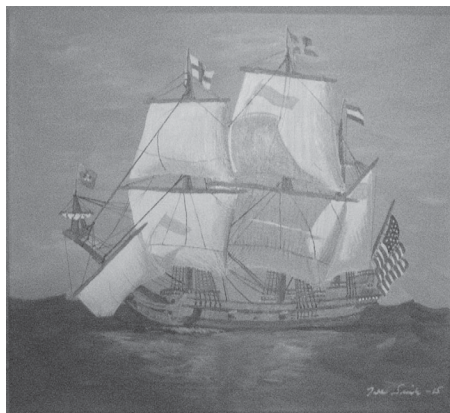




LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

CVIII EST. 1906 La Palma, California September 2015 Number 3 www.orderofruneberg.org

Order of Runeberg Message



Picture of the painting by Inke Sunila of the tall ship Kalmar Nyckel



Map of Delaware River Settlements in Year 1638



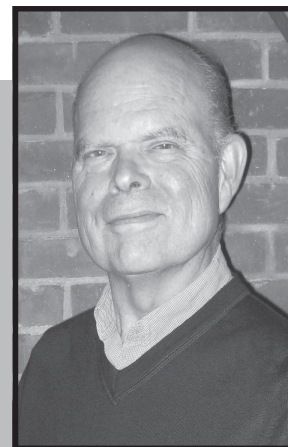
Morton Homestead

Early Colonization of America by Swedish and Finnish Settlers

The tall ship Kalmar Nyckel

I became interested in “Early Colonization of America by Swedish and Finnish Settlers” after seeing the painting of the tall ship Kalmar Nyckel done by New Haven lodge’s very talented Vice President Inke Sunila. To view the painting and other pictures accompanying this article in color, go to our “Order of Runeberg Lodges” website, click “Genealogy” on the main menu, then “1638 colonization” from the sub-menu. Here is the full link:

<http://www.orderofruneberg.org/genealogy/1638colonization.html>
From the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation’s website (<http://www.kalmarnyckel.org>):
“The original Kalmar Nyckel was one of America’s pioneering colo-



nial ships, a Mayflower of the Delaware Valley, yet her remarkable story has never been widely told. The original Kalmar Nyckel served as Governor Peter Minuit’s flagship for the 1638 expedition that founded the colony of New Sweden, establishing the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware Valley, Fort Christina, in present-day Wilmington, Delaware. She would make a total of four roundtrip crossings of the Atlantic, more than any other documented ship of the American colonial era.”

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We need your help

As we continue with the *Leading Star* we need your help in providing news about events in your lodges and communities. In this issue you can see we have a lot of pictures that go with the articles. Pictures really help bring out the content of the articles and with digital cameras they are easy to take and email to us. You don't need to write a lot when you have pictures to go along with an article.

Please note Stew Lyon's article on this page asking for volunteers to write an article for the front page. Please consider what you might be able to do.

Also please notice the Christmas Greeting article on the back page. The greetings are free and so we encourage you to send a greeting this year that we can put in the December issue of the paper.

—DH

Helsinki 10th most livable city

According to the list published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Melbourne is the best city in which to live. The city, in the southern Australian state of Victoria, has now maintained pole position for five years in a row. There was minimal reshuffle in the top 10 year on year, with all seven of the top cities retaining their 2014 ranking.

Perth and Auckland knocked Helsinki down two pegs from last year's perch or 8th position. The Finnish capital now shares tenth

position with Zurich, Switzerland.

Second on the list is the Austrian capital, Vienna, with third, fourth, and fifth positions all taken by Canadian cities—Vancouver, Toronto, and Calgary, which tied with another southern Australian city, Adelaide.

Sydney and Perth, also Australian cities, came in at seventh and eighth respectively, New Zealand's Auckland in the ninth spot.

The Finnish American Reporter
September 2015

Thank you and a reminder.

I want to thank Annabelle Kergan for contributing the front page article in the June issue of the *Leading Star*, and to remind our lodges, including individual lodge members, of the need to provide front page articles and lodge meeting / activities articles for future issues of the *Leading Star*. As Annabelle's June front page article mentioned: "The success of the *Leading Star's* continuation will depend on all the remaining lodges / members being willing to contribute something to each publication."

Stew Lyons



The Leading Star is published quarterly by the Order of Runeberg for its members and others interested in the Order at 7682 Tracy Lane, La Palma, California 90623-1501.

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State: _____ Zip: _____

Lodge & Number: _____

Message *continued from page 1*

Early Colonization

The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation has an absolutely fascinating 48 page guide book - "KALMAR NYCKEL: A Guide to the Ship and Her History" - in pdf file format which can be downloaded from this Kalmar Nyckel Foundation web page:

<http://www.kalmarnyckel.org/dy.asp?p=9>. For example, the guide, on page 24, lists the voyagers aboard the Kalmar Nyckel in 1638, including national origins of the crew and colonists. Both Swedes and Finns were part of Kalmar Nyckel's first voyage, since Finland was part of the Swedish realm until 1809.

Delaware Colony of Swedes and Finns

From the Finnish Genealogical Society's website:

<http://www.genealogia.fi/emi/art/article229e.htm>

Because the colony of New Sweden retained that name for only eighteen years many students of American history are but slightly familiar with the Finnish and Swedish settlements which grew up in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey (this explains why there's a Swedesboro in southern NJ) several decades before the coming of William Penn. The ships Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip, landing in the spring of 1638, brought the first Finnish and Swedish settlers. The present nation of Finland was then a part of Sweden, and the colony was named New Sweden. Wilmington, the first settlement, was called Fort Christina in honor of the Swedish Queen, daughter of Gustavus Adolphus who had planned the sending of colonists to America prior to his death on the battlefield of Lutzen in 1632. One branch of the stream which enters the Delaware River at that point still bears her name.



"Finnish Settlers Monument," designed by Wäinö Aaltonen and erected in 1938. The monument commemorates the landing of Finns on this continent in 1638 and is located in Crozer Park, Old Chester, PA.

From Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Christina):

In 1938, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Swedish colonization of the area, the state of Delaware created a park which contained The Rocks and the site of the former forts. The dedication was attended by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Crown Prince Gustav Adolf, Crown Princess Louise, and Prince Bertil. The Prince presented a gift from their homeland: a monument, topped by a replica of the Kalmar Nyckel, designed by Swedish sculptor Carl Milles.

First log-cabin structures built on American soil

An amazing and little-known fact from the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation website:

"Fort Christina is rightfully famous as the home of the first log-cabin structures ever built on American soil, a barracks and a warehouse constructed by Finnish soldiers who were part of the original Swedish expedition."

From the Delawareonline website: "Swedes and Finns are widely credited with building the nation's first log cabins after their 1638 landing at The Rocks in what became Wilmington. Two reportedly were built at Fort Christina, which started the Delaware Valley's first permanent European settlement."

Finnish Settlers Monument

"Finnish Settlers Monument," designed by Wäinö Aaltonen and erected in 1938 as part of the 300th anniversary of the ships Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip landing in 1638. The monument commemorates the landing of Finns on this continent in 1638 and is located in Crozer Park, Old Chester, PA.



Kalmar Nyckel Monument by Swedish sculptor Carl Milles

Declaration of Independence signer John Morton, descendant of Finnish settlers.

Acquired and then renovated by the state of Pennsylvania in the 1930s, the Morton Homestead in Delaware County is maintained as a monument to Declaration of Independence signer John Morton, a descendant of Finnish settlers. In fact, Morton was probably born nearby, but the homestead has a rich history dating back to the 1660s and continues to evoke memories of Finnish settlement in the Delaware River Basin before the arrival of William Penn and British Quaker colonists in the 1680s.

Stew Lyons

New Haven Lodge #205

Genealogy Corner

I Remember

Marge Mattsson Beaver wrote this about her parents, Johan Mattsson, 1875–1957, married to Sofia Abrahamsdotter Bastubacka-Bast, 1878–1958. Johan was from Esse, Finland, and Sofia was from Nedervetil; both died in Superior, Wisconsin. Marge was the youngest of their children.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s our shores teemed with immigrants. They came from many places. My parents, Sofia Abrahamsson Bastubacka and Johann Mattson, landed in New York from Finland. Then they ended up in Superior, Wisconsin. They wanted to be near a lake as it reminded them of their homeland.

My mother and father were Swedish and had been born in Swedish settlements in Finland. They lived about 150 miles from one another but never met until they arrived in this country. My father came from a town called “Esse,” and my mother sometimes called him “Esse John.” He came to the United States when



June Pelo
A Dedicated Genealogist

he was 15 and worked as a lumberjack in a logging camp in Minnesota. My mother came from a town called Nedervetil. She said it was very pretty. Her father owned horses and when she was young she used to ride bareback. My mother was barely 19 when she came to the United States. She worked at different jobs. She worked as a maid for different families. She worked in a laundry, ironing men's shirts. She could iron a man's shirt, beautifully, in just 15 minutes. She worked as a waitress at a Milwaukee restaurant where she met my father.

I must tell you how she got the passage money to come to the United States. My mom lived with her parents, brothers and sisters. Their elderly white-haired grandmother lived nearby. My grandfather drank

and on this particular occasion, when he went to town on business, he sold his horse in town and bought a new one. The old horse knew the way home and how to continue on if grandfather was tipsy and had dropped the reins. The new horse panicked and drove the cart with my grandfather in it off the bridge, killing him. After the funeral, there was some insurance money left and it was divided among the children, including my grandmother. My mother booked passage to America with her share of the money.

My cousin Gertie told me that her father Fred, who was my mom's brother, said their mother raised her boys alone when she became a widow and they were pretty wild boys. My ma came to the United States first and her four brothers and sister came later on. Eventually, they all came to Superior and made their homes there. Several brothers remained in the old country. My mom showed me a photo once a long time ago of the remaining brothers and their wives and children and her mother and grandmother. Her grandmother was old and very tiny and white-haired. I believe she lived to 101.

My mother said her intention was to fill her trunk with money and go back to the old country. Instead, she married my father and had 12 children. My mother

and father never went back to the old country. It must have been so sad to leave your homeland, parents, brothers and sisters and friends and never see them again. My mom made homemade bread, white and brown. The brown bread was called Limpa, a Swedish bread, that she baked twice a week. Limpa had spices in it, anise and cardamom seeds. Her bread was so good that the neighborhood kids that we played with would stand at the back screen door until she cut a loaf for all of us to eat.

We used to go to the Salvation Army as children. One Christmas I sang a Swedish song that my mother taught me out of her hymnal (which I still have). I can still see my mom and dad sitting in the congregation and they were so proud. My dad sat there with his fur hat in his lap and he was fairly beaming.

During the summer we would all go berry picking. My mom would pack a lunch and the whole family would go and pick chokecherries. We had to walk quite a way but we never minded and we always had fun. We would make a day of it; it was like a picnic.

We would also go to the shipyard and dig for iron. My parents and brothers and I would take pick axes and dig for buried plates, nuts and bolts that had been there for years. My mother would take lunches along and we would stay all day. My father would load the iron in a wheel barrow and sell the metal, 60 cents for a hundred pounds, to Mr. Kaner. He owned a junkyard

near the shipyard. Mr. Kaner would give us money, 10 cents each, to go to the movies and sometimes more for candy.

The shipyard slip wasn't far from our house; boats came there to be repaired. This is where I learned to swim; my mother never knew this. I tagged along with my brothers and we never did tell my mother. I remember playing around the ship's anchors. The water was quite deep in the slip, and we always had fun there.

I remember my first trip back home. The highways, the water, bridges, all the vast changes. All the familiar landmarks gone. Even many houses I remembered torn down, including ours. So sad and so many changes. There is an American flag where our house used to be. My mom loved the American flag, especially after having three sons in World War II. She'd be pleased to know they erected one there. It was sort of like it was there to honor my mother.

We lived on hamburger mostly, it was real cheap, 20 cents a pound and it took three pounds to feed our family. I'd be embarrassed if any of my school friends saw me buying it, as most people bought it to feed their dogs. When I had to buy hamburger, I'd always peek in the store first to make sure no one I knew was in there.

We had two gardens, one was "potato land," my parents only raised potatoes in it. They'd put the potatoes in the cellar in the fall and they would last all win-

ter. In the second garden they raised green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, beets and corn. My mother would can for the whole winter. We lived mostly on hamburger, potatoes and gravy. The vegetables we ate mostly on Sundays.

My father was a carpenter of sorts. He built a bench for our backyard and I loved to sit in it. He even built a boat with oars and all; it was a beauty. He also made gun stocks out of the prettiest wood. Some he kept and some he sold. He never had a blueprint but he could really build and carve and his gun stocks always had the right weight and balance. He would trap muskrats; I'd go with him in the evening and check his traps near the swamps. I would even carry the muskrats home, by the tails! He would skin them and scrape the hides and send them off to New York when they were dried. He sold a lot of furs.

My mother did embroidery work and made a lot of tablecloths, pillowcases and dresser scarves. She would make them and put them away and when she needed money she would take some out and put them in a box and we would go around the neighborhood and sell chances on them, ten cents for three of them. After we had sold enough of them, we would put the names and addresses in a hat and draw out the winners. Then we would deliver the prizes.

My mother told me how the Swedish people would celebrate

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Genealogy Corner

continued from page 5

St. Lucia Day. It is celebrated on December 13th. St. Lucia was a maid who promised her life fortune to the church. She was betrothed to a handsome young pagan and he was infuriated when he learned she had given her dowry to the poor. She died a martyr. St. Lucia appears on Decemebr 13th as a harbringer of Hope, Light and she offers help to all. Early in the morning on December 13th the eldest daughter of the house rises and prepares coffee and St. Lucia buns which she serves to all members of her family. While she serves her family she sings a melody called, "St. Lucia," which foretells that darkness will soon be vanquished and brings a message of hope and charity. She wears a crown of leaves with 9 lighted candles on it which represent the nine months of light. She wears a long white gown tied with a red sash."

My mom said she had been named after the Queen of Sweden, Sofia, who had long red hair. My parents had 12 children: Johann (George), Ingrid (Bonnie) 2 Ingvals – one died of diptheria and the second Ingvall (Harold) survived. Then came Agnes (Barbara), Svea (Pearl), Glen Elial (Leonard), Signe Otelia (Dorothy) and then Kenneth, Marchall, Russell and me.

Barbara said she remembered how our parents loved to dance. Every Saturday night they'd go to Connor's Point near Lake Superior. They would have music and they would meet their friends at the dance hall. Mom wore a black satin and taffeta dress. She kept it wrapped in tissue paper along with her corset. She had a very tiny waist, about 18–20 inches. She had long brown hair that she kept in an upsweep on top of her head.

My mother called herself a sound dreamer, a Swedish phrase which meant things would come to pass. She'd dream of a wedding or babies or someone she knew, and it would come to pass.

My mom and dad could neither read nor write. In the old country only the wealthy people sent their children to school. Most of the children worked on their parents' farm. After a few years in this country my father taught himself a little bit of English as he learned how to read the evening newspaper. He also knew how to read Swedish. Both my parents read the *Strids Ropet*, a Swedish newspaper that came once a month. He learned to sign his name John instead of Johan. My mom learned how to sign her name. Before, they marked with an X for their signatures. The proudest day of their lives was when they became United States citizens. I remember they would go and vote in every election.

My mom died at age 78. She'd fallen on the ice and broken her hip. When it happened, she was

living in the apartment on 5th Street. When she was released from the hospital, she went to live with Kenneth and Ethel in the country. She developed pneumonia and they brought her back to the hospital, where she died.

Marge also writes about one of her mother's younger brothers as follows:

My mom's younger brothers Otto and Fred both had farms. Uncle Fred had cows and he delivered milk. He had a bad foot. My mom said he worked hard as a boy in the old country and something happened to his foot and it never did get well. He had such a good sense of humor; he'd come in and say, "Fia, leg café paw!" which meant for my mom to put the coffee on. Fred called her Fia, which was a nickname. He'd stop in and drink coffee with her when he delivered our milk. Uncle Fred would drink his coffee out of the saucer; I guess to cool it off. He was always joking and he had the most infectious laugh; I loved to hear him laugh. Another reason I liked him was because he'd always reach in his pocket and find me some pennies. Once I heard him drive up and I went to the door – and it was cousin "Eb." He was about 14 or 15 then and I think I really embarrassed him as his face turned red when I spoke to him. He was delivering milk that day for his father.

Uncle Fred and Aunt Rosa had five children: three girls and two boys. Our cousin Gertie taught

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LODGE NEWS



Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington

The Order of Runeberg Meeting was held out at Carolyn Nelson's home on Clear Lake in Eatonville. There were 19 people present enjoying each other's company.

Our president, Marita G. Agnew, crowned the Brannforses "King and Queen of Battleground, Washington." Both Angela and Ed were surprised. Ray and Sally Thompson were present and it was so good to see them. We had not seen them for a while.

Cousin Monica Mason was enjoying visiting with everybody and so was Carolyn Nelson.

John LaLone and his mother, Eeva LaLone, who had just come home from Helsingfors after visiting relatives there.

Shirleyanne Sargent and Marge Kunsack were enjoying themselves. I (Marita) sang a Swedish song for Shirleyanne. It goes like this: "Jag satte iglasögon på min näsa för ahkse om jag Kunde Läsa, jag Läste så att idetvar öMäjligt ah leva lyckligt förutom dej! Trala Lala Det var möjligt."

Thank you, Larry Kronquist, for the nice, big photos you gave me and for thinking of me. Gilbert and Rhea Linden enjoyed sitting out on the porch overlooking the water. Mt. Rainier wasn't visible due to the haze from the forest fires.

Eileen Scott and Elsie Thompson enjoyed themselves, also, sitting outside on the porch looking over the water.

Marilyn and Lee Thompson were also there. Lots of good food and coffee was served and

enjoyed. Bob Ostrand came after he had been to church.

Our next meeting will be held October 17 at the church.

Sincerely, your president,
Marita Gustafson Agnew

It's Christmas at the Agnew Family



Jake Nakano was at work so his wife Rebekah, who is a kindergarten teacher, brought their children: Jayna (9 years old), Annabelle (5 years old), and Sawyer (who will be 3 on November 28). Sawyer is sitting in Granpa David's lap. Mommo Marita is taking the picture of this happy family.

Our Little Cowboy Sawyer has caught a Reindeer.



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #205 New Haven, Connecticut

Has splendid weather for our annual Summer Picnic.

The New Haven lodge held its traditional “summer picnic” gathering on Saturday, June 13th, at the home of Inke Sunila. Inke graciously hosted us and, as shown in photos accompanying this article, provided delicious entrees, such as salmon (smoked by Inke on the outdoor grill), fresh oysters, oysters casino, BBQ chicken, and grilled sausage. Absolutely delicious, Inke – thank you!

Our picnic participants contributed delicious foods, such as appetizers, salads, vegetable dishes and desserts.

All-in-all, a fun day! The “summer picnic” photos accompanying this article, and more pictures may be viewed in color via the Lodge #205 page of the Runeberg website: www.orderofruneberg.org – select Lodge #205 page, then click on the “Summer Picnic, 2015” button.

Advanced information for the New Haven Lodge #205 “Fall Hike & Potluck Dinner” has been published on the Lodge #205 page of the Runeberg website. Information includes location, date (Saturday, October 24, 2015) and other details.

For persons / families with an interest in Finnish / Swede-Finn culture, and within travel distance of the New Haven area, we encourage you to join us – our Lodge’s contact info is available at the Runeberg website: www.orderofruneberg.org, then click “Lodges” / “L205.” We hope to see you!

Stew Lyons



L-R: Dave, Klas, Sirpa, Dottie, Roy. Photo by Inke

Seated L-R: Klas, Dottie, Stew, Inke, Kaarina, Doug, & Jamie.
Standing L-R: Tuula, Liisa, Kirsti, Sirpa, Dave, Noora, Annamari, Roy, Lise, & Jason. Photos by Aaron, our Lodge Photographer



LODGE NEWS



We must be in Finland!
L-R: Annamarie, Kaarina, Inke, Tuula, & Liisa



Foreground, L-R: ***Klas, Dottie, & Lise***
Background, L-R: ***Dave & Robert***



Inke cooking smoked salmon



Clockwise from 6 o'clock:
***Sirpa, Stew, Roy, Jason,
Doug and Kirsti***



***Jason getting oyster shucking lesson from Inke
& Klas taking notes***



***Noora Aaron
Photo by Inke***



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #124 Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Summertime Picnic

Out with the old and in with the new! With the many changes that have occurred with the disbanding of the International Order of Runeberg, Vancouver Lodge #124 has decided to make an official name change to reflect some of those changes. We will now be known as THE ORDER OF RUNEBERG SOCIAL CLUB. Activities and our connection to the Scandinavian Community Centre and to all remaining Lodges will remain the same.

Our usual annual summer picnic was also a little different this year. We joined together with Finlandssvenska Klubben to picnic together. This was a great success as our numbers increased as did the social aspects of two organizations mingling together. On August 15th members headed east to Whonnock, B.C. (Maple Ridge) to enjoy a lovely afternoon at the home of Britta Cederberg. Though the day was a little cool and cloudy, the event went off smoothly without rain!

Britta lives in beautifully wooded country acreage, complete with a river running through it. Her very large and fruitful garden was the first thing you saw upon entering. Accolades to Britta for all her hard work – hours of planting, watering and weeding certainly was evident in her garden.

With a chair and a potluck dish in hand, we arrived at Britta's. Waiting for us were coffee and goodies, juice, beer and wine (supplied by the Lodge). The highlight though was watching as Britta attended to an inventive smoker in the back lot. She used the barrel to smoke a

most delicious ham for all to enjoy! Rumor has it that we are invited to come again next year. What a great idea, a beautiful place to have a picnic with the perfect hostess! Thanks, Britta, for opening your home to us all.

Here are a few photos taken by Janet Duxbury for all to enjoy.

Annabelle Kergan



Alfie Warne and Lawrence Roufossse



Left to right: Dorothy Berg with Martha and Holgar Stenfors



Lorene Mara, George and Ulla Nelson



Britta's famous smoker

CORRECTION:

I wish to extend an apology to Mary Lou Hjort. Her name was missing in the article written for the June issue of the *Leading Star* "Down Memory Lane." The work of publication and editing was and still is a joint effort from both Mary Lou and Dale. A belated Thank you is extended to Mary Lou as well, for her valuable work with the publication of the paper.

Annabelle Kergan



LODGE NEWS



***Britta Cederberg –
our hostess taking time out for a skoal***



Food on the table



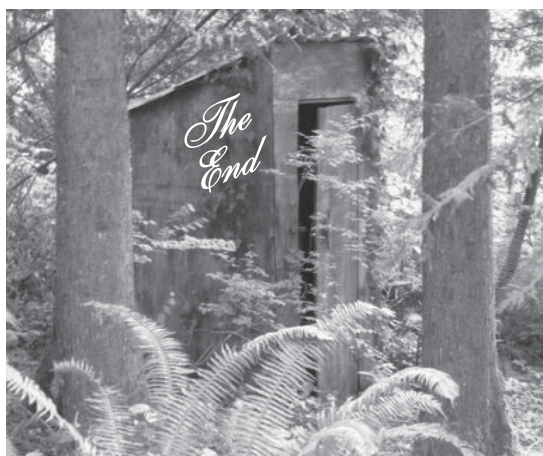
***Britta Cederberg with daughter
Lena Hunter***



***Britta Cederberg with daughters
Christine Knight and Lena Hunter***



***Our hostess Britta with the
smoked ham***





LODGE NEWS



Lodge #124 Vancouver, B.C., Canada

(more photos from 90th Anniversary Celebration)



Here is the first of several photos taken at the March 28th, 2015, 90th Anniversary Celebration at the Scandinavian Community Centre. This is the banner that was displayed.

Floral décor was noted throughout the hall as our talented President did her magic.



Andy Carlson with daughter – attending from Tacoma Wash. Sharing a little laughter with Ulla and George Nelson – Vancouver members.



Janet Anderson, Secretary – International, and Lodge member of Eureka, California, presenting Past President Annabelle Kergan with a Past President's pin.



Miia Kronholm is all smiles after receiving her lovely bouquet of flowers.



Seija Kronholm with Miia Kronholm sharing a smile for the camera.



President Lorene Mara (Lodge #124 Vancouver) presenting Marita Kareinen with a floral tribute of thanks for many years of catering for many Lodge events.

Genealogy Corner

continued
from page 6

school and now lives in Duluth, Minnesota and is in her 80s. She married a man from Superior, a very nice man. I met him when I worked at the beauty salon in East End; they had an apartment upstairs of his mother's house. I used to go there quite often to visit and for lunch. Then they moved to Mexico. I'm not sure if he worked for the Border Patrol. He died at an early age of a brain tumor, leaving Gert with several small children. She said it was the saddest and hardest thing she ever had to do, to go home and tell her children their daddy was gone. She moved back to Superior and Duluth to finish raising her children, near where she grew up.

Fred was on his own at the age of 13 as his father died in an accident, and he was not taken in by his mother's new husband as his brother Otto was.

"I Remember"

by Marge Mattsson Beaver
June Pelo

Please submit all
news, resolutions, and
articles by
November 29, 2015
for publication in the
December **Leading Star**



Finlandia Foundation National welcomes 49th chapter

At its June meeting in Lead, South Dakota, the Sons and Daughters of Suomi voted to become affiliated with Finlandia Foundation National (FFN), the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the United States.

"Our group is primarily comprised of Finnish descendants, and spouses, who reside in and around the Black Hills of South Dakota," says Steven Mitchell, president of the 44-member organization.

This brings FFN membership to 49 chapters in 23 states and Washington, D.C., reports FFN President Ossi Rahkonen. "The Sons and Daughters of Suomi is the third chapter this year to affiliate with Finlandia Foundation. This indicates an appreciation of the value of partnering with a larger organization to create a stronger alliance of Finnish-Americans and friends of Finland across the United States."

Since its founding in Pasadena, California, in 1953, the mission of FFN has been to strengthen ties between Finland and Finnish America and to support programs in the U.S. that encourage preservation of Finnish heritage and traditions, as well as the culture of contemporary Finland.

FFN, a nonprofit organization, annually awards academic and law scholarships and grants for a variety of cultural programs. Its touring programs—Lecturer of the Year, currently actress Tiana Elg, and Performer of the Year, violinist Sara Pajunen—present information and entertainment to FFN chapters throughout each year. The FFN-sponsored Soiva International Music Camp conducted in Moorhead, Minnesota, each June attracts students and teachers from the U.S. and Finland. In 2015 FFN awarded grants to assist chapters in hosting more than 50 programs honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

For more information about FFN: www.FinlandiaFoundation.org.

The Finnish American Reporter
September 2015

Meet the New Ambassador *Kirsti Kauppi*

Kirsti Kauppi is the new Ambassador of Finland to the United States. She started in Washington, D.C., on September 1, 2015, and looks forward to strengthening the relationship between Finland and the U.S. during her four-year tenure.

Ambassador Kauppi has over 30 years of experience in foreign policy. She joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1983 and started working in development cooperation. Prior to coming to Washington, D.C., she worked as Director General of the Political Department.

Her most recent post abroad was Vienna, where she served as Ambassador of Finland and as Finland's Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA and the UN Agencies. She has gained international experience also in the Finnish embassies in Bangkok and Berlin, as well as in Finland's Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels. In addition, Ambassador Kauppi is familiar with the U.S. She



worked at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C., from 1997 through 2000.

Ambassador Kauppi grew up in northern Finland, in a small village close to Oulu. She studied in the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration, and received her Master's degree in Economics in 1981. She has always been interested in history and international

affairs, so it is no surprise that she has made her career in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The new ambassador looks forward to giving a real contribution to the Finnish-American relations and to increasing people's interest and knowledge in Finland. Ambassador Kauppi expects that the most challenging part of her new job will be prioritizing what to do. The United States has so much going on politically, economically and culturally, that there are at least a hundred sensible ways she could use her time as Ambassador.

Ambassador Kauppi feels very privileged to take up the position of the Ambassador of Finland to the United States. She looks forward to meeting, also, the Finnish-American community in person, and in the meanwhile, encourages people to stay in touch via the embassy website, as well as the embassy's social media channels.

News, 9/1/2015 | Embassy of
Finland, Washington
Finland in the U.S.,
September 2015

New Finnish government assumes leadership



On 1 June, the President of the Republic of Finland, Juha Sipilä, appointed the country's 74th government. This moment marked the dismissal of Alexander Stubb's cabinet and the coming into office of Sipilä, who will be heading the new 14-minister government. The governing coalition

will now consist of the Center Party with six ministerial posts, the FinnsParty and the National Coalition Party, with four ministerial posts each.

After weeks of cabinet formation talks, party leaders have agreed on a lineup which welcomes the return of ex-Prime Minister Alexander Stubb as Minister of Finance. Another party boss not leaving the negotiating table empty-handed is Timo Soini from the eurosceptic Finns Party. The freshly appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs is expected to make quite a splash in international and European politics as head of Finnish diplomacy. An outspoken conservative and a deft politician, the right-wing populist managed to become the second most powerful man in the newly formed cabinet.

As Deputy Prime Minister, Timo Soini will have a say in governmental decisions and more leverage over its policies than any other minister holding office. That would not mean much if not for his controversial stance on climate change and strong opposition towards emissions trading. Timo Soini once referred to Finland as the "North Korea of climate policy" due to its climate change agreements and also considers that "green taxes are like shooting yourself in the foot." A staunch Kremlin critic and US supporter, Soini could also be victorious in persuading the newly appointed government to appeal for NATO membership. He is reported as saying that the government is preparing an analysis in which they will assess the benefits for Finland joining the political and military alliance.

Although he has toned down his rhetoric in the past few years, Soini remains a eurosceptic and a critic of the financial rescue package for Greece. Whether his boss will manage to come to terms with his divergent views remains to be seen. Soini's stance on Europe might become an issue not only for newly-elected Prime Minister Sipilä but for Mr. Stubb, the third leader in the coalition.

A vote of confidence is expected for the new government programme. Prime Minister Sipilä wants to push a very ambitious plan forward to pull Finland out of its economic slump. In order to sort out the country's finances, he announced his intent to cut public spending by at least € 6 billion. He is also looking into boosting competitiveness and is in need of support from trade unions as he seeks to increase the number of working hours: "An increase in working hours was one of the tools in the kit."

The 54-year old Sipilä was a successful businessman before turning to politics. He was first elected to Parliament in 2011 and has been leading the Center Party since 2012. His party's victory in April's parliamentary elections positions him as one of the country's political heavyweights, but whether he can provide comfortable and smooth governance will be a different challenge altogether.

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Finnair adding hundreds of pilots

Finnair has announced that it will hire 200 pilots on a permanent basis as it prepares to take delivery of its new fleet of Airbus A350 XWB aircraft and to respond to a rising demand for air travel.

"We are preparing for future growth and will hire nearly 60 full-time pilots as early as this autumn. The pilots will be assigned to Finnair's long-haul services, with the first being set to start already in October," Jari Paajanen, the head of flight operations at Finnair, tells in a bulletin.

The majority-state-owned airline is scheduled to take delivery of the first of the 19 Airbus A350s it has ordered as early as this autumn. The first of the Airbus A350s will replace seven Airbus A340s currently in service and the rest expand the fleet—and thereby the flight operations—of Finnair.

The full-time employment contracts will be offered to pilots who are currently employed by the airline on a fixed-term basis or who are set to join the airline on a fixed-term basis next summer.

Finnair announced earlier this summer that it will also hire more than one hundred cabin crew after re-organizing its staff considerably through lay-offs and outsourcing in recent years. The number of people employed by the airline has fallen from 7,578 in 2010 to no more than 2,949 at the end of June.

The swollen cost structure of Finnair has hindered its ability to respond to the foray of low-cost carriers into the aviation market.

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