

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America

Newsletter / April 2014

Centennial being observed

Carl Sandburg 'Chicago' poem is 100 years old

Hog butcher for the world....City of the big shoulders.

Words that would forever evoke Chicago! They were written 100 years ago by a first-generation Swedish American named Carl Sandburg and first appeared in a poem in the March 1914 issue of Poetry magazine. "A family that had been struggling was on its way to prosperity," wrote Steve Johnson in a Feb. 19 Chicago Tribune feature article. "A literary career that would see adulation and critical scorn and an astounding amount and range of work was born. And a city—in the first lines of the work by an obscure socialist poet—had found its enduring descriptions."

Sandburg went on to become a reporter and movie critic for the Chicago Daily News, author, Lincoln biographer, troubadour and revered Swedish American. He twice won a Pulitzer Prize, for his six-volume Lincoln biography and for his "Collected Poems." In 1948, he was honorary chairman of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial Celebration and the Swedish Pioneer (now Swedish-American) Historical Society which it spawned.

The centennial of his "Chicago" poem is being observed with several special events. On March 12, the Newberry Library held an evening of readings, musical performances and talks by scholars, poets and journalists, "Stormy, Husky and Brawling for 100 Years." The Swedish Bakery provided a special cake and a brewery supplied beer.

Sandburg lived in west suburban Elmhurst during the 1920s when he wrote

"Rootabaga Stories," "Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years" and "The American Songbag." An exhibit at the Elmhurst Historical Museum, continuing until April 20,

Poems inspire a concerto

Noted Swedish trombonist Christian Lindberg will be featured at the Society's spring dinner meeting May 3 at the Swedish-American Museum on Clark St. North Park University lecturer in communication arts Peter Berggren will show and talk about his documentary film on Lindberg and the concerto, inspired by the poems of Carl Sandburg, that he was commissioned to write by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2005 for its



principal trombonist Charles Vernon. *(Please see insert for dinner reservation details.)*

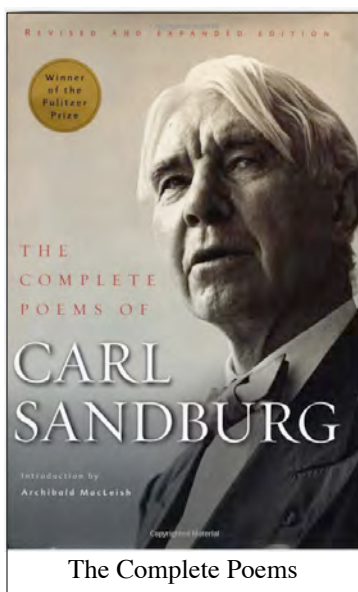
looks at his life during this time through photos, film shorts and personal memorabilia including his guitar and the typewriter he used.

Helga Sandburg Crile dies at 95

Helga Sandburg Crile, an author and youngest of three daughters of Carl Sandburg, died Jan. 25 in Cleveland Heights, She was 95. She published 17 books, including novels, memoirs and poetry. She also typed manuscripts for her father, who dedicated several books to her and wrote poems in her honor.



Carl Sandburg, his mother Clara and daughters Helga and Jane.

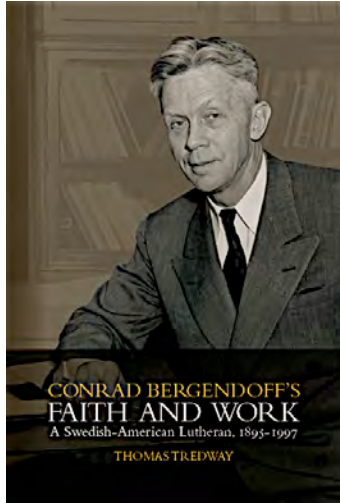


The Complete Poems

Book news

Thomas Tredway study of Bergendoff is published

Conrad Bergendoff's Faith and Work: A Swedish-American Lutheran, 1895-1997, by Thomas Tredway, was jointly published in March by the Swedish-American Historical Society and the Augustana Historical Society.



The book examines the life, ideas and work of Bergendoff, who was president of Augustana College from 1935 to 1962 and one of Swedish America's leading 20th century intellectuals.

He was national chairman of the 1948 Swedish Pioneer Centennial Celebration, out of which the Society grew.

The book's author, a former Augustana president and professor of history, is a director and publications committee member of the Swedish-American Historical society.

The book is the Society's 2014-15 dividend for sustaining members and above.

Swedes in Canada delayed

Swedes in Canada: Invisible Immigrants, by Elinor Barr, originally set for spring publication, has been delayed at least until fall. The University of Toronto Press is currently editing the manuscript for publication in both hard cover and paperback. For updates, see swedesincanada.ca.

Articles wanted

Coming in the April Quarterly

The April *Quarterly* will feature two articles, on "The Swedish Roots of the Founder of the Bronx," by Shelley L. Olson and Dilip K. Kondepudi, and "A Review of the 1876 Nicolaus Gustafson Murder," by James A. Bailey and Margaret M. Bailey. Gustafson was killed during an

unsuccessful bank robbery by the notorious Jesse James-Cole Younger gang in Northfield, MN.

The issue also will have reviews of *The Man Who Never Died: The Life, Times and Legacy of Joe Hill, American Labor Icon*, by William H. Adler, and *Chicago Swedes: They Spoke from the Heart*, by Lilly Setterdahl.

Quarterly Editor Byron Nordstrom encourages Society members to submit articles for future issues. See the society website for details of three special awards: the Nils William and Dagmar Olsson Research Grants, Franklin Scott Prize and Emerging Scholars Prize.

**2013 year-end donations
to Society total \$8,801**

Fifty-one donors contributed \$8,801 to the Society in the year-end appeal. Our thanks for their support to:

\$2,500 and above

Margit S. Fredrickson

\$1,500-\$2,499

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Ronald and Janet Johnson, Mary Seeger

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Philip and Karna Anderson, Duane R. Kullberg, Ellen T. Rye, Verdandi Lodge No. 3, I.O.S.

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Clarence Anderson, Harry and Evelyn Anderson, Glen and Elaine Brolander, Jon D. Brorson, Rev. Paul M. Cornell, Inga A. Filippo, Selma Halberg McLaughlin, Weldon Hultgren, Carl and Arlene Johnson, Frances E. Johnson, Jennifer Johnson, Mark D. Johnson, Robert Johnson, Bruce Karstadt, Eric and Grace Lund, Gilbert McCollum, Kathleen Meade, John R. Moore, Gordon L. Nelson, LeRoy and Eloise Nelson, John E. Norton, Kevin Proescholdt, Doris Sutor, George R. Tesch, Rev. Dr. Kim Eric Williams, Stephen A. Wilson, Wisconsin Historical Society

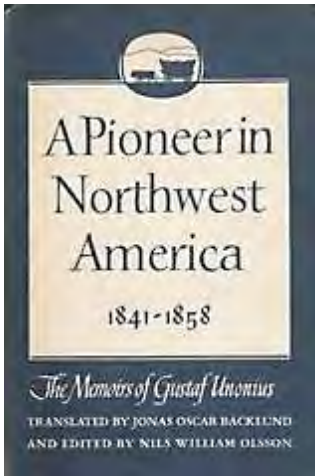
Newsletter editor: Eric Lund

Production: Grace Lund

Historical book collection created

First Society books digitized and available online

Seven early Society books have been digitized and are now available online. More will be added from time to time. Go to swedishamericanhist.org, click on Research, then SAHS Archives, then Digital Collections.



The first books digitized and available online are:

--*A Pioneer in Northwest America, 1841-1858: The Memoirs of Gustaf Unonius*, volumes I and II. (1950 and 1960)

--*Farm, Forge and Philosophy: Chapters from a Swedish Immigrant's Life in America*, by Adolph Burnett Benson. (1961)

--*Wertmüller: Artist and Immigrant Farmer*, by Franklin D. Scott. (1963)

--*From Isolationism to Involvement: The Swedish Immigrant Press in America, 1914-1945*, by Finis Herbert Capps. (1966)

--*Travels in America, 1851-1855*, by Rosalie Roos. Translated from the Swedish. (1982)

--*Guide to Swedish-American Archival and Manuscript Sources in the United States*. (1983)

The Swedish-American Historical Book Collection is the sixth and newest digital collection in the North Park University F.M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections. The others are the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, Frisk Collection of Covenant Literature, Historical Photo Collection, North Park Catalog and the North Park Press, first published in 1922.

Verdandi Lodge gift

Verdandi Lodge No. 3, Independent Order of Svithiod, recently gave an unrestricted gift of \$2,000 to the F.M. Johnson Archives. It follows a similar gift a year ago. The records of the I.O.S. and its various lodges comprise the largest collection in the archives' Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago.

Fall Bishop Hill weekend

A fall weekend program in Bishop Hill is being planned by the Society. Restoration of the historic site has recently been extensively upgraded.



Marie Antoinette by Adolf Wertmüller

Anne-Charlotte Harvey joins Society board

Anne-Charlotte Harvey, professor emerita of theatre at San Diego State University, has been named to the Society board of directors, filling a vacancy. Her recordings of Swedish immigrant songs are well known; for six years she was the headliner at the Snoose Boulevard Festival in Minneapolis.



In a talk on her retirement from SDSU in 2010, titled "*Transmatta*," she reflected: "*Transmatta* is the Swedish word for a rug woven with strips of old clothes or fabric as weft. Rag rugs are traditional in the culture of several countries around the world, among them Sweden, where I grew up. I see my roles in life—daughter, sister, wife and mother; emigrant,

immigrant and 'professional Swede'; student, professor and colleague; theatre practitioner and art lover; translator and bridge builder; scholar and artist—as rags in the rug of my life."

Past president Glen E. Brolander, 1929-2014

Received Society Sandburg Medal last year

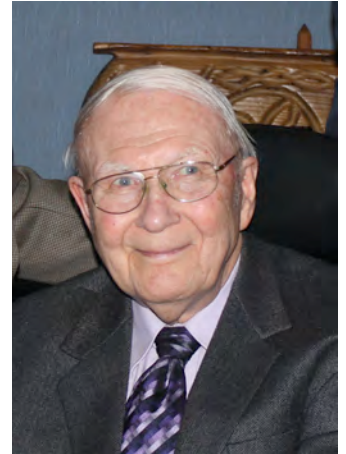
Glen E. Brolander, past Society president and Sandburg Medal recipient, died March 15 in Stillwater, MN. Born Dec. 14 in Rockford, IL, he retired in 1992 as vice president for financial affairs after a 39-year career with Augustana College, Rock Island.

Glen was a director of the Society from 1973 to 1988, except for one year, and its eighth president 1982-84. He was presented with the Sandberg Medal last Sept. 15. Earlier, he was awarded the Order of the North Star by order of King Carl XVI Gustaf in 1979, named Swedish-American of the Year in 1992 by the Vasa Order of America, and in 2012 received the Great Achievement Award of the Swedish Council of America, of which he was a past president.

He interviewed for his first position at Augustana wearing his Korean War Army uniform. He was instrumental in creating the college's Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center and served on its board. Community involvement included president of the Rock Island Chamber of Commerce, Rock Island United Fund, Illowa Boy Scout Council, and Moline Lutheran Hospital Board. He was also active in the Lutheran church.

His wide-ranging interests included history, writing, genealogy (he discovered on a trip to Sweden in 1972 that he was related to a branch of the Swedish noble family Uggla), world travel, fishing and stamp collecting. He was author of *An Historical Survey of the Augustana College Campus* (Augustana Historical Society, 1992).

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Elaine; son, Randall (Donna); daughter, Sheryl (David Johnson), five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Services were held March 22 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, followed by internment at the Scandinavian Cemetery in Rockford.



Obituaries

Former North Park president dies

Lloyd Ahlem, president of North Park College and Theological Seminary from 1970 to 1979, died Sept. 29 in Turlock, CA. He was 83. During his presidency, concentrations in computer science, accounting and public administration were added to the curriculum and a Sweden exchange program was inaugurated. After retiring as president, he became director of Covenant Village retirement community in Turlock.

Larry (Lars) Scott died Nov. 16, six months after retiring as a professor of Scandinavian at Augustana College in Rock Island. Scott joined Augustana in 1981 and directed its summer school in Grebbestad, Sweden. He was a past president of the Augustana Historical Society. His 1990 book, *The Swedish Texans*, is considered the definitive study of Swedish immigrants in Texas.



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Welcome new members

Twenty new members have joined the Society in recent months, from ten states and Sweden. One is a Patron member at the \$1,000 level.

Sonja Anderson, Saint Paul, MN
Van Anderson, Minneapolis, MN
Leo Forsmark, Stockholm, Sweden
Margot Goode, Evanston, IL
Kelton Ingram, Jacksonville, IL
Jon & Katherine Jacobson, Piedmont, SD
Dale A. Johnson, Blue Grass, IA
Jennifer Johnson, Phoenix, AZ
Kari & Bob Malcolm, Inver Grove Hts., MN
Nels & Alice Nelson, Glenview, IL
Robert Nelson, Trempealeau, WI
Stanley & Mildred Olson, Castro Valley, CA
Margot Rodin, Linköping, Sweden
Donald Safstrom, Carnation, WA
Judith Seager, Scottsville, NY
Stephen R. Spencer, Skokie, IL
Eric Svenson, Paxton, IL
Virginia Wilson, St. Paul, MN
Cynthia Wright, San Francisco, CA
Don & Clarissa Youngberg, New Haven, CT

Twelve of the new members are recipients of gift memberships, which represent an excellent way to honor graduates, family members and anyone interested in their Swedish heritage.