

NORTHERN LIGHTS

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• We accept articles and photos at the discretion of the editor. Please email all submissions to :

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Winter Membership Meeting

**February 9, 2013
12 Noon**

New Sweden Covenant Church
potluck lunch

Please support NSHS by attending!

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"Phantom" Fuels Fascination

Story/photo -
Brenda Nasberg Jepson

Located in an isolated part of far northern Maine, the Swedes who settled the area in the 1870's have long been known for their ingenuity to save time & money by their own replacement parts for farm equipment.

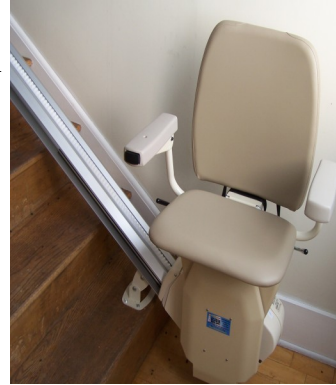
Fast forward to the 21st century and a "make do" attitude, combined with a fertile imagination, resulted in a space age snow mobile that cost just \$1,500 to construct.

Kyle Anderson, aged 25, began work on The Phantom in 2006. Acting as apprentice to his mechanic father, gave Kyle a good grounding for assembling The Phantom, but it was Anderson's imagination that was the real impetus behind the creation.

Anderson's Phantom was featured in *Popular Science* in December. He's seeking investors to make mass production a reality.



2nd Floor Now Accessible to All



For many, the 2nd floor of the New Sweden Museum has not been available for viewing due to the numerous stairs. At the August 2012 annual membership meeting, it was voted to have a motorized chairlift installed. This was accomplished in October. Now, visitors may access this display area with ease!

Curtains for the Museum

Last fall, it was brought to the attention of the New Sweden Homemaker's Extension that new curtains were needed in the front windows of the museum.. The old curtains, made by the Extension ladies, had been hanging for about 25 yrs.

Members of the Extension group voted to accept this service project. Lucy Nelson provided material to get the project underway. The rest of the material was purchased by the group. Curtains were cut and sewn by Arlene Plourde, Lois Gordon and Lou Ann Skidgel. Boyd Nelson assisted in hanging the curtains.



The “Facebook” of the Yesteryear

by Lynn A. Johnson

When I was growing up, in New Sweden, in the 1960s the Bangor Daily News and the Aroostook Republican, would carry columns on “town news”. My own great aunt, Elvie Johnson, wrote one of those columns. They were a good place to browse if you wanted to know who was entertaining, who was ill, who was getting married and who had been traveling. Most of it would be called “vanity press” today. Some people just loved to see their own name in print and would make sure that the local writer knew that they had served tea and fresh apple pie to the Baptist pastor and his wife last Tuesday.

Now columns such as these no longer run in our local newspapers. They have been replaced by the likes of “facebook” where hundreds of thousands of people now publishes their own personal daily events. Personally, I have never been an advocate of “facebook” – I guess I never really thought anyone would care to know what I ate for breakfast –much less see a picture of it!

When we look back at these old newspaper columns they can be a lot of fun to read and if you’re rabid for the tiniest piece of information (like me) that will help you link and develop family histories, they are a real treasure.

Here is just a sampling of tidbits that I have found in

some of these old columns from May and June of 1937:

◆ Stanley Stedt has spent the last three years in the army; part of that time in the Panama Canal Zone.

◆ Viola Anderson was given a “linen shower” at her home, in Woodland, on June 8th by her friends. Miss Anderson will become the bride of Linwood Perry, of Perham, on June 12th.

◆ Mr. and Mrs. Hjalmar Carlsson celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

◆ Dorothy Clark served refreshments in honor of birthday of Mrs. W. H. Thomas and Hazel Morrison served the refreshments.

◆ Henry Hanson bought new Plymouth car last week.

◆ Radcliff Holmquist and F.R. Jacobson are both building cottages at Madawaska Lake.

◆ Edward Lundgren was elected as president of The Aroostook Rural Letter Carriers.

◆ Mrs. Sigfred Soderstrom hosted sewing circle in her home.

◆ Both Peter Viberg and Edwin Wedberg were unfortunate in losing a good cow last week.

◆ Fritz Sjoberg has sold his pony to a man in Smyrna Mills.

◆ Andrew Peterson, Frank Larsson and Eddie Jepson have all recently purchased a new Ford cars.

◆ The parents of Birdina Olivenbaum gave her a birthday party last Sunday.

◆ Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Clark are moving into some rooms in the home of Mrs. Jacobson.

◆ Abner Jepon rented the Abrahamson Farm from Mrs. August Abrahamson after she left for Quincy, Mass., to visit relatives.

◆ Mrs. Kersti Faulk is sick and under a doctor’s care.

◆ Miss Arlene Anderson attended Edith Bloomstrand while she was down with a cold.

◆ Brother and sister Howard and Doris Carlson both had their tonsils and adenoids removed in Caribou by Dr. Blossom. (author’s note: *Both on the same day? What are the odds?*)

◆ There was a barn raising at the Broor Gustafson place on Tuesday. It was well attended and a bountiful dinner was served to all of the workers.

◆ One of the Bylund children had their tonsils removed.

I look back at these and wonder how many people (other than those named) actually cared about those events – but then again, I wonder the same thing when I look at or hear about most “facebook” postings today. Some things never really do change; it’s just that new people are involved.



THE GENEALOGY CORNER

by Lynn A. Johnson

Little Bits of History and the Laws of Old

After rewriting New Sweden's history in the last two newsletters I thought I'd do something a little different. So the following is a little of this and a little of that about the history and various laws that affected and governed our ancestors in the bygone years.

In the year 1008 Swedish King Olof Stokonug became a Christian and by the first of the 12th century Sweden had become a Christian country.

As early as the 13th century Swedish farmers started the practice of sowing one field and allowing the second to be left fallow.

About one third to one half of the population of Sweden died between the late 1340s-early 50s due to the Black Death.

In 1526 the New Testament was translated into Swedish. The whole Bible was translated in 1541.

During the mid 1500s Sweden began a gradual transition turning from a Catholic country into a Protestant one. In 1593 the Swedish church adopted a Protestant doctrine.

In 1664, laws were implemented that regulated the relationship between a servant and his master. These laws were amended several times over the centuries, but were not removed until 1926. These laws stated that a servant must be obedient, sober, live his or her life in a God-fearing manner, & perform their duties in an orderly fashion. If the servant failed these requirements in any manner then they would be subject to *husaga*. Ser-

vants that ran away from their jobs would be hunted down by the legal authorities & brought back to complete their year of service. They would also lose half of their wages.

Prior to 1734, *husaga*, was a law that specifically allowed the master of the house to administer punishment & "correct" by means of household punishment any one under him: his servants, his wife and his children. In 1734 this law was amended to servants only & in 1858 applied only to boys under age 18 & girls under age 16. It was not abolished until 1920.

In 1734, the law stated that men had to be at least 21 to marry. Women only had to be 15, until 1892 when it was increased to 17 yrs., then in 1915 to 18 yrs.

In 1736 the number of deaths exceeded the number of births in Stockholm due to unusually high rate of infectious diseases; i.e.. smallpox, where the first reported case of this disease was recorded in Malmo. Because Sweden had experienced an unusually low rate of disease in the 15 yrs prior to 1736, its resistance to disease had been diminished & new diseases spread rapidly, especially among the elderly & pregnant women.

In 1841 the first of several Swedish emigrant guidebooks was published in Stockholm. Most of these "helpful booklets" were written by men that had never left the country of Sweden, much less visited America.

In 1842 universal primary education was introduced in Sweden and a law was passed that required all boys and girls to at-

tend elementary school.

In 1853 women, in Sweden, were allowed to teach school at the university level.

In 1858 a law was passed that let unmarried women become legally competent at the age of 25; but they had to apply to the courts for this right. Prior to that year all women were considered incompetent, unless they were widowed.

In 1863 the law was changed to allow all unmarried women to become legally competent when they turned 25 – unless they applied to the courts to remain incompetent. Records indicate that more women applied to remain incompetent than did those that applied to become competent!

In 1865 the first railroad came to Sweden.

In 1861 Swedish women were allowed to study and become practicing dentists.

In 1864 by law, Swedish husbands were not allowed to beat their wives.

In 1872 arranged marriages, in Sweden, were illegal.

In 1874 the small pox epidemic, that was raging through Europe, hit Sweden and over 4,000 men, women & children died in Sweden of that disease.

In 1921 men & women in Sweden voted.

This strikes me as funny... The word "Gift" in Swedish can be translated into English as "married/marriage" & "poison".

If you have family history questions or would like to know more about your ancestors, please email me; include as much information as possible and I will do my best to respond.

newswedengenealogy@gmail.com

NEW SWEDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Station Rd.
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New Sweden, ME 04762

Membership Application

Annual dues-\$15 per person; family of two or more of one household-\$30,
\$10 if paid Lifetime member

Newsletter is included in your dues!

**P.O. Box 33
New Sweden, ME 04762**

Date: **Please Print**

Your Name:

Name of additional members:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone numbers:

Annual dues _____

Amount Enclosed: (check)

Single-\$15 _____

Family \$30 _____

Lifetime \$150/\$10 annual _____

Please make checks payable to the
New Sweden Historical Society.

Please include any information
about a connection you may have to
New Sweden and the Swedish col-
ony (ancestors names, etc.):

Donations for specific projects are

greatly appreciated. Tack!

Memorial:

Laden Memorial:

Maine Swedish Colony Building
Restorations-Ostlund House, Clase
House, Lindsten Stuga, Noak
Blacksmith Shop and School:

