

Titti & Hans' news letter christmas 2012

This year has been a very busy year all rough I should try to adapt to be a retired person. In the beginning of the year, Titti came up with the idea that we should go to USA to see relatives and celebrate my 70 years birthday with Jonas in San Francisco. So the first month were spent planning for the trip. With a lot of help from Neil Blomberg my third cousin in Appleton, Wisconsin a trip could be set up.

Our journey started March 20 when we left Gotland to stay with my sister Anne-Mari and her Håkan in Täby, Stockholm. They had arranged a surprise party for an early celebration of my coming big day.



March 21 Titti and I sat our feet's in San Francisco and were meet by Jonas who is a PhD student at Stanford University.

On the "big" day 23rd Jonas had arranged a tour in San Francisco



That ended at a very nice restaurant in the wine district Napa Valley.

We stayed a few days in San Francisco, meet some colleges to Jonas and visited The Computer museum and Google. Then we started our journey by a rented car south along the California coast. A very nice and exiting journey but Hans caught a cold and we had to stay two days in Monterey witch was a nice little place with an advanced aquarium that we managed to go to.

We stayed another night at a motel before we arrived in Santa Barbara to meet Nicolas and Elizabeth Cunningham with their daughter Mojra.



Nicolas is kind of cousin's son to Titti and they had visited us on Gotland in 2005.

We had a very nice time with them and saw, among other interesting areas in Santa Barbara, the place where all Monarch Butterflies are borne.



They spread from there over large areas of North America. We also went to the botanic gardens before we continued our journey south along the coast.

We had a quick look at Los Angeles but were not attracted to get in among all people. Instead, we continued along the coastline as much as possible. We stopped at coast places and small towns.



In Carlsbad a resort between Los Angeles and San Diego we meet Titti's real cousin Susan Goodwin daughter to Titti's mother's first cousin. Here we learned that if you have a room you could let people stay with you. This is not what hotels etc allow you to do in Europe. Anyhow, we had a very pleasant stay at this beautiful resort. The next day we continued to San Diego to catch a flight

to Las Vegas together with Susanne. To arrive in Las Vegas was a bit frightening with all the gambling machines that meet you already as you step of the plane. Susanne had her car at the airport so we went into the centre to a hotel she had booked for us. Now we got to learn what big is in America. In a way, Las Vegas turned out to be more than a crazy gambling place. Some buildings were really adventures with towns inside.





In the evening, we went to a show of a kind we probably not will see again, the show LE RÊVE - The Dream (French for “the dream”) by Cirque Du Soleil. It was an outstanding breathtaking experience in a dream world taking place in water and in the air above.



The end of the show

Grand Canyon

Our journey continued with Susan in her car



We stopped at several nice views along the canyon. To see this in real life was something else. We had seen pictures at home but had not been able to imagine the amplitude of the scenery.



We continued along Grand Canyon east to Lake Powell



Where Titti's mother's cousin Britt Adams and her husband Steve had come down from St George to meet us at a nice hotel at the seashore.



Mother and daughter

The next day Susan went home to Idaho Falls and Britt and Steve took over the responsibility for us.



Britt and Steve took us to Antelope Canyon an amazing cave in sandstone. Wind and water has sculptured the walls that together with the light from above give beautiful scenery that you never forget.



We then went with there car back home to there house in St: George in Utah.

On the way, we passed Parry Lodge in Kanab once called Utah's little Hollywood. This little country place was used for getting the sceneries for the early Wild West films.



Britt and Steve's beautiful home has a nice view over town and at night you can see the Mormon temple shining in the centre. St: George is a Mormon county.



We went to the temple and were shown an "exhibition play" about their belief. For us coming from Sweden it was strange and appeared to us more like a sect. Everything is strict regulated and the men are in power. Polygamy has been part of the religion and there are still those that live under those conditions and can be seen in the town.

It is difficult to understand and one has to be humble before others' beliefs but this belief requires deeper analysis to be understood at all.

Britt and Steve took us around nearby canyons. We learnt that when Americans say nearby it can mean distances like 200km, everything is car based. We had a wonderful time seeing a lot of things inside and outside of town.





These were some of the places we went to. The geographical formations and reminiscences from old time filled our memory.

With great thankfulness, we left Titti's relatives and headed towards Missouri to meet relatives on Hans' Mother's side. We went to Las Vegas and took a flight to Kansas City where we stayed over night.



The next day we rented a car and set off to Chillicothe to meet Babara and Don Smith. Barbara is descendant of Anders Blomberg a brother to Hans' great grandfather. They live at a nice place with quite a large land and woods where they can grow plants and trees. The land is big enough for hunting and collecting other things like mushrooms.



We had a nice dinner with Barbara's mother and son with wife



Barbara, Bob , Dorothy Mae, Julie



Chillicothe is a small town with several wall paintings making the town very interesting. This is also Amish land and we saw horse carriages and went to a store where they sell furniture and other homemade stuff.



Parking place for horses

In the store we talked with a man about telephones that are not allowed but cell phones are, as they are not connected with cables

We left Barbara and Don with great memories. We could have stayed in there company much longer.

We headed towards Nebraska, Bennet (Lincon). Connie and Tom May. Connie is borne Blomberg and her great grandfather and Hans' great grandfather were brothers. (Anders Blomberg and Carl Modig)



Titti and Connie in front of there gate. Here we are having drinks before dinner with Connie's husband Tom and their Son Travis



Connie is interested in genealogy and has written a book on the Danielson family.

We have a lot in that common interest and the family collects things from old time. Here Connie demonstrates her player Piano that works fantastically.

Tom has his welding shop in Britton specialised in building trailers for farm work. As a great hobby he renovates old tractors. Connie and he attends tractor shows all over the country. He has even sold a renovated tractor to Sweden.



Connie visited Stockholm in July 2011 and met Jonas our youngest son who took her and her friend in his boat on a tour.

Connie's older son Brian works nearby his father making custom furniture and in his spare time wooden art things.

It was wonderful to get to know the family and we made close friends. Our schedule pushed us to get on towards Minnesota and Minneapolis.



We went on the road through Iowa. It was easy driving all rough some speeding Lorries was a problem for the safety on the road.

We stopped over night at a small place called Story City. Apparently the people there were proud of their Norwegian heritage



We took off from the main road towards Idaho Falls to a beautiful nature area where we had a nice long walk.



Idaho Falls

Minneapolis



Neil and Joanna Blomberg were waiting for us at their hotel where they generally stay when they are in Minneapolis. It was very nice to see them again and talk about our common memories and future plans. Neil has made a fantastic plan for our visit and we were shown all the details. He had arranged a “relatives” reunion the next day at IKEA

But first we had dinner with little Henry, Annika and her husband Mile at The Mall of America, Bloomington



At IKEA the Swedish meeting point. Lunch with relatives. April 13

Mary (Wiklund) and Rand Settle with their son Tomas Settle.

Mary is Hans' 3rd cousin and her grandmother Hulda was borne in Sweden and emigrated to Ogema with her parents 1881

Don and Kathy Blomberg and their boys ??? ???

Don is 3rd cousin of Hans and his Grandfather Viktor was also born in Sweden

The discussions and sharing of materials about our common relatives were interesting and we really had a nice time.





After “coffee break” we went to Thomas Setell’s Gym.



The children showed their skill and it was fascinating to see what they could do and how happy they were.

We had afternoon coffee with Lisa (Anderson) and Josh Pouliot. Lisa’s great grandfather was Alfred Blomberg. He was a brother to Hans’ great grandfather Carl Modig and they were brothers of the American progenitor Anders Blomberg.

They have quite recently moved from Sweden to Minneapolis / S:t Paul. They were found in the Alfred Blomberg family tree. Hans and Neil talked about it and Neil got in contact and made a new connection between the families.



In the evening, we had dinner at Outback Steakhouse in Bloomington.



Here we met Keith and Lisa Brant. Keith is 4th cousin to our children and his great grandfather is Victor Blomberg, son of Anders Blomberg. As you can see on the faces we had a great time.

April 14

In the morning, we had a nice walk at one of the many lakes in Minneapolis



At lunchtime we went to an elder home to meet a 2nd cousin to Hans mother Gunne.



Grace (Flood) Elasky, daughter of Ruth (Blomberg) Flood who is the tenth child of Anders and Betty that emigrated 1881. Grace still remembers some Swedish Joy (Elasky) Grace's daughter and her husband Bruce Fleming were also there and we had nice talks about a lot of things.

Here you see the three 3rd cousins line up behind Grace.

After lunch we went to the American Swedish institute a arts & cultural centre and museum founded by a Swedish immigrant. Originally it was his home and he made his wealth in the newspaper industry.



In the staircase there is a glass window painting. It depicts how the Danish king Valdemar IV (Valdemar Atterdag) collects treasures from the people in the Gotlandic medieval town of Visby in the summer of 1361 AD. If the town's people do not fill the three big beer vats with gold, silver and other riches, Valdemar will see to that the whole town is burned to the ground. This type of taxation is known as fire taxation.



This was very interesting to see as we are from Gotland and the painting is well known to us and hangs at our museum.

The paintings are very similarly but not identically. The left part of the painting is extended compared with the original and there is a new man with a red cap that is added. The painting is supposed to view the big square in Visby but all the houses are made up. Anyhow, they give an air of how it looks like in Visby.



After the visit to the Swedish institute, Tomas Settle took us out to the countryside where he has his horse. Titti and Hans were set up on the horse for the picture but Titti could have ride.



In the evening, Hans celebrated Titti's birthday with some snacks and sparkling wine at the hotel room. We had not said anything about it.



Later when Joanna and Neil returned from their visit to their daughter Annika they joined in.



It also became kind of far well because the next day we were leaving for Canada.

April 15



In the morning, we found our rented car next to a limousine. The weather was nice and warm typical spring with the leaves coming out. Now were heading north to Duluth and along the west coast of Lake Superior



After a nice ride about 155 miles we arrived at Pat and David Mast's home in Duluth. Pat is the youngest of two children of Blanche Dorothy (Dorthea) Wallbom Wall, who was the youngest child of Esther Amelia Blomberg Wallbom and Eric Wilhelm Wallbom. Esther was the second oldest daughter of Anders and Betty Blomberg. This means that Pat and Hans are 3rd cousins.



In the afternoon we had, a tour round Duluth but the weather had become windy and foggy. However, it was nice to see the town with many sceneries as the town is dominated by a steep hillside that climbs from Lake Superior to high inland elevations

In the evening, we had a nice dinner a restaurant outside town and were served wine through a special gadget that airs the wine in to promote its taste.

In the morning, we woke up to winter. The car was so frozen that it was difficult to open the doors



Thanks to Pat we could defrost the car and she let us take shovel and snow scraper with us as the Kansas car was not equipped for winter.



We stopped at Gooseberry Falls and had a look at their visitor centre.



It was interesting to learn that during the depression unemployed workers were recruited to work at camps to restore or build national state parks. Similar things were done in Sweden. These ideas may be something for today's problems.

Split Rock Lighthouse



Blowing and ice cold. It takes strength and engagement to be a tourist.

This is a beautiful place probably crowded on warmer days. We were the only ones there.



More rivers in "friendly" weather

At last, we came to a warm place. Grand Potage National Monument



There was a absolutely new exhibition house and we as early new visitors were invited to watch some video-films at their new theatre. They were interesting and gave us a lot of knowledge an information on Indian life and the early trade in???



After we passed the border to Canada we were welcomed at Lil and Derm McCollough



Lill is daughter of Anshelm Forsslund how's father Johan Fredrik Forsslund was a brother to Hans grandfather.





In 1992 Gunnar, Hans' brother and Gösta, Hans' father, visited the relatives in Thunder Bay. They are to the left them Don Forsslund, Ray Forsslund, Lill McCollough and Jean ????. Our daughter Annika worked a year in Thunder Bay 1991-92. Lill and Derm was a secure point for her.

Lill has a lot of nice pictures of our families. It was great to see them and take some photos of them back home.



Kakabeka Falls



We visited Jean, sister to Lill and we also went home

to Sandra, Daughter of Lill and Derm. Titti had met her before when Titti was in Canada for a conference in 1992



Betty (Rae) Forslund

Far well party



Leaving Canada back to USA we said goodbye to the Giant of Thunder Bay



The spring had returned on the way back. Here a picnic lunch at the shore of Lake Superior



Reunion in Duluth with Neil and Joanna and Pat and we also met Pat's sister Linda Bard We had a lunch at a rotating restaurant.



Reception at Carol's and Dinner at SteakPit in Washburn



Breakfast and Tour at Lonnie and Darens Home, Ashland



We had a great party at????



Write things here



A multitasking and creative inventing family



The Homestead in Ogema, where Betty and Anders Blomberg settled in 1881.



The Blomberg family grave.



We met a lot of people at the homestead and around. A list here???



In Ogema Neil and his sisters have cabins



We stopped at Enid (Carlsson) Blomberg born October 5, 1912
Here you see mother and son.



Here some text



**Home sweet home in
Appleton at Joanna and Neil**

Coffee with cousins at Altas Mill by Fox River in Appleton



Chicago



In the middle Karen (Leafblad, Granddaughter of Hulda (Blomberg) Wiklund 3rd Cousin of Hans At her side her husband Ken Swanson

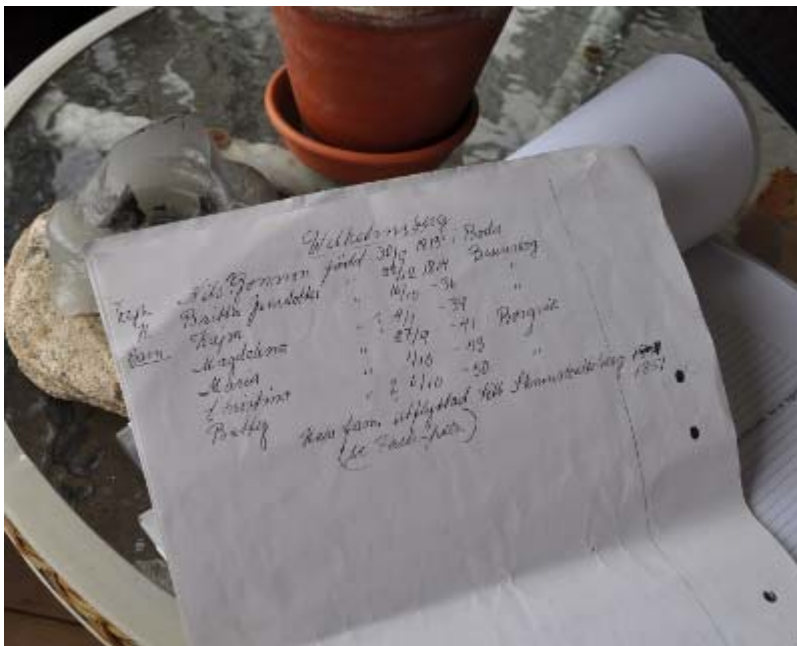
To the right of Hans Connie (Tedlund) Allen Granddaughter of Emma (Blomberg) Tedlund





Back Home in Sweden

We went to Värmland in June Titti had one of her regular reunion with her school friends. Hans did not attend their meeting but instead looked for places where our relatives have been living. Together with Titti we manage to locate the house where Betty (Nilsson) Blomberg was borne. It was very exciting to see the actual house and those living there had made some resurg??? on those who had lived there. In their notes Betty's name was found.









Singapore













