



# LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

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## More about the people of Finland

We begin this by saying that the final issues of the *Leading Star* are here. So much has been written over the years about Finland and the people coming from Finland to North America. One person who has researched, translated and documented these happenings is June Pelo. She has a large library of articles available on the internet. The link for the website



Dale Hjort

is the following: [http://finlander.genealogia.fi/sfhswiki/index.php/Category:Articles\\_by\\_June\\_Pelo](http://finlander.genealogia.fi/sfhswiki/index.php/Category:Articles_by_June_Pelo)

We have shared many of her articles in the Genealogy Corner section of the paper. We wanted to share more of these articles before the last issue of the *Leading Star* is here. So here is an article about emigrating Finland Swedes which is in addition to her Genealogy Corner article.

## *Finland-Swedes in America*

The number of emigrants from Finland to America during the years 1871-90 was 26,130. The largest number, 21,968, emigrated during 1886-90. From 1891-93 there were 20,606 people. It was during the later part of the 1880's and the first part of 1890's that the first tidal wave of over 42,000 emigrants from Finland rolled in over North America. They spread from coast to coast over the US and established resident areas for the later emigrants.

During 1893 began the so-called Cleveland depression with its moderating influence on all immigration. During the five-

year period 1894-98 also came a wave of emigrants from Finland. During this period only 15,868 passports were issued for non-European countries, or an average 3,173 each year.

In this connection an interesting fact can be observed. In the first wave of emigrants, only 33.1% were women, ie 1/3 of the emigrants. But during the trough between the waves, the

*continued on page 2*

### WHAT'S INSIDE:



**Genealogy Corner.....4**

**Lodge News.....6**

**Swedish Finn Historical Society.....9-10**

# Finland-Swedes in America

continued from page 1

female percentage stepped up to 53.8% in 1894 and to 54.8% in 1897. Soon thereafter the female share fell again to around 1/3 of the total emigration. This proportion was typical for the entire immigration period. After the relatively short trough between waves, another tidal wave began in 1899, the year that the notorious February manifest was imposed and the years of calamity began in Finland. The wave got much higher than previously and continued for fifteen years until World War I began.

This was the greatest emigration period, during which a total 222,157 passports were issued

for travel to non-European countries. A number of people traveled without passports (with passports from Swedish Österbotten) to Sweden, from where they later could obtain passports to travel to America.

When World War I began, another trough began, during which the number of passports gradually sank from 6,472 in 1914 to only a little over 1,000 in 1919. But 1920 ushered in a third emigration wave with about 6,000 passports issued, and during 1921-29 55,046 passports were issued, most for travel to the US during the first part of 1920's. After the quota law became valid in the US in 1925, the greatest number of emigrants

went to Canada. During the 1930's and 1940's the number of emigrants from Finland to the US and Canada dropped to only about 5,500 people.

Probably about 3/4 of Finland-Swedish emigrants came from farms and cities in Österbotten. Passports issued at Vasa province during 1893-1924 were 41,500 out of a total of 302,271 passports issued. According to the 1960 US census, 67,624 people who were born in Finland resided in the US. Of these, 50,359 had Finnish as their mother tongue, 10,060 had Swedish, 302 English, 5,111 another language and for 1,792 the mother tongue was not given. The figure of 10,060 for Swed-

continued on page 3



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\_\_\_\_\_

*continued from page 2*

ish as the mother tongue is probably not correct. The census takers probably assumed that if a person was born in Finland, Finnish was his mother tongue. Of those who had Swedish as their mother tongue, 4,133 lived in the eastern states, 2,076 in north central states, 460 in the south, and 3,391 in western states.

Anna Leena Toivonen in a 1963 doctor's thesis has pre-

sented a very thorough investigation and account of emigration in all the more substantial aspects from 46 communities (20 Swedish farm areas, 22 Finnish farm areas, also cities of Kaskö, Kristinestad, Vasa and Nykarleby) in the southern Österbotten during 1867-1930 in a short report titled "Kolmannes palsa ja koksi kolmannesta jaa",

from "Etela-Pohjanmaan Valtamerentakainen Siirtolaisuus". She said that a total of 361,000 emigrants went from Finland to non-European countries during 1867-1930.

Excerpted from "Finland-svenskar i Amerika" (The Finland-Swedes in America)

By Anders Myhrman, 1972.  
*June Pelo* 1991

## Obituary

**Karl Gustav Bergman**  
**October 8, 1926 Oravais,**  
**Finland - January 12, 2017**  
**New Westminster B.C.**

Gus was the middle child of five, growing up on a family farm in a small town. He left school early to help out on the farm and there developed a life-long love for animals and nature. He was called to train in the military but due to a bout with pneumonia did not see active duty. Unable to find work in Finland he immigrated to Canada in 1954.

Gus was pre-deceased by his loving wife Kay (1984). They had two daughters, Sandra and Norah, and two grandchildren, Elise and Shawn. He had a variety of work opportunities both in and out of the Vancouver area. In retirement he enjoyed reading, history, gardening and travel and of course... always a good cup of coffee.

Two years ago he had some serious health issues that almost took his life but with extreme determination he was able to go from bed to recovery, enabling him to spend his last summer puttering in his garden. Shortly after Christmas he suffered a small stroke and passed away peacefully at Royal Columbian Hospital on January 12, 2017.

Gus Bergman was a long time member of the Order of Runeberg, Lodge 124 for some 42 years. He was able to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at our November meeting. He will be deeply missed by family and friends both here and in Finland.

**Holger Johannes**  
**Stenfors**

**November 3, 1923**  
**Nedervetil Finland**  
**November 27, 2016**

**Coquitlam British Columbia.**

Holger passed away peacefully at home, with his family at his side. He leaves to mourn his wife Martha of 62 years – daughter Cathy with husband Darrel, son Brian as well as many friends and relatives in Canada, Finland and in Sweden.

He lived a very active life, in his early days he served in The Finnish military. He spent some time in Australia and then later as a new immigrant to Canada (1954). He loved his homeland and returned every summer with Martha. When Martha was unable to travel he did so on his own, returning to his family farm to spend time in the homeland. Holger was a dedicated member of the Order of Runeberg, Lodge 124 for some 42 years. He was in attendance at our last meeting in early November, cheerful and in good health.

Holger died as he lived: on his own terms. Defying the odds one last time. A memorial service was held on December 10 in Coquitlam B.C. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Submitted by **Annabelle Kergam**



### **Publication Fund Report March, 2017**

Reporting on December LS costs

As with the previous Leading Star 12 page issues, the December Leading Star 12 page issue costs were reduced compared to the previous 16 page format.

Cost summary of the December, 2016 issue of the *Leading Star*:

December Leading Star issue:

Editors' stipend: \$200.

Graphics: \$360

LS postage: \$192.08

(for 223 copies mailed)

Printing: \$111.20

Total/issue: \$863.28

### Publication Fund Balances:

Balance reported in September 2016

\$3,108.13

Cost of December 2016 LS

\$863.28

Current Balance, March 2017

\$2,244.85

Based on the above costs, it is estimated that the "last *Leading Star* issue," to be the June, 2017 issue (same as previously projected).

Our *Leading Star* editors have suggested we may be at a point with a future issue of the paper that we go to 8 pages—depending on quantity of content submitted by our lodges. The plan is to look at each issue on an individual basis. Thus the page count would be 8 or 12 depending on what has been submitted. I agree with the editors.

Fund Report submitted by Stew Lyons



# Genealogy Corner

## Emigration from Ostrobothnia

**T**he first Finns and Swedes came to America in the 1600's when Finland was still a province of the Swedish Empire. The first Swedish expedition landed at the mouth of the Delaware River in 1638, and in 1640 a few Finns arrived. About 500-600 Finns moved to New Sweden, Delaware's Swedish colony. Some came from the Finnish forest areas of Sweden and some came from Vasa and Korsholm in Ostrobothnia. In the beginning of the 19th century a few hundred moved to Alaska. There are known instances of emigration from Munsala in the 1840's and 1850's, but it's not known how many emigrated to Alaska nor who jumped ship.

North America suffered a labor shortage in the 1860's and '70's, and the influx of immigrants helped solved the problem. A continuous stream of emigrants began in 1867, when a factory worker from Vasa left Finland. In the peak year of 1902, 7,310 people were issued a passport by the province of Vasa. From 1870-1930 about 400,000 emigrants left Finland, with 320,000 going to the United States and 80,000 to Canada. About 52% of them came from Vasa province.

Many emigrants returned to Finland. The majority of them went to North America to earn money for a house or farm and then planned to return to Finland. A general estimate is 20-



**June Pelo**  
A Dedicated Genealogist

23%. More men returned than women, more wealthy people than poor ones, and more old emigrants than young ones. Most emigrants came from rural areas, with about 6% from cities.

Most of the emigrants were young unmarried men. More than 80% were 16-40 years old. The 16-25 year-olds were the largest group, and about 10% were children under age 16. Many of the older emigrants probably moved to spend their retirement years with their children.

The majority of emigrants from southern Ostrobothnia worked on farms in Finland. Emigration hit crofters, dependent lodgers, cottagers and hired hands who were affected more than landowners. Younger children who did not inherit the farm decided to emigrate. In the early stages the rural population that had suffered economic hardship left, but later on emigration became a mass movement and other people also left to "whittle gold in America."

Two-thirds of the emigrants had to borrow ticket money from Finland or from someone who had emigrated before them. If they couldn't scrape up the money, they couldn't emigrate. Once they had the money, it was necessary to get a passport. They needed a church-issued birth certificate and a certificate of non-objection from the police authority. After 1903 men of conscription age had to submit proof of military service. When they had the required documents they went to the port of departure. Some steamship companies checked the health of the passengers because the United States refused to admit sick immigrants, and the ship companies had to return them to their home country at no charge. Four percent were rejected at point of departure. The most common reasons for rejections were the eye disease trachoma and tuberculosis.

Some of the early immigrants went to Sweden and continued across the ocean from Gothenberg or Trondheim, Norway. In 1874 the Wasa-Nordsjö Steamship, Inc. sailed a few times per summer from Vasa to Hull, England. Then in 1891 the SHO line began regular Hangö-Copenhagen-Hull travel. Rates were cheaper and the trip was faster. The passengers then went by train from Hull, England to Liverpool where they boarded a ship across the Atlantic. Finns usually traveled third class. Conditions aboard ship didn't always correspond to the descriptions published by the ship companies.

In the 1800's passengers complained about bad food, tight space, filth and the slowness of the ship. The trip to North America usually lasted an average of two weeks.

In North America they landed either in New York or Boston, or in Canada at Halifax, Quebec City or Montreal. Some immigrants stayed in the cities where they landed. For example, those from Närpes and Peräsienäjoki stayed in New York. The immigrants settled where work was available and where they knew where people from their home town already lived. On the east coast they settled mainly in Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. Many went to the midwestern states of Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Others went on to Washington, California, Oregon, Montana and Colorado. Ostrobothnians didn't settle in the southern states.

In Canada they followed the same pattern as in the United States: close to the border be-

tween the two countries and from east to west. The bulk of them settled north of the Great Lakes in Ontario, in mining towns, centers of railroad and logging industry and large cities. Immigrants from Vasa province chose Ontario. Many moved on from Ontario to British Columbia.

## Reasons for Emigration

The economic conditions were the main factor in southern Ostrobothnia. The strong growth in the population in the 19th century created economic pressures. The province of Vasa had a surplus population which explains the large emigration. Crop failures and years of famine brought great hardship. The majority of southern Ostrobothnian farmers owned small farms and they had to struggle to make a living. According to inheritance practices, the oldest son got the farm and paid his siblings cash compensation and the other children had to go elsewhere to find work. The children of freeholders were

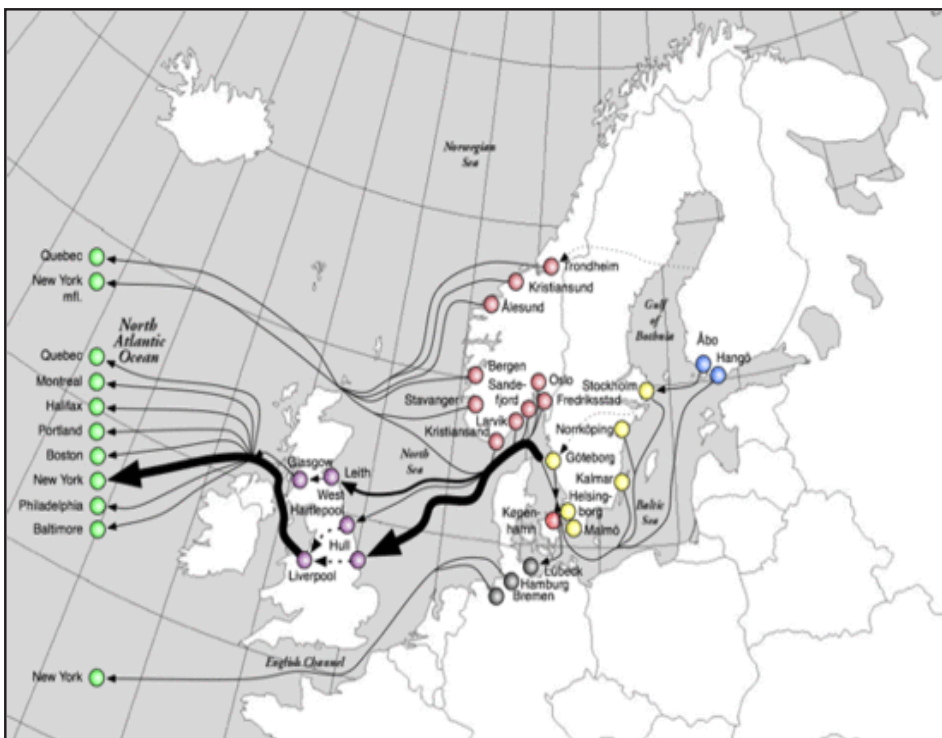
landless so they had to seek a living elsewhere.

Tar burning and shipbuilding were profitable industries. In the mid-1850's the world shifted from wooden ships which relied on tar to steamships made of steel. That created a "tar crisis." Another reason for emigration was the conscription edicts handed down during the Russian oppression years 1899-1917. Finland was a Grand Duchy under the Russian Czar until 1917. Many men avoided conscription which they considered unlawful by emigrating to North America.

Sometimes marital relations broke down and the man emigrated rather than get a divorce which was frowned upon. The arrival of stepmothers or stepfathers drove children to emigrate. Some young men emigrated to avoid parental responsibilities. And some had a powerful desire for adventure.

Ostrobothnians had a strong sense of belonging and many left together in large groups. In the United States the Homestead Act of 1862 offered free land to immigrants. America needed workers so recruiters went to Finland to entice people to emigrate. Recruiting was prohibited by the United States in the 1880's but in Canada it continued into the 20th century. The recruitment effort helped spread "America fever." Also people who emigrated between 1860-90 wrote enticing letters to Finland which were published in newspapers. The news that there was work in America lured many to try their luck in a foreign country.

The majority of men worked in physically demanding jobs, e.g. in mines, construction, lumber camps. Some later bought



*continued on page 10*





## LODGE NEWS



### **Note to readers:**

*You may have noticed in the New Haven lodge's Fall meeting article in the December Leading Star was not an article about the meeting, but rather the invitation to the meeting. This is because I accidentally sent the wrong file for publication. I contacted our editors, and they agreed to publish the correct article, below, along with meeting pictures. I apologize for my December issue error.*

Stew Lyons

### **New Haven Lodge 205 Annual "Fall Walk & Potluck Dinner"**

On October 15th, members & friends of Lodge 205 enjoyed our annual "Fall Walk & Potluck Dinner" hosted by Robert and Tuula Berke.

We started by walking the newly constructed trail at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, CT: then drove to Robert and Tuula's beautiful home, where everyone was ready for the potluck dinner!

[http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2716&q=325210&deepNav\\_GID=1650%20,](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2716&q=325210&deepNav_GID=1650%20)

The appetizers, main dishes, salads and desserts provided by our hosts and members were all delicious. There was a wide variety of interesting entrees – of special note – Inke brought and cooked 100 littleneck clams – and we ate them all!

To appreciate the Fall New England foliage colors, the pictures accompanying this article the pictures may be viewed in color on our Runeberg website, New Haven Lodge 205 page: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/l20516fallwalk.html>

For members, friends, and persons / families interested in Finnish &/or Swedish-Speaking Finnish Culture & Traditions living within driving distance to our New Haven area Lodge 205 meetings, you are invited to join us for our next event – "Summer Picnic," scheduled for



*On the trail at Hammonasset State Park, Madison, CT  
L-R: Marjatta, Tuula, Sirpa, Kirsti. Photo by Inke*





## LODGE NEWS



Saturday, June 10, 2017.  
Event details and contact information are at: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/lodgesl205newhavenct.html>

L-R: *Klas, Tuula, Stew, Lise, Peter*



L-R: *Klas, Dottie, Stew, Peter*  
All enjoying the many delicious potluck dinner entrees



*The desserts!*



L-R: *Lise, Roy, Dottie & Stew Business meeting in progress*

## O of R New Haven Lodge 205 “Bowling & Pizza” event

A small dedicated group of members of Lodge #205 gathered at the Highland Lanes in Cheshire, CT for duck pin bowling on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Duck pin bowling is a challenge for bowlers with scores being generally low. However, it is a fun sport in which to participate. Kirstin Bjork, a youth member, was a leader in cheering and in recording scores.

A pizza social was held after bowling at the home of George and Brenda Nousiainen. Several varieties of delicious pizza quickly disappeared along with a variety of cheeses, bread, crack-

ers, and cocktail sausages. Dessert included homemade cardamom cookies and ice cream sundaes featuring wild berry sauces.

Due to the absence of several officers, the business meeting was postponed until the next meeting on March 18, 2017. President, Stew Lyons is recovering from an injury and we wish him a speedy recovery. The conversation was spirited and continued until late in the evening. For members, friends, and persons / families interested in Finnish &/or Swedish-Speaking Finnish Culture & Traditions liv-

ing within driving distance to our New Haven area Lodge 205 meetings, you are invited to join us for our next event – “Summer Picnic,” scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2017. Event details and contact information are at: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/lodges/1205newhavenct.html>

Submitted by  
*George Nousiainen*

## Runeberg Social Club Highlights 2016

The year began with our first meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in celebration of Finland’s National Poet, J.L. Runeberg. Runeberg tarts were featured and two short films were viewed – both filmed in Vasa, Finland and of historical significance.

In total we had four meetings (Feb., May, Sept. Nov.) The November meeting was our A.G.M. and election of officers. Our December gathering was our Christmas luncheon celebrated at the Best Western Hotel in Coquitlam.

A Scholarship Fundraiser was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, under the direction of Finland House. \$7,710.00 was realized and was used to support six Scholarships (2016) which were awarded on Finland’s Independence Day celebrations in December.

The endowment fund for scholarships is now \$35,000.00.

Members continued to receive the Leading Star (International OR paper) and four times a year, our local newsletter, the OR Topics.

The summer potluck picnic was held on August 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of Britta Cederberg, in Wonnock BC. We jointly celebrated this event with Finland’s Svenska Klubben.

Our year ended with 40 adults and 5 junior members. Sadly 2 of our long time members, Miia Kronholm and Holger Stenfors passed away.

Respectfully Submitted

Annabelle Kergan,

President, Runeberg Social Club

## Membership information Swedish Finn Historical Society

As the Society is the repository for all the information submitted by all past Lodges of the now disbanded Order of Runeberg, membership in the Society keeps all past members in touch with their heritage and past history of the Order. Upon joining, one is entitled to receive the QUARTERLY magazine. It gives access to all the publications, that have been gathered by the Society for the enjoyment and use of the membership, not just O of R materials but a wide variety of articles and information about Swedish Finns both in Finland, USA and Canada. For more information please contact:

### ***The Swedish Finn Historical Society***

1920 Dexter Avenue North  
Seattle Washington, 98109  
USA

Membership in SFHS is on an annual basis:

Individual: \$25 US/EU

Senior (65 +)

Student \$25 US/EU

Family (one address) \$30 US/EU

***Give it a try!***

***You won’t be disappointed.***



## News from the Swedish-Finn Historical Society

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the SFHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon took place at the Swedish Club, Dexter Avenue, Seattle, Washington. Many past members of the International Order of Runeberg were in attendance. The day was sunny and the meeting was well attended.

The day began at 11 am with a social hour and live music performed by Leif and Sunnie Accordion Duo. This was a wonderful time to renew friendships – make new ones and generally begin the business of the day on a light note. By 12:30 pm we were all ready to partake of a fabulous Smorgasbord with all the usual Scandinavian touches – pickled herring, hardtack, cucumber salad, cardamom bread, roast leg of lamb, mashed potatoes with gravy, braised carrots and onions – finishing with apple cake. An added touch was complimentary wine at each table and of course the usual good Scandinavian style coffee. However, before the banquet we were invited to take a sköl of aquavit in honour of all immigrants ... a nice touch to begin our meal. After a short welcome and opening prayer we all enjoyed a lovely meal.

The Program was short and entertaining with guest speaker Sara Kahokola, who is on exchange from Finland. Her topic, "Language Identities and Debates – Finland Swedish in 100 year old Finland" was most informative. She brought us up to date on the language issues that are occurring in Finland. It was good to hear that the government will not do away with the study of Swedish in Schools and that Swedish will still be recognized as the other official language of the country. After a brief coffee/dessert break, a brief business



Marita Agnew



Annabelle Kergan

meeting was held with an overview of things to come for SHSF. Of special note to past OR members was that digitalizing of all Leading Star issues (from its beginning – copies found and made available) and now anyone can access the past papers for research and general interest. This was a huge job and certainly a way to preserve our Runeberg heritage. Bill Carlson, President, gave an update on the future of SFHS. Though there were about 125 people in attendance he noted that membership was global with some 600 plus, members worldwide.

Before adjournment the presentation of two special Awards were presented. Ed Branfors gave a short speech about long time Order of Runeberg member, Marita Agnew, Tacoma President. Though unable to attend she was recognized for her tireless devotion to both the

Lodge and the Swedish –Finn Culture. The second Award was presented to Annabelle Kergan, also a long time member and devotee to the cause of the Order of Runeberg and the preservation of Swedish Finnish Culture. Tor-Erik Rosback gave a short speech as he introduced Annabelle, noting that both her parents were Charter members of the Vancouver Order of Runeberg, Lodge 124.

Both Awards read:

**2017**

**Tack Sa Mycket Award  
Presented to  
Marita Agnew  
and  
Annabelle Kergan**

**"For tirelessly preserving our  
Swedish Finn Culture and  
unwavering Swedish Finn  
Pride"**

*See article on page 10 for more about these awards.*

## Swedish Finn Historical Society honors two longtime Runeberg members

At this year's Swedish Finn Historical Society annual meeting and luncheon on March 4<sup>th</sup> in Seattle two longtime members of our IOR Lodges in Tacoma and Vancouver, B.C. were honored for their decade's long contributions to their organizations and to the larger Swedish Finn community.

First, Marita Agnew now of Olympia, WA was acknowledged for her lifetime support of IOR and SFHS activities. I spoke to the assembled members of my experience of joining SFHS in 1997 and with my new member listing in the Quarterly, it wasn't long before Marita called me offering any assistance in translation from Swedish or informa-

tion on the Oravais (Roukas) origins of my grandmother, Greta Lovisa (Spets) Brannfors. This was followed by numerous invitations for coffee and cardamom pastries at her (and husband Jim's) home in Vancouver where she provided translations of the old postcards and the "America Letters" we brought back from Finland. She arranged to have a local historian couple escort us to visit family locations from Kimo to Roukas. Music was discovered (Eklund's Majus Minuet), graves were located where flowers were planted, the home site was walked through... all as a result of Marita's assistance. Finally I gratefully said that what Marita has done for me, she has done for not

dozens but hundreds of others through the years.

A plaque was presented by SFHS President, Bill Carlson, and accepted on Marita's behalf by Monica Mason.

Secondly, Annabelle Kergan was honored with a similar plaque for her many years of service to her Canadian community's Swedish Finns and to the International Order of Runeberg which she served as President. Tor-Erik Rosback provided comments thanking Annabelle for her kindness and continuing service to the Vancouver, B.C. Swedish Finns.

Contributed

By Ed Brannfors

3/25/17

## Genealogy Corner

*continued from page 5*

farms. Women worked mostly in domestic work. The men worked under harder conditions than at home in Finland. But wages were better and workdays were shorter than in Finland, so they managed to endure the harsh conditions. Also the food and clothing were better. The high standard of living and the higher earnings proved that emigration was worthwhile.

The majority of emigrants brought more money to Finland than they took with them. Every third emigrant borrowed his fare from Finland and usually paid it back with interest. At departure, the more wealthy emigrants de-

posited their money in Finnish banks. Those who planned to return sent their savings from North America to banks in the homeland. Also, more inheritance money came from North America to Finland than the other way around. Finnish inheritances were usually small and immigrants often relinquished their inheritance to relatives who stayed at home.

Many emigrants sent packages home which contained money and goods that were hard to find in Finland. At the peak of "America parcels" in 1946, every third south Ostrobothnian received an American parcel. Returning immigrants

had more money than when they left and many bought a house with money earned in North America. During and after World War II the immigrants sent money and parcels to Finland, and some sent money to the province of their birth for rebuilding purposes. It is estimated that before World War I each emigrant sent to Finland annually about the same amount of money as a worker would earn in Finland in a year.

Extracts from Journal of Finnish Studies, "Exploring Ostrobothnia" by Mari Niemi  
*June Pelo*



## Traveling Sauna Visits L.A. County

**A**s part of Finland's centennial celebrations, a Traveling Sauna is currently making its way across the United States. The Traveling Sauna has been widely promoted on social media, and it has attracted the attention of local media and brought attention to Finland's centennial events, as well as to Finnish and Finnish-American organizations and their operations.

Having started its 12-month-journey in Minnesota in January 2017, the Traveling Sauna reached California on March 5. The Traveling Sauna's visit in Duarte in L.A. County was linked to 626 Golden Streets festival, a free sports and well-being event attracting tens of thousands of visitors.

626 Golden Streets is the largest street festival in the United States, comprising 18 miles of open streets, 7 cities (Duarte being one of them), and offering a variety of activities such as yoga, Zumba and dance classes. The streets were closed to "motorized transportation", i.e. people were free to walk, bike, skate and jog on the streets. Additionally, there was live entertainment like music, chalk artists and friendly sasquatch, as well as vendors and other businesses on display. According to the festival organizers, 100,000 people in total took part in the event.

Visitors at the festival had a chance to experience and bathe in an authentic wood-heated Finnish sauna, learn about the Finnish sauna culture and share experiences with other first-time-goers. People were enthusiastic about the possibility to see an actual outdoor sauna and learn more about Finland and its culture. Next, the Traveling Sauna will make its way to northern California, and in April people can experience Finnish sauna culture in Oregon and Washington.



**The Traveling Sauna was a visible part of the 626 Golden Streets festival in Duarte, CA.**



**Risto Sivula (left) and Jouko Sipila together with the Traveling Sauna.**

**More information about the Traveling Sauna:**  
[www.travelingsauna.com](http://www.travelingsauna.com)  
 From News, 3/8/2017 | Embassy of Finland,  
 Washington

# THE LEADING STAR

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## Order of Runeberg Lodges

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Lodge #124  
Vancouver, BC

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Eureka

### CONNECTICUT

Lodge #205  
New Haven

### MICHIGAN

Lodge #8  
Dollar Bay

### OREGON

Lodge #126  
North Bend/Coos Bay

### WASHINGTON

Lodge #106  
Tacoma

Visit our website:

[www.orderofruneberg.org](http://www.orderofruneberg.org)

## CURRENCY RATES

1 EURO = 1.06USD

1 USD = 0.94 EURO

XE-04/08/17

Please submit all  
news, resolutions, and articles  
June 2  
for publication in the June  
*Leading Star*