



The Norden Club of Lincoln

70th Anniversary
1947-2017

10 Year Supplement

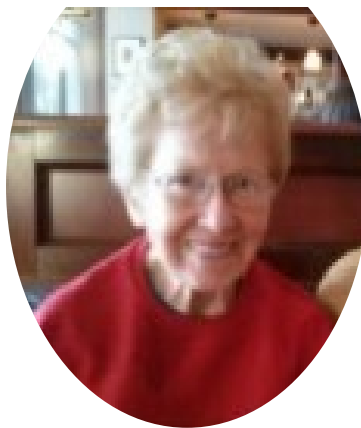
Compiled by Phyllis A. Ericson,
Past President



Contents

| | Page |
|---|------|
| I. History of Norden Club of Lincoln | 4 |
| II. The Norden Club Foundation | 13 |
| III. The Heritage and Ancestry of our Members | |
| Oscar Blomstedt | 15 |
| Lisa Culbertson | 16 |
| Phyllis (Larsen) Ericson | 18 |
| Marie Jessen Johnson | 19 |
| Ronald L Johnson | 20 |
| Merlin and Nina Lawson | 21 |
| Janet Malone | 23 |
| Maxine Moul | 24 |
| Don and Carol Rundquist | 25 |
| Alan T. Seagren | 26 |
| Ingrid & Del Stites | 34 |
| Donna Thomas | 35 |
| IV. Norden Club Officers (2007-2017) | 37 |
| V. Activities (Articles & Photos) | 39 |

In Memoriam



Dorothy Ekblad (1926-2017)

10 Years of Norden Club History

2006 December Smorgasbord was held at UNL East Campus Union.

Country: Norway. Entertainment: The Lincoln Lutheran Church Choir.

2007 December Smorgasbord was held at UNL East Campus Union. Attendance: 216. Country: Sweden. Entertainment: The Newman Center Choir.

2008 Paul Burklund was honored as the last surviving charter member of Norden Club.

December Smorgasbord was held at UNL East Campus Union. Attendance: 163. Country: Denmark Entertainment: David Claus, vocalist, Jack Rinke pianist, and Lisa Cramme, NE Humanities Danish Storyteller.

2009 Trinity United Methodist Church notified the club that they would not continue serving the meals for Norden Club. Price for meals was raised to \$10 per person.

December Smorgasbord was held at the UNL East Campus Union.

Attendance: 141. Country: Norway.

2010 The meeting location changed to the First Lutheran Church in March, 2010.

The December Smorgasbord was held at the UNL East Campus Union.

Attendance: 141. Country: Sweden.

2011 December Smorgasbord was held at UNL East Campus Union. Attendance: 120. Country: Denmark Entertainment: Troy & Heather Peterson & children, and Miranda Baxter, Corey Collingham and 3 violin players, plus Christmas carol sing-a-long.

10 Years of Norden Club History, continued

2012 December Smorgasbord was held at First Lutheran Church.

Country: Norway. Entertainment: Paul Wilson and Mary Abendroth from Minnesota.

2013 Len Nelson became newsletter editor. Announced that the newsletter would be mailed to all members.

December Smorgasbord was held at The Falls. Attendance: 228.

Country: Sweden. Entertainment: Greenblatt & Seay and Santa Lucia Pagent.

2014 At the September meeting, nineteen long time members were recognized and awarded Life Memberships to the Norden Club. Len Nelson created the Norden Club website at www.nordenclub.com.

In October the Norden Club sponsored a 5-day Mid America Scandinavian Tour. Twenty participants visited heritage sites in Iowa and Minnesota.

December Smorgasbord was held at The Falls. Attendance: 196.

Country: Denmark Entertainment: Greenblatt & Seay and Lisa Cramme, NE Humanities Danish Storyteller.

2015 June 12th, the Norden Club had a booth at the Omaha Midsommers Eve festival for the first time. The Club sold Scandinavian country flag pins.

December Smorgasbord was held at The Falls. Attendance: 232.

Country: Norway. Entertainment: Heidi Beran, harpest and Norwegian Heritage program by Kaye and Ozzie & Gilbertson.

2016 December Smorgasbord held at Hillcrest Country Club. Attendance: 210.

Country: Sweden. Entertainment: Greenblatt & Seay, Santa Lucia Pagent and the Norden Club Choir.

Norden Club Inducted 21 "Life Members" - Sept 2014.



We inducted 21 new Life Members at our September meeting. They are Ralph & Margaret Carlson, Jeanette Ecklund, Marvene Fredstrom, Clinton & Emogene Johnson, Lloyd & Barbara Johnson, Quentin & Marie Johnson, Charlotte Luethje, Elva Mares, Warren & Jane Mickelson, Rod & Lajeane Price, Dr. Eugene & Eileen Rudd, Della Sandall, John & Doris Wolter. They represent a combined total of over 650 years of Norden Club membership. We thank them for their loyal service to our club.

Photo of the inductees with President Phyllis Ericson.

2014 Danish Smorgasbord *The Falls*

The traditional music by Greenblatt and Seay certainly set the tone for the enjoyable evening. The Smorgasbord buffet offered traditional Danish food and the Job's Daughters did a wonderful job assisting with the serving and clean-up of the dinner.



“Stories of Hans Christian Andersen” were delightfully retold by our Nebraska Humanities speaker, Lis Kramme. The Danish Nisser gnomes, poinsettia giveaway and our a Capella singing rounded out a joyful evening.





2015 Norwegian Smorgasbord *The Falls*

The evening and Norwegian Smorgasbord were delightful. Kay and Ollie Gilbertson provided a fine program as they explained their heritage and they shared their collection of Norwegian items. We had a record turnout of 232 members and guests attending the evening.



2016 Swedish Smorgasbord *Hillcrest Country Club*



**The Norden Club of Lincoln
1947 – 2017
70th Anniversary Celebration!**



Monday, September 18, 2017

6:00 Social Time

6:30 Announcements

Opening Song – Happy Days are Here Again

Nomination and Election of Vice President

Grace and Supper:

- Seared Pork Loin Chop moist & tender luncheon portion served with Smoky Apple Au Jus
- Mashed Potatoes
- Fresh Steamed Vegetable Blend of broccoli, cauliflower & sweet red peppers
- Home-style Dinner Roll with Butter

Singing Happy Anniversary – Cutting and serving the cake and coffee.

- Celebration Cake - classic yellow cake with light creamy frosting – Yum!

Program – Rick Steves – Copenhagen

Our Closing Song

There is a lovely country
it stands with broad beech
near the salty eastern beach
It winds itself in hill, valley,
it's called old Denmark
and it is Freja's hall

Der er et yndigt land,
det står med brede bøge
nær salten østerstrand
Det bugter sig i bakke, dal,
det hedder gamle Danmark
og det er Frejas sal

Happy days are here again
The skies above are clear again
So let's sing a song of cheer again
Happy days are here again!

Altogether shout it now
There's no one
Who can doubt it now
So let's tell the world about it now
Happy days are here again

Happy Anniversary to You,
Happy Anniversary to You,
Happy Anniversary, Dear Norden Club.
Happy Anniversary to You.

Happy Anniversary to You,
Happy Anniversary to You,
Happy 70th Anniversary, Dear Norden
Club.
Happy Anniversary to You!

Norden Club's 70th Anniversary Celebration Party
September 18, 2017

Some of us have seen 70! Some of us haven't yet seen 70! But nearly 70 Norden Club members helped celebrate the Club's 70th Anniversary on Monday September 18th, 2017.

The Club was founded in 1947 by a small group of Scandinavian professors from the University of Nebraska. After World War II there was a return to peace and once again people became interested in knowing and celebrating their hereditary roots.

The purpose of the Club was to promote fellowship among Scandinavian-Americans and their descendants and to help preserve for the benefit of the United States the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia.

After a business meeting to nominate and elect a new Vice President (Cyndi Mattson), the members enjoyed a dinner of pork loin chops, mashed potatoes, and fresh steamed vegetables prepared by *The Eatery*.

Life Member, Dorothy Ekblad, cut the classic yellow birthday cake and the members sang "Happy Anniversary" to the club.

Club members attending the celebration received commemorative engraved pens.

Keeping with the Danish theme for the upcoming Christmas Banquet, the program was Rick Steves' film on Copenhagen.

Happy Anniversary Norden Club and May You have 70 More!

Del Stites, Norden Club President

70th Anniversary Celebration



President Del Stites
led the celebration



Table flags



Anniversary Cake



Norden Life Member,
Dorothy Ekblad cuts the cake.



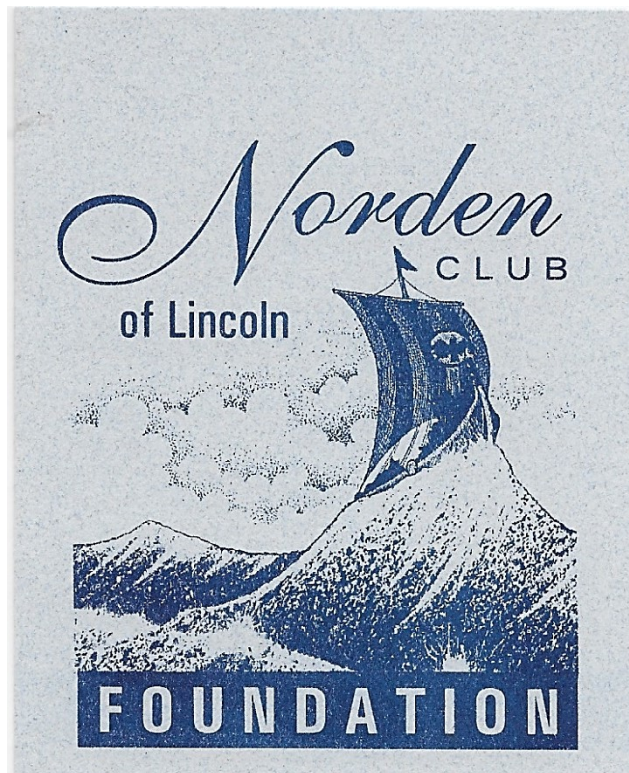
Dinner Buffet



Club members enjoy dinner and
conversation.

The Norden Club Foundation

This year, in 2017 the Norden Club of Lincoln celebrates a 70th Anniversary. That's quite a milestone and one that we are certainly proud of. During those 70 years, the Club has evolved through many changes. Norden was born out of Scandinavian friendships. In the beginning, Norden Club was for men only. Wives showing an interest eventually became members, too. In more recent years, women have served as President of Norden. We've come a long way! Perhaps the awareness of genealogy and the science of DNA testing adds to the interest and involvement in Norden Club. People want to know more about their culture, traditions and family history.



The late Dr. Herbert Lingren served as President of Norden from 1997-1998. His wife, Dr. Jan Lingren served as Co-President. It was Herb who first expressed the idea of creating a scholarship fund to assist those who had an interest in learning about their Scandinavian heritage.

Then it happened! The Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation came into fruition. With a lot of discussion and planning, papers were filed in 1999. In the beginning our steps were slow but sure. We thought the meetings would never end. With the help of many who brought their knowledge and creative expertise to the project, the ideas flowed. The decision was made to award Foundation funds locally. Donations started to come our way. Ideas for various fundraisers were acted upon. Finally, our first grant-in-aid was awarded in 2004.

The Norden Club Foundation, continued

We have progressed into a viable Foundation. With the help of many Norden Club members who have served as Board members, we have been successful. Jan Lingren and Joan Tomlinson White were present at the initial planning meeting and continue to serve on the Board today.

In recent years, the late Dr. Merlin (Swede) Erickson contributed time and effort to the Foundation Board. Others who have joined us and currently serve on the Board are: Dr. Len and Arlene Nelson, David and Karyn Glenn, Gordon and Verla Youngquist. They have been very giving of their time, money and talents. Each one is dedicated to the heritage of Norden Club and the work of the Foundation. Once again, a big thank you to all who have served from 1999 to the present.

The grants-in-aid and scholarship recipients have provided a variety of Scandinavian programs for Norden Club. We have learned a lot about our heritage from their experiences, and hope that you have too! From the very beginning until today, the Foundation has proudly awarded \$16,700.00, an impressive amount. Our goal is to assist with scholarships and grants yearly.

Thank you for your interest and continued support of the work of the Foundation.

Joan Tomlinson White

President, Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation

Our Members and Their Heritage - Oscar Blomstedt

Father Carl's parents in Sweden (Sverige (pr. sveer-e-ya) were Lars Johan Persson, b.1856, and Karolina Lovisa (Olafsdotter), b.1859. They married on 24 Apr 1881. Lars' parents were Per Ersson and Anna Maja (Andersdotter). Karolina's parents were Olaf Andersson and Anna (Larsdottre). Father's birth name was Karl Josef Emmanuel Larsson, b. 16 Jan 1881, Viltungla, Lannas Parish, Orebro (oo-re-broo). His siblings were Frans Magnus, b. 1882 (died in 3 days), Anna Lovisa, b. 1884 (died 1891), Hilda Karolina, b. 1886 (stayed in Sweden, married, and bore 10 children), and Axel Daniel, b. 1888.

Lars was Karolina's parent's hired man. Her mother never accepted him, but they did marry 3 month's after Carl's birth. Lars wanted their own home, but Karolina would not leave her parents. Lars immigrated to America and wrote letters to Karolina. Her mother Anna hid them, but did put them in her trunk when she immigrated in 1909. But Lars and Karollina never reunited. Lars changed his name to John Peterson. When Olaf became a land owner, he chose a family name of Blomstedt (blom (bloom) means flower). Carl and Axel also changed their name to Blomstedt, and they immigrated to America in 1905.

Mother's parents were Nils Petter Blomquist, b. 1840, and Brita Stina (Ersdotter), b. 1846, from Boden (Booden), Norbotten, Sweden. Nils' parents were Johan Jacob Blomqvist and Maja Stina. Nils immigrated in 1877, homesteaded 2 ½ miles east of Boelus, Nebraska, Howard County, north side of Middle Loup River. Nils first lived in a dugout, then built a sod house, then brought Brita over with 4 children in 1879; Johanna Christina, b. 1868, (Johan) Peter, b. 1870, Maria Elisabet, b. 1872, Anna Erika, b. 1875 (died 1875), and Mathilda Erica, b. 1877. They had 4 more children, Charles Olaf, b. 1882, Axel L, b. 1884, Arthur, b. 1886 (died 1889), and Agnes Aurora, b. 21 July 1888.

Father Carl also settled near Boelus. There he met mother Agnes at her father's barn dance, and they married 8 Feb 1908. Carl first farmed 40 acres south of the river obtained from her father. Fearing erosion, he traded that for 160 acres north of Boelus, then traded for 160 acres south of Farnum, then traded for 320 acres near Curtis. There drought, hail, and hog cholera caused him to lose it in 1926. The family then moved back near Boelus, and I was born 05 June 1927, 9th of 11. That year, father worked as a hired man, got heat stroke, and lost his health. Later, we children received county aid until age 18. Also, oldest brother Peter joined the military Civilian Conservation Corps to help support the family. But we always had some land, a flock of chickens, a few milk cows, and a buggy horse for mother. Mother had a large garden and canned the produce. I am also thankful to God that there was never alcohol or tobacco in our home.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Lisa Culbertson

Lisa Culbertson has been a member since December 2016.

My father, William Christensen, is of Danish ancestry, both his paternal and maternal grandparents emigrated from Denmark, he was born and raised in Council Bluffs, Iowa. My mother, Ramona, was born and raised in Mineola, Iowa, a German settlement. When her grandmother first met my Dad in the 1950's, she wanted to know if he was German, when told he wasn't, she then asked if he was at least "Luddern" and since he was in fact Lutheran, she gladly accepted him.



*Lisa Culbertson's Grandmother Irene's mother's home
on the Danish island Moen.*

My grandfather Harry Christensen was one of six children born to Anton and Christina (nee Petersen) Christensen. Anton was born in Jutland in 1862, he became a merchant marine and came to America through New York City. He came to Council Bluffs, Iowa and worked on the railroad. Christina was born on the Island of Mors also in 1862, she was a seamstress. She came to America as a young woman, and met Anton because her brother worked with him on the railroad. They married in

Council Bluffs, then moved to Ruskin, Nebraska to farm in 1909, then returned to Iowa.

My grandmother Irene (nee Petersen), was 4' 11", and was a tough, sweet lady. She did not drive and walked very fast, she even walked herself over a mile to the hospital for my dad's delivery in 1930. Her parents were Nels and Christine Petersen (nee Petersen) who both came to America in the 1880's. Nels was stationed on Moen, an Island off southeast Denmark while in the Danish service and that is where Christine was living. Nels came to Council Bluffs to work at Iowa Fruit Company, a wholesale food market that his brother owned. Christina was a housemaid and seamstress and was headed



*Culbertson's Grandmother Irene's father's
grocery store in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1908*

Our Members and Their Heritage - Lisa Culbertson

to Council Bluffs but ran out of money in Chicago and worked there until she made enough money to continue her journey.



*Lisa Culbertson's Grandfather Harry and his Danish uncles
threshing wheat in North Dakota around 1915.*

When my grandfather Harry was a young man he traveled throughout the Great Plains on a wheat threshing crew with his uncle and cousins and teams of horses, this picture was taken in North Dakota. Harry then worked with his three brothers in their mechanic shop and then he worked for International Harvester as a service manager. During World War II he was a foreman at the

Bomber plant at Offutt Air Force base and worked on building the first B-29 to be constructed there. After the war, he opened Breeder's Supply Co. by the Omaha Stockyards.

I have distant cousins still living in Denmark that had come to visit our family years ago and my parents had gone to Denmark to see the original family farm.

Our family enjoys eating Danish foods from family recipes including Kleiner (Danish deep fried Christmas cookies), Aebleskiver (Pancake Puffs), red cabbage and vinegar, and Frikadeller (Danish Meatballs). Our new favorite Danish food is Burning Love, which is mashed potatoes covered in bacon and onions fried in bacon fat.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Phyllis (Larsen) Ericson

I joined the Norden Club in 2011 and served as president of the club for 3 years 2014-2016. I enjoy making new friends and learning about Nordic traditions at Norden Club. I am a professional genealogist and have been pursuing my Scandinavian ancestors for 40 years.



Phyllis' 2nd Great Grandparents Lars & Birthe Eliassen and her Great Grandfather Jacob Larsen, back row center.

I traced over 700 descendants of my second great grandparents, Lars and Birthe Eliassen. I published a family history book *The Larsen Family - Danish Pioneers to Marion County, Kansas 1875*.

My husband Ted and I have also researched his Swedish ancestry. We have traveled to both Denmark and Sweden searching for our ancestors. He just connected with a 4th cousin near Stockholm through DNA testing.

Lars and Birthe (Jensen) Eliassen (my 2nd GreatGrandparents) emigrated from

Denmark with their six adult children in 1875. They settled on the Kansas prairie and became famers. Descendants of this family began holding annual family reunions from the 1930s. I continued this tradition for almost 50 years. Through these reunions I met great-grand aunts and uncles, and many 2nd and 3rd cousins.

My Jørgensen Great Grandmother, Hilborg Anine Jørgensen, was born in Denmark, came to Kansas and married my Great Grandfather, Jacob Larsen (middle, back row). Through research I discovered the two families knew each other and lived about one-half mile apart on the small Danish island of Langeland. Her parents remained in Denmark while most of their children and relatives came to the U.S.

I am the past president and now president again of the Lincoln-Lancaster Genealogical Society. I am a member of the National Genealogical Society, the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution. I recently completed the Boston University Genealogy Certificate program. I retired from a 40-year career in healthcare as a clinical chemist and CEO of the Nebraska Community Blood Bank. Ted and I have two daughters and five grandchildren.



Treasured photo of Phyllis' Great Grandmother Hilborg Jørgensen with her father Jens Jensen and her siblings. Langeland Denmark, ca 1871.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Marie Jessen Johnson

I was born in Froeslev, Denmark, a small village close to the German border, on August 30, 1922. My parents, Boy and Kirstine Jessen took me to their church in the neighboring village of Bov to be baptized on Sept. 24, 1922.

My father, together with hired help, farmed a large farm. We lived in the village, but the farm ground was outside of it, the same was true of all of the other farmers in the village. We had many friends here, and it was very hard for my parents to leave this place, when after the war the economy was very bad and they could not keep the farm. We went to live in the village where my mother's parents lived, called Dalbyover, in the northern part of the Peninsula. It was nice to be with our grandparents and cousins, aunts and uncles here. We stayed there about 6 months and it was finally decided to go to America, since my mother had friends there who had invited us.

We, my parents and five small children sailed on the Danish Steamship, *Fredrick VIII* in July of 1926, stopping in Norway on the way to see the sights. It took 11 days to cross the ocean. When we finally landed we had to go through Ellis Island for health inspections. Then on to New York to catch a train for Cozad, Nebraska. Our Danish friends met us at the train depot and we stayed with them until my father found a farm to rent, and a house to live in. It was not easy for my parents who were used to electricity and indoor plumbing in Denmark, to have none of that here.

It was a great comfort to my parents when we first came here to find a community of Danes and a Danish Lutheran church. There were Danes here from many parts of Denmark, and when they spoke, we heard different dialects.

We lived on several different rented farms and during that time my brother and 3 of my sisters and I went to 4 different country schools.

Then in 1933 we moved to a farm that my father had purchased close to Lexington, Nebraska. Here we had electricity. My father was able to make the farm successful and also raised cattle. We usually walked the mile to school in Lexington and all graduated from the high school there. The oldest of us always helped with the farm work until we left for college, or in the case of some of the boys, got their own farm.

There were eventually 12 of us, 6 boys and 6 girls.

Quentin and I got married in 1948, and we have 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. We lived on our farm by Ceresco until Oct. of 2014 when we moved to Lincoln. We joined the Norden club around 1985. We have enjoyed that, and our many friends there. We are thankful for all our blessings.

Note: Quentin and Marie Johnson were recognized as "Live Members" of Norden Club in 2015. Quentin passed away in 2015.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Ronald L Johnson

My ancestral chart, based on the information available, goes back prior to 1784 where my great, great, great grandfather was a farmer in the Skete Parrish of Smaland in Sweden. When I became a member of The Norden Club in 1978 I developed a keen interest in finding out more about my ancestral background. It was shortly after becoming a member, I learned that my cousin Ann Johnson Barton was doing a comprehensive study of the family, from which this information is derived. She spoke at one of our meetings. Since joining it has been exciting to see other members become interested in their heritage.

My story, even though it goes back prior to 1784 will begin with my great, great grandparents Jonas and Anna Pattersson. They were born in 1821 in the Skete and Okna Parrish, respectively. They had six sons and one daughter. Their daughter died at a young age. Due to poor farming conditions, Jonas and three of the sons chose to "blaze the American Trail" in November of 1866. They set sail on the *S/S Orlando* out of Goteborg which traveled the North Sea to Hull. From there they boarded the *S/S Helvetia* for a 13 day voyage to Staten Island, NY where they went through the immigration process at Castle Garden.

They had declared Moline, Ill as their destination. There they were employed by the John Deer Plow Co. In 1871 Jonas had saved enough money to bring his wife and two younger sons to Moline. In 1873 he staked his claim in Swede Home, Polk Co., Nebraska. Between 1873 and 1879 all of the sons had staked their claim in Polk County. My great grandfather, Charles Johnson (son of Jonas) established his claim in 1873 just west of Osceola, NE.

An interesting phenomenon came out of this research in that Jonas Patterson had a younger brother, Sven Oscar Patterson, who immigrated to Nebraska. Since there were too many Svensons, his five sons changed their name to Allinder. As the story unfolded, two of Sven's sons, John and Frank Allinder, married the daughters of Charles Johnson. My grandfather John Allinder farmed in the Osceola, Stromsburg area. His claim to fame was his invention of a "drop seed" corn planter. The patent is on file in Washington D.C. My mother, Elfie Allinder married a Johnson, so I have the name Johnson on both sides of my "tree". If anyone is interested, the "*Peterson, Johnson, Swanson*" genealogy book can be found in The Norden Club library.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Merlin and Nina Lawson

Merlin and Nina Lawson joined Norden Club in December 2016. They enjoy connecting with people in the Lincoln area who share a Nordic heritage.

Merlin's Ancestry

Merlin Lawson's great-grandparents

Nils Petter "Larson" Larrson, son of Lars Magnus Stephansson and Cajsa Lisa Larsdotter; born 18 October 1836 in Vimmerby, Kalmar, Sweden, died Feb. 1915.

Married Josephina Wilhelmina "Minnie" Carlsdotter, born 12 April 1840 in Pelarne, Kalmar, Sweden; died 03 Sep 1889. They came from Sweden with their small daughter, Aleda Sophia Edith Lawson and infant son, August John Lawson and settled on a farm near the sister of Minnie Lawson in Lakewood, Chautauqua County, New York, in 1870.

Merlin Lawson's grandparents

Charles Albert "Carl" Lawson, son of Nils Petter "Larson" Larrson and Josephina Wilhelmina "Minnie" Carlsdotter was born on 20 Nov 1876 in Lakewood, Chautauqua County, New York. He died 02 Mar 1948 in Portland, Chautauqua County, New York.

Charles Albert Lawson married Ethel Josephine Carter, daughter of Joel A. Carter and Elizabeth T. Carter on 05 Sep 1900. She was born on 18 Apr 1881 and died 05 Sep 1973 in Portland, Chautauqua County, New York (Age: 92)



Charles Albert Lawson circa 1900 Portland, Chautauqua County, New York. He owned a grape vineyard and worked as a farm laborer.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Merlin and Nina Lawson

Merlin Lawson's parents

Merle Nelson Lawson, son of Charles Albert "Carl" Lawson and Ethel Josephine Carter was born on 25 Apr 1903 in Jamestown, Chautauqua County, New York. He died on 16 Dec 1994 in Adams, Gage County, Nebraska. (Age: 91) He married Cecile May Post on 26 Dec 1925. Cecile May Post was born on 28 Sep 1903 in Portland, Chautauqua County, New York. She died on 15 Jul 1982 in Sarasota, Florida. (Age: 78)

Merlin Paul Lawson, son of Merle Nelson Lawson and Cecile May Post was born on 12 Jan 1941 in Jamestown, Chautauqua County, New York. He married Nina Louise Rising 25 Jan 1964. Nina Louise Rising was born on 26 Aug 1942 in Buffalo, Erie County, New York. Merlin and Nina Lawson have three children: Keith W. Lawson, Kenneth P. Lawson and Kristin L. Lawson Crawford.

When Merlin's Great Grandparents came to the U.S. they apparently settled on a small farm near the sister of Minnie Lawson in Lakewood, Chautauqua County, New York. I do not know when the 'Larrison' name was changed to 'Lawson'.

My Scandinavian Heritage

I assume that my grandfather, Charles Albert Lawson spoke Swedish but I was 7 years old when he was hit by a car and died instantly. My father never spoke Swedish. Unfortunately, my grandparents never celebrated Swedish traditions.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Janet Malone

I joined Norden Club several years ago when invited by two dear long-time friends (from junior high school), Sherry Koenigsman and Deb Sneller, whose mothers were members, Ruth Maaske and Ramona Stromberg, respectively. Although I'm only 1/4-Swede (and have an Irish surname), I've truly enjoyed all the interesting speakers at the dinner meetings, and was surprised when I first started attending that I knew several members from other walks-of-life!

My paternal grandmother, Signe Wilhelmina Holmstrom, was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1886 and came to America with her parents, Alfred Holmstrom & Hannah Flink Holmstrom, along with her two sisters, Sylvia and Hilda, when the three girls were grade school/ junior high ages. They settled in Havelock (the far northeast edge of Lincoln), which was still its own township back then, and found themselves amongst a strong population of Irish Catholics, so became a part of the melting pot of American culture at the time. I know tradition says most Swedes were Lutherans, but my Aunt gave me my grandmother's hymnal, and it was Methodist.

My grandmother passed away before I was ever born, so I only know the stories that my Dad and his siblings told of what an incredibly strong woman she was, raising five very young children on her own during and following the Depression, after a divorce at a young age (then my grandfather died 3 years later), with no help from any governmental programs back then; all of the kids got little Part Time jobs (newspaper boys, babysitters, etc.) at very young ages to help keep the family afloat; I can tell that the Swedes must be hard workers!

My grandmother turned the living room, dining room, parlor of their home n Havelock Avenue into a general store and supported the family in that manner. When the kids got into high school she took typing classes and later worked at an insurance company downtown. She took the bus to get there; she never owned a car or drove. She was still working at age 67 (unusual for a woman in 1953) and had a heart-attack on the bus on her way to work and died. A fierce independent spirit kept her going to the end. I wish I could have met her!

My former husband was also 1/4th-Swede, so we both passed on 1/8th-Swede each to our daughter, so she is also 1/4-Swede. She lives in Philadelphia and took me to tour the American Swedish Historical Museum a couple of years ago. I noticed the auto license plates in PA are blue and yellow, a tribute to the Swedes who settled PA, small world!!

Our Members and Their Heritage - Maxine Moul

Maxine Moul has been a member for three years. She enjoys the speakers and the December Scandinavian meals.

Maxine's Ancestry

My Grandparents are Oscar Burnett, Augusta Johansdotter, and Carl Jacobson are all from Hjorted Parish, Smaland, Sweden; my maternal grandmother Hedvig Adamsdotter, is from Kristberg Parish, Ostergotland, Sweden.

My Paternal Grandparents emigrated on July 24, 1900 shortly after their marriage, on the *Oceanic*, from Liverpool, England. Oscar's brother, Charles Norberg, had immigrated to Oakland, Nebraska prior to my grandparent's emigration. They were farmers and had two children, and were involved with the Lutheran Church in Oakland. They returned to Sweden in the summer of 1920, with their two children, to visit relatives. Grandmother Augusta died in 1936 and Oscar died in 1963. He sold the family farm to my father and it was honored as an Ak-Sar-Ben Centennial farm in 2012.

My Maternal Grandfather immigrated in 1902 to Minnesota, then to Nebraska and returned to Sweden to give two years of military service in 1906 and 1907, and then returned to Oakland, NE. He had relatives in Minnesota and had relatives and friends from Sweden in the Oakland area. His family farm in Hjorted parish was just across the fields from the Oscar Burnett farm. He farmed on both the east and west sides of Oakland. He and his family were involved in the West Side Methodist Church

My Maternal Grandmother emigrated in 1913 on the *Lusitania* through Boston. She was a friend of Carl Jacobson's brother and sister-in-law in Sweden and came to America to marry Carl, although she had met him only through letters.

Scandinavian Heritage

Christmas traditions were very much a part of growing up. Lots of baking, smorgasbord for Christmas dinner, with potato sausage, Swedish rye bread, Spritz cookies, and lutefisk, which my father loved. We also observed St. Lucia day in December and Midsummer's Day. My maternal grandmother made great Swedish pancakes and they are connected with many special memories. Now my granddaughters loved to make Swedish pancakes.

With family dinners in Oakland today, my nephews request that I make Swedish Torte for dessert. I have family recipes given to me when I took my mother and two children in Sweden in 1981. We were able to visit her two living aunts, many cousins and her mother and father's family homes. My sisters and I took a two week trip to Sweden in 2008, visiting all of our ancestral homes and meeting many second, third and fourth cousins. One cousin became our genealogy investigator and provided many documents from Swedish parish records on all four grandparents' families.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Don and Carol Rundquist

Don and Carol have been Norden Club members for ten years.

They enjoy getting to know new people with a Scandinavian Heritage

Don's Ancestry (Paternal)

Johannes Jonsson Rundqvist (b. 1787, Daretorp, Sweden; d. 1858, Daretorp, Sweden)
married Maria Larsdotter (b. 1794, Daretorp, Sweden)

Anders Gustav Rundqvist (b. 1824, Daretorp, Sweden)
married Sara Maja Andersdotter (b. 1823, Daretorp, Sweden)

Johan August Rundqvist (b. 1856, Brandstorp, Sweden; d. 1926, Baltak, Sweden)
married Klara Gustafva Andersdotter (b. 1851, Daretorp, Sweden; d. 1925, Baltak, Sweden)

Carl Willhalm Rundqvist (b. 1888, Sontak, Sweden; d. 1971, Rockford, Illinois)
married Beda Serafia Wallen (b. 1887, Madangsholm, Sweden; d. 1949, Rockford, Illinois)

Elmer Clarence Rundqvist (b. 1919, Caledonia, Illinois; d. 2010, Byron, Illinois)
married Dorothy Ellen Pixler (b. 1922, Elkader, Iowa; d. 2001, Byron, Illinois)

Donald Carl Rundqvist (b. 1944, Rockford, Illinois)
married Carol Ann Keene (b. 1947, Rockford, Illinois), and they have two children:
Bradley Carl (b. 1968) and Brian William (b. 1970)

Carol's Ancestry (Maternal)

Erik Larson Forssell (b. 1710, Skaraborg, Sweden; d. 1772)
married Karin Pehrsondotter (b. 1715; d. 1788)

Gabriel E. Forssell (b. 1742, Skaraborg, Sweden; d. 1782)
married Anna Catharina Bartz (b. 1756; d. 1817)

Daniel Forssell (b. 1778, Skaraborg, Sweden; d. 1824)
married Anna Greta Andersdotter (b. 1782; d. 1854)

Johan Fredrik Forssell (b. 1813, Vanersborg, Alvsborg, Sweden; d. 1856)
married U. Strengborn Andersdotter (b. 1820; d. 1875)

Carl Frederick Forssell (b. 1845, Skaraborg, Sweden; d. 1896)
married Ida Eleonora Svensson (b. 1847; d. 1876)

Carl Albin Forsell (b. 1875, Askersund, Orebro, Sweden; d. 1914, Rockford, Illinois)
married Anna Christine Carlson (b. 1872; d. 1934)

Frank Edward Forsell (b. 1898, Rockford, Illinois; d. 1984, Rockford, Illinois)
married Alice Caroline Allbee (b. 1902, Lindenwood, Illinois; d. 1976, Rockford, Illinois)

William Francis Keene (b. 1922, Rockford, Illinois; d. 2014, Rockford, Illinois)
married Bonnie Dale Forsell (b. 1925, Rockford, Illinois; d. 2005, Rockford, Illinois)

Donald Carl Rundqvist
married Carol Ann Keene

Carol also has other Scandinavian ancestors. Her maternal grandmother was Norwegian (Ackra), and her paternal grandmother was Swedish (Lawson).

My relatives immigrated to the U.S. seeking employment. Carl Rundqvist came through Ellis Island. Others were earlier. They settled in Rockford, Illinois. Carl Rundqvist had two brothers who preceded him to America.

My Scandinavian Heritage

We held family Swedish Christmas celebrations; Swedish was spoken.

We celebrate our heritage with Swedish food at Christmas and participate in Norden club.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Alan T. Seagren

Al and Sharon Seagren have been members for over 30 years, we have served as Vice President, President, and Past President of the Norden Club.

Norden Club gives us an opportunity to socialize with other Scandinavians. We enjoy the excellent programs and the annual Smorgasbord.

AL SEAGREN'S ANCESTRY:

Paternal Ancestors

Notes for Karl (Charles) Emil Seagren and Selma Larson, grandparents, Theodore and Elsie Seagren parents of Alan T. Seagren, and Alan T. Seagren

Karl Emil Johansson was the fifth child born to Johan Magnus Josephson and Inga Carin Samuelsdotter. He was born May 13, 1872 in Sjoarp, Lonneberga, Smoland, Sweden. Karl's mother died in 1878 when he was six years old. Karl's father, grandfather, great grandfather, and great great grandfather were all farmers in Sjoarp. Karl's great grandfather Mans Josephsson was a community leader and was selected by the people of Sjoarp to write to the King of Sweden about conditions which needed attention. The church records indicate the family of Mans Josephsson (great grandfather), Joseph Mansson (grandfather), and John Magnus Josephsson (father) was all good readers and knew the Bible very well. The results of Karl's first formal religious examination at the age of six indicate that he got an "A" in all six categories

A brother of Karl, John Alfred Constan Johansson, came to the U.S. in 1880 and settled in Wakefield. A sister, Amanda Karolina Johansdotter, came to the U.S. in 1881. On March 27, 1882, Johan Magnus Josephsson departed for the U.S. with three of his children: Augusta Christina, Anna Sophia and Karl Emil. When they came to the U.S. they took the name of Sjogren (tree by the sea) that was translated to Seagren in English.

Johan Magnus went first to Fremont, Iowa and moved to Wakefield in 1891. He returned to Sweden in 1894 where he married Kristina Louisa Petersdotter who had been a sponsor at Karl Emil's baptism. Johan died in Sweden March 7, 1904 in Overholt, Lonneberga, Sweden.

Karl worked for his brother Alfred in Wakefield, attending school in the winter months to complete the fourth grade. He changed his name to Charles Emil Seagren. He became a U.S. citizen April 28, 1914.

Selma Larson was the oldest daughter of John and Kirsten Larson. Born on March 28 1873, in Red Oak, Iowa, she had one brother, S.J. Larson and one sister, Josephine. Selma's father, John, was born in 1845 in Unnaryd, Jonkoping Lan, Sweden, and her mother, Kirsten Johnsdotter, was born on March 7, 1846 in Hollands Lan, Sweden. Selma's mother died in 1883 in Stanton, Iowa.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Alan T. Seagren

Her family moved to Wakefield in 1889. Selma and a friend owned a millinery store and made hats and did sewing.

Charles and Selma were married on June 2, 1896 in Hartington, NE. Her father John and brother, Samuel, accompanied Charles and Selma in a carriage to Hartington. They stopped to pick prairie flowers for the bridal bouquet. Selma had sewn her lovely white dress for the wedding.

Charles and Selma had nine children: Carl Albin and John Waldorf were born in Wakefield; Ellen, Theodore, Clarence, Mildred, Melville, Bernice and Elden were born in Wausa. They had 13 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren, and 22 great, great grandchildren.

They farmed near Wakefield until they moved to Wausa in February 23, 1890, where they settled on a farm 3 miles north of town that Selma's father had owned.

This was their home for the rest of their lives. A new home was built in 1914. Charles farmed 160 acres until Elden, the youngest son, took over the farm. Charles loved horses and was known for his ability to raise and train horses. He remained active with farming for his entire life and liked to tell the story of shocking 80 acres of oats when he was 70 years of age. Selma loved flowers and cared for many around her home.

Charles and Selma were both active with Thabor Lutheran Church which they attended regularly. Charles became a member by Adult Confirmation in 1901 and Selma transferred membership from Salem Lutheran Church, Wakefield, NE. Two of their children were baptized in Salem Lutheran Church in Wakefield and seven in Thabor, and all were confirmed and became members of Thabor. Confirmation was in Swedish for each of the children until Melville when it changed to English. Thabor found it impossible to hire a minister who could give the sermon in both Swedish and English. Charles never thought church was quite the same after that, as he enjoyed the Swedish service.

All of the sons became involved with farming in the Wausa Community and Mildred and Ellen married farmers. Bernice left the Wausa community after she married an engineer, but she faithfully returned each summer to help take care of her parents.

Family Sunday dinners at the "home place" were common and most often included fried chicken, home made ice cream and Selma's favorite, angel food cake. The home place was always the gathering place for Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities. Christmas dinner included the traditional Swedish recipes and dishes of caraway seed bread, potato sausage, Swedish meatballs, herring, Lutefisk and Ostakaka. There was an unwritten rule that the men would not smoke or chew tobacco in the house. Therefore, after Sunday or a holiday dinner, the men folk would go out of the house to the corn crib and enjoy an after dinner smoke or chew.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Alan T. Seagren

Both Charles and Selma were proud of their children and grandchildren and were pleased when they took advantage of educational opportunities with many of their grand children attending and receiving degrees from colleges/universities. There was an unwritten rule of not speaking Swedish around the grandchildren because they didn't want their grandchildren to speak with a Swedish accent.

All of the children attended McKinley rural school, District #136. Naturally Charles Served on the local school board for years. Albin attended Wayne State College for a short course; Waldorf and Ellen attended Luther College in Wahoo, NE, and Ellen graduated majoring in business. Theodore and Clarence attended a short course in the winter beyond the 8th grade. Mildred, Bernice, Melville and Elden graduated from Wausa High School. Mildred and Bernice attended the Normal Training Program in Wayne State College and taught rural school after they completed the course. Elden attended Wayne State College for one year,

Selma passed away February 24, 1949 at the age of 75 and Charles on October 14, 1960 at the age of 88.

Theodore was born on the "Home Place" three miles north of Wausa on August 14, 1903, the fourth child of Charles and Selma (Larson) Seagren. He had five brothers: Albin, Waldorf, Clarence, Melville, and Elden, and three sisters: Ellen (Mrs. Oscar Johnson), Mildred (Mrs. George Johnson), and Bernice (Mrs. Don Rasley). On 9/27/03 he was baptized and on 5/1/18, confirmed in Thabor Lutheran Church in Wausa NE. He attended McKinley rural school; instruction was in Swedish for grades 1-3 and English 4-8. He graduated from eighth grade in 1917, after which he attended a short course at Wausa High School. He helped his father farm until he was married to Elsie M. Larson on February 20, 1929.

Elsie M. Larson was the second child of Oscar A. Larson and Nellie Ludvigson. She was born on 1/25/07 in Wausa. On February 24, 1907, she was baptized and on June 25, 1922 confirmed at Thabor Lutheran Church in Wausa NE. She had three sisters: Althea (Mrs. Spencer Anderson), Gladolyn, who passed away as a youth, Edith (Mrs. Carl Nelson), and two brothers: Forest and Raynor. In 1909, the family moved to a farm north of Wausa. Elsie attended the Stenberg School until the third grade when the family moved two miles west where she attended District 152, graduating from the eighth grade. She graduated from Wausa High School in 1924. Following graduation, she attended Wayne State College one year and two summer sessions and earned a teacher certificate. Then she taught in rural schools for three years before getting married February 20, 1929. She taught Sunday school for many years and was active in Thabor women's organization and belonged to a neighborhood club, the Gingham Girls.

They were very active in Thabor Lutheran Church, with regular church attendance and the activities of the church.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Alan T. Seagren

Theodore and Elsie had two children: Eloise Marie, born on January 8, 1931, and Alan Theodore, born on February 24, 1932. They have six grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and eight great-great children.

They stated farming three miles north of Wausa on Highway 81 in 1929, during the depression. One year later they moved one and one quarter miles east to a place owned by S. J. Larson, Theodore's uncle. They lived on this farm for 38 years. The first years were difficult because of the drought, dust storms, hail storms, grass hoppers, low prices for livestock and grain because of the depression. All of the farming was done with horse drawn equipment until the late 1940 when a tractor, plow, cultivator, mower were purchased.

Theodore fed cattle, raised hogs and milked cows. Chickens were raised for meat and eggs. They always had a large garden and orchard. The cave was used to store canned vegetables and fruit, potatoes and carrots.

The house was heated with cobs, wood and coal. Electricity came in the early 40s and the house and farm were wired, which brought many conveniences.

The winter of 1948-49 was terrible because there was one blizzard after another. As soon as the country roads were opened, the wind would blow them shut. Theodore was the only one with horses and a bobsled so the neighbor men went with him to Wausa to get fuel, oil, groceries and mail. They crossed fields because the roads were impossible to travel. In the spring, the U.S. Army came with bulldozers and opened the roads.

In February 1968, they had a farm machinery sale and moved into Wausa to a house on South Lincoln Street known as the Gust Lind home. Theodore continued to farm a quarter of land they had purchased in 1947 north of Wausa until 1982. They kept busy with garden, lawn, flowers and taking care of fruit trees.

They enjoyed taking trips to visit relatives in California, Indiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Washington, and Oregon. To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary they flew to Hawaii. They enjoy having friends and relatives visit in their home. A special visit was one by a cousin of Elsie's from Sweden in 1987.

Alan was born to Theodore E. Seagren and Elsie M. Larson on February 24, 1932 in Wausa, NE. He attended Lawton Rural School for the first seven grades. When the country school closed due to small enrollment, he attended the Wausa Public School for the eighth grade and four years of high school, graduating in 1949. In high school he participated in band, chorus, dramatics, basketball, and football.

In 1949, he enrolled in Luther Junior College in Wahoo, NE, graduating in 1951. He then enrolled at the University of Nebraska, where he pursued a teacher preparation program in mathematics and science, graduating in 1953. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and attended Military Intelligence School at Fort Riley, KS where he was trained as a photo interpreter.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Alan T. Seagren

He was stationed for a brief time in Korea and approximately 16 months in Tokyo, Japan and was discharged in June 1955. In September of 1955 he moved to Mullen, NE where he taught mathematics, science and driver education in the high school. He became the High School Principal in 1956. During the summers he attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and received a Master's Degree in August 1958.

In September 1958 he moved to Grand Island, NE where he was Vice-Principal of Grand Island High School. It was in Grand Island that he met Sharon A. Krauter, who was a Physical Education teacher. She attended Clatonia Public Schools for all 12 grades, graduating in 1954, when she enrolled at Doane College in Crete, NE graduating with a BA in 1958. On July 30, 1960 they were married in the Salem Methodist Church in Clatonia, NE.

In the fall of 1960, Alan enrolled at the University of Nebraska in a doctoral program and Sharon worked on her master's while teaching Physical Education in the Lincoln Public School. Alan received the Doctors Degree and Sharon the Master's Degree in 1962.

In September 1962, they moved to Fort Collins, where Alan was an Assistant Professor of Education at Colorado State University. In the fall of 1963, he returned to the University of Nebraska where he became Principal of University High School and Director of the Student teaching Program. Since 1963 he has held a number of administrative positions and was Vice President for Administration for the University of Nebraska system and Professor of Educational Administration. Sharon taught physical education at the elementary level for the Lincoln Public Schools.

Sharon and Alan have two children: Eric Alan (Jennifer Becker) and Teresa (Tracy) Ann (Fortney, Way). Eric and Jennifer have two children: Ingrid and Birk. Tracy and Dean Way have four children: Kyle, Chris, Emma and Quentin.

AL SEAGREN'S MATERNAL ANCESTRY

Nels and Elsa Lotta Ludvigson, were Alan T. Seagren's Great Grandparents and Oscar and Nellie Larson, were his grandparents.

Nils Ludvigson was born in Orso, Skone, Malmoland, Sweden on March 7, 1859. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Sweden. In April 1880 at the age of 21, he came to America. It was here he took the Americanized Nels as his first name. He settled in Rock Island, Illinois and was a Contractor and builder.

Elsa Charlotte Newquist was born in Alvsbacka, Varmland, Sweden, Jan 3, 1858. On the Certificate of Departure it lists her as a maid leaving from Hagfors in Norra Rada Parish. The homeport for the immigration steamship *Orlando* was Goteborg. The *Orlando* traveled to England and departed out of Liverpool. According to church records she left Sweden on January 9, 1880. She too, made her home in Rock Island, Illinois. Elsa Lotta worked in the kitchen at Augustana College.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Alan T. Seagren

Nels and Elsa were married on July 23, 1884 in Rock Island Illinois. They had five children: Nellie, Minnie, Edna, Harry and Arthur. Elsa's two brothers, Charles and August Newquist, previously had purchased land five miles north of Wausa and enticed the Ludvigsons to come so the family made the move to Wausa. Elsa and the children, ages 1 to 10, arrived by passenger train the Dec 31, 1895, her brothers met them with wagons and took them to the Charles Newquist home five miles north of Wausa.

Nels Ludvigson arrived in Wausa by freight train the next day, with one team of horses, a spring buggy, and some furniture. He left the horses at the stockyards and walked to the Charles Newquist home, stopping along the way at the home of Sam and Josie Larson, now known as the Seagren home.

They lived in a two-room house on Main Street until March 1st, when they moved to a farm they had purchased one mile west and one and one half mile south of the Wausa School.

The children walked to School across the fields. The children were: Nellie (Mrs. Oscar A. Larson), Minnie (Mrs. Carl O. Olson), Arthur, later married to Elin Nelson of Dallas, South Dakota, Edna (Mrs. Andrew T. Johnson), and Harry, who later married Sigrid Johnson.

The family became members of Thabor Lutheran church when it was located north of the cemetery. They were members for over 50 years. Thabor played a major role in their family life. Their life revolved around the church where their children were confirmed, married and where most of their grandchildren were baptized and confirmed. Four of the five children established homes on farms within a six-mile radius from Wausa when they were married. One son, Arthur, ventured to South Dakota.

In 1900, Nels sold the land and purchased a farm three miles east of Wausa where they lived until they retired to Wausa in 1918. They purchased the house across the Street West of the Evangelical Covenant Church, where they spent the remaining days,

Horses were used for farm work and Nels did not own a car until after 1918. Horses and buggies were the mode of transportation in spite of dirt roads; the Ludvigsons and Newquists enjoyed many family gatherings in celebration of anniversaries and birthdays. One of the favorite treats from Sweden was peppermint candy. Nels and Elsa kept a metal candy dish and when the grandchildren came to visit we were always treated with a Polkagrisar, but always told by Mom and Dad only take one.

They retired to their house in 1918 where they enjoyed some thirty years. They led a very quiet and frugal life. They did not have much more than what was needed. They would listen to the news on their battery radio and turn it off immediately after the news. Elsa Lotta didn't go to church after she broke her hip because of the many stairs to go up and down. She was a woman who did much praying daily; she would sit in the evenings and pray softly. The front

Our Members and Their Heritage - Alan T. Seagren

porch was where Nels and Elsa sat in the evenings in the gathering dusk warding off the need for lights.

Elsa Lotta crocheted a pineapple pattern doily for each grandchild and as well as for everyone she knew. It is estimated that she made over 90 of them and even when her eyesight was dimming she would crochet by feel.

Elsa died in 1947 at nearly 90 years of age. Nels then lived with his daughter Nellie (Mrs. Oscar A. Larson), until his death in 1952 at the age of nearly 93 years. They are both buried in Wausa Lutheran Cemetery.

Oscar Alfred Larson was born in Kara Socken, Sia, Taarland, Sweden on December 11, 1874. He was baptized in infancy and confirmed in 1889. At the age of 18 years or in 1893 he came to America, locating first in Shenandoah, Iowa where he remained until in 1902 when he came to Wausa, Nebraska. In 1904 he joined the local Lutheran church of which he was a constant member until his death on April 9, 1937, serving a few terms as a member of the board of Trustees, part of the time serving as its chair. He held several positions in town, but spent most of his time farming. He was a considerate husband and father and a good neighbor and was missed by all who enjoyed his acquaintance.

On July 27, 1904 he was united in marriage to Nellie Ludvigson. Nellie was 19 and her mother, Elsa Lotta ruled that none of the other children would marry until they were at least 25 years old and it was so. To this union six children were born: Althea (Mrs. Spencer Anderson), Elsie (Mrs. Theo Seagren), Edith (Mrs. Carl J. Nelson), Forrest (Linnea Nelson) and Raynor (Ethel Knoght). Mrs. Nellie Charlotte Larson was born May 4, 1885 in Rock Island, Illinois and she died on August 14, 1976 at the age of 91.

CELEBRATING AND HONORING OUR HERITAGE

Growing up in the Seagren family, celebrating and honoring our heritage was an ongoing situation. There was a Swedish service every Sunday in Thabor Lutheran Church until I was a teenager. *Julotta* the 4:30 a.m. morning Christmas service was a tradition, later changed to 11 p.m. *St Lucia* was celebrated every year at Christmas time. The monthly family gatherings at the "Home Place" with traditional Swedish dishes. Christmas dinner included the traditional Swedish recipes and dishes of fruit soup, caraway seed bread, potato sausage, Swedish meatballs, ham, herring, lutefisk and Ostkaka or rice pudding. The annual cutting of a Christmas tree from the pasture.

Wausa was predominately Swedish and you were either Lutheran or Mission Covenant. Therefore, the Swedish culture prevailed and most people lived by the values and traditions of that culture until after the end of the WW II when people of other cultures moved in. As teenagers we were expected to date a boy or girl from a Swedish family.

SCANDINAVIAN TRADITIONS THAT CONTINUE

Christmas traditions, the traditional Christmas dinner, St Lucia celebration, annual cutting of a Christmas tree, Christmas Church service and the usual decorating of our home. One year a cousin and his wife were visiting over Christmas and they commented you celebrate Christmas and your Christmas dinner is more traditional Swedish than what we do in Sweden.

My favorite memory of growing up was being raised in a Faith Based family, where Christian values and beliefs were followed. Mom was trained as a teacher and never stopped teaching. Her favorite comment was that you should try to learn something new every day. We had daily devotions and didn't go to bed without saying our prayers. Dad was a true farmer, he loved farming and was an excellent farmer. He was the first in the neighborhood to plant hybrid seed oats and corn. He kept his equipment in good shape and did deferred repair every two years. He lived by the set of values that he learned from his father, hard work, honesty, integrity, respect and care for animals, strong faith and being a good neighbor.

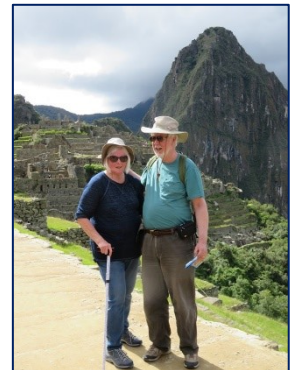
Our Members and Their Heritage - Ingrid & Del Stites

Ingrid Margareta Dillström Stites was born in Sundsvall (Medelpad) Sweden, September 13, 1944 to Director Gustav and Sara Dillström. She has one brother, Arne, who lives in Stockholm. Her youth was lived in Karlstad, Varmland where she graduated from Karlstad Girls School. Immigrating to the United States in 1963 she worked as an *au pair* for Dr. Wayne and Tod Wheeler at Tarkio, MO while attending Tarkio College.

Del Emmett Stites was born in Nebraska City, Nebraska, June 16, 1944 to Virginia and Delbert Stites, Rock Port, Missouri. He has one sister, Jerrienne Jones, Silver City, NM. Del graduated valedictorian from Rock Port (MO) High School in 1962 and attended Tarkio (MO) College from 1962-1964 and 1965-1966. On September 6, 1964, Ingrid and Del were married at the Rock Port Methodist Church. Del had a scholarship to study abroad and the couple left that day for Stockholm, Sweden where Del attended the University of Stockholm.

Upon returning from Sweden, Del continued studying at Tarkio College where he graduated Cum Laude in Philosophy in 1966. The Stites then moved to Lincoln where he studied Philosophy at the University of Nebraska Lincoln and for which he received a Master's of Arts degree. During their time in Lincoln, Ingrid and Del had two daughters, Sara-Maria Stites, now living in Portland, OR, and Kirsten Stites who married Dominic Blaney from near Belfast, Ireland, now living in Omaha, NE. with their daughter and the one grandchild, Iona Stites, born in 2006.

In 1970 the Stites moved to Bellevue where Del began teaching Philosophy at Bellevue College. Del was a professor at Bellevue University for 47 years. Ingrid attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center receiving an A.D. in nursing, then a B.S.N. from Northwest Missouri State University, then an M.S. in nursing from Creighton University and finally a Nurse Practitioner Certification from Creighton University. Ingrid was a certified gerontology and a certified oncology nurse employed at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Omaha for 26 years. She also taught as an adjunct at Bellevue University for 13 years. In 1984, Ingrid went as a volunteer nurse to the Dominican Republic in the ILAC program through Creighton University. Over the years Ingrid held various memberships in regional and national nursing societies.



Besides their profession careers, the Stites have been active members in VASA Society of America, Independent Order of Viking, Norden Club of Lincoln, and the Noon Day Scandinavian Club. They were initial and continuing members of the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Omaha Committee for which Del has been co-chair for eight years.

After having to forego mountain hiking, Ingrid and Del have continued to go "Viking" to more than 30 countries including Sweden. In retirement Ingrid knits, embroiders, and cooks terrific Swedish meals. Each year the Stites celebrate *Jul* in complete and traditional Swedish ways as well as being active in Midsummer festivities. In 2014, Ingrid and Del celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Donna Thomas



I was born Donna Marie Christensen. My ancestry goes back six generations on some lines in Audubon County, Iowa. My parents are Dallas Gene Christensen (1935-1996) and Doris Marie (Andersen). My father's Christensen paternal grandparents, Christen Jensen Christensen from Hjørring (1867-1934) and Sofia (Andersen) (1874-1941) from Mols, Denmark came to Audubon County in the 1880 and 1894 respectively. The family moved to Lake Benton, Lincoln County, Minnesota in about 1914 where they raised their family of eleven children. My Christensen great-great grandparents, Christen Andersen Christensen (1833-1895) and Karen Marie (Jensdatter) (1832-1921) immigrated from Hjørring, Denmark with four of their children about 1880. He died at Brayton, Audubon, in 1895. She migrated with a daughter and a son and their families to Selma, California, about 1905. They were charter members of the Oakfield Baptist Church east of Elk Horn, Iowa. She perished in a house fire.

My father's maternal grandparents, Peter Jensen Lund (1869-1945) from Skanderborg, Denmark immigrated in 1890 to Kimballton, Iowa, with his first wife Ane Marie (Andersen) (1861-1893), sister to my father's grandmother Sofia. (So my grandfather Nels he was nephew before he became a son-in-law!!) Their infant son died shortly after arrival in the country. His wife died in January 1893, leaving two toddler daughters. Peter remarried, Karen Kristine (Nielsen) (1882-1924) who emigrated in 1902 from Odense, Denmark. They had six children. One, Anna Marie (Lund) married Nels Christen Christensen in 1930. They had eleven, seven surviving children and lived in the Extra area.

My maternal grandfather, Edvard Kristian Valdemar Andersen aka "Ed K" (1900-1998) immigrated in 1919. His mother Marie Kristine (Lundberg) was from Præstø, Denmark and his father Niels Andersen, a Swedish immigrant from Skåne. Niels was known as Kammager = Combmaker by profession. They had eleven children. Ed K. married Dorothy Isabelle (Lacy) of English and English/German Quaker heritage. As I grew up in the heart of "Dane Country" we celebrated our ethnic heritage a lot. Favorite memories were Grandpa "Ed K" singing "Silent Night" in the Dane language to the family gathered in their living room at Christmas time. We also enjoyed frikadeller, kransakage at special occasions, rye bread, rullepølse, cheeses, pickled herring, and other ethnic foods. Ed K's older brother Ejner had also immigrated to Audubon, about 1916 and is Janet (Andersen) Wallman's grandfather. She and her husband Wayne are also Norden Club members. A third brother, Karl Johannes also immigrated and raised their family in Chicago.

I am married to Dr. John Benjamin Thomas from Montgomery, Alabama, who is a dentist in La Vista. We met while both stationed at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. We have lived in Papillion since 1990. We have two sons, Brandon Michael and Jason Benjamin Thomas. Brandon is living in Seattle and works as an EMT. Jason is working on his PhD in plant genetics from the University of Minnesota and currently is a Fulbright scholar in Lyon, France.

Our Members and Their Heritage - Donna Thomas

I have been interested in genealogy since about age nine. I have pursued this interest throughout my life. I currently volunteer at the Museum of Danish America Genealogy Center weekly and have done so since 2014. I have compiled cemetery transcriptions for all of Audubon County and work to keep it current. I am also working on a vast family tree focusing mostly on identifying Danish immigrants and their descendants. I enjoy furthering my education in genealogy and volunteer in numerous ways to the genealogy community.

I am involved with the Audubon Historical Society, Audubon County and the Greater Omaha Genealogy Societies, the Omaha and Lincoln Danish Sisterhood Lodges, Vikings Odvar Odd Lodge #6 and the VASA fraternal lodges in Omaha and most recently the Norden Club in the past year. I have been active with the Midsommer Scandinavian Festival committee and other various ethnic activities. I have taught some genealogy and heirloom scrapbooking classes. I also enjoy quilting, scrapbooking, rubber stamping and other paper crafting hobbies.

I have been to Denmark and Sweden twice. The first time, in 1989 I drove my British car around the countryside meeting cousins and “interrogating” family members for family history. The second trip was in 2006 when our Thomas family had been to England to visit people and places from where we had been stationed with the military in the late 1980’s. Then I flew to Denmark to meet my Mom and sister. It was a lifelong dream for my mother to visit where her father had come from and to meet her many cousins there. Both of my parents have first cousins there and other extended relatives. One of my father’s cousins was chauffeur, travel guide, interpreter, etc for both trips. Several have come to Audubon as well. I can’t wait to go back—several more times!! I have also been trying to learn the Danish language recently.

Norden Club Officers (2006-2017)

| Year | Pres | VP | Secretary | Treasurer |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2007 | Vicki Graham & Karen Zins | Mary Contreras | Vera Salmon | Ingrid Hansen |
| 2008 | Mary Contreras | Vicki Bousquet | Vera Salmon | Karen Zins |
| 2009 | Mary Contreras | Vicki Bousquet | Ingrid Hansen | Karen Zins |
| 2010 | Vicki Bousquet | Dorothy Ekblad | Ingrid Hansen | Karen Zins |
| 2011 | Vicki Bousquet | Dorothy Ekblad | Ingrid Hansen | Karen Zins |
| 2012 | Dorothy Ekblad | | Ingrid Hansen | Karen Zins |
| 2013 | Dorothy Ekblad | | Ingrid Hansen | Karen Zins |
| 2014 | Phyllis Ericson | Neal Simley | Ingrid Hansen | Karen Zins |
| 2015 | Phyllis Ericson | Neal Simley | Sandy Hanson | Ray Friesen |
| 2016 | Phyllis Ericson | Ron Nielsen | Sandy Hanson | Ray Friesen |
| 2017 | Ron Nielsen Jan - June | Del Stites | Sandy Hanson | Ray Friesen |
| 2017 | Del Stites July-Dec | | Sandy Hanson | Ray Friesen |

Norden Club Directors (2007-2017)

| Year | Membership | Historian | Courtesy | Newsletter |
|-------------|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2007 | Ozzie & Kaye Gilbertson & Ron Johnson | Dorothy Ekblad | Charlene Johnson | |
| 2008 | Ozzie Gilbertson & Ron Johnson | Dorothy Ekblad | Charlene Johnson | |
| 2009 | Ozzie Gilbertson & Ron Johnson | Dorothy Ekblad | Charlene Johnson | |
| 2010 | Mary Contreras | Dorothy Ekblad | Charlene Johnson | |
| 2011 | Mary Contreras | Dorothy Ekblad | Charlene Johnson | |
| 2012 | Mary Contreras | Dorothy Ekblad | Charlene Johnson | |
| 2013 | Mary Contreras Jan-Sept Ron Johnson - Oct - Dec | Dorothy Ekblad | Charlene Johnson | |
| 2014 | Ron Johnson | Dorothy Ekblad | Charlene Johnson | Len Nelson |
| 2015 | Ron Johnson | Dorothy Ekblad | Ingrid Hansen | Len Nelson |
| 2016 | Ron Johnson Jan-Sept Mary Brass Oct-Dec | Dorothy Ekblad | Ingrid Hansen | Len Nelson |
| 2017 | Mary Brass | Dorothy Ekblad | Mary Brass | Len Nelson |

Activities (Articles & Photos)



ITINERARY

DAY-1

DANISH MUSEUM - ELK HORN IOWA
LUNCH – AMANA COLONIES
HOTEL WINNESHICK & OVERNIGHT - DECORAH, IOWA

DAY-2

VESTERHEIM NORWEGIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM – DECORAH, IOWA
PORTER HOUSE MUSEUM – DECORAH, IOWA
SEED SAVER EXCHANGE – DECORAH, IOWA

DAY-3

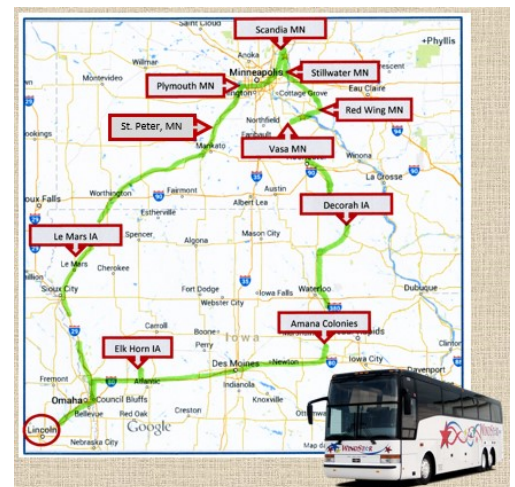
1855 LUTHERAN CHURCH & MUSEUM – VASA, MINNESOTA
LUNCH ST. JAMES HOTEL – RED WING MINNESOTA
DINNER HISTORIC LOWELL INN GARDEN ROOM – STILLWATER, MN

DAY-4

GAMMELGARDEN MUSEUM - SCANDIA, MINNESOTA
LUNCH – SWEDISH INSTITUTE – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
“RING OF FIRE” THEATER PRODUCTION - PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

DAY-5

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE CHAPEL – ST. PETER, MINNESOTA
ICE CREAM, LAMARS, IOWA





DANISH MUSEUM - ELK HORN IOWA



VESTERHEIM NORWEGIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM – DECORAH, IOWA



1855 LUTHERAN CHURCH & MUSEUM – VASA, MINNESOTA



GAMMELGARDEN MUSEUM - SCANDIA, MINNESOTA





DINNER HISTORIC LOWELL INN GARDEN ROOM – STILLWATER



DINNER HISTORIC LOWELL INN GARDEN ROOM – STILLWATER



SWEDISH INSTITUTE – MINNEAPOLIS



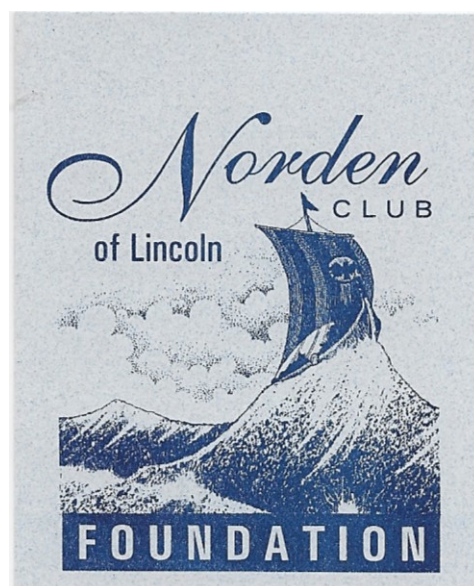
SWEDISH INSTITUTE – MINNEAPOLIS



Ensuring Our Scandinavian Heritage for Future Generations



**THE NORDEN CLUB
OF LINCOLN**



<http://nordenclub.com/>