

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America

Newsletter / October 2012

Two one-act plays on program

Fall dinner meeting Nov. 10 will celebrate Strindberg

The Society's Fall dinner meeting Nov. 10 at North Park University will mark the 100th anniversary of the death of August Strindberg with a presentation of two one-act plays by North Park drama students.



Strindberg

Dinner details will be found in an insert in this newsletter along with a reservations form. The plays to be presented are "The Stronger," by Strindberg, and similarly titled *Den sterkere* ("The Stronger"), by Dagny Juel. The actors are students of North Park Prof. Chad Eric Bergman.

Strindberg, playwright, novelist, poet, essayist and painter, was a prolific writer who often drew on personal experience. He is one of a triumvirate of important Scandinavian writers that also includes Hans Christian Anderson (Denmark) and Henrik Ibsen (Norway).

Probably the best known of his many works are the play *Miss Julie* and the stark semi-autobiographical novel *Inferno*. In the most recent biography, *Strindberg* (Yale University Press, 2012), author Sue Prideaux "makes a strong case for his neglected comedies, calling *The People of Hemsö* Scandinavia's great comic masterpiece" (New Yorker, May 28).

Swedish Council honors Barton, Brolander

The Swedish Council of America presented Great Achievement Awards to Glen E. Brolander and H. Arnold Barton at meetings in the spring and in September. Brolander, a former president of the Swedish-American Historical Society and former council board chair, received the award from Värmland Gov. Eva Eriksson at the council's 40th anniversary celebration April 13 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. Barton, former editor of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, received his award from Anne-Charlotte Harvey Sept. 15 at the Swedish-American Bridge conference in Karlstad.



Join us next fall at Gettysburg
See page 3 for more

Life membership ending

Board will vote Nov. 10 on new dues structure

The Society board of directors will vote Nov. 10 on a new dues structure that will increase fees in five annual membership categories—Regular, Student, Sustaining, Donor and Benefactor--and eliminate Life memberships.

The new fees and benefits will be set at the meeting and will be effective Jan. 1. Current Life memberships will continue, and anyone may still become a Life member until Dec. 31. After Jan. 1, Life will be replaced by a new membership category, Patron.

Except for Life, Society membership fees have not been raised since the mid-1980s.

The new fees will be outlined in Society President Philip Anderson's year-end letter in December. They will also be posted on the Society web page.

Newsletter editor: Eric Lund

Kajsa Anderson is named interim director

Anna-Kajsa Anderson, a May graduate of the University of Illinois with a master's degree in library and information science and a certificate in special collections, has been named interim director of the F.M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections at North Park University. The archives contain collections of the Evangelical Covenant Church, North Park and the Swedish-American Historical Society.

Kajsa is no stranger to the archives. During the summers of 2002 and 2003, she was a student assistant in the Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago. From November 2007 to July 2010, she was an assistant on the archives staff, during which time she initiated and completed digitization of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, making issues back to 1950 available on-line. She also filled in for the director during a leave of absence.

She succeeds Anne Jenner, recently named Pacific Northwest Curator in Special Collections at the University of Washington in Seattle overseeing its archive of printed and other material documenting the people, history and culture of the region (Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, British Columbia, Alaska and the Yukon).

The region is rich in Swedish-American history. Areas of specialty within the collection are exploration and discovery; early settlement; conservation and environment; linguistics and anthropology; recreation; labor and civil rights; ethnic, gender, religious and arts communities; literature and poetry; and political papers.

Jenner, Tredway to be named to Society board of directors

Anne Jenner, former Society archivist, and Thomas Tredway, former president of Augustana College, will be nominated and are expected to be elected to the Society board of directors at its Nov. 10 meeting.

They would succeed Donald Ahlm and Kevin Proescholdt, ineligible for reelection for a year. The board consists of 21 elected and three appointed members. (See page 4 for list)

Jenner was named earlier this year as an archivist at the University of Washington in Seattle (see story above).

Tredway served as seventh president of Augustana from 1975 to 2003, during which the school's endowment grew from \$4 million to \$72 million.



Anna-Kajsa Anderson

Historic barn being restored on Andrew Peterson farm

An historic, more than 150-year-old barn on the former Andrew Peterson farm in Wauconia, Minnesota, is being restored by the Carver County Historical Society with a \$27,000 grant and other support. Peterson kept a diary that provided a rich source for Vilhelm Moberg for the Swedish author's *Emigrant* novels.

For more on Moberg and Peterson see articles by Moberg, Roger McKnight and Nils William Olsson in the April 1966, July 1977, and January and April 1980 issues of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, available on-line at the Society's web site, swedishamericanhist.org.

Swedish Home records added

Two folders of early records of the Swedish Home Building Association of Chicago have been donated to the society archives by Eric Lund. Swedish Home existed from 1896 to 1983, after 1970 as the Swedish Home Savings and Loan Association. The records were the source for an article in the October 2012 issue of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*.

Next of kin sought

The Spring 2012 issue of the Norwegian-American Historical Association newsletter tells the story of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter USS Tampa, which was sunk Sept. 26, 1918, by a German U-boat. All 130 aboard perished in the worst loss suffered by U.S. naval forces in World War I. In 1999, Purple Heart medals were awarded posthumously to the 111 Coast Guard officers and men who died.

Next of kin have not been found for five Scandinavian-Americans, including four Norwegians and a Swede. The Swede is Machinist First Class Hans Ivar Johanson, born Oct. 18, 1887, in Bohuslän, son of Fredericka Anderson. Buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Bona fide next of kin may contact Robert M. Pendleton, rmpd92@yahoo.com for additional information.

'Ingrid' author dies at 91

Ingrid Bergstrom, author of *Ingrid: My Swedish-American Life and Adventures*, published by the Society in 2003, died April 10. She was 91. During the early 1960s, she and her late husband Gösta owned the Verdandi Club restaurant at 5015 N. Clark Street. Later, in the 1970s, they bought the Sweden Shop on Foster Avenue and ran it for 27 years until selling it in 1989. *Ingrid* marked a departure by the Society from its usual publishing pattern and has been one of its most successful books.

Swedish American of the Year

Ingvar Wikstrom, long-time owner of Wikstrom's Delicatessen in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood, was named the Vasa Order's Swedish-American of the Year and honored at observances in Sweden in August. Wikstrom closed his deli in 2007 to concentrate on catering and gourmet foods by mail.



The First Minnesota prepares for its costly charge (left) and the charge itself (right).
Paintings by Don Troiani. www.historicalartprints.com

Society to sponsor tour to Gettysburg in 2013

Next year will mark the 150th anniversary of the pivotal Civil War Battle of Gettysburg and the Society will sponsor a Fall tour to the site. Details will be announced in the next newsletter. Stay tuned.

The three-day battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, resulted in the highest number of casualties of the Civil War, more than 50,000. With the Confederate surrender at Vicksburg the following day, July 4, it is often described as the turning point of the war. Union Gen. George Meade's Army of the Potomac defeated attacks by Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, ending Lee's invasion of the North.

The First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry (pictured above) was one of the first organized after President Lincoln's call for 75,000 troops in April, 1861 and played a key role in the battle. On the second day, 262 members of the First restored the line after the Confederates had broken through. The 262 suffered 215 casualties killed, wounded or missing, including six Swedes:

Johan (John) Anderson (1834-1901). It is not clear whether he was in the fight July 2 or was on detached duty and brought back the next day for Pickett's charge. In either event, he was named on a July casualty list as having been wounded.

David S. Johnson (1839-1911) was shot in the knee and given a disability discharge. He settled in Chisago City, worked as a carpenter, married and had six children.

Erick A. Nystedt (1830-1886) was seriously wounded and in February 1864 the *Stillwater Messenger* reported that he was still recuperating at a hospital in Philadelphia. He married and had seven children.

Andrew P. Quint (1841-1914), born in Christiansted, emigrated at 16 and was 19 when he was mustered into the First. Quint was wounded in two of the hardest fought battles of the war, Antietam and Gettysburg. After the war, he married, had 11 children, was elected the sheriff of

Kandiyohi County by two votes in 1877, served two years and moved to Granite Falls, where he ran a saloon, followed by work on the railroad as a track layer. Then he was a drayer briefly, ran a saloon again until Prohibition entered the area, and finally was a farmer from 1893 to 1908. He died at age 73 in 1914 at the Soldiers' Home in Minneapolis. He was a Republican and with his wife deeply involved in the Grand Army of the Republic and its Ladies' Auxiliary,

Ole Thompson (1837-1863). Like Quist, Thompson was wounded in two major battles, Bull Run and Gettysburg. After being badly wounded at Gettysburg his left arm was amputated in an effort to save his life, but the effort failed and he died in August.

Peter Welin (1831-1863). The 30-year-old Swede served as a Pioneer in the regiment, which indicates he may have been a big man, certainly one of strength. Pioneers carried axes and were used to clear paths or down trees for a body of men on the move. He was severely wounded and suffered through two amputations before he died July 30. He was buried and later re-interred with thousands of others in Gettysburg National Cemetery, where his body was placed in the Minnesota area, Section D, Grave 5.

Information on the First Minnesota and the six Swedes is from the regimental history. Among a number of books about the regiment are *The First Minnesota Regiment at Gettysburg*, by William Haiber; *Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers*, by Richard Moe, retired president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and *Pale Horse at Plum Run: The First Minnesota at Gettysburg*, by Brian Leehan.

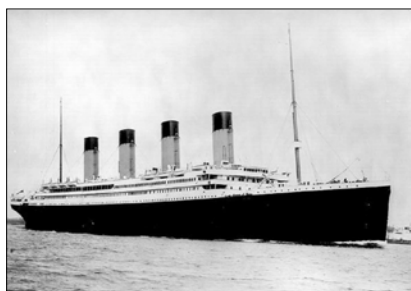
An invitation to readers

It would be interesting to know how many Society members have ancestors who fought in the Civil War. Send names and their units to swedishamericanhist.org, attention Newsletter Editor. Findings will be reported in the next newsletter.

Books by members

'Not My Time to Die,' a story of the Titanic

Some 123 Swedes were aboard the Titanic when it struck an iceberg in mid-Atlantic and sank 100 years ago. **Lilly Setterdahl's** latest book, *Not My Time to Die: Titanic and the Swedes on Board* (Nordstjernan Förlag, New York, 2012) describes the conditions in Sweden in 1912 and reasons for their emigration. It profiles each of the 123 and tells the stories of the 34 who survived, stories that are vivid and heart-breaking, but not without happy endings.



R.M.S. Titanic

The illustrated book about the third-largest-ethnic group aboard is Setterdahl's third about the Titanic. It was preceded by a two-volume fictional account, *Maid of the Titanic* (2007) and *Hero of the Titanic* (2011).

A Norwegian language edition of *Norwegian Newspapers in America: Connecting Norway and the New land*, by **Odd Lovoll**, *Norsk aviser I Amerika*, was published May 23 and celebrated at a public event at Litteraturhuset in Oslo.

John Weborg's latest book is *Made Healthy In Ministry* (Pickwick Publications). Weborg, retired professor of theology at North Park Theological Seminary, was honored a year ago when the seminary Center for Spiritual Direction was renamed in his honor. His new book is concerned with the pressures put on ministers in a twenty-first century context.

American Swedish Institute opens new addition

On June 30, the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis opened a new, 60,000 sq. ft. addition to its 73-year-old Turnblad mansion. The modern wing, known as the Carl and Leslie Nelson Cultural Center, was to be dedicated Oct. 6 by Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia.

Built on land formerly used as a parking lot, it provides the institute with a new main entrance, new space for the museum shop, a new café, a new art gallery with humidity and temperature control, and a banquet hall able to accommodate 250 for dinner or 350 for lectures and films.

The new café, known as Fika, has won high praise from reviewers, including the New York Times.

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