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## 23 & ME ANCESTRY

Have you sent your saliva sample into one of those ancestry sites yet? The kind where you spit into a test tube, seal it and send it to a faraway lab to be analyzed. It appeared to me like just about everyone had done that, except me, so I got onboard last year through 23 & Me. I wagered what the results would be as I dropped the pre-addressed box containing a sample of my DNA into the mail and waited for what seemed almost forever for the results. Lo and behold, I was right! I knew I was half Finnish and half Swedish (which the testing indicated); what I didn't know was that I was precisely 9% more Finnish than Swedish—but I always had an inkling. It seemed my personality traits were slanted a little bit more towards the Finnish side than the Swedish side. I often wondered as a child if this hurt my Swedish-American mom's feelings to identify more with the Finns or not. Of course, I never asked. When confronted by strangers, I would always answer with "I'm 100% Finnish and 100% Swedish!" This seemed to stop them in their tracks so they would not continue with the interrogation. They'd just smile. My mom did, too.

Two weeks ago my brother had his DNA tested through Ancestry.com. Were his results the same? After all, we have the same parents. The results came back and indicated that No, they were not! He tested out to be 92% Finnish! With the remaining 2% of him being Swedish. Again, that did not surprise me in the least. I had always known that he identified more with his Finnish side. The first thing he said to me after sharing his results was that he had wondered as a child if that had hurt mom's feelings. As true Finns, of course, we never talked about such personal things. So we'll never know.

I have one other brother. He hasn't had his DNA tested. I am going out on a limb to say that he will turn out to have inherited more Swedish genes than Finnish. It's just who he seems to be, in my mind. So far I'm two for two so we'll see.

So you see that not only can siblings inherit different color eyes, hair color or their dad's nose or their mom's height they can also inherit different ethnic traits as well. My oldest brother, as it turns out, is more Finnish than me! Who knew? Well, I guess, I did. Because I could tell.

-Andrea Tolonen

# SOAPSTONE REMEMBERED

By Victor W. Laine

*Member of the Finnish American Historical  
Society of the West  
Written in August of 1995*

It could not have occurred to me, lying on the floor of Lindgren's log house that the house itself would end up so prominently in the affairs of our Society. The house was still in place on Soapstone Creek and my brother, George, and I, with a couple of friends, were trying to get some sleep during our deer hunt. The sleep came grudgingly, since it was interrupted several times by the passage of some huge pack rats over our blanket covers. The exact year escapes me, but it was shortly after the Lindgrens had left. The rats were no doubt indignant over our intrusion, but I did not appreciate their point of view, especially since sleeping bags had not yet become very common, and all night I could imagine a flanking operation on their part, directed at the spaces between my blankets—I did not rest well!

Our family had been to this beautiful spot many times before, since my parents, Carl and Anna Laine, who lived in Astoria, were close personal friends of the Lindgrens. And the old homestead was a perfect picnic site. To get there, it was necessary to go by foot, but it was an interesting walk. The trail began on Highway #53 and five miles south of Necanicum Junction and was perhaps a mile long. It wound

up Soapstone Creek for about a mile and was the only ingress to the Lindgren homestead. We were intrigued by the fact that every item there had been laboriously hauled up that narrow trail or produced on the spot.

The homestead reminded me of a fine pastoral painting. A meadow surrounded the house area and extended north, all of it bordered by a pristine conifer forest of great beauty. An old-fashioned sauna was situated near the creek and, following the Lindgrens offer, we did use it. A short distance upstream lay Soapstone Lake, a fine place for swimming. It would have been better save for a goodly population of black water snakes. While non-poisonous, their presence did dissuade a few of the less hardy, but with just a little awareness they really were not a problem.

The entire setting impressed me so greatly that I found myself, while serving overseas in World War II, spending quite a bit of time picturing it in my mind, savoring the good memories. When I came home, I announced to my wife that there must be some way we could arrange to own at least some of the property, and Rean and I set out to visit the area. The thought of building a secondary residence there was irresistible. We did find our way there, only to meet with bitter disappointment. The place was a disaster. The forest was gone, a casualty of indiscriminate clear-cut logging practices. Slash disposal had been poorly done. It looked like the scene of a recent battle. Worse yet, the



area was infested by a colony of hippie “earth persons,” vigorously engaged in despoiling the very earth they lived on. They had discovered the good swimming offered by Soapstone Lake and their litter was everywhere. Rumor has it that the snakes all vacated the lake after a quick look at this crew and, while unconfirmed, I do not doubt it.

Thus ended my Lindgren adventure. I have not had the heart to return, though I have been as close as Cole Mountain, about a mile east of the lake. Perhaps I will visit there once more, since nature does have healing propensities. At age 73, my dream of building a retreat there has run out of time, but I am grateful for having seen the old homestead as it really was. It was idyllic and unforgettable.

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*The older we get  
the less we need to act our age.*

*--Finnish Proverb*

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## **FFCPC NEWS**

### **Oregon Receives \$10,000 in Support from Finlandia Foundation National for 2019!**

In March 2019, the Finlandia Foundation National Board of Trustees (FFN) awarded a total of \$10,000 for grants for two projects in Oregon and a scholarship to a university freshman from Astoria, Oregon.

The first grant, for \$5,000 was awarded to the Astoria (OR) Scandinavian Heritage association to go towards the construction of the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Park in Astoria.

The second grant was awarded to the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter (FFCPC) in the amount of \$2,000 for the much-needed repair and maintenance of the historic Lindgren Cabin in Warrenton. Work has already begun on the cleanup and repair of the cabin. Caution is being taken on how to care properly for an historically significant building.

FFN also award a \$3,000 FFN Aune E. Koski Scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year to Aleksander Matthews. Aleksander is a dual-citizen from Astoria and is pursuing a degree in international studies at Willamette University in Oregon. He is the son of Saara and Greg Matthews, owners of Finn Ware in Astoria and Nordic Finn Ware in Portland. Aleksander has been active in the Finnish and Nordic communities since he was a young boy and is a past member of FFCPC. His parents are generous supporters and members of many Finnish and Nordic organizations in Oregon and Washington, including FFCPC and Nordic NW.

Via Ms. Koski’s will, FFCPC received the Aune E. Koski Scholarship Fund for Worthy Students in 2008. The fund was valued at over \$200,000. In November 2008, FFCPC turned the fund over to FFN to administer with FFCPC’s participation.



FFCPC encourages Finnish-American and Finnish university students in Oregon and Washington to apply for the FFN Aune E. Koski Scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1, 2020. The FFN Aune E. Koski Scholarship is one of the many scholarships FFN awards each year. To learn more about FFN Scholarships go to <https://finlandiafoundation.org/programs/scholarships/>

### **Who Was Aune Koski?**

Aune lived in Vancouver, WA. Memories of Aune are a delight. Pirjo Schulbach remembers attending her 90th birthday party, which she hosted. She even performed a skit and danced for the attendees. She was quite a character. Aune traveled extensively on her own, loved to dance, made her own cards, and in her 90's still drove her younger 80-year old friends around town.

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## **FFCPC GETTING INTO THE SWING OF THINGS**

Excerpts from Pirjo Schulbach and Dave Alford

Longtime FFCPC members and stalwart volunteers Dave Alford and Dirk Schulbach are embarking on a new project for FFCPC and Nordic NW. They are starting repairs on an authentic Finnish swing in the backyard at Nordic NW's Fogelbo. Dirk's dad, Roy Schulbach, built the swing. After Roy passed away, his wife Harriet donated it to the

Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, now known as Nordic North West. The swing has been sitting in the backyard at Fogelbo ever since. Now the swing needs repair in time for the coming summer season. FFCPC authorized some funds to repair it, and thanks to volunteers Dave and Dirk, the project is beginning. Look for the newly refurbished swing in the next few months.



The Schulbach Swing  
Photo by Dirk Schulbach

According to Dave, "Our aim is to keep the swing as it looked when Roy Schulbach made it. We will use the original hardware wherever practical. It should appear to have come on a ship from Sweden or Finland."

Things have changed since the Swing was donated to the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (SHF). The Swing is at Fogelbo, which was until recently owned by Ross Fogelquist. Ross



donated his property to Nordic NW in a “Living Trust.” Ross tells me the swing worked well until an entire family piled on it and it broke. For those who haven’t seen the swing, it seats four people by design – two on each side on benches facing one another.

The swing was evidently moved off of the lawn. Unfortunately, it was left in the lowest part of the yard where it turns to mud in the winter months. The bottoms on the uprights of the swing have rotted which will need to be replaced. We must also put the swing on “skids” so it can be moved when/if Nordic NW has an event where they do not want the Swing present or if they should decide to keep it in another location.

Our intent is to keep the Swing at the Vappu fire pit where, typically, Swedish and Finnish events are hosted at Fogelbo. Our swing will then become a traditional Nordic asset on the NNW grounds and a remembrance of Roy Schulbach in whose name it was donated. Mr. Schulbach was an active, well-known and highly respected member (and frequently an officer) of FFCPC, FAHSW, SHF and other Nordic organizations. As his daughter Christine describes it, “He would be particularly proud his swing is at the Fogelbo Estate next to Nordia House and the Finnish Monument. All our FFCPC and NNW members should know the history of the Swing.

And, daughter-in-law, Pirjo adds, “I’m looking forward to using the swing, once it is repaired of course!”

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*Sometimes its best not to speak  
unless you can improve on the silence.*  
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—Finnish Proverb



The Schulbach Swing  
Photo by Dirk Schulbach

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**Lindgren Cabin  
Clean-up Begins**

On a typically soggy spring day in the Pacific Northwest, hardy members of FFCPC and a few dogs gathered at the Lindgren Cabin to begin the clean-up process before the group can proceed on to the preservation portion of the goal of keeping the beloved cabin in the best possible condition.

Inside the Savu Sauna



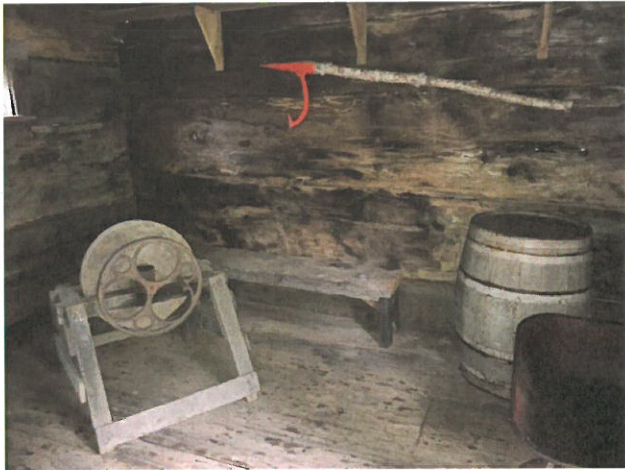




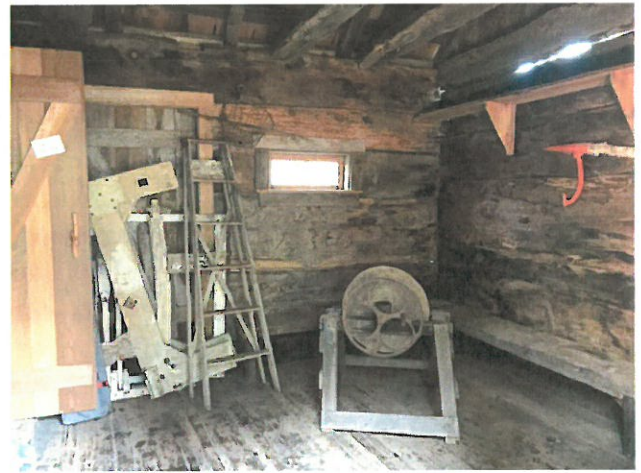
From L-R, Wayne Barker, Elizabeth Newton, Andrea Tolonen, Jukka Perkiomaki, and Greg Jacob outside the Savu Sauna building



Judy Gervais and Greg Jacob



Inside the dressing room of the sauna, now used as a tool shed



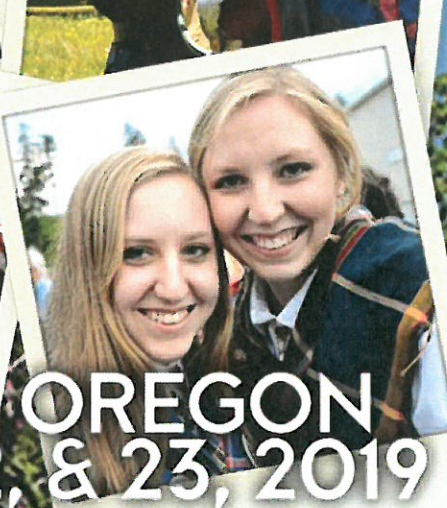
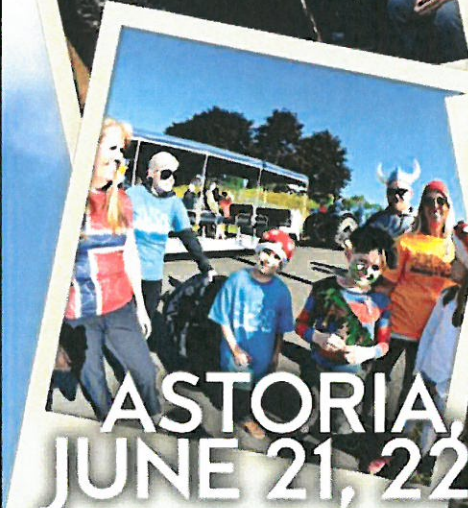
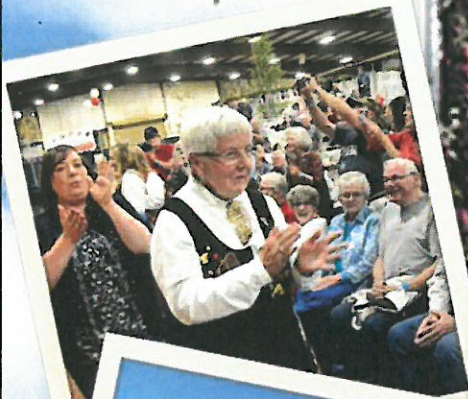
That is a loom on the left that they hope to have on display someday.



They were given access to a full-bedded pickup truck for the throw-aways. It was filled to the brim! Andrea Tolonen takes a look.



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ASTORIA, OREGON  
JUNE 21, 22, & 23, 2019

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