

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America

Newsletter / March 2017

Swedish-American Historical Society Spring Tour

Historic Sites in Swedish Minnesota

April 21 and 22, 2017



Stillwater, Minnesota

Minnesota was settled by thousands of Swedish immigrants beginning in the 1850s and extending into the early twentieth century. In addition to the well-settled Minneapolis and St. Paul urban neighborhoods, the beautiful area of the St. Croix River Valley, which forms the boundary between Minnesota and Wisconsin, was one of the many sites appealing to early settlers. The communities of Stillwater and Marine on St. Croix, along with the so-called “slum” of Swede Hollow on the east side of St. Paul and the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, will be the foci of our weekend.

Details of the tour are as follows.

On Friday morning, April 21, from 9:30 to 11:30, we will visit historic Swede Hollow (Svenska Dalen) in St. Paul, an area settled by poor, aspiring Swedes in the late nineteenth century and later by other immigrants, Italians

and Mexicans, living as squatters in numerous crude shacks along Phalen Creek. Author Ola Larsmo’s new novel, which has gained much critical attention, follows a Swedish family in their ups and downs in



Swede Hollow c.1910

Swede Hollow. The novel, entitled *Swede Hollow* and already in multiple printings in Sweden, is being adapted as a play and will be performed this fall at the Swedish

National Theatre in Stockholm. Moreover, in January Larsmo won the prestigious critic’s prize of *Dagens Nyheter*. It is anticipated that an English-language edition will be published next year.

Dr. David Lanegran, retired professor of geography at Macalaster College and the leading authority on Swede Hollow and Twin City neighborhood history, will introduce us to the story of the early Swedish settlers who followed their dream for a better life in the United States. We will gather first at the historic First Lutheran Church (463 Maria Ave.) on Dayton’s Bluff, with a media presentation and discussion, followed by a walking tour of the Hollow just below the church and the site of the old Hamm’s Brewery.

Our noon lunch will be at the American Swedish Institute, located in the beautifully renovated Turnblad Mansion built by Swan Turnblad, early publisher of the largest Swedish newspaper in the United States. The mansion has been home to the American Swedish Institute since 1929, and now includes the award-winning Nelson Cultural



American Swedish Institute

Center. We will have a delightful catered Swedish meal. The afternoon program will feature a tour and media presentation by Dr. Byron Nordstrom—former longtime

Historic sites in Swedish Minnesota

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editor of the Society's quarterly publication and retired history professor at Gustavus Adolphus College—on Turnblad, his newspaper, and the mansion's history. We will also receive a current report on the digitization project of Swedish-American periodicals, now online through the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Heading back to Stillwater (and the hotel for those staying there) by mid-afternoon, we will be on our own for dinner. There are many excellent choices in the area, and a list will be provided.



Marine on St. Croix
1888 Village Hall

Our evening event will take place at 7:00 in the historic Village Hall at Marine on St. Croix, the oldest in the state, twelve miles north of Stillwater. Marine was the first non-military white settlement in Minnesota, established in 1839, and is where the first small group of Swedish immigrants settled in 1850. Following the Indian Treaties of 1837 with the Dakota and the

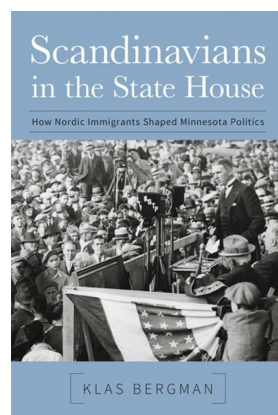
Ojibwe, which ceded to the U.S. government all the lands east of the Mississippi River, the vast old-growth white pine of the St. Croix Valley attracted settlers and logging

entrepreneurs. A group of New Englanders from Marine, Illinois, established the first mill and industrial enterprise in what would later become the State of Minnesota in 1858. The early homes, historic general store and village hall, all reflect a New England ethos and style. When Swedes began pouring into the area, as well as nearby Chisago County (famous as "Moberg Country") in the 1850s, the character of village life in Marine also changed visibly.

Klas Bergman will be our featured speaker. He is a Swedish-American journalist who was born in Sweden, educated in the United States, and worked as a correspondent for major Swedish newspapers since the early 1980s. His important new book, *Scandinavians in the State House: How Nordic Immigrants Shaped Minnesota Politics* (Minnesota Historical Society Press), tells the story of Nordic immigrant influence in politics and culture, which arguably is unique to Minnesota. His talk will be followed by a conversation with Dag Blanck of Uppsala University and Steven Schier of Carleton College. The evening event is co-sponsored by our Society, the Marine Community Library, the Minnesota Historical Society, the American Swedish Institute, and Gammelgården Museum. It is free and open to the public.



Klas Bergman



Please join us for this interesting and informative weekend with other Society members!

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Comfort Inn and Suites hotel in Stillwater (nearby Oak Park Heights), a half-hour east of the Twin Cities, for the nights of Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21. If attendees wish to lengthen their stay, they should make arrangements directly with the hotel. See the *tear-off registration information*. There are also B&Bs in the charming center of Stillwater, where the Minnesota Territory was established in 1849, as well as the historic Lowell Inn, for those who may wish to make their own lodging arrangements.

We will be car-pooling throughout the day, and would appreciate hearing from registrants about any transportation needs. Those staying at the hotel will depart together, while others will converge at Swede Hollow.

Year-end society donations total \$5950

Harry Anderson	Duane Kullberg
Phil Anderson	Kerstin Lane
Rolf D Anderson	Bruce Larson
Jennifer Barkely	Ann Marie Legreid
William Beyer	Marlin Mattson
Jon Brorson	Selma McLaughlin
Grace Carlson Lund	Paula Nelson
Scott Erickson	Wayne Nestander
Barbara Graves	Gordon Olson
Anne-Charlotte Harvey	Kevin Proescholdt
Nils Hasselmo	Don Safstrom
James and Sandra Holst	Donald P Skoog
Dale A Johnson	Steven and Yvonne Stallard
Ronald A Johnson	Verdandi Lodge
Robert Johnson	Kim Eric Williams

Newsletter editor: Phil Anderson
Production: Grace Lund

SAHS board members Granquist and Safstrom speak at conference

On December 13, 2016, Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota, hosted the latest in a series of events focused on the study of Pietism, a religious influence shared by many immigrants from Sweden and their descendants. This year's "Bethel Colloquium on Pietism Studies" coincided with the 200th anniversary of the Swedish Pietist, Carl Olof Rosenius, and therefore the focus of this event was appropriately on Scandinavian Pietism, a relatively lesser studied area within the field. Bethel Professor and Pietism scholar Christian Collins Winn served as primary organizer and host of the day's events.

The morning began with papers by two historians, Mark Granquist of Luther Seminary and Mark Safstrom of the University of Illinois. Granquist gave a wide perspective on the transnational influence of Scandinavian Pietism as it relates to North American Christianity, as well as indications of how this history continues to be of interest to researchers across cultural and ethnic boundaries. He is the author of *Lutherans in America: A New History* and editor of *Scandinavian Pietists: Spiritual Writings from 19th Century Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland*.

Drawing from his research and translation work on Swedish Lutheran Pietism, Mark Safstrom explained the relationship that Pietists known as "Luther Readers" had to Martin Luther, particularly their various views on Luther's notion of sola scriptura and how this impacts historically Swedish-American denominations like the Evangelical Covenant Church. Safstrom is author of *The Religious Origins of Democratic Pluralism* and the translator and editor of *The Swedish Pietists: A Reader: Excerpts from the Writings of Carl Olof Rosenius and Paul Peter Waldenström*.

Additional speakers included Efrem Smith and Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom. The day concluded with a preview screening of scenes from an upcoming documentary film on Pietism, written by Safstrom and Clifton-Soderstrom. "God's Glory, Neighbor's Good: The Story of Pietism" will be released later this spring, and tells the broad story of Pietism from its roots in Germany in the seventeenth century and highlighting several Scandinavian examples. The film will be distributed by Vision Video and is designed for a general audience, as well as an educational resource for seminary and graduate student classes and congregational adult Sunday school contexts.

Covenant Church anniversary books now online

This winter the F.M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections at North Park University, which administers the Society's Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago, launched its latest digital collection, featuring anniversary books published by individual Evangelical Covenant Church congregations. These books were created to celebrate significant milestones in the life of a church. While varied in length and content, they typically include

historical sketches, descriptions of congregational activities and organizations, photographs, and more.

"These hold a particular interest not only for church and local historians but also for genealogists" says Anna-Kajsa Anderson, director of archives and special collections. "Anniversary books can help you learn if your family member taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, or served on the church board."

While this digital collection represents a particular denomination among those started by Swedish immigrants, it will be of interest to a wide range of researchers, and points to similar resources to be found in other religious traditions.

The Evangelical Covenant Church was organized in 1885 by Swedish immigrants in the United States, though its earliest churches date to 1868. It continued to be a largely Swedish-American denomination until the mid-twentieth century.

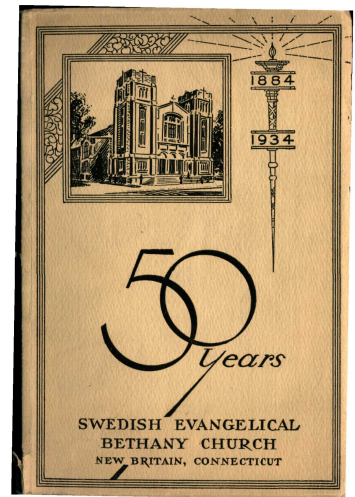
The Covenant Church Anniversary Books can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/CovChurchAnniversaryBooks>. Archives staff will continue to add to the collection throughout 2017.

Forthcoming in the SAHQ

Editor Kevin Proescholdt reports that the April issue of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* will contain three main articles. The first will be an excerpt from Klas Bergman's forthcoming book, *Scandinavians in the State House: How Nordic Immigrants Shaped Minnesota Politics*, who is the Society's featured speaker at its Spring Meeting in Minnesota. Swedish scholar Lars Brink will have his article on Peter Beckman of Enånger, who became a pioneer Augustana Lutheran pastor in the wilds of western Minnesota. And Ann Wick has edited writings of the Swedish immigrant Stephen Forslund, who wrote about early Swedish immigrants in Tacoma, Washington.

An invitation to membership

Anticipating this spring's SAHS gathering in Minnesota? Stimulated by a recent article in the *Quarterly*? Membership in the Society can get all of that done—and it's easy through the Society website <<http://www.swedishamericanhist.org>>, via e-mail (info@swedishamericanhist.org), by mail (3225 W. Foster Ave, Box 48, Chicago, IL 60625), or by phone to the society's office manager, Annika Safstrom (773-583-5722). Consider gift memberships, as well, for family and friends interested in their Swedish heritage. Or follow us on Facebook. We are always happy to hear from you with comments, requests and book orders.



Registration Information

Registration Fee

Registration fee for the weekend is \$50.00 per person. This includes the morning visit to Swede Hollow, the lunch and program at the American Swedish Institute, and the Friday evening program in Marine.

Accommodations

Please **book direct with the hotel** no later than **March 30**, and mention the **Swedish-American Historical Society**.

We have reserved a block of rooms for Thursday and Friday nights, April 20 and 21, at a special group rate at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 2000 Washington Ave. S., Stillwater.

The rates for a double or single room range from **\$95.00 to 103.00 per night** plus tax. A complimentary breakfast is included. **Use the local hotel phone: (651) 275-1401.**

Note: Please send the form below when you make your hotel reservation so that we know how many participants to plan on for the weekend, and indicate any transportation needs, since we will be car-pooling.

Reservation Form

HISTORIC SITES IN SWEDISH MINNESOTA – APRIL 21 and 22, 2017

Check enclosed for my/our reservation(s) for ____ persons at \$50.00 each.

Or charge my Visa or MasterCard:

Card number _____ Exp date _____

Mail reservation form to the attention of our office manager, Annika Safstrom:

Swedish-American Historical Society
3225 W. Foster Avenue - Box 48
Chicago, IL 60625

Phone: (773) 583-5722
E-mail: info@swedishamericanhist.org
Website: www.swedishamericanhist.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

***Please reserve by **April 1** and include your e-mail address or phone number
in case of any last-minute notifications.***