

# SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America*

Newsletter / March 2022

2022 SPRING PROGRAM — SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 1:00 p.m. (Central) • FREE AND ONLINE

## “Crossing Borders: New Perspectives on Historical Relations Between Sweden and the United States”

Dimensions of our understanding about the Swedish-American experience of migration are always changing and expanding, though firmly rooted in a long tradition of research and interpretation. Since its founding in October 1948 as the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, the Swedish-American Historical Society (the name changed in 1983) has been a leader in the field through its publications, archives, and programs. This continues to include a strong transatlantic collaboration with our friends and colleagues in Sweden.

The 2022 spring program explores an exciting new avenue in Swedish-American and migration history, namely “borderland studies,” which includes a pathbreaking cross-disciplinary examination of the countless aspects of historical and cultural relations between the two countries. The spring program is based on the new book edited by Society leaders Dag Blanck and Adam Hjorthén, *Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations* (University of Minnesota Press, 2021). This is the 2022 dividend book to be sent to qualifying members of the Society.

*Swedish-American Borderlands* is comprised of nineteen essays by leading scholars in their field of study. Our panel includes four of them, two from Sweden and two from the United States. The program will be introduced and moderated by one of the volume editors, Adam

Hjorthén, followed by presentations from Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Angela Hoffman, and Adam Kaul.

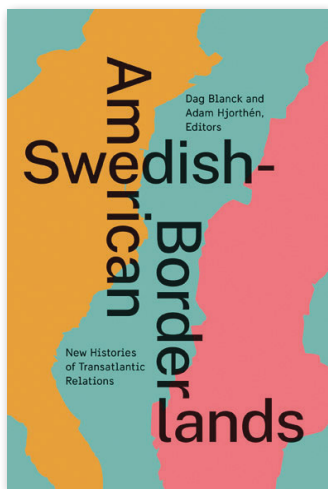
**Adam Hjorthén** is Senior Lecturer in American Studies at the Swedish Institute for North American Studies (SINAS), Uppsala University. A former president of the Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS) and the 2018 recipient of the Loubat Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History, and Antiquity, he is the author of *Cross-Border Commemorations: Celebrating Swedish Settlement in America* (2018). He currently serves as the associate editor of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*. In addition to the book’s introduction, co-written with Dag Blanck, Adam contributed a chapter entitled “**Ancestral Relations: The Twentieth-Century Making of Swedish-American Genealogy.**”



**Jennifer Eastman Attebery** is Professor of English at Idaho State University, where she teaches folklore. Her book chapter is entitled “**Imagining Borders and Heartland through Legend.**” She is the author of *Pole Raising and Speech Making: Modalities of Swedish-American Summer Celebration* (2015) and *Up in the Rocky Mountains: Writing the Swedish Immigrant Experience* (2007). In 1998 and 2011, Jennifer served Fulbrights in Sweden at the University of Gothenburg and Uppsala University. Her current book project is a study of Swedish-American historical legends and local history writing.



*(continued on page 2)*





**Angela Hoffman** is an associate professor in the Department of English at Uppsala University, and the director of studies for the doctoral program in English. Her book chapter, written in collaboration with Merja Kytö, is entitled **“Swedish-American Cookbooks: Linguistic Borderlands in Recipes.”** Angela’s research interests in Swedish and in the language of Swedish-American cookbooks began in Lindsborg, Kansas, her hometown, where she graduated from Bethany College. She is an active volunteer in Uppsala Cathedral, where she also sings in Collegium Cantorum.



**Adam Kaul** is professor of anthropology at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. His book chapter, written in collaboration with Margaret Farrar, is entitled **“History and Heritage in Bishop Hill, Illinois: Preservation, Representation, and Tourism in a Swedish-American Borderland.”** They have been conducting ethnographic and historical research in Bishop Hill for a decade. Bishop Hill was founded by Swedish immigrants in 1846 (the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary was last year) as a communal

society and is now on the national historic register. Today, it has a mixed farming and tourism economy, and more recently a large wind farm built with the village at the center. Their work examines negotiations at the intersection between history and heritage, tourism economics, and clean energy futures.

The Spring Program for members and friends of the Society will take place on Sunday, April 24, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, 1:00 p.m. Central, 12:00 noon Mountain, and 11:00 a.m. Pacific times and will last 75-90 minutes. It is free and open to the public. You will find the registration form on the Society’s website:

[www.swedish-americanhist.org](http://www.swedish-americanhist.org) and if you have questions, please contact our office manager, Maria Ward. The Zoom link will be sent to registrants. We look forward to your attendance. In addition to presentations and conversation, attendees will have opportunity to ask questions, either in advance or during the program. Welcome!


*If you are not currently eligible to receive Society dividend books, please consider raising your membership level to Sustaining or above to receive books for free. Details are on the Society’s website, and books are also available for sale through ordering online or contacting the office.*

# Crossing Borders

## Historical Relations between Sweden and the United States

Spring Program  
Swedish-American Historical Society  
Featuring contributors to the new book  
*Swedish-American Borderlands*

**Free and Online**  
**Sunday, April 24**  
**1:00 pm Central**



THE  
SWEDISH-AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
[www.swedishamericanhist.org](http://www.swedishamericanhist.org)

## Quarterly Production Editor Retires After Twenty-Three Years

In the fall of 1998, **Sally Johnson** assumed the responsibilities of production editor of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*. She provided great leadership and skill for over two decades as changes occurred in software layout and design, as well as in printing. Working with longtime *Quarterly* editors Byron Nordstrom and Kevin Proescholdt, Sally's keen eye and careful copyediting skills ensured a quality collaborative effort in delivering close to a hundred issues of the journal into the hands of members, subscribers, and libraries around the world.



*Sally writes: At the beginning, an issue was laid out by sticking all the paper elements on big layout sheets, from full articles to ruled lines. The print shop we used then generally turned the project around in about six weeks. Now, as I retire, everything is electronic and we're making a transition to the most advanced system. It seemed like the right time to make way for a younger person, one we know well and who has extensive experience. Thanks to the editors I've worked with, who became friends over the years. Thanks to the authors: I enjoyed every piece you wrote, especially those who gave me opportunities to exercise my Swedish. Thanks to the Publications Committee for keeping me around this long. And thanks to Carlson Printers in Minneapolis, who get an issue out in three days or less!*

The Society extends its sincere thanks and warm wishes for many happy years of simply reading and enjoying the *Quarterly*—without the detailed, conscientious work of shepherding its production, accomplished so well for so long. *Grattis, Sally!*

**Sandy Nelson** of Seattle, Washington, is our new production editor, working alongside editor **Mark Safstrom** and associate editor **Adam Hjorthén**. Sandy and her family have been members of the Society for many years and have contributed richly to its life in numerous ways. *Välkommen, Sandy!*



## The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center Is Turning 40!

### An Invitation from Its Executive Director, Dag Blanck

Swedish-American Historical Society members are cordially invited to participate in this important milestone on May 7, 2022, with the anniversary symposium “The Migration and Beyond: New Perspectives on Swedish-American Relations,” an open house, and a festive dinner.

The Center at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, opened its doors in September 1981, and has developed into the leading archives, library, and research institute for the study of Swedish-American history and relations. It has assisted thousands of researchers, arranged over a dozen conferences and numerous lectures—many in cooperation with the Swedish-American Historical Society—and sponsors the annual genealogy workshop in Salt Lake City,

The initial focus was on Swedish migration to North America and the experiences of Swedish immigrants and their descendants. Although this history remains central, the mission has expanded to include broader aspects of Swedish-American relations. The symposium will explore new perspectives on Swedish-American history and relations, with speakers from Sweden and the United States. It promises to be an afternoon of stimulating talks and interesting discussions!

The symposium will be followed by an open house in the Swenson Center, and a festive anniversary dinner. All events take place on the Augustana College campus. For full information and registration information, see <https://www.swensoncenter.org/40th>.

*Välkomna till Rock Island i maj! Welcome to Rock Island in May!*

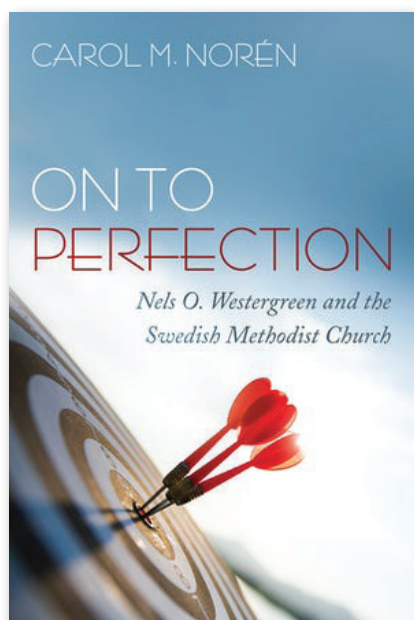


## A New History of Swedish-American Methodism

Society board member and vice-chair, Carol M. Norén, has written a new book that offers a fresh examination and interpretation of the immigrants who more than a century-and-a-half ago began forming Methodist congregations—often based on premigration experiences—which as a Swedish-American denomination was in frequent tension with other immigrant religious groups, as well as progressively absorbed into the larger, complex world of the followers of John Wesley in the United States.

Entitled *On to Perfection: Nels O. Westergreen and the Swedish Methodist Church* (Wipf & Stock, 2021), it examines the significant life, ministry, and preaching of one of its most important foundational leaders, Nels O. Westergreen. The culmination of many years of painstaking research, the book is an important

contribution to immigrant biography, Swedish and American religious history, and transatlantic migration and relations between the two countries. Dr. Norén is the Wesley W. Nelson Professor Emerita of Preaching at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago and is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.



## 75th Anniversary

### Strategic Planning and the 75th Anniversary

As the Swedish-American Historical Society approaches its 75th anniversary in October 2023, the Board of Directors considered it a good time to begin looking forward to the next seventy-five years. In response, several board members and staff have come together to undertake a long-term project to think through and develop a plan for the continued sustainability of the Society and its mission.

While still ongoing, the group has begun a wide array of activities: from the administrative—reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws; to the programmatic—planning for the 75th anniversary celebration; to the scholarly—research and publication plans; and to the strategic—conducting a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) and subsequent goals for the organization. Together, these activities will further shape the ways in which the organization moves forward and meets the needs of our members, community, students, and scholars.

To continue accomplishing that, however, we need to hear from you! What would you like to see the Society accomplish in the future? How can the Society meet your needs as a member? As we continue to move forward, our mission remains the same, of course, studying the historical and cultural effects of Swedish migration, but how we research that, archive that, present that to a wider public is integral to the Society and is guided by you. So please be in touch and let us know what you want to see from the Society in the future. You may write or email comments and suggestions to the Society's office or directly contact any of its members.

The strategic study group is comprised of Marcus Cederström (*chair*), Philip Anderson, Adam Hjorthén, Anne Jenner, Andy Johnson, Ronald Johnson, Andy Meyer, Carol Norén, and Maria Ward.

## Sjölunden High School Student Membership Initiative

*This initiative originated in the Society's membership committee and is explained by Society board member, Chad Eric Bergman, of North Park University. He has been involved in the language camp for many years.*

Every summer there is a small community of curious individuals who gather in a Brigadoon-like place in northern Minnesota called Sjölunden. As if magical, a mini-Sweden unfolds for four weeks on a campsite that is designed to look like a Swedish fishing village. For forty-seven years, this special place has inspired generations of young people to explore their heritage and learn about Sweden's past and present. Sjölunden is the Swedish language and cultural immersion program of Concordia Language Villages associated with Concordia College (Moorhead) that began in 1975 initially for children ages 7-18. In addition to the youth programming, there are now family weeks and Elderhostel programming. One of its signature distinctions is that Sjölunden is the only organization that grants high-school credit for the Swedish language in the United States. Each summer between ten and thirty high schoolers arrive to study intensively the language and culture of Sweden for four weeks, and while academically rigorous, the friendships that are made during the summer are lifelong and speak to the power of community.

Several SAHS members have deep connections with Sjölunden, so this past summer an initiative was imagined bridging the curiosity of these teenagers with a sponsored student membership with Society, where they can experience its mission of recording and interpreting the Swedish presence in America. The connection seemed natural and this year we sponsored twenty-one high school students as student members. Our eyes are on the next generation who will continue the work we do at SAHS, and it is our hope that their curiosity will continue to expand as they grow older.

The recipients, including their Swedish names, are as follows:

Anna Aina Benson  
Penelope Felix Denelsbeck  
Zenna Tilly Foley-Voosen  
Bruce Håkan Friberg  
Anastasiya Kerstin Hess  
Zev Mio Jackman  
Rayna Linn Johnson  
Clayton Uno LeKander  
Freya Freja Lundgren  
George Bernt Phillips  
Emily Hanna Raman  
Lillian Elsie Rice  
Dylan Lorelai Rich  
Sky Sebbe Robley  
Svea Lena Rundman  
Anna Ängla Schenk  
Robbie Odd Schultz  
Luke Melker Umholtz  
Nate Göran Umholtz  
Annika Annika Utsogn  
Kajsa Tuva Woodger



## Society Elects New Board Members and Officers

At its fall meeting on October 24, 2021, the Board of Directors elected five new board members to a first three-year term: Mark Granquist, Anita Olson Gustafson, David Gustafson, Adam Hjorthén, and Karen Humphrey. Welcome! It also bade farewell to five members who had completed their terms: Philip Friedlund, Ronald Johnson, Daron Olson, Hauna Ondrey, and Ellen Rye. The Society extends its sincere gratitude to them for their years of service—some over several terms through past decades.

The board is comprised of twenty-one elected members, who serve three-year terms and are eligible for a second before being required to be off the board for at least a year prior to possible reelection. At the fall meeting, Anne Jenner was elected chair, Carol Norén vice chair, and Mark Granquist secretary. Reappointments were Philip Anderson as president and Andy Johnson as treasurer. A full list of current board members and officers is in the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* and on the Society's website, [www.swedishamericanhist.org](http://www.swedishamericanhist.org)

## Many, Many Thanks to 2021 Donors

*The following individuals and organizations contributed \$10,195 to the Society, including a successful year-end appeal response:*

Karin Abercrombie  
Philip and Karna Anderson  
Jennifer Johnson Barkley  
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**SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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