

Sabelskjöldarn

2013



A word from our president

Welcome to a new Sabelskjöld year – that of 2013. When I'm writing this - in the middle of February - it is still winter, it's cold and we have plenty of snow. It may not be the best seasons, but we are now moving towards longer and brighter days, and when you have Sabelskjöldarn in your hand, it is hopefully spring.

At our annual meeting on September 1 in Vadstena the weather was absolutely fantastic. The rainy summer was the general topic here. Many visitors travelled up to Vadstena in pouring rain on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday morning however, Vadstena offered a sunny and beautiful day exactly as we expect it to be in early autumn. I feel that Saint Birgitta, Vadstena's special patron, had something to do with it. She guards over most other things in the town, so why not also the weather. It would not be fair to thank

the nice weather alone for a great annual meeting. The many Sabelskjöld descendants, who faithfully participate in our family gatherings, were of course the main reason for success.

I have noticed that many members are frequent visitors, and I hope you spread the word to the members who seldom or never attend our meetings. I also noticed that the nice family feeling rubs off, it's nice to get together and to meet relatives on these rather large meetings - it links us together even more!

At the meeting, we noticed that in 2017 it will be 400 years since Carl Jönsson-Sabelskjöld was knighted. I think it is time to start thinking about how we shall celebrate this. The Sabelskjöld Family Society was founded in 1967, almost 50 years ago, so there is another reason to celebrate and to do something extra in 2017. The board wants to have suggestions and good ideas on how to celebrate and where the celebration should be. The association has a good economy, so it was decided to set aside money for this very purpose. At the meeting it was also decided that the membership fee in the future shall to be the same for all, 100 SEK per person – a more straight and fair charge according to the meeting. The new fee means a little more cash in the bank, which could be used for our 400-years anniversary!

*Rolf Svensson
President*

The house by the lake

In a house in the northern part of Kristdala parish there are several paintings done on the wooden walls. On one of these paintings shows a large house which rumors depict as the main building at Bråhult, the Sabelskjöld's manor in the 1600s.

It is clear that the house is not an ordinary farmhouse, and its location in, what appears to be in front of a lake, does not contradict this assumption. On one of the other paintings Kristdala's current church is shown. A third painting has the year 1834 on it. This date is too late since the Sabelskjöld's lived at Bråhult more than 150 years earlier. On the other hand, the paintings may not have been done at the same time, so the Sabelskjöld connection cannot be ruled out.

It is known that objects from Kristdala's old church were sold at auctions after the church was torn down in the early 1800s, so the owner of the farm may have bought and installed the paintings then.

Whatever the case, the possibility that we may look at a picture of Sabelskjöld's manor at Bråhult is staggering.



Staffan Svensson and Birger Bring

The Annual Meeting 2012



The Sabelskjöld Family Association's annual meeting in 2012 was held on September 1st in Vadstena. One hundred members showed up for morning coffee in the school canteen. Coffee with freshly baked bread was served, and family members were renewing old acquaintances and established new ones. Members had come from Lycksele in the north to Östra Grevie the south to spend the day in this old medieval city on the eastern shore of lake Vättern, in the province of Östergötland..

After traditional meeting procedures and an excellent lunch with roast beef, potato gratin and roasted root vegetables, there were three guided tours downtown. Some went to the Abbey Church dating back to the 1430's. Others went to St. Birgitta's Convent Museum, while some wandered further up along the lake to visit Vadstena old castle. A well-informed guide dressed up in clothes from the 1500's claimed that he had been working as a guide ever since Gustav Eriksson Vasa's days!

In the early 1500s there had been a small fortress on the site, but already in 1545, after Dacke's revolt in Småland and Östergötland, Gustav Eriksson Vasa felt the need for a stronger defense structure. It was then building of the present castle started. Gustav Vasa never came to stay at the castle himself, but two of his sons did. Magnus lived there in the late 1500's and later on his brother Johan. Gustavus Adolphus gathered the parliament here, and Queen Christina staged one of the first Swedish operas in this castle.

Maybe the most interesting to us – descendants of the Rosenstråle family - is the man who on March 6, 1597 was appointed sheriff of Vadstena Castle and its counties was Börge Rosenstråle. Börge was later, on July 17, 1600, appointed captain of Vadstena Castle and town plus Motala town and its surrounding counties. Börge Rosenstråle owner of Sonstorp and Högsjö farms, Västra Vingåkers parish in Södermanland, was the father of Ingeborg Rosenstråle who came to married Carl Sabelskjöld in his second marriage, and the mother of seven of his children, four sons and three daughters. It was a strange feeling to walk up the old stone stairs in the palace, so worn by time. We wondered what it looked like by the time Börge Rosenstråle stomped up the stairs in contemporary costume.

Vadstena is however much older than that. Already in the 1100s - an ancient church stood where Rödornet stands today. Vadstena was then a stop on the pilgrimage to Trondheim, Norway. In the mid 1200's Bjälebopalatset was built by King

Valdemar Birgersson. The palace was eventually donated to Saint Birgitta by King Magnus Eriksson. Birgitta founded Vadstena monastery and let Bjälebopalatset be a part of it. Genealogy researchers claim that also Saint Birgitta belongs to our family.

In the year 1400 Vadstena officially became a town. For a number of years the town grew supported by visiting pilgrims and businessmen. In 1550 Gustav Eriksson Vasa closed the monk monastery and also the nuns were forced to leave in 1595. The monastery was reopened 1637, but then as a home for war veterans.

During one period the monastery was used as a prison, later also hospital. 1954 the Birgitta Foundation gained access to both the Abbey Church and the surrounding gardens. In 1963 the monastery was re-opened, and today there is also a small guest-house.

After a long walk along the lake in the warm autumn wind members returned to the dining room in small groups. Coffee was served with the famous Sabelskjöld cake in white marzipan decorated with the Sabelskjöld Coat of Arms. The pastry was brought in from Nyköping by our president Rolf Svensson himself. During the coffee a number of high school music students performed. Karin Osbeck, mezzo-soprano, John Kyhle, tenor, Victor Olin, piano, Fiona Jamieson, piano, Tom Sulek, piano, and Emma Sventelius, mezzo-soprano.

Some took the opportunity to purchase the book about Carl Sabelskjöld and his descendants, others obtained the Sabelskjöld genealogy file on CD or USB. Replicas of the Sabelskjöld Coat of Arms and Letter of Nobility were also for sale, as well as banners and pins. Also for sale this year was a DVD with a film about old bridal crowns, where the Sabelskjöld wedding crown from the 1600s is the main attraction.

After having a group photo taken, it was time to part for this time. We all agreed that the day had been a memorable experience. One important decision had been to appoint an honorary member. It was 96-year old Herbert Bredhammar from Kristdala, number 4 in our membership file, who received the honor. He was one of charter members who once founded the Society. Everyone looked forward to the next family meeting, which may be held at Julita farm in Södermanland - but the final decision will be made later by the Board.



**Gun-Britt Sabelstierna,
Huskvarna**

"In the 1960s my family got a letter from the Sabelskjöld Family Society. It is on my mother's side we are related to the Sabelskjölds, but dad was the most enthusiastic and thought about a name change. 'Well, Petersson is good enough', said my mother. Yet, this awoke my interest for our family history, so I started to look for relatives. Later I found an article that Siv Gronwald had written about a family meeting in Blacksta. This way I got in touch with the Society", says Gun-Britt Sabelstierna from Huskvarna. Eventually she changed her surname around 2008:

"I wanted to find a name that is similar to our original family name. I tested some different variants and PRV1 finally accepted Sabelstierna" said Gun-Britt, who is a descendant of Magdalena Strang.

1 PRV is the body that controls name changes in Sweden.



**Alicia Honti,
Norrköping**

"The Reunion in Vadstena is the first I've been to. I am 22 years old, and I have always heard a lot about this family, so it is both interesting and fun to be here," says Alicia Honti, who absolutely wants to attend more meetings.

Alicia came to Vadstena with a good part of her family. Around the table there were among others grandmother, grandfather, uncle, mother and aunt. "Also, we bought the CD, so it will be fun to try to figure out a little more about how it all fits together."



**Sig-Britt Holmgren
Lycksele**

"I have made contact with relatives in southern Sweden using information from the Sabelskjöld Family Society, that's neat" says Sig-Britt Holmgren from Lycksele. Together with her siblings, she is one of our most frequent visitors as well as the one travelling the longest distance. Getting to Vadstena is almost exactly a 1000 km trip for Sig-Britt. Once there she was elected member of the Nominating Committee.

"It was 1985, I found out about the relationship with Sabelskjöld. Then we had a local family gathering in Gunnarn in the province of Västerbotten. My great grandfather Samuel August Samuelsson Blomqvist was fourth generation from Martha, if I've got it all right."

Herbert Bredhammar – a veteran in our Society

At our September meeting it was decided to appoint Herbert Bredhammar, member no. four, as honorary member. On October 7, 2012, on a sunny Sunday afternoon, we visited Mr Bredhammar at his residence in Kristdala. Herbert, who is a veteran in our society, was to be honored for his many years of membership. When we arrived Herbert rested on his bed, but soon came round and greeted us as old friends. When we after a while came to talk about the Sabelskjöld Family Society and the reason for our visit, he quickly entered a good mood. Herbert received flowers, and a Sabelskjöld diploma, and he asked us several times if he really was worthy of all this. His many years of his work for the Society is reason enough. Herbert was for 19 years treasurer and he also has been our vice president.

After our visit Herbert's son Sören told us that Herbert was really honored and appreciated our visit – it seems to have given him a little energy boost. He told other visitors and staff at nursing home where he lived about how pleased he felt to be appointed honorary member. We had surely hoped that Herbert, on the way towards 100 years, would have been allowed a few more years, but on January 5, eight days before his 97th birthday Herbert died.

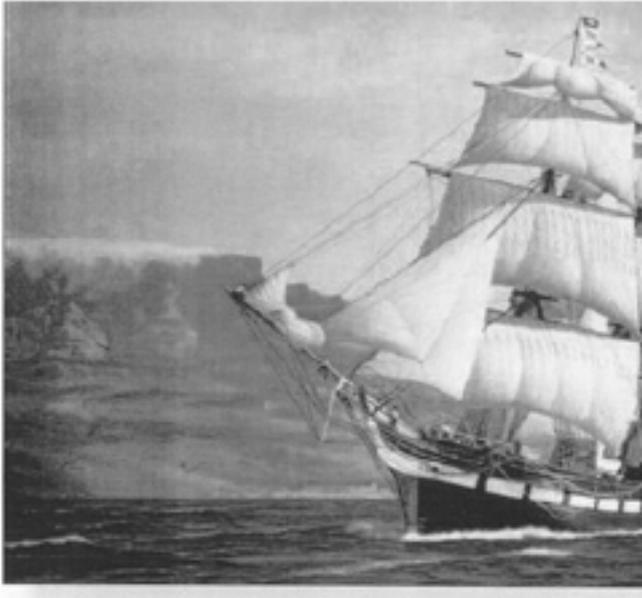


Thanks Herbert, we are grateful for your work and we expect you to keep an eye on the work in the Society from your new dwelling.

*The Board
through Birger Bring, Peder Svensson and Rolf Svensson*

Adventurous relatives

A family history is like opening a box full of fascinating stories. It contains hardships and adventures, joy and sadness. In this issue of Sabelskjöldarn, we have two very interesting contributions. One of a relative who emigrated to America, the another about a man who instead chose to set out for South Africa.



Read about our adventurous relatives in separate pdf's published on the website.

Smålands Husarer



- *Germund, since we have learnt that these German soldiers, for whom we have wasted so much money and given so much support, and still they are not as loyal and willing against our enemies as we trusted them and in particular that they are so eager to hide in the bush or escape into the woods, when the situation on the battlefield gets critical - so it seems to us that we are not very pleased with them and would for that reason rather have good faithful Swedish troops instead, where will we otherwise get first class soldiers.*

These are harsh words from King Gustav Vasa to the governor at Kalmar Castle in May 1543, and he had reason to be worried. The Dacke rebellion had just been put down, but Nils Dacke's rebel farmers from Småland had almost defeated the regular army reinforced by hired German troops. The king was very unhappy with the German soldiers. He could under no circumstances accept rebellion but he had learned one thing - the young men of Småland were excellent soldiers who did not "search the bush" when it in a critical situation.

This was how Smålands Husarer - or as they first were called - The Kings Shooters in Småland. The regiment operated, under different names, nearly 400 years. It came to be known as Småland Husarer and become closely associated with the county of Småland.

Numerous young men from Småland, both nobility and commoners have served in Småland Husarer, so also Sabelskjöld. Karl Jönsson joined the army early. It is not known in which regiment he served but it is likely that it was at Smålands Husarer since he became second lieutenant in that regiment in 1616th The following year he was knighted, and rose through the ranks. He ended up as Major. When he left the military career he had been with the regiment for more than 25 years and company commander for a couple years.

Young men from the Sabelskjöld family continued to ride with Småland Husarer. Carl's son Jöns Sabelskjöld states that he served in this regiment for 25 years, and therefor applied for staying on the farm Bråhult even after the farm has been retracted to the crown during the reduction.

Also Jöns' son Carl Sabelskjöld junior joined Smålands Husarer. However, when he joined the cavalry at the start of the Great Nordic War under King Charles XII, he rode for His Majesty Dragoons. This was an elite unit which the King himself commanded. Both this unit and Smålands Husarer took part in the, for the Sweden successful battle of Narva in 1700.

Carl died - was killed or died from field disease - in 1700 or 1701 and that was the end of the noble Sabelskjöld family. Descendants of Major Carl Sabelskjöld continued to ride for Småland Husarer until the regiment was discontinued in 1927. Many names and events from the Swedish military history are recognized as one reads Smålands Husarers history: Lützen, the march across the Belts, Narva and Poltava are places where sons of Småland fought.

For most of its existence Smålands Husarer was part of Indelningsverket. In the 1800s, however, many countries in Europe extended their armies to several hundred thousand men. This meant that Indelningsverket became obsolete, and in the early years of the 1900s most of cavalierly men in Smålands Husarer became contracted soldiers along with drafted troops in the new Swedish cavalry.

An even bigger change for the cavalry was the military technological development. Traditional cavalry could not any longer match up with mechanized and armored panzer units. In 1925 it was decided that the old regiment would be discontinued, and New Year's Eve 1927 the regimental flag was lowered for the last time.

However, this was not the end of the cavalierly traditions carried by Smålands Husarer. Kamratföreningen Smålands Husarer was started in 1928. Still today, this association honors traditions from the old regiment and is also actively conducting drills and reenactments on horseback. An example is the Cavalier Days in Eksjö, usually the second weekend of June, including a church parade and prayers at the main square in Eksjö. The recent hussars also appears in contexts Virserum market, Astrid Lindgren's World, and also in private arrangements. The association also publishes a member magazine Småland Horseman.

Birger Bring



Association Smålands Husarer <http://www.smalandsshusarer.se/>
Thanks to Ejbort Einarsson, Eksjö for factual review of the article.

**Visit our website:**

www.sabelskjold.se

www.sabelskjold.com english version

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Thina Rydell and Annica Triberg, adress to the left

From swedish to english Birger Bring

If you have any stories about the Sabelskjöld family, please let us know!

Remember to let us know if you have new adress.

Reunions 1964-2012

- 7 June 1964 Memorial 300 years CJS's funeral, Blacksta church.
- 12 June 1966 Memorial 350 years Sabelskjöld/Strang came to Bråhult, Kristdala/Forum Oskarshamn
- 11 June 1967 Society was formed, Kristdala
- 30 June 1968 Annual meeting Kristdala NTO-hall
- 31 May 1969 Family meeting Nyköping
- 7 June 1971 Annual meeting Eksjö
- 11 June 1972 Family meeting Kalmar
- 9 June 1974 Annual meeting Gränna Hotel Ribbargården
- 14 June 1975 Family meeting Hedemora
- 19 June 1977 Annual meeting Växjö
- 10 June 1978 Family meeting NTO-hall
- 8 June 1980 Annual meeting Linköping
- 19 June 1982 Family meeting Kristdala
- 12 June 1983 Annual meeting Tranås
- 9 June 1985 Family meeting Vetlanda Östanå Guesthouse
- 15 June 1986 Annual meeting Flen Guesthouse Loftet
- 27 June 1987 Family meeting Vetlanda Östanå Guesthouse
- 17 June 1989 Annual meeting Vadstena
- 13 June 1992 Annual meeting Kristdala
- 10 June 1995 Annual meeting Norrköping
- 21 June 1996 Family meeting Gustavsberg Skeviks Gård
- 5 Sept 1998 Annual meeting Nyköping Nyköpingshus
- 25 Aug 2001 Annual meeting Kalmar Kalmar castle
- 31 May 2003 Family meeting Bråbogården
- 14 Sept 2004 Annual meeting Söderköpings brunn
- 13 May 2006 Family meeting Blacksta winery
- 1 Sept 2007 Annual meeting Kristdala
- 29 Aug 2009 Family meeting Nyköpingshus
- 28 Aug 2010 Annual meeting Kalmar castle
- 1 Sept. 2012 Annual meeting Vadstena Folkhögskola



Buy our movie about the Sabelskjöld wedding crown.

The film about the Sabelskjöld bridal crown is now ready. The story tells about the use of bridal crowns in general and about the Sabelskjöld crown in particular. The film is available on DVD, and playing time is 16 minutes. Sound track is in Swedish. Members can buy the disc from the Society at 125 SEK (about 20 USD) plus shipping.

Rent our bridal crown.

The Sabelskjöld Family Society keeps a bridal crown which is known as "the Sabelskjöld bridal crown". It was made available to the Society in 1970 by Sabelskjöld Descendants with the intention that it should be used at weddings within the family. Is there a wedding coming up in your family? You can rent our own unique bridal crown! Please Contact Staffan Svensson for more information..