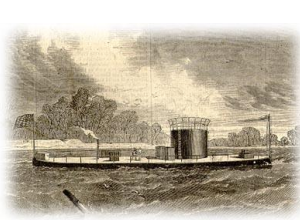


Monitor Lodge, #218

Sacramento, California

Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave



[Monitor Lodge Website](#)



October 26, 2015

October Meeting. At the October 9 meeting, members enjoyed a short movie about the raising of the *Vasa*, the famous warship of King Gustav II Adolf that sank on launching in Stockholm's harbor in 1628. The movie reviewed the *Vasa's* construction, the historical context, its rediscovery in the 1950's, and the painstaking efforts to salvage and preserve the ship. It is a fascinating story and one for which you always learn something new. Of course, being members of "Monitor" Lodge, we are always interested in stories about ships that sink and are raised. The Lodge owes many thanks to the Hopkins family for managing technical aspects of the show.

Chairman Mark thanked Lodge members for their help at the [Scandinavian Festival](#) the week before. The pancake batter-mixing, pancake flipping, sandwich making, dancing, meal serving, and ticket selling all paid off in record attendance!

In addition, we enjoyed a delicious [pot-luck dinner](#). It's always amazing how many good cooks we have in Monitor Lodge!

Smorgasbord. Matjesill herring, grav lax, deviled eggs, anchovies, shrimp, boiled potatoes and dill, Swedish crisp bread and cheese, Jason's Temptations, potato casserole, and more! That's right. It's nearly time for the world famous Monitor Lodge Smorgasbord that's coming up on [November 21](#). It will be at I.O.O.F Hall, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This is always one of the highlights of the year—mainly because we have so many great cooks! The price is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Please RSVP to Maribeth Bean at (510) 530-4965 or 995-4965.

Hey, if you have ideas for the meal, or want to help out, please contact Mark Delle at (916) 900-4787, or e-mail him at sierratrouboy@hotmail.com.

Next Meeting. We meet next on [Friday, Nov. 6](#). This will be a coffee and desert meeting. The main order of business will be to vote on the 2016 officers. The slate of nominees is attached to this newsletter. The good news is that all the hard jobs are filled. Vacant is the vice chairman's job. Hey, anyone can do that. Let Mark Delle know if you are interested. sierratrouboy@hotmail.com



Monitor Lodge, #218
Sacramento, California
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave

Santa Lucia. A highlight of the year is always [Monitor Lodge's Lucia & Jul Glogg Party](#). The voices of the children, grandchildren, and friends of Lodge members fill the hall with traditional Swedish Holiday songs. Be sure to mark your calendar for this annual event on Friday, [December 4](#), beginning at 7 p.m.

If you know someone that would like to participate, they are welcome! Practices will take place on the following Sundays: Nov 1st, 15th, and 29th at 3 PM. They will be at the home of Karin Johnson at 4516 Pasadena Ave, Sacramento. Please call Karin at 482-3755 to let her know.

Members. We have heard from a few of our busy members recently....[Margaret Ingvarsen](#) writes that [Dale Ingvarsen](#) is doing great in an assisted living home. He particularly enjoys hearing from Monitor Lodge members. You can mail him at 347 East Walnut Ave., Room 14, Visalia, CA., 93292, or e-mail at imarge15@gmail.com. As members may recall, Dale and Margaret were recently at the Crayfish Party in August...We have also learned that Hazelle Mills of Skogen Lodge was in the hospital due to congestive heart failure and is now in an extended care facility. Hazelle would love to receive get well cards from her Vasa friends. Reach her at hazellemills@charter.net, or [\(530\) 247-1056](tel:5302471056), or 831 Cally Ct #1, Redding CA 96003 ...[Melody Friberg](#) reports her e-mail is theeggssister@hotmail.com. Two "e's," "g's," and "s's."

Swedish News, History, & Geneology. This is an interesting item that Lodge member Dick Baldwin recently forwarded. Although the event in question has taken place, it provides a nice summary of the talk he gave to Lodge members earlier in the year about research on his Swedish ancestors.

I'd like to invite you to tune in the radio program of one of my high school classmates: Dr. Ron Willis, a Southern Baptist minister whose ministry has included churches in Oakland, CA; Bangor, ME, and San Antonio, TX, and who now hosts the 'This Week in Politics' show on radio station KSVY, 91.3 FM in Sonoma, California.

My 2nd Great Grandfather, Nils Bourkersson, will be one of two guests on Ron's program feature, "Class of 1958: Where They Are Now." Nils will be interviewed, along with me **at 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 15th, 2015**. Let me explain:

My recent trip to Scandinavia was born of a genealogical interest that began several decades ago as I began to wonder about my ancestry. I have researched various lines back to the sixteenth century as they came from such countries as Sweden, Norway, Germany, Scotland, England, France, Wales and Ireland.

Several years ago, I posted my ancestry on the Internet, including reference to my 2nd great grandfather, Nils Bourkersson who, according to my research, had traveled from his native Sweden to Utah in a Mormon Emigration, though he was not Mormon and thus referred



2



Monitor Lodge, #218
Sacramento, California
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave

to himself as a 'heathen.' After three and a half years of absence from Sweden, he returned to his fatherland a broken man, and wrote a book about his travels, entitled 'Tre år i Mormonlandet' (Three Years in Mormon Country). It was a book that I had hoped to read some day, but the only extant copy of the book was, at the time, in the Malmo, Sweden library.

In recent years, I received an Email from Ulla-Karin Alsvold, a cemetery and family researcher in Skåne, Sweden. Ulla-Karin had noticed my ancestral posting and was interested in having Nils' book translated. I volunteered to attempt the feat even though I could read or speak no Swedish. She then copied the entire book, page by page, and sent it to me by post. Since I had always had an interest in reading the book, my desire had been partially fulfilled, without a visit to the Malmo library.

I soon realized the enormity of the project, however, since I knew I would have to learn the Swedish language in order to translate the book. I took on the project with fervor and began my quest. I ordered a three level Rosetta Stone Svenska Language Program, along with a Swedish-English and English-Swedish dictionary and, most important, a Babylon translation software program for the Swedish language. I later supplemented those tools with another program, Transparent Language, and ordered their 'Swedish Word of the Day' through that program.

I eventually learned, however, that the Swedish language in the 1860s, when Nils wrote his book, had undergone major changes in the early part of the 20th century, with multiple changes in spelling and word usage. Therefore his words were not easily recognized by the Babylon software program, nor found in the dictionary. Furthermore, the book was written in a gothic script, which made identifying some letters difficult.

It took me about three years to translate about half of Nils Bourkersson's book, but in very rudimentary fashion. I felt the project was slowly grinding to a halt when I talked to a 90-year old cousin in Salt Lake City, who said "I had that book translated about 15 years ago." After some discussion, she volunteered to send it to me by Email, and I decided to make a trip to Sweden to report my findings to Ulla-Karin. That decision eventually included four nights in Stockholm, a week in a time share in Nils' area of Skåne in southern Sweden, a five-night Norway Fjord cruise and four nights in Copenhagen, Denmark. Since I had previously visited Helsinki, Finland in 2010, I felt I had the credentials to call myself a Scandinavian Explorer.

Nils' story is a rather dramatic and tragic one, and important in the history of early Mormon immigration. Although Nils died in 1868, I hope to coax him out of his grave to explain to Ron and his radio audience the essence of his tragic, non-Mormon life.

You can listen to the interview at 1 pm on Thursday, October 15th in Sonoma at KSVY, 91.3 FM or, if you're not in Sonoma at that time, you can listen on-line at:

<http://ksvy.org/docs/miniplayerpopup.html>



3

