging of our Swedish guests, the Canadians agreed to begin a Svenskbyborna Society to ensure our roots are never forgotten. Thus a new chapter in the Gammalsvenskbyborna begins.

This newsletter is the beginning of that chapter. If you are interested in a Society membership, put your name on the list by contacting Karen Wright.

Special thanks to the wonderful volunteers that helped Karen Wright to organize this event and make it a success:

Louise Buskas for managing the souvenir clothing orders, tent set up at the Calvary Church and organizing the tourist itinerary for the Swedish visitors. She also organized the musical entertainment on Saturday night.

Roxann and Nels Buskas for providing guidance, meeting space and goodies for the committee, planning the specifics of the church service, placing the billets and working with Louise on the tourist itinerary.

Martha Robinson and Shelley Klinger for organizing the hall and table decorations. Their families and Sieg and Maxine Buskas also helped make the hall ready for Saturday night.

Shelley Klinger and Gayle Anderson for organizing the dance entertainment.

Deb Fettig for managing the printing and orders for the cookbook and the Gammalsvenskby History booklet. Deb's company donated the printing of the Gammalsvenskby booklet and Jörgen Hedman donated the materials to assist in funding the Jubilee. She also did a phenomenal job on the Tinis/Tennis family history!

Pat Dimock and Deb Fettig for organizing the reception desk and to Carol Oslie and Linda Pelletier for volunteering to work at the registration desk. It was a monumental task to register 350 guests!

Pat , Daniel and Steven Dimock for bartending services.

Keith Hoas and Roy Tinis for providing valuable input at every committee meeting and filling in wherever needed over the weekend event. Silent and invisible but very much appreciated!

Martin Dyberg for providing valuable input at committee meetings and for working tirelessly on gathering the Buskas family history.

Thank you to those who opened their homes to the Swedish visitors: Reg and Louise Buskas, Nels and Roxann Buskas, Lennart and Lorraine Tennis and Wilbert Albers and Cathy Anderson.

SVENSKBYBORNA COOKBOOK

A cookbook containing about 165 recipes from family members across British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba was available for pre-ordering only. The recipes included many old Swedish-Ukrainian dishes in addition to current-day favourites. After reviewing the cookbook, many others have expressed interest in purchasing more copies.

In order to keep the price at \$15, these books can only be ordered in 100 or more book lots. It was mentioned at the Jubilee Sunday lunch but a list was not started. Those interested in buying more copies can contact Karen Wright by November 30. If, by that date we have 100+ copies ordered, we will notify those on the list. Payment per book will be \$12.50 which includes shipping and handling.

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FAMILY HISTORY BOOK

The family history of the Gammalsvensk descendants in North America is expected to be ready for editing by January 1 with printing anticipated by early Spring 2006.

Karen Wright is still gathering family tree information, emigration and early settlement stories and photographs of the ancestors who arrived in Canada. If you have information that you think would be an asset to this publication, please submit it to her by December 15.

Due to the amount of information yet to be entered into the book, the cost will not be determined until after January 1, 2006. However, a preliminary list to arrive at an approximate number of copies to be printed will be gathered immediately. Please contact Karen to put your name on the list and the number of copies you wish to order. This will assist in arriving at the cost per book.

LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

2006 Manitoba Jubilee – TBA

2007 Trip to Gammalsvenskby

A trip to the Ukraine is being planned so interested parties in North America can visit their ancestors' village in the Ukraine. Pastor Karl-Erik Tysk of Sweden is assisting in the planning of this trip. Pastor Tysk is an experienced traveller in the Ukraine and is fluent in Swedish, English and Russian.

We are planning the trip for early May 2007 so if any farmers are interested in going the timing will hopefully not conflict with their farming. If anyone is seriously interested in this trip and the timing is not good, please let Karen Wright know. We want to make it possible for as many people that wish to come can.

2009 – 80th Jubilee in Roma, Gotland celebrating 80 years since the Gammalsvensk Swedes arrived in Sweden. We are also planning a group trip from Canada with a side trip to the Ukraine also.

Stay tuned for further updates!

Please Note: Until the Society is officially formed and a membership list is drawn up, these notices will be only distributed by email. Please forward this on to any family that you know will not have access to the internet or may not be on my email list.