



*The Norden Club*  
of Lincoln  
"Since 1947"

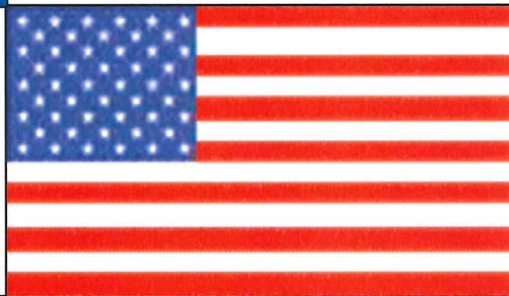
*60th Anniversary*  
*1947 to 2007*



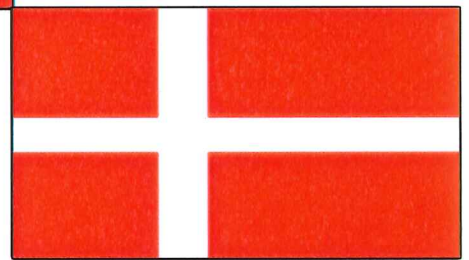
*Sweden*



*Finland*



*Norway*



*Denmark*

This document is dedicated to

# **Dorothy Ekblad**

**Historian 2007**

In recognition of her *dedication* to the Norden Club  
and  
her *promotion* of “fellowship among Scandinavian-Americans and their  
descendants” and her *help* to “preserve for the benefit of the United States the best  
in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia”.



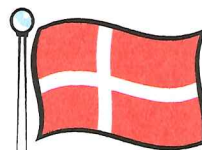
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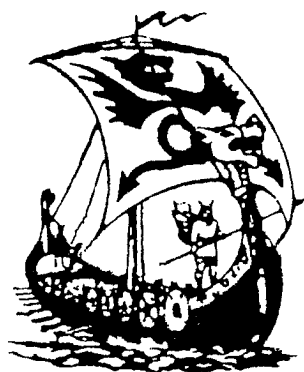
Contents obtained from Dorothy Ekblad, Howard Ottoson, Nebraska State Historical Society, newsletters,  
Norden Club correspondence and members of the Norden Club





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## **Section I**

# **History of the Norden Club of Lincoln**

# The Norden Club of Lincoln

The Norden Club was the inspiration of University of Nebraska's Chancellor Reuben Gustavson along with other professors from the University. They had enjoyed going to celebrations at the Noon Day Club in Omaha and thought that Lincoln should establish a Scandinavian organization that would be more locally available. In an interview written by Dorothy Ekblad, Adela Holck, a long-time member of the Norden Club, said that her husband, Harold, joined the Club soon after it was formed in 1947. She stated that Chancellor Gustavson wanted to start the Norden Club "to give the Scandinavian professors and others in the community an opportunity to join together for Scandinavian fellowship." Therefore, Chancellor Gustavson asked Professor Joseph E. Alexis to organize the first meeting. Professor Alexis was the Professor of Modern Languages at UNL from 1910-1952 and was widely known as a linguist and author. He mastered and taught 16 different languages and authored 14 books.



Reuben G. Gustavson.

On February 17, 1947, a group of twelve men met in Dining Room No. 2 of the University Club located in the Stuart Building in Lincoln, Nebraska at twelve noon. These men included several professors, prominent businessmen, and politicians. Those present were:

Dr. Joseph E. Alexis  
E. G. Ekblad  
Richard O. Johnson  
F.A. Peterson

Charles J. Warner  
G. Prestegard  
H.M. Ohslund  
C.E. Berg

A.L. Lung  
A.L. Elmquist  
H.W. Jespersen  
Walter R. Johnson

Two others invited to this meeting, but were unable to attend, were Chancellor Reuben Gustavson and Geo Rosenlof.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and formulate plans for the organization of a society or club in Lincoln to be composed of male residents of Lancaster County who were of Scandinavian birth or descent. This group of twelve men would decide to elect Dr. Alexis as their first temporary chairman. C.E. Berg was named temporary secretary. Three men, G. Prestegard, H.M. Ohslund and H. W. Jespersen, were appointed to a committee to draft the first constitution. Discussions were held about membership dues and a consensus agreement of an annual fee of \$5.00 was reached. No decisions were reached at that time for a suitable name for the organization or eligibility for membership. A second meeting was set for February 24<sup>th</sup> of 1947.

The name of this Club would become the *Norden Club of Lincoln*, an amalgam of the countries from which the members traced their lineage----namely, the Nordic countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Greenland and Iceland. The constitution would describe membership as "any resident of Lancaster County or its environs, of Scandinavian descent or of Scandinavian interests, may become a member of this Club upon recommendation by a member, and approval by the membership committee, and election by the Club." The purpose of the club would be to "promote

acquaintanceship with one another of residents of Lancaster County, and its environs, of Scandinavian descent; to interest the members in preserving for the benefit of the United States of America the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia; and to help promote progress of the Nation, State, and Community." The constitution was adopted in March of 1947 and the members elected Dr. Reuben G. Gustavson as their first President of the Norden Club and E. G. Ekblad became the first Secretary/Treasurer of the Norden Club.



E.G. Ekblad

The constitution has been amended in 1989 and again in 2000 to reflect changes in membership (dropping the residency stipulation), offices and terms of offices, nominating committees, and annual dues. The Norden Club constitutions dated 1947, 1989 and 2000, the minutes of the first organizational meeting, and Duties of the Officers can be found in Section VI.

Those who joined the Norden Club in 1947 and 1948 were listed as "Charter members". Some of the charter members include:

Hans Akeson	Paul Burklund	Elmer Christiansen
Oliver Christensen	Leroy Munson	Dr. Theodore Prev Jorgensen
Mr. Ekwall	Berthold Anderson	Evar Anderson
Rev. Virgil Anderson	E. W. Bjorling	Dr. Sam Dahl
Charles Halberg	Dr. Otto Hoiberg	E.W. Johnson
Richard H. Larson	Carl Mostrom	Joseph Nelson
Albert Olson	W. A. Rosene	

Paul Burklund, a charter member, remains a very active member of the Norden Club in 2007. Paul was the Club's Secretary/Treasurer from 1973-1987. Although the Club reached a membership of 185 by 1954, it had dropped to 32 just prior to Paul becoming Secretary/Treasurer. With Paul's encouragement and hard work at recruiting members, the membership of the Norden Club grew to 58 by 1977 and then to 305 by 1985. Paul was known to say during his tenure as Secretary/Treasurer, "as long as I'm Secretary/Treasurer the Club will continue." Paul credits the increase in the number of members to energetic membership drives, improving the programs at monthly meetings by frequently using the Grieg Male Chorus, and by changing the meeting location. Membership grew dramatically in the early 1980's.

Although women were not excluded in the constitution of the Norden Club there is no record of membership until the 1970's. Women were often invited as guests prior to the 1970's. Membership for women was universally accepted by 1977. With this addition, the membership grew to over 300 members at various times. Our membership in 2007 is at 270 members.



In the early years, noon meetings were held twice a month at the YWCA and sometimes in the homes of members. Later, the meetings were held monthly and moved to King's Restaurant at 40<sup>th</sup> and South and then to a restaurant at 745 So. 11<sup>th</sup> St. (presently DaVinci's). Increasing membership necessitated a change in location. Meetings were held at the Cornhusker Hotel in downtown Lincoln and finally in 1978 the meetings found a home at Trinity United Methodist Church, located at 16<sup>th</sup> and A Street. Meetings are presently held three times a year at Trinity United Methodist with a December Smorgasbord held at a larger venue.

The first flags used by the Norden Club were purchased in 1957 by Adela and Harold Holck. The couple had made several trips back to Scandinavia to visit their parents and decided to purchase flags from Sweden, Norway and Denmark on one of their visits. Those flags were displayed until 1995 when, because of wear, they were replaced. Various members have cared for the flags over the years. Lloyd and Barbara Johnson assumed the duties of caring for the flags in 2004 and recognized the need to purchase a new flag from Finland. In 2007 the Club displays five large flags from the United States, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland at each meeting. Robert Fredrickson, a present member of the Norden Club, made the stands in which these large flags are displayed. Additionally small flags are available for each table representing the countries that are being honored at Club meetings and smorgasbords.

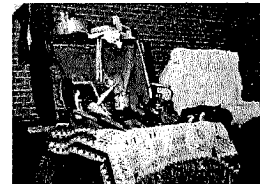


Annual smorgasbords have been celebrated for the past 23 years beginning in 1984. Ozzie and Kay Gilbertson and Alan and Sharon Seagren were instrumental in organizing the early smorgasbords. They were first held in the Kellogg Center (Nebraska Center for Education) located at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Holdrege and later they were held at the Downtown University of Nebraska Student Union. In recent years, the Smorgasbords were held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus Student Union. These events featured menus that would alternate between Norwegian, Swedish and Danish cuisines. A "Heritage Table" was available to showcase old and new memorabilia supplied by the Norden Club's members. The theme for this table would also alternate depending on which of the Scandinavian nations was being honored. Christmas trees were often donated by Milo and Mary Mumgaard. Additionally, entertainment would generally have a particular national influence. The Norden Club has enjoyed the following entertainment at the Smorgasbords:

1. Steffon Moeller from Union College gave a presentation entitled *Christmas in Denmark* in December 1968. This was the Norden Club's annual Christmas party at Kingscrest Drive Inn Restaurant at 945 South St.
2. Storyteller D.C. Lassen presented *Tales from Hans Christian Andersen* (Dec. 1990)



3. Norwegian exchange students spoke about Christmas in Norway. (Dec. 1994)
4. Robert Falk, the Director of the Swedish Council of America spoke on a "Swedish Christmas". (Dec. 1995)
5. *The Scandinavia Folk Dancers of Omaha* directed by Paul Steffenssen performed. (Dec. 1996)
6. Virgil Johnson, the Norwegian Consulate from Omaha, Nebraska, gave a presentation. (Dec. 1997)
7. Swedish dancers from Stromsburg, Nebraska performed. (Dec. 1998)
8. Lincoln Lutheran Choir performed. (Mar. 1999 and Dec. 2006)
9. A performance of *American Fever*, an emigrant play produced by Judith Simundson from Dubuque, Iowa. (Dec. 2000)
10. An Adult Swedish folk dance troupe (directed by Ann Olson) from Lindsborg, Kansas performed. (Dec. 2001) (see newspaper articles in section VII)
11. Roger Hellesvig, a living history professional from Minneapolis, MN, revealed the contents of a Norwegian immigrant trunk. (Dec. 2003)



12. Skjaldborg, a Dark Ages/Viking Re-enactment Group from Omaha Nebraska, gave a demonstration of Viking Life. (Dec. 2004)
13. Dr. Peggy Holloway from Dana College performed songs from several different Hans Christian Andersen plays. She also performed other wonderful Danish melodies. (Dec. 2005)

Although annual Christmas Smorgasbords are relatively recent events, Christmas parties have been enjoyed since the Norden Club was established. In the years when only men were members, the women who attended as guests at these Christmas parties were given a gift such as a poinsettia from their gentlemen hosts—a nice tradition that could be continued.

Wonderful programs have not just been a feature of the Annual Christmas Smorgasbord. Some of the programs include:

1. On June 19, 1948, the Norden Club of Lincoln, in cooperation with the University of Nebraska, sponsored a "Royal Banquet" luncheon at the University to honor the Official Swedish Representative, Prince Bertil, and his delegates. They were visiting the United States in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Swedish Settlement in the Midwest Celebration that was held in Chicago.
2. On May Fourth, 1959, the Norden Club sponsored a reception and dinner honoring His Excellency, Dr. Gunnar Jarring, Ambassador of Sweden to the United States.

3. In the early years of the Norden Club, Dr. Theodore Jorgensen gave two programs. One of those programs concerned his atomic research at Los Alamos, New Mexico, and the other program concerned his golf research. Dr. Jorgensen was a professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Nebraska.
4. In September of 1977, Dr. Otto G. Hoiberg, who was the Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, gave a presentation entitled *Scandinavian Pioneers Speak—the Norden Club Project*.
5. In 1977 and 1984, Dorothy Ekblad gave slide presentations of her trips to the Scandinavian countries. One of the pictures that Dorothy took in Sweden entitled *Swedish Harbor* was entered into a contest sponsored by the Lincoln Journal Star in 1978. The picture won the Grand Prize for Color Pictures and was sent to a National and an International Photo Contest. It was given an honorable mention and was displayed at the Kodak Museum in New York and was also displayed in Washington, D.C. The full colored picture is featured at the end of this document.
6. In 1985, Dr. Hans Brisch, Associate Executive Vice-President and Provost at the University of Nebraska, spoke on *Recent Initiatives in International Programs at the University of Nebraska*.
7. In September of 1991, Lennart Setterdahl, the Secretary and Field Researcher of the *American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden* from East Moline, Illinois, visited with the Norden Club about his oral history project. He had obtained oral histories from several members, transcribed them into a manuscript, and produced a book.
8. In May of 1992, Lave Johnsson, the Consul General of Sweden in Chicago visited the Norden Club. He had been the Consul General since 1989. Mr. Johnsson was a commander in the RSWNR, had been the ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, and the Councillor at the Embassies of Athens and Cairo, and the Ambassador in Lagos and Accra.
9. Richard Kimbrough, who is from the Speakers Bureau for the Nebraska Humanities Council, gave a presentation entitled *Country Tales and Truths*. (May 1994)
10. Nebraska's Secretary of State, Allen J. Beermann, presented a program entitled *What About the Dollar Bill*. (Sept. 1994)
11. Lancaster County Chorus presented a Spring concert. (May 1995)
12. Dr. Edward Zimmer, historian, spoke on Lincoln's heritage. (Sept. 1995)
13. Dr. Paul Johnsgard spoke on the Sandhill Cranes. (March 1996)
14. Kersten O'Connor spoke on *A Look at Sweden*. She is a Swedish immigrant and taught Swedish in Fremont and Omaha. (May 1996)
15. A musical program was performed by the *Freitag String Quartet*. (Sept. 1996)



16. Dr. Myrvin F. Christopherson, President of Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, presented a program entitled *Vikings, Then and Now*. (Mar. 1998)
17. Dr. John R. Wunder spoke about Finland in a program entitled *Nordic Country with a Difference* (Sept. 1998)
18. Jim McKee gave two presentations on the *Early Days in Lincoln*. (Mar. 1999 and Mar.2007)
19. David Marsh performed traditional folk and children's music on the accordion, banjo, autoharp, English bagpipes, harmonica and penny whistle. (May 2000)
20. Dr. Don Skoog presented his two hundred page book entitled *Swedes, Danes and Norwegians: Oral Histories from Nebraska*. (May, 2001)
21. Dr. Bruce Larson from Minnesota spoke about Charles Lindbergh's Swedish family. (Sept. 2002)
22. A humorous program was presented by the "Swedish Grandma", Virginia Dritley, from Fremont, Nebraska. (Sept. 2003)
23. Laureen Riedesel, Head Librarian in Beatrice, presented a program entitled *The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Swedish Pioneer in Nebraska*. (May 2004)
24. Bill Behmer and Gwen Meister presented a program entitled *American Folk Music* supported by the Nebraska Humanities Council. (Sept. 2004)
25. Dean Sather, the executive director of the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center of Moorhead, Minnesota, presented a program on the Viking Ship located at the Center in Moorhead. (May 2005)
26. Storyteller Mark Price presented a program entitled *Hans Christian Andersen-Stories of Faith*. (Sept. 2005)
27. John Montag, the University Librarian at Nebraska Wesleyan spoke on *Scandinavia, Germany and Geography in the Second World War*. (Sept.2006)
28. Several exchange students from Sweden and Norway gave presentations.
29. Norden Foundation Grant Recipients presented the product of their grant.
30. Norden Club members:
  - a. Dr. Jan Lingren presented *An Introduction to Scandinavian Mythology* (Sept 1999)
  - b. Rev. George Meslow presented *Norway-May 17, Day of Independence* (May 1999)
  - c. Barb and Chuck Francis presented *Reflections on a Year in Modern Norway*. (Mar. 2004)
  - d. Clarice Orr presented a program on the values of grandparenting and the culture of the extended family entitled *Svenska Kitchens and Culture*. (Sept. 2000)



The Norden Club has enjoyed many wonderful evenings of great food, interesting programs and valued fellowship; but most importantly, it has supported many important projects.

1. In 1954 and 1955, the Norden Club sponsored and partially funded a project with the Nebraska State Historical Society to gather historical information. Donald F. Danker, the Historical Society's archivist, planned and implemented the project with the assistance of John B. White, the Historical Society's librarian. As recorded in the book, *Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians—Oral Histories from Nebraska*, by Donald P. Skoog, Dr. Danker summarizes this Norden Club Project:

*In 1955, the Norden Club of Lincoln, Nebraska, made arrangements with the Nebraska State Historical Society to help finance the gathering of historical information about the Scandinavians in Nebraska. James C. Olson was director of the Historical Society, John White was librarian, and I was archivist, who also was a field man. For several years, I made many field trips in the project, gathering manuscripts, photographs, and museum artifacts and making tape recordings of pioneers. The trips were prepared by corresponding with local people---often editors, ministers, or others knowledgeable about the communities.*

*I would bring the material gathered back to Lincoln. Many church records (often in Swedish, Danish or Norwegian) were microfilmed and returned to the churches. The tape recordings were transcribed and typed. This was a difficult task for typists, much of it done by Bill Pearson and Phyllis Banks, cousins of Swedish descent.*

*The field trips were interesting and arduous. I often combined Norden Club activity and other Society business and endeavored to keep the records separate. In many cases, the communities would prepare for my coming by gathering old times together at a church, home, or hall. I recall such occasions at the Henry Peterson home in Webster County, at a church in Dannebrog, and a community hall in Maskell.*

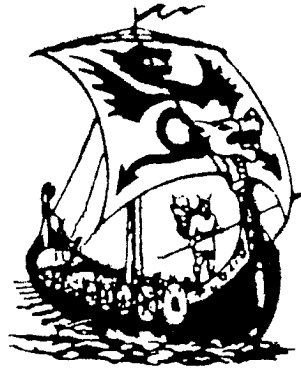
*The Norden Club and Historical Society combined project was worthwhile in preserving the history of the role of Scandinavian pioneers in Nebraska.*

2. Sponsored the Grieg Male Chorus which preformed in many locations locally and statewide.
3. On behalf of the Lincoln City Libraries, Lillian Halberg accepted a donation of Scandinavian recordings given by the Norden Club.
4. Sponsored and partially funded the PBS series entitled *Scandinavia: Impact on America*. This 14 videotape series premiered on March 8, 1995 at the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C. In attendance for this premier were Ambassadors from the Scandinavian countries and the media. It began airing on PBS in May of 1995.
5. Assisted with Lennart Setterdahl's oral history project for the *American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden*. Mr. Setterdahl was the Secretary and Field Researcher for the Institute which was a private oral history organization founded in 1984. He collected over 1200 interviews from

Scandinavian Americans. Several Norden Club members were interviewed by Mr. Setterdahl in 1988. This project was developed in connection with the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "New Sweden" and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Scandinavian migration to the Midwest. Mr. Setterdahl spoke to the Norden Club in Lincoln about this project in September of 1991.

6. Assisted the Swedish Cultural Committee from Omaha in the development of a book edited by Donald Skogg. A committee consisting of Norden members, Stan and Joan Carlson, Jane Fredrickson and Sharon Seagren, were asked to review over 80 interviews done by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1954 and interviews done by Lennert Setterdahl in 1988. These oral histories would then be considered for inclusion on a book that would be entitled *Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians—Oral Histories from Nebraska* edited by Donald P. Skoog.
7. Established the *Norden Club Scandinavian Library* housed in the Library of First Lutheran Church located at 70<sup>th</sup> and A St in Lincoln, Nebraska. There are over 200 books in the library on Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Many of the books are written in Danish, Norwegian and Swedish. The books were donated by members of the Norden Club and include antique and "one of a kind" books.
8. Established the Norden Foundation. The Foundation was established to honor the late Dr. Herbert Lingren, former president of Norden Club. Herbert Lingren had suggested and was working toward initiating a scholarship fund sponsored by the Norden Club. The Foundation was formed to realize his dream. The Foundation is a program to provide funding for selected individuals who want to study or enrich the Scandinavian heritage and culture.
9. Development of a brochure used to promote the Norden Club to the community.
10. Participated in the Scandinavian Council of Nebraska which was a consortium of approximately twenty Scandinavian organizations in Nebraska. They produced a yearly brochure that outlined the various Scandinavian activities occurring throughout the state.
11. Supported E.G. Ekblad's representation of Nebraska and the Norden Club at the 1948 Swedish celebration in Chicago, Illinois, which commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the immigration of Swedes to the Midwest. In 1938, he had been sent by Governor R.L. Cochran to be the Nebraska representative at the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Swedish Immigration to America which was held in Wilmington, Delaware. A copy of his account of the 1948 and 1938 celebrations are in Section VIII.

The Norden Club has been an active and vital organization in Lincoln, Nebraska for the past sixty years. From the initial group of twelve members to the present membership of 270, the Norden Club continues to honor its pledge of promoting fellowship among Scandinavian-Americans and their descendants and helping to preserve for the benefit of the United States the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia.



## **Section II**

# **Norden Club Foundation**





## **Norden Club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Heritage Booklet**

**May, 2007**

### **History of the Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc.**

The late Dr. Herbert Lingren, a long-time Extension Family Life Specialist at the University of Nebraska and President of the Norden Club of Lincoln (1997-1998), expressed an interest in the Club's establishment and sponsorship of a fund to financially encourage the appreciation of our Scandinavian heritage. In the spring of 1999, with a lot of hard work and dedication several members the Norden Club of Lincoln's Board of Directors approved formation of the "Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc." The purpose of the Foundation is to raise money to provide scholarships and grants-in-aid to individuals and organizations who wish to pursue this endeavor. It will be our intent to have these individuals or organizations share their educational experience or project with members of the Norden Club in an appropriate way. The Foundation wishes to promote an appreciation of the Scandinavian heritage, culture, arts, crafts, language and literature brought to America by immigrants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Sandra Meslow served as our first Foundation President in 1999, Joan Tomlinson White is currently serving as the second President of the Foundation. Other officers and members on the Foundation Board, past and present are: Janet Waage Lingren, Ron Johnson, Sally Johnson, Eugene Rudd, Eileen Rudd, Paul Carlson, Olaf Ahlquist, Al Seagren, Curt Sederberg, Charlotte Luethje, Karen Lind-Olson, Doug Lind-Olson, John Lunde, and Becky Huebner. A big thank you goes out to those Foundation Board officers and members, who have wholeheartedly dedicated their efforts to help provide funding to promote our Scandinavian heritage.

The Foundation began awarding its first grant-in-aid in 2004, to Skaldborg, the Omaha Viking history group. The second grant recipient in 2005, went to Susan Erickson who presented her Theological Master's paper on Pietism in Germany, Sweden and Saunders County, Nebraska. And last year, in 2006 our grant-in-aid was given to the Norwegian-Scandinavian Minnehaha Mandskor Mens Chorus in conjunction with Lincoln Grace Lutheran Church and the Voices of Grace Concert Series. The Foundation is pleased to have the ongoing interest and financial support of the Norden Club membership. We congratulate all of the past and present officers of the Norden Club for their dedication to preserve our organization. And a salute goes out to you, the supportive Norden members who remain steadfast and very proud of their Scandinavian heritage, in celebrating this special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Norden Club of Lincoln.

Joan I. Tomlinson White,  
President of the Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc.

# **Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc.**

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc., (the Foundation) is to promote an appreciation of the Scandinavian heritage, culture, arts, crafts, language and literature brought to America by immigrants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. This purpose is to be carried out by providing funds for:

- 1) Scholarships for those who wish to study, preserve, or otherwise promote Scandinavian culture through courses of study at a college or university, language school, Elderhostel, or other established educational institution.
- 2) Grants-in-aid to individuals or organizations who wish to a) undertake projects such as making oral histories, compiling genealogical data, or publishing articles or books, or b) organize special events or other activities such as festivals, concerts, programs, or displays intended to promote an appreciation of Scandinavian culture.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Awards are restricted to organizations or individuals based or living within approximately 75 miles of Lincoln, Nebraska. There are no restrictions with regard to age, sex, race, or religion. Applicants need not be of Scandinavian descent to be considered. Members of the Foundation Board of Directors or the Grants Committee or members of their immediate families are not eligible for awards.

## **AWARD SELECTION AND RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Once a year in April the Board of Directors of the Foundation will make awards based upon the recommendation of the Grants Committee. Awardees will be chosen on the basis of the promise demonstrated by the applicant for fulfilling the purposes of the Foundation.

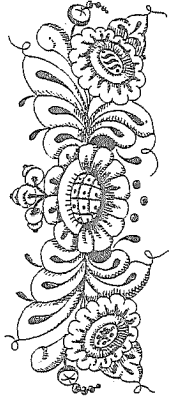
Awards generally will be no larger than \$500. If the recipient of the award intends to pursue studies at an educational institution, payment will be made directly to that institution and contact will be maintained to ensure that the student is enrolled in the proposed course of study. At the end of the grant period the award recipient is expected to provide evidence of the fulfillment of the intent of the award. In some cases the recipient may be asked to present a talk to the Norden Club describing his/her experience or project.

# The Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc.

## Board of Directors

Sandra Meslow, *President*  
Joan Tomlinson White, *Vice President*  
Eileen Rudd, *Secretary*  
Dr. Eugene Rudd, *Treasurer*  
Rod Anderson, *Legal Advisor*

Ollie Ahlquist  
Paul Carlson  
Dr. Janet Lingren  
Curt Sederberg  
Ron Johnson, *Ex-officio*  
Sally Johnson, *Ex-officio*

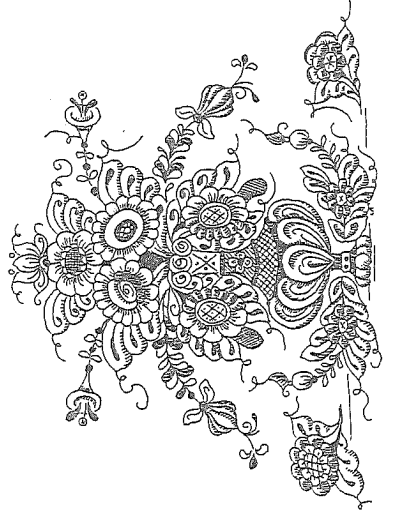


## The Purpose

The purpose of the Norden Club of Lincoln:

*"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."*

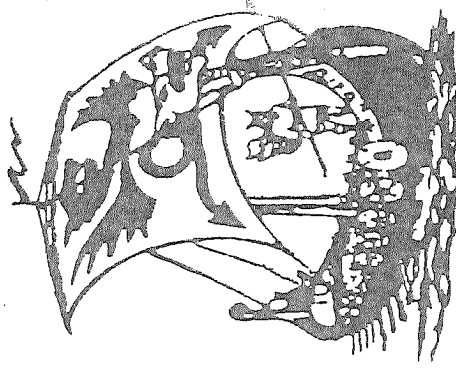
In keeping with this purpose, The Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc. was established to assist those individuals who want to learn more about our Scandinavian Heritage. It will be our intent to have these individuals share their educational experiences with the members of the Norden Club at one of its scheduled meetings.



For more information, contact:  
Sandra Meslow, (402) 486-1364

# The Norden Club of Lincoln

## FOUNDATION INC



*"The Norden Club of Lincoln  
Foundation, Inc. was  
founded to preserve the  
Scandinavian heritage."*

## Origin

The late Dr. Herbert Lingren, long-time University of Nebraska professor and president (1997-1998) of the Norden Club of Lincoln, expressed an interest in the Club's establishment and sponsorship of a scholarship program. It was his wish that we have a program to financially benefit those individuals who want to learn more about our Scandinavian heritage.

In the spring of 1999, the Norden Club of Lincoln's Board of Directors approved formation of the "Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc." The main purpose of the Foundation is to raise money to provide scholarships to pursue this endeavor.

## When you make a planned gift

You are joining a growing number of people who have made a special and significant tax-deductible gift to the "Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc." With your contribution you become a member of a unique group of dedicated, committed individuals known as the "Scandinavian Heritage Donors of the Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc." As a member of this group, you will have an opportunity to build a bigger and stronger Foundation.

Scandinavian Heritage Donors are those individuals who have made a provision for a cash or planned gift to be given to the Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc. through the following options:

**CASH CONTRIBUTION**—A designated amount can be given to the Foundation. All gifts are welcome and no amount is too small or too large. Your gift will be invested and the interest used in financing the Scholarship program.

**ANNUITY**—A fixed annuity can be taken out with the Foundation being the owner of the annuity with the proceeds going to the Scholarship program.

**CHARITABLE TRUST**—A charitable trust can also leave money ultimately to the Foundation but have lifetime income paid to you or your family.

**LIFE INSURANCE**—An assigned percentage of all benefits from an existing life insurance policy or a new life policy can be taken out designating the Foundation as the beneficiary. Your agent can make this arrangement for you.

**WILL**—A sum of money, or other properties (stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.), that can be left to the Foundation to be designated for Scholarship purposes.

## Recognition of your gift

We wish to publicly recognize those who have joined hands in our mission of building a scholarship program to help those individuals and students keep our Scandinavian heritage ALIVE! We want to thank you for your gift and honor you as a Scandinavian Heritage Donor. Our gifts say a great deal about us and our dedication in preserving our heritage.

- ☐ I have or will make a provision for the Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, Inc. through my cash contribution, annuity, charitable trust, life insurance, will, or other means.
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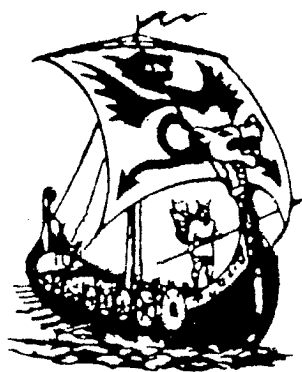
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## **Section III**

# **Biographies of Past Members and Ancestral Biographies of Members in 2007**

**Including  
Interviews done by Dorothy Ekblad**



## **Dorothy Ekblad & Lillian Halberg**

(interview 2000)

"This Biography may be difficult. I was wondering who to include this time, when our Norden Club Presidents asked me to write something about myself and my sister Lillian Halberg. Actually it would be more appropriate to write about our father, E. G. Ekblad, who was one of the founders of Norden Club in 1947, a former Secretary-Treasurer of our club, and a faithful supporter until his death in 1966. Our Mother accompanied Dad to Norden Club through the years until her death in 1965. But Sally Johnson was very persuasive---so here it is! Our grandparents were born in Sweden---our mother's parents came from the Holland Province near Halmstad, by the western seacoast. In 1878 they immigrated to America, with their first child, John, and settled in Kansas near Vermillion. Our mother, Matilda Olson, was born on the farm in 1885, the youngest of five children. Following high school she went to Bethany, a Swedish Lutheran College in Lindsborg, Kansas. Our father's parents were from the Smoland Province in southern Sweden, and came to America in the late 1870's and settled in Kansas also, in the Walsburg-Randolph area called Mariadahl, named after the first woman to settle in that area, and a relative of our father. Our father was born on the farm in 1884. He also attended Bethany in Lindsborg, where he met our mother. They graduated there and were married in 1910, and moved to Topeka. Lillian, the oldest of seven children, was born in Topeka, and was only six weeks old when the moved to Minneapolis, where our father became a professor at

Minnehaha Academy. Lillian was nine years old when they moved to Omaha where Dad had a position with the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co. Three of our siblings were born in Minneapolis---John, Bea, and Vicki. Bill was born in Omaha. In 1925, they moved to Lincoln. I was born in Lincoln on July 28, 1926, and just missed being the first baby born at Bryan Hospital. Our sister Marian was born three years later.

I have enjoyed participating in sports of all kinds all of my life, and especially loved basketball and fast pitch softball, playing on several teams throughout the years. I graduated from Lincoln High in 1944, where as a senior I was thrilled to receive the Girl's Athletic Association "Cup Girl Award". As a freshman at the University of Nebraska, I majored in Physical Education. As a sophomore, it was off to Luther Junior College, a Swedish Lutheran School in Wahoo, NE and graduated in 1946, where I had the joy of being St. Lucie on December 13, a Swedish celebration, and also the Maid of Honor to the May Queen on May Day. For my junior and senior years, it was off to St. Peter, Minnesota, to Gustavus Adolphus, another Swedish Lutheran College, where I graduated in 1948 with a BA degree in Physical Education. However, instead of teaching it was off to school for three more years to the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in Moline, Illinois, where I graduated in 1951.

After a fun-filled summer as a camp nurse at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, I finally returned home and began my hospital nursing career at Bryan Hospital, where it was full of polio patients and I learned fast about caring for Iron Lung patients. After several years at Bryan, I took a position at

Veterans Hospital here in Lincoln, retiring in 1986, after 27 years there. However, I have continued to work part-time at "Home Services", and this year is my 49<sup>th</sup> year as a continuous working registered nurse. After leaving the V.A. Hospital there was more free time, to pursue my interest in Track & Field, jogging and "half" marathons. I have loved being a part of the Cornhusker State Games and the Senior Olympics the past 10 years or more. Last summer I was very humbled to learn that I was chosen as "Female Athlete of the Year" of the Cornhusker State Games---which actually occurred 55 years after receiving the "Cup Girl" award at Lincoln High. I participate in athletics for the real joy of being a part of it, and I count it a privilege to be one of a large group of people who love sports and continue to take part throughout life. Thanks to the Cornhusker State Games, Senior Olympics, and other recreational groups there is an opportunity for people to do something they enjoy. Last fall I had the unique experience to attend the National Senior Olympics in Orlando, Florida, where I was thrilled to win a 7<sup>th</sup> Place Ribbon for Discus Throwing, and a Silver Metal in Volleyball, both in my age group.

Lillian graduated from Lincoln High in 1931, and then went to the University of Nebraska, graduating with a BA degree in English & Spanish in 1935, and a MA degree in English in 1938 also from UNL. She also received a B.S. degree in Library Science from Illinois University Graduate School in 1940. Lillian worked for the Lincoln Public Library System from 1937-1977, the last 25 years as coordinator of the Technical Processes Dept, which included the Catalog, Order and the Bindery Dept. She retired after giving

40 years to the library service. She married Charles Halberg, a member of Norden Club for many years, in November 1957. They had been married for 31 years when Charles died in 1988. Lillian, I and several other of our relatives enjoyed two trips to Scandinavia, where we visited the relatives of our maternal grandparents, who met us at the Morup, Sweden Church that our grandparents attended, in 1977, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our grandparents immigration to America, and also in 1984---visiting all three Scandinavian countries each time. Lillian and I enjoy being active members of Danish Lodge #90 here in Lincoln, First Lutheran Church, Business & Professional Organizations, and the Lincoln Women's Chamber of Commerce. Many years ago Lillian represented the Lincoln City Libraries in accepting the gift of Scandinavian recordings given by the Norden Club to the City Library. All of the years I have been secretary, Lillian has been a helpful assistant in taking reservations and helping with the mailings, this is always appreciated. My love of Norden Club has continued throughout the years. I continue to look forward to every meeting to learn more of the Scandinavian Heritage and meet members and guests. When time permits I enjoy photography, hiking, fishing, gardening, and of course all kinds of sports.

Dorothy Ekblad, Secretary"

## Bob Palme

(interview with Dorothy Ekblad—March 2001)



"Bob was born September 3, 1906 in Columbus, NE and is 94 years young. A long time Norden Club member and who is now an honorary member. Bob wants all of his friends at Norden Club to know that although he hasn't been to our meetings

for awhile, he still remembers his friends there and all of the activities he participated in. I was privileged to visit with Bob for two hours on the phone and he said to tell everyone "I'm still around, keeping as active as I can, and enjoying life." Bob sang in the Grieg Male Chorus, and knew my father there, and as a member of Norden Club, and as a neighbor of ours.

Bob is a past president of our club, and also led the music and singing at our meetings for several years. He always has had such a good outlook on life, loves people, and loves to sing. For many years now he has been singing in another senior chorus which was a musical group of both men and women. They sing at churches, nursing homes, and activities in and around Lincoln.

Bob's grandfather (age 35 and single) came from Sweden to America in the 1870's, and traveled by train from New York to Henry County in Illinois, which became a Swedish Community — an area of commune and individual farming. This area is now a state park about 100 miles west of Chicago. Bob's father was born there in 1878 on a farm, and in a few years the family moved to the Columbus, Nebraska area. Bob's mother was English and lived in the

Columbus area, where Bob was born. They later moved to Norfolk where Bob went to school and graduated from high school. It was then he met his wife Dorothy. Bob graduated from Wesleyan University in Lincoln and taught school awhile before entering a long time career with the Burlington Railroad as a passenger agent. Bob and Dorothy were married for 57 years before his wife passed away in 1987. Bob actually started with the railroad through friends of his wife, because it was hard to find a teaching position that he wanted. His history with the railroad is most interesting and took him through many parts of America. He worked many years in Lincoln, then Omaha, and back to Lincoln when he retired after 38 years in 1971 as General Agent for the Passenger Department of Burlington Railroad.

Bob remembers his early years at Norden Club when there were not many members and they met once a month at various places—YWCA, and King's Restaurant, when maybe 25 people came, and it was only a men's group. I remember Bob leading the singing when I came with my family. He was such a jolly and fun person. I could write a book about all that Bob told me of his experience with the railroad."

## Carl Odman Alexis

(interview with Dorothy Ekblad-May 2002)

"This long-time Norden Club member is 100% Swedish (all four grandparents were born in Sweden, coming from Smoland, Holland and Skona provinces). "They all immigrated to America by boat and soon found themselves in Nebraska. His father was born in Saronville, NE and his mother was born in Mead, NE. They were married and lived in Lincoln. However, Carl was born in Valparaiso, NE on August 8, 1918.

Carl said his grandparents would baby-sit for him and speak to him in Swedish. He is still able to converse in the Swedish language that he learned as a child.

Carl attended Trinity Lutheran Parochial school from grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Ninth grade at Irving Junior High, and graduated from Lincoln High. He went on to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and graduated in 1937 with majors in Geology and History. He served as a Lt. Colonel in the armed forces as a weatherman. He still enjoys watching the weather.

Carl received a PhD from the University of Arizona Law College, and is listed in the "Who's Who in America", "Who's Who in Law" and "Who's Who in the World".

Carl said he was gone from Lincoln for 25 years. He and his first wife returned in the 1970's and lived in his parent's home which his father had built 40 years ago. They had two children, a son and a daughter, and have four grandchildren. They are all coming in August for Carl's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Carl said that when Norden Club was first organized that they met in the homes of the officers and members.

Carl's father Joseph Emanuel A. Alexis was one of the founders of Norden Club in 1947 and was an active member throughout his life. Joseph Alexis was Chairman of the Modern Language Dept at UNL for 40 years and spoke 15 languages. He left the UNL at the age of 68, but went on to teach language at Rice Institute, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, and a college in South Carolina. He received a PhD from Paree University in France and was in "Who's Who in America" in 1941.

Carl's middle name, Odman, is his mother's maiden name. Carl visited Sweden with his family in 1928 and in 1937 again with his family. They went by boat and took their Buick car along. The boat trip took 4-5 days.

Carl and Jeanette Strain were married in 1999 and have made one trip to Scandinavia visiting the four capitals there. Jeanette was born in Lincoln. She says she is not Scandinavian but is from Scotch and Swiss decent. Her father T.B. Strain was born in Creighton, NE and her mother in Springfield, IL. She is related to Abraham Lincoln's wife Mary Todd. Her father owned the original First Continental Bank in Lincoln which became First National, then 1<sup>st</sup> Tier Bank, and now is U.S. Bank. Jeanette learned to play the piano as a child and gave her first recital at age 4. She continues to play the piano today at nursing homes and other places. She went to high school at St. Mary's Hall in Minnesota; attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kathryn Gibbs Business School for Women.

She and Carl enjoy traveling, the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, antiques and gardening. They both are Trustees for UNL Foundation. They have many Swedish, Danish and Norwegian art pieces throughout their beautiful home.."

## **Albert Olson**

(biography obtained through Doug Lind-Olson)

Albert Olson was a charter member of Norden Club. His biography was obtained through his grandson, Douglas Lind-Olson.

Albert Olson was born on a farm on North 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Lancaster County near Ceresco, Nebraska, on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1899. His father was Olof Olson and his mother was Hannah Hansen Olson.

Olof had come to the United States as a young man in the 1880's from Sweden. Hannah came to the United States about the same time from Denmark.

Albert weighed less than four pounds at birth so there was concern when he was born that he may not survive. However, he lived to the ripe old age of almost 95.

Albert attended Rural Country School District #54 through the first eight grades and then went to Ceresco High School through the tenth grade.

While a young man he enjoyed playing baseball in the church leagues. As Albert became older, he did quite a bit of trapshooting and he won the Nebraska State Doubles Championship in 1929 and again in 1932. He was inducted into the Trap Shooters Hall of Fame.

Albert was a farmer all of his working life. He and his wife Olga lived on the farm where he was born. They had two sons, Ralph and Merle, who followed the farming operation after Albert and Olga retired. While Albert did not complete high school, he made sure that not only did both his sons graduate from Ceresco High School, but also that Ralph and Merle graduated from the University of Nebraska with

Bachelors Degrees in Engineering and Agronomy respectively. Upon retirement Albert and Olga built a house in Ceresco and moved into town. Albert and Olga had a great sense of adventure and traveled extensively throughout their retirement.

The farm by Ceresco in rural Lancaster County has been in the Olson name for about 114 years beginning in 1893.

## Adela Holck

(interview with Dorothy Ekblad-Sept. 1999)

"Adela Holck, one of the Norden Club's most loyal and longstanding members is 101 years "young" as of March 6, 1999. It was my pleasure to visit Adela at Holmes Lake Manor where she has been living since breaking her hip. Prior to that Adela lived in her own home. She was born in 1898 in Malmo, Sweden, and at the age of 3 months the family moved to Copenhagen where she grew up and attended schools through high school.

Adela met her husband Harold Holck, who was born in Odense, Denmark. They were married in the Swedish Lutheran Church in Copenhagen and she came as a bride to America in 1925 with her husband. They traveled from Gutland, Denmark to South Hampton, England where they boarded the "Aquitania" an English liner. They had a 10 day honeymoon on their way to America and docked at Ellis Island for emigration. They settled in Chicago where her husband taught, later they went to Beirut, Lebanon, where he taught at the American University for 5 years and where their son Gunnar was born in 1932. She said Gunnar says "his heritage is Danish, Swedish and Arab." They returned to Chicago again and where their second son Alfred was born.

In 1936 the family moved to Lincoln where Harold taught Pharmacology at UNL for 20 years. Harold was president of Norden Club in its early years for one or two terms, and Adela said they joined Norden Club soon after it was organized. She remembers that Chancellor Gustavson of the University of Nebraska said Norden

Club was started in order to give the Scandinavian professors and others in the community an opportunity to join together for Scandinavian fellowship in 1947. She said that they made several trips back to Scandinavia to see their parents and on one trip in 1957 purchased Norden Club's original three flags from Sweden, Denmark and Norway. These flags have now been replaced by new ones a few years ago. Adela's husband was killed in a car accident October 12, 1975 while crossing the street following a Scandinavian meeting. Adela enjoys phone calls and visits from her sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren. And, she says she will always belong to Norden Club."



## **Oliver (Ollie) and Edith Christensen**

(interview with Dorothy Ekblad—May 2000)

"In 1947 when Norden Club was being organized by Chancellor Gustavson, from the University of Nebraska, and others from the University and the Lincoln area, including the Governor of Nebraska, the Mayor of Lincoln, several professors and businessmen in the community, such as Professor Joseph Alexis, father of Norden Club member Carl Alexis, and my father E.G. Ekblad, other Scandinavian men were asked to join as Charter members including our present and active Charter members, Paul Burklund and Ollie Christensen.

It was my honor and pleasure to visit with Ollie and Edith this past week in their lovely and friendly home at "The Van Dorn Villa". They have not been able to come to our Norden Club meeting lately since Ollie and Edith both use walkers, and Ollie's eyesight has lessened. However, they always have kept their enthusiasm for Norden Club, and want to keep up on all the latest news of our club and its members, and really have been keeping active in their home area and with their children and their families. They said they would love to be able to come again to our meetings.

Ollie Christensen, who is 92, was born on April 13, 1908 in Davey, Nebraska, a Danish community a few miles north of Lincoln. He grew up with six brothers and sisters. His father, Hans Peter Christensen, was born on a farm near Copenhagen, Denmark. After learning the blacksmith trade in Denmark, he immigrated to America at the age of 18 in 1890. He first settled in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where some

relatives of his had first settled, and where he was able to get a job as a blacksmith. Ollie said his father heard there were some Danish people in Davey, Nebraska, so he took some time off from his job and visited there. He found out there was a blacksmith shop in Davey, and he asked if he could work a few days there. After being there a few days he told the owner of the shop that he had to go back to his job in Council Bluffs, Iowa. However the man asked Ollie's father if we wanted to buy the shop. Hans said all he had was \$100.00. The shop owner said the \$100.00 would be fine along with a \$400.00 note, so Hans became the owner and never went back to his other job. He met a lady in Davey and they were married in 1899. Ollie grew up in Davey, going to school there until at the age of twelve he left school to help his father in the blacksmith shop. There he learned many important things about running a business; and he felt he learned more doing that than being in the classroom. The school and the church in Davey were Danish, and Ollie learned to speak Danish before he learned to speak English, for his parents spoke Danish when he was a child.

Edith, who is 86, was born on a farm north of Lincoln on June 30, 1913. She had seven sisters and one brother. Her father, Fred George Everett, was born in England, immigrated to America, and settled on the farm North of Lincoln. Edith visited in Davey at times, and there Ollie met Edith in 1931 when he was 23. They were married in 1934 in Chicago, Illinois, where Ollie's oldest brother, Herluf was living. In 1999 they celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.....

Ollie bought the Davey Hardware-Blacksmith Store, and in 1944

opened his store in Lincoln just west of St. Paul Methodist Church in downtown Lincoln. It was first called "Christensen's Hardware and Farm Equipment Store", and then later was "Hardware and Appliances". Many were sorry to see it close in 1993 after 50 years at that location. Ollie was 85 at the time, and continued to be active in the store all of those years.

Ollie continues to be an active member of several organizations--- Ceresco Masonic Lodge, where he received the "Georgian Award", where he has been a member for 69 years, Easter Star of Ceresco, The Sowers Club in Lincoln, Downtown Rotary Club in Lincoln for 54 years, served on the Board of the Lincoln Lutheran Student Center at UNL with Rev. Alvin Petersen, Norden Club longtime member. Ollie commuted from Davey to Lincoln to be at his store until 1960 when they moved to Lincoln.

Ollie related his early memories of Norden Club to me. Meetings were first held at the YWCA at noon once a month, and then later met in the lower level of one of the King's restaurants. He said it was a small group at first. Edith remembers when they all visited Chancellor Gustavson's beautiful home at 20<sup>th</sup> and A Streets, when the Club was 2-3 years old. Ollie was active in the Norden Club and served as officer at times.

Edith was a school teacher. She related that she had retired, but decided she wanted to have a paycheck and inquired at the University. She helped with registering new students for awhile. Then Jim Pittinger, in the football ticket office asked her to help there. So for eight years, she enjoyed selling and keeping records of football tickets. She said that was before computers.

I think you would enjoy knowing about a trip Ollie and Edith took in March of this year. Ollie's brother Howard Christensen, who lived many years in Chicago as a musician and business manager for a Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra and later moved to Lincoln, wanted to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. His wife had passed away a few years ago. He wanted to celebrate with his relatives and do something for them. He planned a gala trip to Las Vegas and invited 62 relatives to be his guest at the Bally Hotel the weekend of March 25, 2000, his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ollie and Edith had a trip to remember, and said they were all given a cup with \$50.00 of quarters, but said they took most of them home. That is really great to travel like pampered guests at age 92 and 86 using walkers to get back and forth. They had a wonderful time...."

## Marion and Wave Hanson

(interview with Dorothy Ekblad-Sept 2001)

"Did you know that these long-time members of Norden Club, having Swedish and Danish ancestry, have been world travelers through the years?

In 1962, they moved from Wahoo, NE to Lincoln and soon joined the Norden Club at the urging of my father E.G. Ekblad, Wave Hanson said. They continued to be loyal members through the years, serving as Vice-Presidents for a period, arranging programs for our meetings. At this time the Scandinavian Smorgasbord was at the UNL Kellog Center-with Swedish "Lut-fisk" and all the trimmings.

Their vacations for many years were spent traveling around America, Canada, Europe and Australia. They visited Sweden eight times, but Wave said they never did visit relatives there, as they hadn't been in touch with any distant relatives who may have been there. Wave's grandparents were born in Skona, Sweden. Her grandfather came to America in 1867 at the age of 31 and her grandmother came in 1887 at the age of 32. They settled in Mead, NE area.

Her father was born in Stoby, Sweden, and he came to America in 1892 at the age of 20 and also settled in Mead, NE, an area which appeared so much like Sweden.

Wave's grandfather homesteaded there and built a farm there. Her grandmother was one of the first white women to settle in Saunders County.

Wave was born in 1918 in rural Wahoo. They later moved to Malmo, where she attended public school and was 1 of 3 in the first 12<sup>th</sup> grade graduation class there. She graduated

from Luther Junior College in Wahoo and taught rural grade school for two years, before entering Bryan Hospital School of Nursing in Lincoln, graduating in 1944; Wave returned to Wahoo to work in "special nursing" and married Marion.

Marion's grandfather was born in Denmark and came to America in 1852 at the age of 22. His grandmother was born in Sweden, coming to America in 1867 at the age of 29.

Marion's father was born in Skivorp, Sweden and immigrated to America in 1888 at the age of 15. He came to Fremont, then to Saunders County and finally to Mead, NE where his grandfather had homestead property. Marion's mother was born in Mead.

Marion was born in 1912 in rural Mead, attended public school in Mead and farmed in the area.

Marion and Wave were married in 1945. Marion worked in a power plant in Wahoo and later they moved to Lincoln where he worked as tour director and lab technician for the Shelton Station at Hallam. He retired in 1977.

Wave worked in nursing at Bryan Hospital for 18 1/2 years and was head of the Supply Department. She continued to work part-time at Midland Medical Supply Co, as a librarian, and enjoys quilting. Marion works on and collects clocks as a hobby.

During their vacation travels, Marion took many slides of each area. They have now donated 16,000 slides of their travels throughout America and the world to the "International Affairs Department" at UNL..."

## **Dr. Theodore Prev Jorgensen**

(interview with Dorothy Ekblad-Dec 1999)

“Did you know that “Ted” Jorgensen is one of the loyalist members of the Norden Club? At 94 years of age (Ted says “going on 95”), Ted said he was invited to come to the second meeting of Norden Club by Chancellor Gustavson’s home at the University of Nebraska, who was one of the organizers of Norden Club in 1947. He told Ted it was a chance to meet with other Scandinavian people in Lincoln. Ted was a professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University at that time, and since his retirement in 1975 has been Professor Emeritus. It was my privilege and enjoyment to visit with Ted in his home, where he showed me his autobiography that was written for his family. His father was born at Vester Osliv per Nysted, Denmark in 1873, and came to America on a cattle boat at the age of 19. His father became a teacher and taught at York College of Nebraska where he met Ted’s mother who taught there also. Ted was born in Connecticut where his father went to go to the seminary to become a minister and they later came back to the Midwest. His mother was born in Roca, Nebraska. Ted’s maternal grandfather was the first permanent settler in Lancaster County. Ted was born November 13, 1905, and made a trip to Denmark at the age of 6, so the family could show their paternal grandfather his grandchildren. Reading Ted’s autobiography is like a great adventure story. He has such an interesting life story and experiences to tell. You should know he continues to be interested in physics and research, and in 1994 a book was published about

his research, titled “The Physics of Golf”, now in its second printing. Because of his work in physics, he was asked to work in Los Alamos, New Mexico in 1943 for the atomic research there, and later returned to the University of Nebraska. Ted is indeed a loyal Norden Club member throughout the years, and gave two programs in past years—on Los Alamos experiences and his golf research.”

## Paul and Sylvia Burklund

(interview with Dorothy Ekblad- May 1999)

“Paul  
Burklund,  
age 92, is  
one of our  
Charter  
Members  
having



joined in 1948. He has been an active Norden Club member throughout the years. For 14 years he served as Secretary/Treasurer, from 1973 to 1987, along with his wife, Sylvia, who assisted Paul throughout those years. Just prior to Paul becoming Secretary/Treasurer, the Club's membership had gone down to about 32, but began to grow with Paul's encouragement to the members to continue, and the Club grew to 246 after a few years. Paul said “as long as I'm Secretary/Treasurer the Club will continue.” Membership drives were increased, programs with the Grieg Male Chorus brought more members, and the meeting place was changed from a noon meeting at the YWCA twice a month, to King's Restaurant at 40<sup>th</sup> and South, to the restaurant at 745 So. 11<sup>th</sup> (now DaVinci's), meeting monthly, then to Trinity United Methodist Church, 16<sup>th</sup> and A Streets, meeting four times a year at this time. Paul saw all of these changes and the Club has continued to maintain its increased membership. Paul said they loved all of the years that they had been doing this work at Norden Club. He said it was fun and he never will forget all of the nice people who made it the success it was through those years. Paul said that E.G. Ekblad was the first secretary for 13 years, 1947-1960, then Ernie Johnson, 1960-1973, when Paul became Secretary for 14 years to 1987.

Paul and Sylvia were given “Life” memberships after retiring from the Secretary/Treasurer position. During these years, Norden Club had its first Christmas Smorgasbord, at the Kellogg Nebraska Center, where the chef served “delicious” lutefisk.

Paul's parents immigrated from Sweden, his father from the Skone area, and his mother from the Smoland area of Sweden. His father settled in the Waverly area, and his mother in the Wahoo area, meeting after coming to Nebraska. Paul said they attended the Swedish Methodist Church at 18<sup>th</sup> and J Streets. When Paul was two weeks old, they moved to a farm outside Ceresco where he grew up and went to high school. Paul retired after working many years for the U.S. Postal Service here in Lincoln. He and Sylvia have been married 53 years. Paul was born on February 17, 1907. Paul points out that February 17 was also the day in 1947 that Norden Club was *born*.”



## Eileen N. Corcoran

Eileen N. Corcoran has been a member of Norden Club for ten years and is of Norwegian descent.

Eileen has a wealth of information about her ancestry. She has chronicled many wonderful stories about her family's history and their adventures from Norway to America.

Paternal ancestry of  
Eileen Corcoran:



Eileen's father, Herbert B. Baeverstad (1897-1971), was a second generation American on his father's ancestral lineage. He served for one term as a representative and three terms as a senator for the No. Dakota legislature. Herbert was the fourth child of Emil Baeverstad who was born on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1860 in Stange, Norway. Emil was a sailor and sailed between America and Norway seven times before he and his brother, Richard, came to



America. They immigrated to America in 1881. They settle in St. Paul, Minnesota because they had cousins who lived in the area. Emil worked for the Great Northern Railroad and chose to homestead in Churches Ferry, North Dakota. He later became a state legislator for North Dakota and also served several terms as Benson County Sheriff. He married Ragnhild ("Nellie") Olson on December 29, 1891. Emil and Ragnhild had six children.

Ragnild ("Nellie") Olson Baeverstad, Eileen Corcoran's grandmother, was born in Lodi, Wisconsin, on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1864. She was the third child of twelve born to her parent's, Allek Olson and Brita

Larsdatter Lid (Lid became Lee in America). Ragnild and a friend decided to homestead in Benson County of North Dakota and there she met and married Emil Baeverstad. Ragnild died in Churches Ferry, North Dakota on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1925.

Allek (later changed to Alec) Olson was born in Heggedal, Norway in 1839. He immigrated to America in 1843 at the age of four with his parents, Evan (born 1801 in Heggedal, Norway) and Gunhilda "Julia" (born 1790 in Norway), and 3 brothers. His brothers were Ole (who later changed his last name to Hegge), William (1835-1929), and Halvor (born in 1842-1913). The family first settled in Muskego, New York and then moved in 1845 to Spring Prairie, Wisconsin. Later he moved to a farm near Lode, Wisconsin. This farm was later covered with water when Lake Wisconsin was created. He married Brita Larsdatter Lid. Alec Olson died September 10, 1888 from blood poisoning. Gunhilda "Julia" survived her son, Alec, and lived to be 102 years old.

Brita Larsdatter Lid, Elaine Corcoran's great-grandmother, was born in Voss, Norway in 1840 and immigrated to America in 1851 with her mother and step-father, Ragnhild and Nils Lid. Nils was the brother of Brita's father, Lars. Lars had died in 1840 when Brita was a baby. Also immigrating to America with Brita and her parents were her step-brothers, Lewis (born 1844) and Joseph (born 1847). Her brother Svein Lid (born 1834) remained in Voss, Norway. Although the family farm in Voss was originally sold by Ragnhild and Nils Lid in 1851, Svein Lid later inherited the land.





Eileen Corcoran's maternal ancestry:

Hans Hansson Ouredal (1811-1880), Eileen's great-great grandfather, was born near Bergen, Norway on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1811 and immigrated to the USA in 1858 with his wife Magdele Haldorsdatter Lonningdal. After the family immigrated to Spring Prairie in Wisconsin, they used Hanson as their surname. They later moved to Highland, Iowa. Hans Hansson Ouredal is buried at the Big Canoe Cemetery in Highland. Hans and Magdele had four children who immigrated to America with them. They were Hans H, Haldor (1842-1923), John (1844-1934) and Steen (1846-1920).

National service was important to the Hansson family. Hans Hansson Ouredal's father, Hans Hansson Eidland, was a delegate to the 1814 Constitutional Convention in Eidsvold, Norway. And both Haldor and Steen Hanson, sons of Hans Hansson Ouredal, fought in the Civil War. Haldor was with the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Iowan Infantry. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Shiloh, reported missing on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862. This was less than 5 months after he was mustered on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1861. Steen Hanson fought with a Minnesota regiment.

John Hanson, Eileen's great grandfather, married Kjersti Halgrimsdatter Trulson Frasier (Frosaker). Kjersti (5/27/1851-11/9/1888) and John had seven children. Of these children, Helmer Hanson (1872-1953) was Eileen's grandfather and lived with Eileen's family until his death. Kjersti's mother, Ingeborg Garnaas Gulbrandsplat Gilbertson, immigrated to America from Norway in 1848.



Ingeborg Gilbertson (8/5/1812-9/29/1899) was Eileen Corcoran's great-great grandmother. She immigrated to America, aboard the Drafna, with her parents, Kirsti Jorgensdatter Garnaas (1790-1881) and Timand Olsen Quarve (Kvare or Kvarre), and her children, Ole (13), Tideman (11), Knud (9) and Sven (4). Ingeborg was the widow of Gulbrand Gilbertson and was left with four children when she decided to immigrate to America. They left May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1848 and arrived in New York nearly 2 ½ months later on August 5, 1848. Her stepfather, Timand, and her son, Ole (13), died at sea. Of the 157 people who immigrated to America on the vessel, Drafna, Eileen found 57 on her genealogy chart. After immigration, Ingeborg met and married Halgrim Trulson Frasier. She and Halgrim had three children. They lived in the Spring Grove, Minnesota area. One of those children was Kjersti Halgrimsdatter Trulson Frasier, Eileen Corcoran's great grandmother. Kjersti's son Helmer was Eileen's grandfather.



Helmer Hanson married Eliza "Lisa" Gutterud (1874-1918). Lisa's parents were Erik Oleson Gutterud (1837-1901) and Anna Alsdatter (8/13/1844-?). Both of Lisa's parents were born in Norway. Erik Oleson Gutterud was born in Krodsharad Parish on Nov 19, 1837. He immigrated to America in 1867 with his father, Ole. Ole died in Iowa by 1885. Between 1867 and 1900, Erik Oleson Gutterud moved with his family to Minnesota, then to Iowa and finally settled in North Dakota. Anna Alsdatter was born on the Bjore Farm in Norway and married Erik Gutterud in April of 1867 after immigrating to America.



## Vaughan Bowen



Vaughan Bowen and his wife, Mary, have enjoyed learning more about genealogy and more specifically their ancestry. They were asked to attend a Norden Club meeting by Vaughan's cousin, Roger Aspegren. Vaughan and Mary have been members of the Norden Club for four years. Vaughan is of Swedish descent.

Vaughan's great-great-grandmother, Anna M. Andersdotter, came to America in August of 1869 from Norra Vi Parish, Sweden. She immigrated to Freemont in Kansas. Her son, Anders Aspegren, followed in May of 1882. He emigrated from Norra Vi Parish, Sweden, to Scandia, Kansas. Anders's son, Peter John Aspegren, joined his family in America by June of 1887. He emigrated from Sund Saken Parish, Ostergotlan, Sweden, to Marquette, Kansas. Peter's son, Oscar Sigfrid Aspegren was born in Marquette, Kansas in September of 1888. Oscar was father to both Roger's father and Vaughan's mother.



**Hälsningar**



In December of 2006, Vaughn received a document that revealed his complete lineage. This document was 4 inches thick. His favorite memory is of yearly family get-togethers where he very much enjoyed the Swedish cuisine.

Sweden's Coat of Arms



## Mary Wanek

Mary Wanek has been a member of the Norden Club for 1 year and is of Swedish descent.

Mary's great grandfather, Gustaf Patrik Carlsen, was born in Ryssby Parish, Smaland, Sweden, on February 2, 1860. He immigrated to Joliet, Illinois, USA, in 1885 and then worked tirelessly in the quarry to earn enough money to bring his wife, Brita Stena Samuelson, and son, Carl, to America. Before Brita and Carl left Sweden, they were entertained by Gustaf's family. They laughed, ate and then cried a lot. Carl remembered that his almost mom cried constantly when they had to say their family goodbye to their family. As they left, she was crying, stopping to look back and waving. A memory engraved in Carl's mind forever.



## Roger Aspegren



Roger Aspegren's Swedish ancestors have been in America since 1869. Roger has been a member of the Norden Club for the past four years.

Roger's great-great-grandmother, Anna M. Andersdotter, came to America in August of 1869 from Norra Vi Parish, Sweden. She immigrated to the city of Freemount in Kansas. Her son, Anders Peter Aspegren, followed in May of 1882. He emigrated from Norra Vi Parish, Sweden, to Scandia, Kansas. Anders's son, Peter John Aspegren, joined his family in America by June of 1887. He emigrated from Sund Saken Parish, Ostergotland, Sweden, to Marquette, Kansas. Peter's son, Oscar Sigfrid Aspegren was born in Marquette, Kansas in September of 1888.

Roger remembers many happy times at his grandfather Oscar's home in Courtland, Kansas. His grandparents were very special to him as his father had died when Roger was only 9 years



old. At his grandparents the meal prayer was always said in Swedish. Roger's grandmother prepared many Swedish dishes and they always had afternoon coffee. However, Roger could not have coffee because his grandfather had told him that coffee would turn his "knees black".



### Du gamla, Du fria

Du gamla, Du fria, Du fjällhöga nord  
Du tysta, Du glädjerika sköna!  
Jag hälsar Dig, vänaste land uppå jord,  
Din sol, Din himmel, Dina ängder gröna.

You ancient, you free, you mountainous North  
You quiet, you joyful beauty!  
I greet You, most beautiful land upon earth,  
Your sun, Your sky, Your meadows green.



*Du gamla, Du fria* ("Thou ancient, Thou free") is the national anthem of Sweden. The lyrics, which originally began with the words "Du gamla, Du friska" (Thou ancient, Thou hale), were written by Richard Dybeck in 1844 to a traditional melody from Västmanland. The song first began to be used as a national anthem in the 1890's. Despite a widespread belief that the song was adopted as the national anthem in 1866, no such recognition has ever been officially accorded.

Wikipedia-a free-content encyclopedia

## Keith and Ruth Pearson

Both Keith's and Ruth's fathers were born in Sweden as well as their grandparents. The Pearsons have been members of the Norden club for two years.

The Pearson's ancestry originates from the provinces of Ostergotland, Vastergotland, Skane and Smaaland. Keith's father, Eric Persson (later changing his name to Erik Pearson),



emigrated from Borg, Sweden to Ellis Island, New York, aboard "Frederik VIII", a ship built in 1913 for the Scandinavian American Line. The ship was decommissioned in 1935.

Eric immigrated to the United States with his mother and three siblings on May 23, 1916. From New York the family traveled to Akron, Iowa, to join Eric's father who had immigrated earlier. Eric was thirteen years old. Although Eric and his three siblings made their homes in America, their parents decided to return to Sweden to live near Eric's older siblings who had not immigrated to America.

Ruth's father, who also emigrated from Sweden, settled in the Wassau area of Nebraska. Her mother settled near Concord, Nebraska.



## Stanley W. Olson

Stanley W. Olson has been a member of the Norden Club for 3 years and fondly remembers his Swedish heritage.



On board a steamship, Stanley's



father, Walfred Olson (Olofsson) emigrated from Forsby, Sweden, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1929. He was 28 years old. Walfred

Olson and his younger sister had remained in Sweden until the death of their parents. In May of 1929, they came to Chicago to live with relatives. Walfred went to work for a landscaper who cared for the lawns of the wealthy. He was one of thirty gardeners. Following the stock market crash of October, 1929, the landscaper hardly had work for himself so he could no longer employ the gardeners.



Therefore, Walfred traveled to northeast Nebraska to pick corn by hand for his brother. He later

married and farmed in the Wausa area.

Swedish authors of worldwide recognition include Henning Mankell, Carolus Linnaeus (the father of botany), Emanuel Swedenborg, Augst Stindberg, Selma Lagerlöf, Vilhelm Moberg, Harry Martinson and Astrid Lindgren, author of the Pippi Longstocking books.  
Wikipedia-a free-content encyclopedia

## Audrey Rousek

Audrey Rousek has been a member of the Norden Club for 10 years and enjoys her Swedish heritage.



On April 8, 1870,

Audrey's maternal grandfather, Andrew Edner Andersson, immigrated to Jacksonville, Illinois, in the United States from Lerhol, Brunskog parish in Sweden. He later moved to Waverly, Nebraska. He married Clara Sophia



Andersdotter who was born in July of 1850 at Rodan, Brandstarp parish in Vertergotland, Sweden. She had



immigrated to Galesburg, Illinois in the United States on April 26, 1872, where she worked in a hospital. Later, Clara worked as a midwife in the Ceresco, Nebraska.

Audrey's paternal grandfather, Lars Martinson, emigrated from Skane province in southernmost Sweden in 1869. Aboard ship for about three weeks, he arrived in Quebec, Canada. From Canada, he traveled to Chicago aboard an old immigrant train and then boarded a steamboat to travel up the Mississippi River to Red Wing, Minnesota. Later, he came to Saunders County and homesteaded at Swedeburg, Nebraska. He married Ingar Johnsson, who was born in 1847 in Skoglasa, Sweden. She immigrated to America on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1870. In some records, her name is written Svensdatter.



## Eugene Rudd



Eugene Rudd's ancestral chart reveals a pure Norwegian heritage dating back at least to 1482. He and his wife Eileen have enjoyed celebrating this heritage in many and various ways. They have been active members of the Norden Club for the past 39 years.

### Paternal ancestry:

The migration of Eugene's family began with his great-great-grandfather Peder Johannessen Malterud (1799-1892). At the age of 72 Peder left Toten and immigrated to the U.S. on the steamship "Hero." Peder's wife Maria Dorteia Andersdatter Gjertz (1817-1892) emigrated in 1874. Peder's son Ole Christian Rudd (1843-1932) emigrated with his wife Elen Sorine Andersdatter Labraaten (1845-1915) and two of their children in 1882.

Ole's son, Peter Axel Rudd (1873-1957) was 9 years old when he emigrated with his parents. He later married Ellen Olson (1871-1950) who came from Trogstad, Norway. Peter carried out his Norwegian tradition by directing the Orpheus Singing Society in Fargo, ND, a group that belonged to the Norwegian Singers Society of America. He participated in several regional and national Sangerfests with this group and



was Director of the Grand Chorus at one of them.

### Maternal ancestry:

Eugene's great-grandparents Niels Knudsen Slettom (1828-1921) and Randi Levorsdatter Garnaas (1839-1932) emigrated from Nes, Norway. In 1891 their son Knudt Nelson (1857-1928), left his job as postman in Oslo and came to Iowa where he married Sina Simonsen (1867-1938) who was from Faaberg, Norway.

## Eileen Rudd



Eileen has been a very active member of the Norden Club since 1967. She has willingly shared her exceptional musical gifts with the Norden Club throughout these years to the enjoyment of all. Her ancestral lineage is purely Norwegian, with the Ulness line recorded in 1525.

### Paternal ancestry:

Eileen's great-grandparents Per (Peder) Toresson (1829-1900) and Brita Kristoffersdatter (1837-1921) along with their three young children emigrated from Sogn to the Albert Lea, Minnesota area in 1867. One of the children, Thor Pederson Hovland (1861-1939) was Eileen's grandfather who later moved to Polk County c.1902 with his wife Ingeborg Hoverson (1860-1936) and children. Ingeborg was born in Wisconsin after her parents emigrated in 1857. They were Sylfest Hovardson Hestetun (1821-?) and Anna Sofie Torsdatter Nundal (1837-1890).

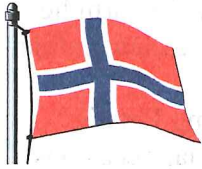
### Maternal ancestry:

On her mother's side, Eileen traces her ancestry as far back as 1528 when Syver Ulness was listed in church records and government documents as living on the Ulness farm. Adjacent to the farm is the venerable 12<sup>th</sup> century Ulness stone church overlooking Lake Strond in Valdres near Fagernes. In 1872 Eileen's great-grandparents Ole Erlandson Ulness (1828-1908) and Rønnaug Kjornes (1828-1881) and four of their children immigrated to Iowa. One of the children, four-month old Inger Marie (1872-1952), became Eileen's grandmother. Two older children had emigrated earlier and two others came a year later. Inger Marie married (ca 1891) Andreas Larson Bakken (1864-1930) b. Hurdal, Norway. immigrated ca. 1883, died 1930-05-19. May 19, 1930.





## Robert & Phyllis (Grimsrud) Narveson



Robert and  
Phyllis Narveson

joined the Norden Club fifteen years ago at the invitation of Gene and Eileen Ruud. They enjoy the Christmas smorgasbord each year but regret that they are unable to attend other meetings as they spend six months a year in Minnesota.

Robert's paternal grandparents were born in Norway as were Phyllis's paternal grandparents, Bernhard Grimsrud and Regina Ettigaard. Phyllis's maternal grandmother, Regina Dyrud, was the daughter of Norwegian immigrants, Anders and Karine Amlie Dyrud.

Norway's conversion to Christianity started around 1000 and was a result of contact with Christian Europe through a combination of trade ties and Viking raids. Missionary activities conducted by the Anglo-Saxon church from Germany and Denmark also helped Christianity to gain prominence over the gods of traditional Norse mythology and Sámi nature worship. Christian Norway belonged to the Roman Catholic Church until the Reformation of 1537. A ban on lay preaching was lifted in 1842, giving rise to several free church movements and a strong lay organization within the Church of Norway. As a result, Norwegian church society became closely associated with a conservative Christian interpretation and an active missionary movement.

Wikipedia-a free-content encyclopedia

Phyllis's maternal grandfather, Even Toresius Silness, was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December in 1864 and was ordained as a Lutheran Pastor in 1895. He was a pastor in the United Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. He is included in the directory of Norse Lutheran Pastors in America (*Norsk Lutherske Prester I Amerika*). He served churches in Bisbee and Cooperstown of North Dakota.



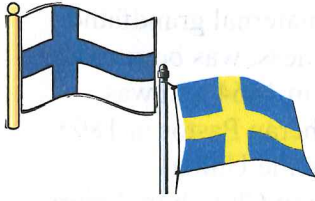
SILNESS, EVEN TORESIUS.

Ord. 1895. Forenede kirke, 1895—.

F. i Søndeled, Ø. Nedenes, Kristiansand, 31 dec. 1864, af Nils Torjussen og Anne Tjørne (f. —), udy. 83, frekv. Chicago Theol. Sem., 85—87, Beloit Coll., 87—91, Augsburg Sem., 91—92, Minn. Univ., 92—93, U. C. Sem., 93—95 (C.T.), prest, Cooperstown, N. D., 95—05, Bisbee, N. D., 05—, kredsekr., 03—05, kredsformand, 05—08, kredsfinanssekr., 09—12, inspektør for Good Samaritan Hospital, Rugby, N. D., 12. \*Regina Dyrud, 02.

Even's immigration to America was recorded in a Bible that was given to him by his sister, Ingeborg Nilsdatter Silness, upon his departure to America. *"I had a ticket to Iowa Falls, Iowa. I left Risor on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1883 on the steamer "Kristiania" and came to Amsterdam, Holland and remained there three days. Thereafter, we rode by train to Rotterdam and came there the same day. The next day we went by the steamship Amsterdam and landed in Castle Garden after a 12-day trip. We went by Erie railroad to Chicago and from Chicago on the Illinois Central to Iowa Falls. Stayed there until the next day and went by Burlington Railway to Dows, Iowa, where we were welcomed by Jorgen Sevik."*

The United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America was the result of the union formed between the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, the Conference of the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and the Anti-Missourian Brotherhood in 1890. The church merged in 1917 to what became the Evangelical Lutheran Church later to be the American Lutheran Church and today the ELCA. Wikipedia-a free-content encyclopedia



## Karen Dahlbeck Nuttleman

After reading in the Lincoln Journal Star about the Scandinavian dancers from Kansas that performed at First Lutheran Church, Karen Nuttleman became interested in the Norden Club. She has been a member of the Norden Club for about 8 years. She has both Finnish and Swedish ancestors who settled in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Many of her relatives still reside in the Upper Peninsula.

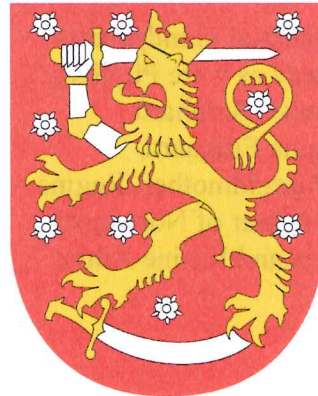
Karen's paternal grandfather, Otto Carl Dahlbeck, was born in 1876 and immigrated to the USA from Byske, Kinnback, Sweden at the age of 30. His 1906 naturalization papers are filed in Harding, South Dakota. He returned to Sweden to marry Molly O. Lidman on September 7, 1919. Molly, born in 1885, and Otto returned to the USA and resided in Gladstone, Michigan.

Karen's maternal grandfather, Eino John Kallio, was born in 1894 in Kauhosoki, Wass, Finland. In 1899, Eino's father, John Jacob Kallio, immigrated to Newberry, Michigan in the United States. It took John Jacob three years to save enough money to send for his family. Finally in 1901, John Jacob sent for his wife and three small sons. They traveled third class aboard the ship. His mother became very ill on the ship and Eino, who was only 7 years old, had to care solely for his two younger brothers. He would sneak down to the galley and entertain

guests by singing Finnish songs. He was rewarded for his efforts with extra food to share with his family.

The Kallio name was adopted by John Jacob Kallio because the farm he came from in Finland was called Kallian Torpa.

Karen recalls having Potatis Korv and lutefisk for special occasions. Additionally, on St. Lucia's Day (December 13<sup>th</sup>), she sends cards and small gifts to her grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Finland's Coat of Arms

Finland has a population of 5,276,571 people spread over more than 127,000 sq mile, making it the most sparsely populated country in the European Union. Finland is a democratic republic with a semi-presidential system and parliamentarism. Wikipedia-a free-content encyclopedia

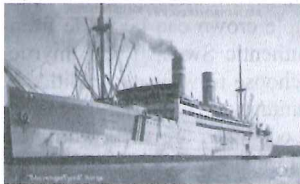




## Stan and Joan Carlson

Joan and Stan Carlson have been members of the Norden Club for about 12 years, having been invited to join by Carol Reed. Stan and Joan are first generation Americans. Stan's parents emigrated from Sweden, while Joan's parents emigrated from Norway.

Joan's father, Johannes Hast, emigrated from near Egersund, Norway, aboard the "Stavangerfjord" in 1921.



He arrived first in New York and then traveled by train to Los Angeles,

California. While on board the "Stavangerfjord", he met Annie Christiansen, who was traveling from Haugesund, Norway to San Francisco, California. Joan writes, "My father came to America for education and work. He attended the University of Southern California (free of charge in those days) for 10 years while working to support a family in the U.S. and a mother in Norway. He got his engineering degree and worked for the same company in every position until he died in 1954. My mother came to the U.S. for a 'year of adventure'. She came



to a position as an au pair, and after fulfilling that position she decided to stay in this country (she had met my father on the ship) which was an easy thing to do in those days."



Stan's father, Gust Carlson emigrated from Benestad, Sweden in 1900. Arriving in the U.S. aboard a ship, he traveled by train to Omaha, Nebraska and later settled in Oakland, Nebraska. Stan's mother, Esther Gustafson, emigrated from Motala, Sweden, arriving in Oakland, Nebraska in 1903. Stan writes, "My father came in 1900 for work and opportunity. His older brother had taken over the family farm. He was 19 years old and soon eligible for compulsory army service. His older sister had earlier come over and was living in Omaha with her husband. He spent a few months with them while carrying quarters of beef in an Omaha packing house. He had a second cousin in Oakland who ran a lumber and fuel business so he moved



there and began hauling coal to residential users. After a few years he rented a small farm nearby and by 1924 had saved enough to buy one which he continued to farm for nearly all the rest of his life. My mother came in 1903 because her aunt, who was already in the U.S., married and living on a farm near Craig, Nebraska, offered to pay mother's way over if she would then work for her for two years as a "hired girl". Mother was 16 years old. After doing that she got a job as housekeeper in Oakland (for the wife of the man who ran the lumber and fuel business that Gust was working for). She and Gust were married in 1908 and spent the rest of their lives together."



### Traditions:

Joan writes, "Someone said that all Scandinavian food is white, and implied bland, but it is our soul food. Well, some of it is. We remember Christmas meaning meatballs, rye bread, brown beans, rice pudding or cereal, pickled herring, Christmas bread (Julebrod), lefse, and lots and lots of cookies (sandbakkels, kringler, rosettes, Berlinerkranser, krumkake, etc.). We dare not forget the lutefisk. The dried cod, hard as a rock, which mother soaked for hours in lye water until it turned into a gelatinous substance on which Swedes poured a cream sauce while Norwegians covered it with melted butter. Stan didn't find it objectionable but my sister and I certainly did. In the past we tried to carry on the tradition of these foods at Christmas with our children. We told them that eating lutefisk was a rite of passage. In Dallas after opening presents on Christmas eve the Hast family all went to the midnight service at church. The Carlson family in Oakland would go to the five o'clock Christmas morning service (Julotta). Joan's family also celebrated "Syttende Mai" (17<sup>th</sup> of May), Norway's Constitution Day. Our small Lutheran Church in Dallas was populated mostly by Norwegians so we always had a church picnic on May 17. Mostly our heritage is carried on through our stories."

## Swedish Wedding Traditions

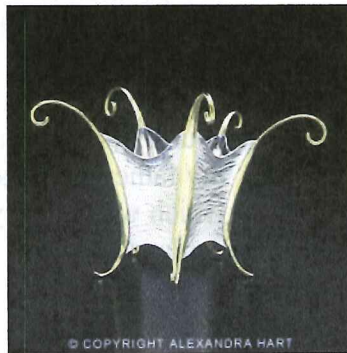
In Sweden, the parent's of the bride- to- be practice an old traditional wedding custom. Before their daughter leaves for the church to be married, her mother gives her a gold coin to go in her right shoe, and her father hands her a silver coin to be placed in her left shoe. This way they know she will never go without.

After a Swedish couple exchanges their marriage vows on their wedding day, the new bride will wear three bands on her wedding finger. One is an engagement ring, another is her wedding ring and the third is a ring for motherhood.

Additionally, an age-old Swedish wedding tradition includes the bridal crown. Worn directly on the head or over the veil, the simple crown can be made from ribbon or for a more authentic Swedish feel, myrtle leaves. The bride may choose to wear the traditional folk dress of the community. Originally peasant clothing, these colorful costumes are now worn for festive occasions or as formal wear. The bride and groom usually enter the church together and whoever steps in first is said to be the one who will have control in the marriage. If you'd rather the groom wait for the bride at the altar, that same tradition holds true for the one who says, "I do" the loudest. The bride receives a morgongåva ("morning gift") the day after the wedding.

A wedding reception in Sweden is the ideal time to enjoy a traditional buffet known as a smörgåsbord. There are many delicious dishes to choose from, but your smörgåsbord won't be complete without sill (herring), lingonsylt (cowberry jam), Jansson's Frestelse (Jansson's Temptation), köttbullar (Swedish meatballs), knäckebröd (hard bread) and a smörgåstårter (sandwich like cake made from layers of bread, egg, and either shrimp or ham). Throughout dinner, snapsvisor (drinking songs) are sung and all guests are welcome to give a speech in honor of the new bride and groom. It is also a tradition for both father's to make a speech during the reception."

[WeddingTraditions.com](http://WeddingTraditions.com)



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## David W. Thomssen

David Thomssen became interested in the Norden Club about eight years ago. Besides enjoying the yearly Scandinavian smorgasbord with his friends, he wanted to learn more about his Danish heritage.



### Maternal Ancestry:

Traveling first by ship and later by train, David's maternal grandfather, Chris Jensen, immigrated to Wisner, Nebraska, from Scobie, Denmark, in 1892. He owned a Ford garage in Wisner and sold the first Model-T Fords in the area.



### Paternal Ancestry:

David's great-grandmother, Anna Stehr, was twenty two when she emigrated from Lutjenburg, Holstein, Germany in 1857. She and her brother traveled by ship to New Orleans followed by a river boat to Davenport, Iowa. From there they WALKED across Iowa to Council Bluffs where they joined a wagon train going west.



On her journey, Anna was known as the "Single White Woman" until she met and married John Thomssen of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. They were married in 1859. Traveling by wagon, they settled in Hall County in Nebraska. They were among the first settlers who began the settlement of Grand Island.

As is fitting for anyone that can walk across a state, Anna lived to be 92 years of age.

### Traditions:

David and his wife, Margie, combine his Scandinavian traditions and her German traditions when celebrating Christmas. A lighted Christmas tree, a stocking hung on a mantel, an exchange of gifts, a celebrated church service or concert, a cherished carol sung are all enjoyed by the Thomssen family.



## Margie (Horst) Thomssen

Margie Thomssen married into a Danish family and wanted to learn more about their history, traditions and foods of Denmark, therefore enabling her to pass them along to her children and grandchildren. For this reason she joined the Norden Club ten years ago. Margie's paternal family is of German ancestry but her maternal grandfather, August Hamann came from the Schleswig/Holstein area in about 1882. This area could be considered German or Danish depending upon the year. Margie enjoys combining her German traditions with David's Danish traditions while celebrating holidays.

After the Second War of Schleswig in 1864, Denmark was forced to cede Schleswig-Holstein to Prussia, in a defeat that left deep marks on the Danish national identity. Following this point, Denmark adopted a policy of neutrality. After the defeat of Germany in World War I, the Versailles powers offered to return the region to Denmark. Denmark added the Northern Schleswig in 1920. The reunion is celebrated every year on June 15 on Valdemarsdag. Wikipedia-a free content encyclopedia.

## Arlene M. Olson Whiteley

Arlene Whiteley proudly claims her Swedish heritage. Having been asked to her first meeting by friends, she has been a member of the Norden club for 9 years.



Arlene's father, John Albin Olson, came to America in 1911. He emigrated from Sallstorp Parish, Halland Province, Sweden. He left Goteborg on March 31, 1911 by ship and went to Hull, England and then to Batavia, Illinois, USA.

Arlene's maternal grandparents, Andrew Dahl and Emma Norgren Dahl, also came from Sweden. Andrew emigrated to America from Bolstad Parish, Alvsborg Province, Sweden, on April 20, 1888. He traveled by ship from Goteborg to Hull, England and then to Chicago, Illinois, in the United States. Emma Norgren emigrated to America from Stockholm, Sweden, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1892. She traveled by ship from Goteborg to New York and then to Chicago, Illinois, USA.



In June of 2000, Arlene took a trip to Sweden and met 29 cousins on the farm where her father grew up. Six of those cousins were first cousins. Then she traveled by train to the Dalsland area



which is where her grandparents had lived. There she visited with three cousins.

### Traditions:

Arlene recalls that her mother always made potato sausage. She and her son tried to make it themselves one year and discovered how difficult it really was. Arlene does love to make Swedish yellow pea soup and ginger cookies. At



Christmas, she makes rice pudding with an almond in one. Unfortunately, no one in her family likes the rice pudding but they all are excited to search for the one almond---for it carries the possibility of a wonderful gift.

Healthcare in Sweden is very developed. Sweden ranks in the top five countries with respect to low infant mortality. It also ranks high in life expectancy and in safe drinking water. The Karolinska University Hospital in Solna, the Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, and the University Hospital in Uppsala are examples of world-class hospitals in Sweden. Wikipedia-a free content encyclopedia

## Dika Eckersley

Dika was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and immigrated to America in 1980 with her husband and 3 children.

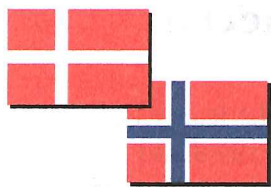
Her husband immigrated from Great Britain.

Dika's friend, Linnea Fredrickson, invited Dika to a Christmas

smorgasbord and she has been a member of Norden Club for the past two years.







## Vera Salmon and Charlotte Kramer

Vera and Charlotte are of both Danish and Norwegian descent. Vera and her husband have been members of the Norden Club for six years. Charlotte has been a member of the Norden Club for five years. Both Vera and Charlotte have been active in planning the December smorgasbords. Presently, Vera serves on the Norden Club board as secretary.

Vera and Charlotte's grandfather, Magnus Martin Torske, emigrated from Torskeloken, Sunndalsora, Norway in 1889 to Eaton Township, Kearney



County, Nebraska. Magnus was born in 1881 and was only 8 years old when he journeyed to America with his mother and brother. His father had immigrated to Minden, Nebraska, four years earlier to find work. It must have been a joyous reunion. However, stories were told of how Magnus's mother had wept when she left Norway. She knew that she would never see her family again.



National flower of Norway—the *Calluna Vulgaris*

National flower of Denmark---the Red Clover



Magnus Martin Torske married Dorthe (Dora) Margrethe Johansen in 1905. They lived in Minden, Nebraska. Dorthe was born in 1877 and emigrated in 1886 at the age of 9. She traveled from Aastrup, Falster, Denmark to May Township of Kearney County in Nebraska. Like many immigrants who followed other relatives to the United States, Dora, her four siblings and parents were sponsored by a married aunt who had no children.

Unfortunately, their journey was burdened with storms, seasickness, and shattered possessions aboard the steamship, "Illinois", until they reached their destination port of Philadelphia. They then spent several days on board a train until they reached Nebraska.

All four of Vera and Charlotte's great-grandparents, Nels Evensen Torske, Johanna Jacobsdatter Furu, Jens Christian Johansen and Johanne Kristine Jacobsen, are buried at Fredericksburg Cemetery adjacent to the churchyard of the Danish Lutheran Church (founded 1879) located near Minden. As small children, Vera and Charlotte remember visits to the cemetery to tend and decorate the graves. They would then join others from the congregation and feast on rullepolse sandwiches and rhubarb cream pie in the church basement.

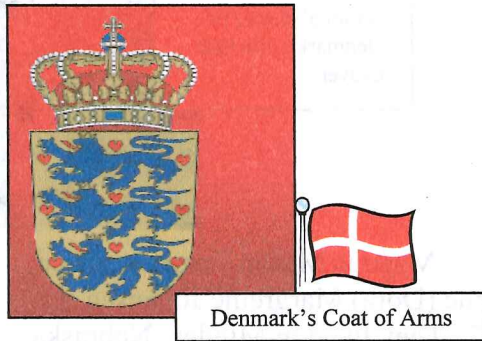


## Patricia L. Lehecka

Patricia L. Lehecka learned of the Norden Club from a friend and former member, Phyllis Todd, in 1998 and has been a member of the Norden Club for the past 9 years. She is very interested in her Swedish heritage and was pleased to find an organization whose members had experienced some of the same Scandinavian customs and traditions that she had enjoyed. She was also intrigued by the Norden Club's efforts to promote and preserve the Scandinavian heritage for future generations. She has ancestors that have emigrated from Sweden.



Patricia's grandmother, Judith Adolfina Johnson, emigrated from Stockholm, Sweden, in September of 1889 on the steamship "Orlando". She was 10 years old when she came to America with her mother, Helena Christina Johnson, and one brother and one sister. They traveled to Albion, Nebraska, to join Judith's father, Carl Gustaf Johnson. Carl had come from Sweden four months earlier. Carl and Helena farmed in the Stanton County area until 1903 when they moved to a farm south of Arcadia, Nebraska. Members of Patricia's family have lived in that vicinity and Valley County for the past 100 years.



## William M. Pedersen

William Pedersen has been a member of the Norden Club for 8 years and is of Danish ancestry.

William's father, Peter Gerhardt Falk Pedersen, emigrated from Horsen, Denmark, in 1917. Traveling from Denmark by ship, he arrived at Ellis Island in New York. His name is on the file at Ellis Island as an immigrant who entered the United States through this port. He, then, traveled by train to Weeping Water, Nebraska.



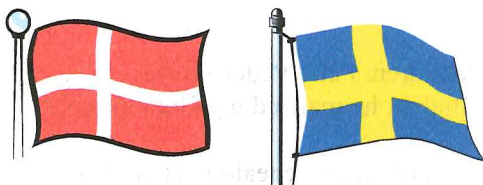
William remembers cutting a tree from their farm for their Christmas tree. And for a special surprise, a nut was boiled with the rice for Christmas dinner. Whoever got the nut received an orange.



Sweden's Royal Motto  
*För Sverige-i tiden*  
("For Sweden-With the Times")







## Joan I. Tomlinson White

"My Scandinavian heritage comes from both my Mother, Merle I. Tomlinson (an Honorary Life Time Member of the Norden Club) who was full Dane. And my Father, John W. J. Tomlinson was half Swede. By talking to various relatives and some of my own research, I'm able to share a little of our Ohlson, Pedersen, and Sorensen family history with you. It's interesting to track lineage back through centuries of dates and names. Family genealogy research is time consuming, but very rewarding and fascinating. Happiness is climbing your family tree!

The Swedish Ohlson side of the family comes from my Father's maternal side; his Mother was Jessie (Ohlson) Tomlinson. Her family history goes back to Olof Peterson who was born on March 1, 1785 in Gallaryd, Sweden. Gallaryd is just east of Varnamo in the southern part of Sweden. He later met, and then married Lena Davidsdotter in ca 1818. Lena was born on September 7, 1793 in Nydala, Sweden. From this union four children were born; Johannes Olofsson, September 26, 1819; Johanna Charlotta Catarina Olofsdotter, August 19, 1822; Daniel Olofsson, August 12, 1825; and Jonas Peter Olofsson, on February 1, 1829. All four children were born in Fryele, Sweden. It was also noted that the first three children had been vaccinated for smallpox. Jonas had just been born. The father Olof could read out of a book and his lessons were generally taken from the Lutheran catechism. Most of the farms in Sweden were named and the original church records and census report show a No. 44 farm number, Lilla Hyttan associated with the Olof Peterson family. Lilla Hyttan means Little Cabins.

Prior to 1850 in Sweden patronomics was the method used to name

the children. Since Olof Peterson was the head of the family all of his children would bear his name, such as, for a boy, it was Olofsson, or for a girl, Olofsdotter. The official use of surnames that we are used to in America did not take hold in Sweden until ca 1850.

Another point to ponder concerning our Swedish family is the increase in technology. Normally families suffered the loss of children because of disease. One could always assume that some of the children were going to die and some would live. With the discovery of the smallpox vaccine the whole family structure of Sweden changed. Families got bigger. Pressure was placed upon the division of the land being farmed by the family. How do you split up a parcel of land among your children when the family was too large thus making the return of profit from the parcel of land too difficult. The increase of children also meant that more people were out looking for work. Perhaps this very situation concerning land and jobs drove Johannes Olofsson to leave for America.

When Johannes Olofsson got married for the first time he was twenty-nine years old. He married Christina Larsdotter ca 1848 in Fryele, Sweden. Christina was born ca 1819 at Nydala, Sweden. According to records, there was an old church and ruins at the north end of the lake at Nydala which means "new valley." To this union three children were born; Peter August (Per) Olofsson, March 31, 1848; Hilda Magnalena Olofsdotter, March 8, 1850; and Lara Lena Olofsdotter, July 12, 1851. All three births are associated with Hjalmseryd, Sweden but Lara has Mocklehult with her birth information. Both Hilda and Lara died the same year they were born. Johannes' wife Christina also dies in 1852, leaving Johannes and his young son Peter August alone. Shortly after Christina's death Johannes marries a young girl who had been born in Stockholm, Augusta Charlotte Ostberg. She was born on September 18, 1830 making her eleven years younger than her new husband Johannes. The marriage may have taken place in Mocklehult, but

Nydala should not be ruled out too. To this union eight children were born.

My Grandmother Jessie (Ohlson) Tomlinson's father, Joseph Edward Olofsson (one of the eight children) was born on October 3, 1854 at Mocklehult, Hjalseryd Soken, Vastra, Jonkoping San, Sweden. Joseph's parents Johannes Olofsson (born September 26, 1819 in Fryele, Sweden) and wife Augusta (Ostberg) Olofsson, and nine children left Sweden via ship May 11, 1869 and arrived in America on July 2, 1869. Foreign names were often Anglicized while coming through immigration authorities. So by the time the family had reached New York City, their last name had become Olson. Upon arriving in Nebraska from Sweden, there were so many Olsons, that Johannes (now John) added the "h" to Olson (now Ohlson) in 1871, to separate his business and personal life, from other Olsons living in the area of Sutton, Nebraska. By adding the "h" to their name it also allowed them to get their mail from Sweden a lot more easily.

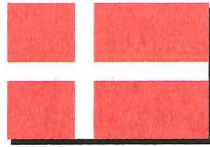
On my Mother's paternal side of the family, Peder Andersen was born in the first years of the 1800's in Vester Uslev, Loland, Denmark. He had one daughter and four sons. His son Anders Pedersen was the father to Rasmus Pedersen. And Rasmus was my Mother's grandfather. The custom of the time was that the children should have their father's first name. Later it changed so that the children should have their father's last name, for their last name. Rasmus Pedersen was born in Wester Ulslev pr. Nysted Laaland Denmark, November 7, 1846 and died March 7, 1924 at the age of 78 and 4 months. He came to America at the age of 27 years, residing in Illinois for 5 years, and moved to Bennet, Nebraska for 2 years. Later settled on a farm five 5 miles south of Ruskin, Nebraska. He married Christine Andersen on February 4, in 1881, and resided in Ruskin until his death. To this union were born five sons, Peter, Chris, Lars, Henry, and John and one daughter, Anna Marguerite who died July 17, 1900. At the time Rasmus died, he left behind his wife, five sons, and twenty-one

grandchildren. Peter Pedersen was my Grandfather, he married my Grandmother Gertie Sorensen.

Very little genealogy is known about our Sorensen side of our family. I believe it's time to go on a scavenger hunt and gather more family history. Mads Sorensen was my Mother's maternal grandfather. He was born on November 6, 1863 in Norre Kongerslev, Denmark, and later died in Ruskin, Nebraska on August 25, 1941. He married Karen Johansen who was born in Store Vorde, Denmark. Mads and Karen left Denmark and settled in Nebraska. Karen soon became homesick for Denmark, so they returned to Denmark and later came back to Nebraska and lived in the Ruskin area until they passed away. Mads and Karen had four children, Gertie, Clarence, Mabel and Alfred. Gertie (Sorensen) Pedersen was my Grandmother."

Joan Tomlinson White

## Erik and Ingrid Hansen



Erik and Ingrid are first generation immigrants to U.S.A., having emigrated from Denmark in 1958. Together they



began their adventure in Copenhagen, flying first to Hamburg, Germany. The trans-Atlantic flight

to New York was on a propeller plane and took 14 hours. It took all of the next day to arrive in Lincoln, NE on a very hot, late June day.



Although Erik was the first to immigrate to America from his immediate family, his uncle, Niels Peter Hansen immigrated here in 1910 and he was the sponsor for Erik and Ingrid.

Erik was fortunate to be able to work with another Danish carpenter, thus learning the language as well as American construction techniques. In 1965 he started his own construction



company and is still active in the business. Ingrid started her American career as a gift wrapper at Miller

and Paine, "advancing" to elevator operator. She then took accounting classes and worked in various capacities of accounting ending up as General Accounting manager at an Insurance Holding Co. She also served 12 years as National Treasurer of the Danish Sisterhood of America.



Erik and Ingrid were invited to join the Norden Club by Dagmar and Otto Hojberg, and have been members for more than twenty years. This seemed like a natural extension of their Scandinavian interests

since Erik was a member of the Danish Brotherhood and

Ingrid was a member of the Danish Sisterhood. For the past 5 years Ingrid has served on the board of the Norden Club as treasurer.



Erik and Ingrid incorporate some of the Old Danish traditions in their holiday celebrations, and have attempted to teach their son and grandson Danish, not with a great deal of success.



Nyhavn, Kobenhavn, Denmark  
New Harbor, Copenhagen, Denmark



## Howard W. Ottoson

Howard Ottoson decided to join Norden Club around 1953. At that time, the club was meeting in the Cornhusker Hotel. He has been a Past President and Past Vice-President of the Norden Club.

Howard's interest in his Swedish ancestry has led him and his wife on several trips to Sweden.

Each time they have discovered bits and pieces on how his ancestors lived. They have found each of his grandparent's birthplaces and visited the home church that each attended. In the process they have found long-lost relatives, and others who remember his family.

### Maternal Ancestry:

Howard's maternal grandmother, Johanna Sophia Samuelson, was born in Tavastahult, Sweden in 1859. She emigrated from Linneryd, Sweden, in 1893, sailing first to England, boarding a train to Liverpool, and then crossing the Atlantic on the SS

*Labrador* from Liverpool, England, to Quebec, Canada.

Then she boarded another train to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she worked for six months on a dairy farm near the present location of the Walker Art Gallery in Minneapolis. Her final destination was Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, where she met and married Lars Peter Johansson in 1894.



Lars Peter Johansson, Howard's grandfather, was born in Dannas, Sweden, in 1835. He emigrated from Kanna, Sweden in 1887, going by wagon to Halmstad, by steamer to Port Huron, Canada, and by train to Fargo, North



Dakota, where he found work on the Northern Pacific Railroad. Partly by homesteading, he secured land near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, in 1890.



Howard's grandfather's life history is quite complex. It is written up in a chapter entitled "Flukten till Amerika" in a book entitled "Amerika Minnen" by Ulf Beijbom, a retired director for the Emmigrant Museum in Vaxjo, Sweden. The book was published in 1996 by Norstedts Press, Stockholm.

### Paternal ancestry:

Amanda Josephine Svensson, Howard's paternal grandmother, was born in Kleva Gruva, Sweden in 1867. She emigrated from there in 1887, going to Ishpeming, Michigan. While in Michigan, she met Johannes Ottoson and they were married in 1888.

Johannes Ottoson was born in Animskog, Sweden in 1864. He immigrated to Ishpeming, Michigan, with his father, brother and two sisters in 1883, where he worked in the iron mines for ten years. He later moved his family to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota in 1893. There he bought eighty acres, living for a year in a one room shack before building a home. The lumber for his home had to be hauled thirty miles by sleigh in mid-winter.





## Dorothy Ekblad



Dorothy started coming to the Norden Club with her parents in 1952 after finishing college and nurse's training. Her father, Emanuel G. (E.G.) Ekblad was a charter member and one of the founders of the Norden Club in 1947. Her mother, Anna Matilda (Olson) Ekblad, would accompany E.G. as a guest. Dorothy joined as a member when the Norden Club amended its charter to include women. Dorothy writes, "Norden Club has always been like my family, since my parents were always there. All of their friends became like family to me. I still feel that way." Dorothy is of Swedish descent.



### Maternal Grandparents:

John A. Olson, his wife, and infant son immigrated to America in 1878 from the Swedish farming community of Morup, Sweden, in the province of Holland, located on the western seacoast. They boarded their ship in Gothenburg, Sweden and traveled to New York. Their journey would continue to Vermillion, Kansas, having to travel part of the way by



wagon. The wagon would break down and the journey was long and tedious but

they arrived safely in Kansas. They

established their homestead and began farming. Their first home was a "dug out". Dorothy's mother, Matilda Olson, was born on this farm in 1885 and was the youngest of five children. Following high school she went to Bethany, a Swedish Lutheran College in Lindsborg, Kansas. It was at college that Matilda met E.G. Ekblad.

### Paternal Grandparents:

Both of Dorothy's paternal grandparents emigrated from the Smoland Province in southern Sweden. They both settled in the Swedish settlement of Mariadahl, near Randolph, Kansas. (This settlement was named after "Maria", the mother of the men who first settled the area. Maria was the first white woman to settle west of the Mississippi River and was a relative of Dorothy's grandparent.) Following the death of his first wife, Dorothy's paternal grandfather met and married her grandmother. Dorothy's father, E.G., was born on the farm in Kansas, near the community of Walsburg, near Randolph, Kansas. E.G.'s father and uncles were carpenters and built the stone Lutheran Church in Walsburg.



### Traditions:

Dorothy remembers always having Swedish decorations for Christmas and would enjoy lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, rice pudding with lingonberries on Christmas Eve. Then they would rise early on Christmas morning and attend Julata (an early morning Christmas church service) at 6 a.m.





## Paul Carlson

Paul Carlson's paternal Swedish ancestry and his parents' membership in the Norden Club stimulated his own interest in the organization. He became a member at the urging of other members at First Lutheran. He has been a member for the past seven years.

Paul's paternal great grandfather, August victor (Malstedt) Carlson, emigrated from Atvidaberg, Ostergotland, Sweden and arrived in Marquette, Michigan in 1873.



Traveling to America with August was his fiancé, Mathilda, whom he married one month after arriving in Marquette. August and Mathilda moved to Calumet in Michigan sometime between 1874 and 1878 and then moved to Franklin County in Nebraska sometime between 1883-1885.

August and Mathilda's son, Charles, married Amanda, the daughter of Per (Peter) August Anderson Miller and his wife, Anna. Per emigrated from Davidsmala, Torsas, Kalmar, Sweden in 1877. He traveled to Calumet, Michigan where he married his first wife, Christina. The couple moved to Franklin County, Nebraska, around

1880. Christina died in Nebraska and Per married Anna.

As a child Paul remembers celebrating his Swedish heritage by enjoying ostkaka and saying the Swedish table prayer on Christmas Day. He also enjoyed midsummer picnics at his grandparents' church. Paul has maintained his family's wonderful recipe for Swedish rye bread, giving the recipe to his wife, Carol, after their wedding. Carol baked 4 loaves of this bread each week when their children were young.



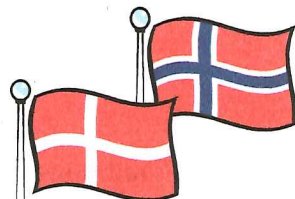
Now, adapting it for the more modern bread baking machines, Paul has handed this recipe down to his children, Teri and Mark. Paul and Carol have continued to love making and eating Swedish meatballs and have even hosted a Christmas smorgasbord for their neighbors. Additionally, Paul and Carol give the Carlson nieces and nephews Orrefors crystal from Sweden for their weddings.



**Ostkaka**, also known as Swedish curd cake, is a Swedish dessert that has its roots in Småland. The dish is usually eaten warm with jam and whipped cream, or with fruit and ice cream. Ostakaka is traditionally produced by adding rennet to milk and letting the casein coagulate. It is then baked in an oven and served warm



## Mary Brass



Mary and her husband, Gary, became members of the Norden Club after attending a Swedish smorgasbord at First Lutheran Church. She thanks her friends at First Lutheran, Karen Zins, Vern and Jan Westberg, Andrew and Margaret Morrow and Doug and Karen Lind-Olson for inviting her to her first Norden Club meeting. Mary's maternal ancestors emigrated from Denmark and Norway.

Mary's maternal grandfather, Carl Markus Grue, was born on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1881 in Arnes, Oslo, Norway. (The Grue farmstead is still held by the Grue family.) In 1862, the U.S. attracted many Scandinavians with the Homestead Act. The Homestead Act was a promise of 160 acres of land to any person willing to occupy and cultivate the land for five years. One hundred-sixty acres (65 hectares) was a huge amount of land by European standards. Because Carl had three older brothers, there simply was "not room" for a fourth son on the Norwegian farmland.

Carl decided to emigrate to the U.S. and therefore, arrived in Ellis Island aboard a Scandinavian Lines Ship in 1902. He made his way to eastern central Montana by 1904. Carl bought "squatter's rights" to his land near Terry, Montana, in 1904. He raised cattle and sheep. He



married Cecile Martinsen on October 7, 1914. Carl could not speak English when he arrived in America but attended school in Montana to learn English and gain citizenship. Carl and Cecile

continued to live in Terry, Montana, until Carl's death in 1964.

Mary Cecilie Brass is named for her maternal grandmother, Cecilie Martinsen. Cecilie emigrated from Starup, Haderslev, Denmark in 1904. She arrived in the United States aboard the Scandinavian liner *ST. Olaf*, named for King Olaf, the King of Sweden.



Cecilie left Starup, Haderslev, Denmark when she was only 17 years old and could not speak English. Cecilie was the seventh child of a family of ten children born to Thule and Birgitte Jacobsen Martinsen. Two of her brothers, Christian and Johannes Martinsen, encouraged Cecilie to join them in America and homestead free land. Cecilie left behind her parents, one brother and six sisters.

Cecilie traveled alone across the Atlantic. She passed through Ellis Island in 1904. She had only \$5.00 in her pocket.

According to the ship's record processed at Ellis Island, all the single Scandinavian girls needed an American sponsor.



If the young lady did not have her father or brother or an uncle accompanying her, then she was sponsored by a Danish Lutheran Church minister at the Lutheran Mission Home in New York City. The Danish Lutheran minister saw to it that Cecilie had a roof over her head, learned English, and obtained a housekeeping job.

In 1909, five years after arriving at Ellis Island, Cecilie was able to save enough money to buy a ticket to Omaha, Nebraska. She was about twenty-two years old. Meeting her at the train station was her beloved Godmother, Karen Marie Anderson.

Because it was her dream to homestead land of her own, Cecilie got a job as a housemaid for the Offutt family in their Omaha "Gold Coast" neighborhood home. The "Gold Coast" neighborhood encompassed the area in Omaha around 35<sup>th</sup>-40<sup>th</sup> Streets, and Cuming to Farnum Streets. Wealthy families like the Offutt family and the Joslyn family lived there around 1909-1910. The Offutt home had three stories, and Cecilie would look from her third floor room to see guests arriving.

Meanwhile, Cecilie's brother, Johannes Martinsen, had traveled to eastern and central Montana to homestead a stake of land. His land tract was about 27 miles from Terry, Montana. Johannes encouraged his sister, Cecilie, to come there. He found more available land ten miles from his ranchland.

In 1912, Cecilie Martinsen left Omaha on a train bound for eastern Montana to join her brother. Her brother helped Cecilie construct a crude shack as her first homestead home. That first



night, she was frightened by the coyotes howling. Cecilie Martinsen filed her homestead papers in Terry, Montana, in 1913, nearly nine years since she had first set foot in America at Ellis Island.

It was in Terry, Montana, that she met and married Carl Grue. They had two children, Agnes and Charles.

Because many of the government tracts of land used for homesteading were not fertile and were remotely located. Therefore, Carl and Cecilie learned how to run a ranch with cattle and sheep.

## Traditions:

Mary is reminded of her Danish heritage as she makes her favorite Danish Applesauce Cake.

### Danish Applesauce Cake

3-4 cups of finely crumbled dry bread crumbs  
¼ cup melted butter  
Sugar  
Thick Applesauce

Heat bread crumbs, butter and sugar in a skillet. Layer 1/3 of the bread crumb mixture in 9x13 pan followed by a layer of applesauce. Repeat layer and end with a bread crumb layer on top. Refrigerate and serve with whipped cream.



Med Lidt Og Tidt

Kan Mand Gaa Vidt.

(With little and often can man go far.)



## Clarence Fritz Johnson

Clarence, also, has been a member of the Norden Club for the past seven years. His father, Frank, was a long-time Norden Club member in years past. Clarence's paternal ancestors are Swedish.



Clarence's grandfather, Frits Johansson, was born at Kohult Bottnaryd Parish in Sweden to Johannes Andersson and Maja Lisa Jonsdotter on January 7, 1860. He came to America in 1880 with his little sister and began working on his uncle's farm to payback the passage money that was loaned to him. Later he



worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. He married Augusta Christina

Gustafsdotter on October 17, 1889. They homesteaded 160 acres S.W. of Valparaiso. When they retired in 1920 they had acquired 320 acres. Upon retirement they sold their farm to their son, Frank and moved to Lincoln. They were long time members of the First Lutheran Church in Lincoln.

Augusta Christina Gustafsdotter was born on August 10, 1863 to Gustaf Bengtsson and Anna Stina Johansdotter in Hunared, Nolgarden, Sandhem Parish-Skaraborgs, Lan, Sweden. Her father died when she was 2 years old and the farm went into bankruptcy. Later in life Augusta worked for two years for a family in Madang, near the railway station. She then took the name of Hedlund and immigrated to America in 1888. She followed her brother, Klas Sanfrid, who immigrated in 1880 and sister, Maria Carlotta, in 1884. They also had taken the name of Hedlund.

Augusta kept house for her brother in Valparaiso until she and Fritz were married. They had three children, Frank A., Edna (Krafka) and Oscar Johnson.

## Charlene R. Johnson

Charlene R. Johnson has been a member of Norden Club for 7 years and is of Danish and Norwegian descent. She has served as the Norden Club's courtesy chairperson for the past three years.



Charlene's father, Raymond, was the fifth child of eleven born to Lewis Hansen. Lewis Hansen came to the USA with his brother, Hans, in 1888 to live with their uncle. Lewis was only 16 years old.



Lewis Hansen's wife was also born Hanson but spelled her name with the ending of "son". When she and Lewis had children of school-age, she chose to spell their last name with "son". Hence, the "sen" ending was dropped forever.

Lewis Hanson farmed his entire life in northern Iowa. He farmed in Thompson, Iowa and Forest City, Iowa where he died at home on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1964. He was 92 years old.

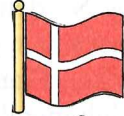


The Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg, Denmark was established in 1932 to record the history of the Danes who emigrated and to maintain cultural bonds to those who have their roots in Denmark.

Apart from traditional Protestant Christian holidays, Sweden also celebrates some unique holidays. They include Midsummer, celebrating the summer solstice, Walpurgis Day on April 30<sup>th</sup>; Labour Day on May 1; and December 13, the day of Saint Lucia the lightgiver. June 6 is the National Day of Sweden and as of 2005 a public holiday. Furthermore, there are official Flag Day observances and a Namesdays in Sweden calendar.- Wikipedia

## Marie Jessen Johnson

Marie is a first generation American, having emigrated from Denmark to Cozad, Nebraska in 1926. She and her husband, Quentin, has been a member of the Norden Club for 25 years. They were encouraged to join by friends in their Danish Society and they have enjoyed continuing to build friendships within the Norden Club.



## Quentin Johnson



Quentin Johnson is of Swedish ancestry and has been a member of the Norden Club for 25 years. He and his wife, Marie, were sponsored by friends in their Danish Society. They joined the Norden Club to continue building friendships within the Scandinavian community.

Quentin's paternal grandparents, Charles and Anna Johnson, immigrated to America by ship around 1872. Traveling by train, they settled first in Illinois and later moved to Waverly, Nebraska. Quentin's maternal grandparents, Olaf and Trued Wedberg, also came from Sweden and settled first in Wahoo, Nebraska and later in Ceresco, Nebraska.

Quentin remembers having Osterkage, lutefisk, and roast goose at Christmas. He also remembers the 6:00 a.m. church service on Christmas morning.



Marie Jessen was 4 years old when she traveled from Copenhagen, Denmark to New York on the Danish Steam Ship, Fredrick VIII. She made the 11 day journey with her parents and 4 siblings. Those siblings included twin 6 year old sisters, a 2 year old brother and an infant. The family, then, traveled by train to Nebraska, settling in Cozad.

Marie always spoke Danish at home even though she had to learn English in school. Her family maintained Danish traditions in her home. After Marie was grown and had left home, she continued to write and speak to her parents in Danish. The family always celebrated Christmas just as they had done in Denmark. Marie learned many Danish songs and sang them often.



Estimates made in 2007 places the total world population of Danes at about 7 million. About 5 million Danes reside in Denmark, 1.4 million reside in the US, 170,000 reside in Canada, 100,00 in Australia, 50,000 in Germany, 43,000 in Sweden, 10,000 in Spain, 6,500 in Greenland, 3,500 in New Zealand and 2,800 in Iceland.







## Marleen Johnson

Marleen Johnson cherishes her Swedish ancestry. She heard about the Norden Club from a cousin and became a member seventeen years ago.



Marleen Johnson's paternal grandfather, Alfred Adolph Johnson, immigrated to Rockford, Illinois, from Hinsatorp, Fagerhult Parish, Kalmarlan, Sweden, in 1881. Her paternal grandmother emigrated from Torsby, Edasa parish, Skaraborgslan, Sweden to Paxton, Chicago and later to Rockford, Illinois, in 1884. The couple met and married in Rockford, Illinois.



They had eight sons. In 1900, the family moved to a farm near Wausa, Nebraska where relatives of Inga were living.

Marleen's maternal grandfather, Franz Gustaf (Gust F.) Johnson was born in Ideberg, Slatthog Parish, Kronobergslan, Sweden. He immigrated in 1887 from Vaxjo, Sweden to a farm near Wausa, Nebraska. The town of Wausa had not yet incorporated. Then in 1891, he returned to Sweden in order to bring Emelia Charlotta Gustafsson, his fiancé, to America. Emelia was born

in Alghult parish, Kronobergslan, Sweden. They were married in Wayne, Nebraska, and farmed near the new town of Wausa. They had six children.

Marleen's family always enjoyed the traditional Swedish foods, especially at Christmas. The most important part of the holiday was Christmas Eve, although the family went to Julotta (early service) on Christmas morning. She remembers that her family spoke Swedish to her as a child but she wishes that she would have learned the language better. She continues to cook Swedish foods and uses mementos from her grandparents to decorate her home.



**Santa Lucia** (283-304) was a rich young Christian martyr who is venerated as a Saint by Catholic and Orthodox Christians. Her feast day is December 13, the longest night of the year. She is the patron saint of blindness. Lucy is one of the very few saints celebrated by the Lutheran Swedes, Finland-Swedes, Danes and Norwegians in celebrations that retain many pre-Christian elements of a mid-winter light festival.

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## Olaf Richard Ahlquist

Olaf Ahlquist has both Swedish and Norwegian ancestors. He and his wife, Dagmar, have been members of the Norden Club for the past 8 years. Olaf and Dagmar, who is Danish, joined the Norden Club for the fellowship and social aspects that accompany the cultural heritage of Scandinavians.



Olaf's first generation American ancestor was August Ahlquist, Olaf's paternal grandfather. He emigrated from Christiana, Norway, in 1886, to Boston, Massachusetts. In 1895, he moved to Deering, Maine. Olaf's grandmother, Marte Karine Haakesen, emigrated from



Norway at the age of 17. She arrived in America in 1885 aboard the steamship "Rollo".

Olaf's maternal great-grandfather, Mincus Temm, immigrated to Canada from Hamburg, Germany. He later moved to Scarborough, Maine, with his wife Sarah Jane. Their son, John Henry Temm, married Harriett Emma Morgan and the couple remained in Scarborough, Maine.

Olaf was born in Scarborough, Maine. His paternal grandmother, Marte Haakesen, served as a midwife for the rural town of Scarborough, Maine, and was present at Olaf's home birth.



Olaf remembers all major celebrations, both religious and family, were celebrated at his paternal grandparents.

As of November 2006, the total population of Sweden was estimated to 9,110,972. The population exceeded 9,000,000 for the first time as of approximately August 12, 2004, according to the Statistics Sweden. Of the 2004 population, 1.1 million, or 12%, were foreign-born and approximately 16.7% (1.53 million) had at least one parent born abroad or were themselves born abroad.

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## Howard D. Olson

Howard Olson has been a member of the Norden Club for the past 10 years and enjoys his Swedish heritage.



Howard's paternal grandfather, Anders (Andrew) F. Olofsson (Olson), was born in Nykl, Sweden, in 1838. He married Matilda Carlsdotter in Sweden. Matilda was born at Vastra Enevy, Sweden in 1842. Matilda and Anders immigrated to the United States in 1869 and settled in Minnesota. Howard's father, Eddie O. Olson (Olofsson) was born in Minnesota. However, the family had to return to Sweden in 1874 to settle an estate. They returned to the United



States in 1881 and settled on a farm near Norman, Nebraska, which is near Minden.

There is no record as to when Anders Olofsson changed his surname to Olson.

Howard remembers Christmas mornings attending Yule service) at Falum Church. The celebration continued with lutefisk for dinner followed by ostkaka.





## Len Nelson



I have lived in Lincoln since 1988 and have been a member of Norden Club since about 1998. All of my ancestors came from Norway between 1840 and 1872. When Arlene and I visited many of my ancestral farms, it was apparent to us that the little farmable land between the lake and the woods gave no opportunity for families to expand and stay in Norway. I am thankful my ancestors emigrated to America and I can go back to visit rather than peek out a living there.

In 1854, my paternal great-great grandfather, Nils Christopherson, his wife Dorthea Hansdatter and their seven children left Feiring, Norway on the west bank of Lake Mjosa. Nils was born on the Bekkedal farm where Arlene and I stayed while visiting Norway. The house where he was born is still standing with the square nails showing on the floors. Nils and Dorthea came to Muskego, Racine County, Wisconsin. Hans was the son of Nils and thus took the surname Nelson which has remained in our family since then. Hans was 15 years old when he emigrated and his mother, Dorthea, died of cholera soon after arriving in Wisconsin. In 1861 Hans joined the Iowa infantry and fought in the Civil War until 1865. He received permanent injuries in the battle of Vicksburg. Hans married Theoline Thompson. Her family immigrated from Ringsaker on the east bank of Lake Mjosa. Hans and Theoline later homesteaded in 1870 in Cottonwood County Minnesota and farmed there the rest of their lives.



My other paternal great-great grandfather, Johannes Olesen came to America from Nord-Bakken farm near Kvam, an area north of Lake Mjosa, as a widower with four children. When Johannes came to America, he took the farm name Bakken as his surname. His son Ole married Bertha Erickson who was born in Green Bay Wisconsin of parents that emigrated from Nes Hallingdal, Buskerud, Norway before 1850. Ole became a farmer in Cottonwood County Minnesota.



My maternal great-great grandfather, Ole Anderson, left the village of Sigdal Buskerud Norway in 1840 and came to Wisconsin with his wife, Ingebjørg Isabelle Håkensdatter and their eight children. They spent 16 weeks traveling to America by ship. Ole was an accomplished violinist and

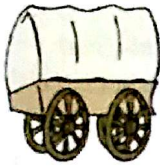


played his violin for the people on shore as the ship was sailing to America. Ole was party to building the first Norwegian Lutheran Church in North America.

That church currently resides at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. While in Wisconsin, Ole took his ice skates and violin to the lake where he danced the Hallingen, a very difficult dance, while playing a difficult tune on his violin.



His son, Andrew Anderson, who was 30 years old when he came to



America, joined a wagon train going to the gold rush in California in 1860 and kept a diary in Norwegian of his travels.

He passed Salt Lake City when the Mormon Temple was being built. He took a job in Nevada for awhile and never made it to California after hearing that others were not finding gold there. Andrew married Gunhild Narveson Medrud after returning to Minnesota. Gunhild emigrated from Krodsherred, Sigdal, Norway in 1870 with her parents and three sibling. Andrew and Gunhild homesteaded in Cottonwood County Minnesota and farmed there the rest of their lives.

My other maternal great-great grandfather, Fingar Fingarson, came from Sigdal Norway to Minnesota as an indentured servant in 1872 going to Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. After he had fulfilled his obligation he joined other family members near Waseca Minnesota. He married Kristi Christopersdatter Hoff. Kristi was born in Oegaardsplassen, Krodsherad, Buskerud, Norway and came to America in 1854 with parents and siblings. They came by way of the St. Lawrence River and down the Great Lakes to Wisconsin. Kristi's father, Christopher Hoff was a shoemaker in Norway as well as a talented violinist who played at weddings. Kristi suffered many hardships between the time she came to America and her marriage to Fingar. Her first husband froze to death while cutting wood and getting caught in a snowstorm, with his body not being found until the next spring. She lost



three children (7, 4, and 3) from that marriage within a week of each other from diphtheria. Later, Fingar and Kristi started farming in Cottonwood County Minnesota in 1890. There they lived in a sod shanty.

All these immigrants eventually homesteaded or purchased land and farmed in Cottonwood County Minnesota. Alton Nelson and Lyla Anderson grew up across the road from each other on their families homesteads. They married and purchased land near the homesteads and had four children of which I am the oldest. They lived their entire lives in Walnut Grove, Cottonwood County, Minnesota. My siblings and I all moved to different states to pursue careers.

Len Nelson



"A farmer from Houston County, Minnesota, returned on a visit the winter of '70-'71. He infected half the population in that district with what was called the America fever, and I who was then the most susceptible caught the fever in its most virulent form. No more amusement of any kind, only brooding on how to get away to America. It was like a desperate case of homesickness reversed." An immigrant



## Arlene Nelson

My Scandinavian ancestral lineage is Swedish. It is the line of my family that I heard the most about since it was my mother's maternal line and she was proud of it. That led to my fascination of the pioneering spirit and historical significance of my ancestors leaving their developed homeland for the untamed prairie land of Brandon, South Dakota. Thus I embarked on a research journey to return to my ancestral homeland in 1997. After much research I was able to locate and visit the farms my ancestors left behind before coming to America. I also visited the very old beautiful Swedish Lutheran Churches where they were baptized and would have worshipped. The country of Sweden was beautiful but it was easy to see why the enticement of free land was tempting after seeing the small plats of land they farmed. The vastness of becoming owners of 160 acres of free land must have seemed like a dream come true.



My great grandfather Gustave Florell was the first of the family to immigrate to America. Gustave was born August 11, 1840 at the farm Torpa Hansagard, Sunnersberg, Vastergotland, Sweden. His given name was Gustave Johanssen but when both his parents died, he and his other brothers took the name of Florell in Sweden. (We have not come to any conclusive reason why the name Florell was chosen.) Gustave's parents died within a week of each other and that left Gustave at the age of 15 having to survive on his own. He and his older brothers had to survive at various jobs in Sweden. Gustave learned photography

and carpentry. It was in 1867 that Gustave at the age of 27 made the decision to come to America by himself. He was the first of the family to come. He first settled in Hennepin County, MN in the Minneapolis area where he ran a general store. In 1871 Gustave heard



about free land in what was Dakota Territory at that time. He staked his claim in the virgin soil and applied for a homestead of 160 acres. He became one of the first settlers in that area which is just 7 miles east of Sioux Falls, SD. He fulfilled his homestead obligations by building a house 14 ft square with one door and one window. In 1878 he was offered \$1000 to purchase his land to make way for the railroad and the site of the village of Brandon. Gustave used his money to purchase his brother's adjoining homestead which had a creek running through it. In the meantime, Gustave's three other brothers had followed him to America in the early 1870's and they had all acquired homesteads within a mile of each other.

While living on his original homestead, Gustave met and married Ida Nelson, the daughter of another early Swedish homesteader. My great grandmother Ida Nelson and her parent's Nils and Kerstin Olsen (my great-great grandparents) came to America in 1870. They spent two years in Mt Carroll, Illinois working before filing their homestead in 1872 just 2 miles from Gustave. Nils and Kerstin Olsen and their family of 7 children including Ida came from Kola & Alga, Varmland, Sweden. Surnames in this family became very confusing because the oldest generation had the surname Olsen and the children were the

son of Nils thus Nilson or Nelson. One of the oldest children went to work at a farm in Norway before coming to America that was called the Graff farm so he chose to keep Graff as his surname: Nils Nelson Graff. He was the first of the family to come to America and homestead in the Brandon area. (My brother now owns the original log cabin that he built since it was about to



be torn down and it remains on the original homestead site.) Each of the other male siblings chose a homestead as well within a few miles of each other. All of the homesteads that were once in the family are now suburban Brandon. The log cabin is surrounded by beautiful new homes as a stark reminder of change.

My mother and my grandmother's interest in preserving their Scandinavian heritage has inspired me to do the same. That is the reason why my husband Len and I joined Norden Club about 8 years ago. It was my great-great grandparent's willingness to take a risk to make a better life which my family in turn is enjoying. Life was not easy in their native land of Sweden nor was it the easy life they may have led to believe when given free acres of land. Imagine going to a new land and starting your future with no house and unplowed



virgin land. I owe so much to my courageous and industrious ancestral emigrants who had the foresight, perseverance, and determination to make a better future.

Arlene Nelson



The Brown Earth Presbyterian Church near Stockholm, South Dakota has been around for over a century and is a South Dakota historic landmark. It is also known as the "Old Indian Church" because both Native Americans and Swedish immigrants worshipped there in the late 1800's.



Swedish Church in Usunge Sweden



## Helene C. Ebberson Mayhew

Helene Mayhew has been a member of Norden Club for 12 years and remembers fondly her Swedish heritage.

Helene's is the youngest child in a family of eight. Her father, Otto NMN Ebberson (Ebbesson), began his journey to America from his hometown of Veinge, Sweden. He left Halland County, Halmstad, Sweden, and traveled to Bremen, Germany, to begin his long sea journey. He left on March 22, 1890. Otto was 19 years old when he immigrated to America. Since Otto was the third son in a family of 11, he had no chance to inherit the family farm from his father Ebbe Swenson. This necessitated his decision to leave Sweden for America. Four other members of his family also immigrated to America. It must have been heartbreaking for his parents to see their children leave, knowing that they may never see them again. Two of the family members that immigrated to the United States returned to Sweden.

In America, Otto worked on farms in northeast Nebraska and pledged his citizenship in 1910. He met and married Annette Schick. Annette was from Wisconsin and was introduced to Otto by an aunt, who probably was pleased with her matchmaking skills. Annette and Otto bought a farm together and raised eight children. Otto passed away during the depression in 1933 and was remembered as a hard-working man who had a way with horses. He believed that his family should be educated, and did his best to make it possible. This was not a popular belief to some at that time.



Helene's quest for information about her Swedish heritage has carried her to contacts at the Augsburg College in Rockport, Illinois, and to research organizations in Sweden. She, also, has traveled to Sweden. Through this research, she has discovered that the change in her father's surname was probably a clerical error at the time Otto filed for citizenship. Because Otto did not speak or read English well at the time, it was never corrected. Hence, the Ebbesson became Ebberson for Otto's descendants.

Helene's favorite memories in her quest for information, however, are her visits with cousins in southern Sweden. She was able to walk to the Lutheran church that her father attended in Mastocka, Sweden. She visited a well-kept cemetery on the church grounds that were the final resting places for her grandparents, uncles and many relatives. Her cousins had even placed flowers on Helene's grandparent's grave. Much information was exchanged during those few days and as she said goodbye to her cousins, they gave her a copy of her lineage dating back to 1639.



During her research, Helene discovered that many records regarding the ship's passenger lists were destroyed in a fire on Ellis Island. Records were also destroyed in Bremen during World War II.

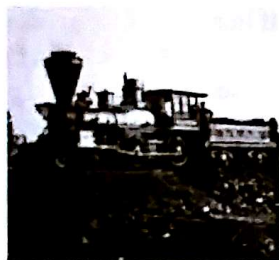
Helene's family remembers their Swedish heritage by attending Christmas Eve services at their Lutheran Church. They decorate a small tree with Swedish ornaments and for Christmas dinner, they have potato sausage, pickled herring, lingonberries, pepparkakor, and rosettes.



## Janet Harms

Janet Harms remembers with fondness her Swedish and Norwegian heritage. She has been a member of Norden Club for 15 years.

Emigrating from Skane, Sweden, Janet's maternal great grandfather, Lave Isaacson, arrived in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1868. He worked at the Union Pacific Shop in Omaha until homesteading



near Malmo, Saunders County, Nebraska, in 1869.

Janet's maternal great grandmother, Anna Sorenson Isaacson, lived a most intriguing life. She was born in Wanneborg, Sweden, and immigrated to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1868. She later moved to Malmo, Nebraska, with her husband Lave. Anna was a self-educated doctor and dentist. She made many house calls in the Malmo area. Additionally, she and Lave adopted the two young children of Lave's deceased sister. One of those children was Janet's grandfather, Nels Lave Isaacson.



Nels Isaacson, Janet's maternal grandfather, was also born in the province of Skane in Sweden in 1868 and immigrated to the United States with his parents at 6 months of age. He spent his life farming in the Malmo area of Nebraska. He married Ida Nystrom who was born in the province of Dolerne, Sweden, in 1871. She immigrated to Ogden, Iowa, in the 1880's and lived the remainder of her life with Nels in the Malmo area of Nebraska. Nels and Ida Isaacson were the parents of Janet's mother, Edna.



Janet Harms's paternal grandfather, Andrew Sorenson, was also born in Sweden in 1846, immigrating to the United States to live his life in the Malmo area of Nebraska. He met and married Isabel Scow, who was born in Kristinstad, Norway, in 1846. Andrew and Isabel Sorenson were the parents of Janet's father, Herman.

The Norwegian economy, a prosperous capitalistic welfare nation, features a combination of free market activity and government intervention. The government controls key areas such as petroleum. The country is richly endowed with natural resources - petroleum, hydropower, fish, forests, and minerals - and is highly dependent on its oil production, with oil and gas accounting for one-third of exports. Only Saudi Arabia and Russia export more oil than Norway. Wikipedia-a free content encyclopedia





## Douglas Alan Lind-Olson

Douglas Lind-Olson has been attending Norden Club events since he was a young man and is proud of his Christian Scandinavian Heritage. He attended several smorgasbords with his father, Merle Olson, and his grandfather, Albert Olson, who was a charter member. He and his wife, Karen, have been members of the Norden Club for the past five years. Doug and Karen are presently Norden Club greeters and they also share the secretarial position for the Norden Foundation. Douglas submitted his biography as follows:

"My great, great, grandparents (on the Lind side) met in Dagsnes, Sweden, and were married on March 24, 1856. Their names were Svante Lind and Anna Kajsa. Their third oldest child, Thure Lind, was my great grandfather. Thure was born in Sweden on September 12, 1861, and came to America in 1872. He eventually homesteaded in Phelps County, Nebraska, where he met and married, Ellen Nelson, in 1887, in Funk, NE. They had eight children. Their youngest son (to reach adulthood) was my grandfather, Leonard Cornelius Lind, born in Funk, NE, on January 12, 1899. On March 15, 1923, he married Clara Othelia Linder, in Axtell, NE, and had four children. The youngest was my father, Raymond Lee Lind. He was born on June 11, 1929 in Wahoo, Ne. While attending Luther College in Wahoo, he met my mother, Janet Mae Sorenson, from Malmo, NE. They were married on June 3, 1951 at Edensberg Lutheran Church in Malmo. Including me, they had three boys by the time my father, Raymond, was killed in a tragic tractor accident on October 13, 1958. My mother eventually sold the farm and moved into Ceresco with her three sons. There she met, and later married, Merle

Olson, on April 2, 1960. He adopted the three boys and later, my mother and Merle had another son and a daughter. Merle Olson died of colon cancer on November 2, 1986. Years later, on November 29th, 1997, my mother married Louis Harms, a retired farmer from Waverly, NE.

My great grandparents (on the Olson side) came to America sometime in the 1880's. My great grandfather's name was Olof Olson and he was from Sweden, whereas my great grandmother, Hannah Hansen Olson, was from Denmark. They had one son, Albert Olson, who was a charter member of the Norden Club. He was born on a farm near Ceresco, NE on November 8, 1899. He later married Olga Jenson, from the Newman Grove, NE area in 1927. They had two sons, Ralph and Merle Olson. Merle adopted me and my two brothers in 1960, and I will always be grateful for that.

My great grandparents on my mother's side (Sorenson) were all from Sweden except for my great grandmother, Isabelle Scow Sorenson, who was from Norway. She was born in Christianstad Norway in 1846. Her husband, Andrew Sorenson, was born in Sweden in 1846. My great grandfather, Nels Isaacson, was born in Sweden in 1868. His wife, Ida Nystrom, was born in Sweden in 1871. My maternal grandparents, Herman Sorenson and Edna Isaacson Sorenson, were both born here in the United States, in the area of Malmo, NE, on December 9, 1890 and July 21, 1899, respectively. They were married in 1923. They had one daughter, Janet, who is my mother and also a member of the Norden Club."



## Warren Mickelson

Warren has been a member of Norden Club for 12 years and is of Norwegian and Swedish descent.

Warren's maternal grandfather, Peter John (Johan) Carlson was born in Smaland, Sweden on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1844. He immigrated to the USA with his first wife on June 3, 1882. He was 37 years old.

Warren's grandmother, Hilda Johnsen, was Peter John Carlson's second wife. She was also born in Sweden on October 30, 1860. They were married in 1886.

Warren's paternal grandfather, Peter Annas Mickelson, was born in Mo Ranen, Norway. He was born on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 1856. Peter's wife, Elizabeth Anna Amundson, was also born in Mo Ranen, Norway. She was born on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1856.



By 1890, most Norwegian emigration was temporary labor migration to the United States, and as many as 150,000 may have eventually returned to Norway for permanent settlement.  
Wikipedia-a free content encyclopedia

## Emma Jane Mickelson

All of Jane Mickelson's ancestors came from Sweden. She has been a member of the Norden Club for 12 years.

Jane's father was a first generation American having immigrated to America from Skane, Sweden in March of 1903. He was born, Nels Bondesson, on the sixth of June in 1883 and in his youth served in the Swedish Cavalry. He changed his name to Nels Bonde Nelson following his immigration to the USA. He journeyed to the USA by ship. His port of embarkation, New York, was only the beginning of a journey that took him to Iowa where he joined others he had known in Sweden. In Iowa he became an accomplished farmer and met and married Emma Mattson Nelson on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1910.



Nels had six children. Emma Jane Mickelson was named in honor of her mother.

Jane's mother, Emma Mattson Nelson, was a second generation American. She was born on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1889 and died on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1983. Emma's father, John Matson, was born in Socken, Sweden in 1854 and immigrated to America in 1880. Emma's mother, Johanna Hokanson Matson, was born in Hagaboake, Sacken, Sweden in 1858. She immigrated to the USA in 1880 or 1881.



## Lillian Easley

Lil Easley enjoys her Swedish ancestry and



was encouraged to join the Norden Club by Paul and Sylvia Burkland. Lil has been a member for 25 years.

In 1869, Lil's grandmother, Caroline Josephine Lennart (Swanson), immigrated to Andover, Illinois, in the United States from Ven Forsaml Kalmar Ian, Sweden. Caroline had three children who all resided in the Wakefield, Nebraska area. The family has continued to make and enjoy Swedish cuisine during the Christmas holiday.



Regent	Reign	Royal motto (in Danish)	English translation
<u>Frederick VI</u>	1808 – 1839	Gud og den retfærdige sag	God and the just cause
<u>Christian VIII</u>	1839 – 1848	Gud og fædrelandet	God and the fatherland
<u>Frederick VII</u>	1848 – 1863	Folkets kærlighed, min styrke	The people's love, my strength
<u>Christian IX</u>	1863 – 1906	Med Gud for ære og ret	With God for honour and justice
<u>Frederick VIII</u>	1906 – 1912	Herren er min hjælper	The Lord is my aid
<u>Christian X</u>	1912 – 1947	Min Gud, mit land, min ære	My God, my country, my honour
<u>Frederick IX</u>	1947 – 1972	Med Gud for Danmark	With God for Denmark
<u>Margrethe II</u>	1972 –	Guds hjælp, folkets kærlighed, Danmarks styrke	God's help, the people's love, Denmark's strength

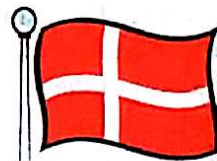
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According to the World Book, 450,000 people left Sweden between 1867 and 1886. The population of Sweden had exploded and there simply was not enough food or farm land. Most emigrants went to the United States and settled in the Midwest. Emigration decreased when Sweden developed their manufacturing, mining and forest industries. Additionally, it was the discovery of dynamite that opened up the growth of the mining industry. Dynamite was invented by a Swedish chemist, Alfred Nobel in 1867. World Book Encyclopedia

## Marilyn Hasselbalch

Marilyn has enjoyed very much celebrating her maternal Danish lineage. She has been a member of the Norden Club for the past 18 years.



Marilyn's maternal grandparents, Christen Jensen and Ane Marie Nodgaard emigrated from Copenhagen, Denmark, around 1892. Christen was serving in the military in Denmark when he and Ane were married in the church on the base where he was stationed. Christen and Ane boarded the ship for their journey to America with three young children.

The family arrived in Omaha where Christen worked for a mercantile company. Three more children were born to Christen and Ane including Marilyn's mother. The family's naturalization papers were granted on June 4, 1900.

Marilyn honored her grandmother by naming her daughter Ane and celebrates holidays with Danish food including kringler and frikadeller.

**Karen Marie  
(Berka)  
Lind-Olson**



Karen and her husband, Douglas, have been members of the Norden Club for the past five years. They have been the Norden Club's greeters for the past two years and they share the secretarial responsibilities for the Norden Foundation. Her maternal ancestors are Swedish. She writes in her biography:

"My descendant's were from Lars Victor Larson in Sweden. He was born about 1800 in a mountainous part of Sweden. He was married in 1826 to Elizabeth (Lisa). They had six children. It is uncertain whether they used the name Larson, or Ovorn (meaning mill or miller). He died in Sweden but his wife came to America, landing in New York City, with her oldest son, Jacob and his family in 1885. She lived on a farm northeast of Charter Oak, Iowa until her death in 1888. The oldest son, Jacob Magnus Larson, was my great, great grandfather. He was born on January 7, 1829, in Ostergotland, Sweden.

Jacob Magnus Larson and his wife, Elizabeth Margareta Hennigan, who was called Brita Lisa, had eleven children. All of these children were born in Sweden. One of these eleven children was my great grandfather, Andrew J. Larson. He was born in Tirserun, Ostergotland, Sweden in 1856. He married Gustava Sophia Kant. He came to this country with his two oldest sons, John and Charles. His wife and oldest daughter came later, after he had established a home. They had two farms totaling 400 acres near Charter Oak, Iowa. Most all of my descendants were farmers and worked very hard. My great grandfather, Andrew J. Larson, and his

wife, Gustava Sophia, had nine children, and most all lived in the Charter Oak area, and farmed.

My grandfather, Frank Oscar Larson, was one of the nine children. He was born in Soldier Township, near Charter Oak, in 1890. He married Verna Miller on September 21, 1921, and they had two girls, one of which lived only a few days, and they adopted a son at the age of four in 1929. The other daughter is my mother, who was born near Dow City, Iowa, on August 29, 1931.

Most all of my ancestors were farmers in the Midwest. Two of Andrew J. Larson's sons moved to South Dakota because of some cheap land, but it was not too profitable. One of the sons moved on to California, but the other remained in the Wessington Springs area of South Dakota."



Ostergotland, Sweden





## Carol Reed

Carol Reed has enjoyed being a member of the Norden Club for the past 21 years. She was invited to a meeting by neighbors, Paul and Sylvia Burklund. She has enjoyed meeting many interesting people and enjoys the many informative programs.

Her mother and paternal grandparents emigrated from Sweden.



### Maternal ancestry:

Carol's mother, Anna Norman Johnson, emigrated from Sweden with her parents and two brothers in 1910. Departing their homeland of Halsinglan was so very difficult. For little Anna, about five years old, leaving meant

having to give up a cherished doll cupboard that her father had made for her. But it also meant having to bid farewell to many loved ones---

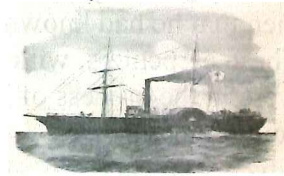


probably forever.

As they boarded the train, friends and family had gathered to wish them a safe journey and to pass along letters to other loved ones in America. There were hopes that the Norman family could deliver these precious bits of news

to those that had emigrated earlier. There were many tears. There were many hugs. But there was hope.

They sailed from Goteborg, Sweden, on the sea worthy vessel, "Marion". The trip was long, taking nearly three weeks. The family had little to eat and most meals consisted of hard breads and tea. Little Anna would have much preferred milk. Following their arrival in Philadelphia, they traveled by train to Richmond, Virginia, where Anna's paternal uncle and family were anxiously waiting.



After spending a few precious weeks with her father's family, Anna again embarked on another journey with her parents and siblings.



The family traveled by train to Wausa, Nebraska where Anna's uncle and

family lived on a farm. But when Anna arrived at the train station in Wausa, she thought she had returned to Sweden. Strangely, greeting them at the station was a man that Anna was sure she had bid farewell to back in Sweden. Her parents told her that this man had lived in the same area of Sweden as her grandparents and that his brother had bid them all farewell in Sweden.

Anna's first dinner in Wausa, Nebraska, introduced the little girl to chocolate cake. She whispered to her mother, "I don't think I like this!" Her mother quietly hushed her in good Scandinavian tradition. Carol's mother always was astonished that a small girl would not like chocolate cake.



Carol's grandparents continued to live in Wausa where her grandfather worked as a carpenter. He worked for men that he had known in Sweden. These carpenters, with whom he worked, were in the process of completing their citizenship papers. They encouraged Carol's maternal grandfather to go with them to Center, Nebraska, to start the process of obtaining the naturalization papers for the family.



Carol is most proud of her grandparent's initiative in obtaining their naturalization papers. It was not an easy process. Her grandfather had to travel 28 miles to Center, Nebraska in Knox County to start the process. Since he was the head of household, her grandfather was able to go through the process and obtain naturalization for his entire family. Because the process was tedious and travel was often an issue, many families were never naturalized as citizens.

#### Paternal ancestry:

Carol's father's parents came from Sweden as single adults in the 1880's. They met in Rockford, Illinois,



where they married and raised eight sons. In 1900, in order to be near relatives, the family moved to a farm near Wausa, Nebraska.

#### Traditions

Carol's family has a reunion every two years where they enjoy Swedish foods. This year the festival will be in Lincoln and they plan on having potato bologna, bond ost (Swedish cheese), spritz and Swedish mints. They have also enjoyed rye bread, herring, meat balls, lingonberries, rice pudding, ostakaka, pickled beets, and of course lutefisk at Christmas.

Carol decorates a Swedish Christmas tree with Swedish decorations each year as a way of honoring her Swedish heritage.



Sweden provides an extensive childcare system that guarantees a place for all young children from 1-5 years old in a public day-care facility (*förskola* or *dagis*). Between ages 6-16, children attend compulsory comprehensive school, divided in three stages. After completing the ninth grade, 90% continue with a three-year upper secondary school (*gymnasium*) leading sometimes to a vocational diploma and always to qualifications for further studies at a university or university college (*högskola*). Both upper secondary school and university studies are financed by taxes. Some Swedes go straight to work after secondary school. Wikipedia-a free content encyclopedia



## Ozzie Gilbertson

Ozzie has been a member of the Norden Club for 25 years and serves on the membership committee for the Norden Club Board of Directors. He is a Past President of the Norden Club, was instrumental in starting the Annual Smorgasbord, and has served as song leader for several years. All of his ancestors have emigrated from Norway.

### Paternal ancestry:

Timan Gilbertson, great-grandfather, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Fla (Hallingdal), Norway in 1848. He was elected to the Minnesota Legislature for one term.

Anne Tejos (Kjos), great-grandmother, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Hadeland, Norway in 1856.

Charles Hoegh, great-grandfather, immigrated to Quebec, Canada, in May of 1866, from Kafjord, Norway. He later moved to Spring Grove, Minnesota.

Theoline Knatterud, great-grandmother, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, in 1866, from Vestre Toten, Oppland, Norway.

Norway's Royal Motto  
*Alt for Norge*  
("All for Norway")

1814 Eidsvoll Oath  
*Enige og tro til Dovre faller*  
(United & Faithful until Dovre crumbles.)



Norwegian  
Coat of  
Arms

### Maternal ancestry:

Asle Olbersundet, great-grandfather immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, in 1861, from Krodsherrod, Norway.

Aase Bjertness, great-grandmother, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Krodsherrod, Norway.

Salve Reitan, great grandfather, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Aalen, Norway.

Metti Hammervold, great grandmother, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Aalen, Norway.

**Bokmål** (lit. "book language") is the most commonly used of the two official written standards of Norwegian, the other being Nynorsk. Bokmål is used by around 85-90% of the population (regardless of dialect) and is the standard most commonly taught to foreign students of Norwegian. Before 1929 the official term for Bokmål was Riksmål. Historically, Bokmål is a Norwegian variety of Danish, which was commonly written in Norway until the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Wikipedia-a free-content encyclopedia



"Ja, vi elsker dette landet" (or: "Ja, vi elsker") (In eng: "Yes, we love this land") is the national anthem of Norway. The lyrics were written by Bjornstjerne Bjornson between 1859 and 1868, and the melody was written by his cousin Rikard Nordraak in 1864. It was first performed publicly on 17 May 1864 in connection with the 50th anniversary of the constitution. Wikipedia-a free content encyclopedia

## Kay Gilbertson

All of Kay's ancestry emigrated from Norway to the first Norwegian settlement in Minnesota, Spring Grove. She has been a member of the Norden Club for 25 years. She, along with Ozzie, serves on the membership committee for the Norden Club Board of Directors.

### Paternal ancestry:

Tomas Tryhus, great grandfather, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, USA, from Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, in 1844 with his parents, Endre Tryhus and Gunvar Storla

Anne Monson, great grandmother, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Hadeland in the Lanning Valley of Norway.

(Storre) Ole Hefte, great grandfather, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Reinli Valdes, Norway, in 1852 with his parents (Gofa) Ole Hefte and Ingrid Kinneberg. Ingrid died at sea.

Sigre Engen, great grandmother, emigrated from Drammen, Norway, to

Quebec, Canada, in 1857, with her parents, Ole Engen and Margit Rotnem. They later moved to Spring Grove, Minnesota.

### Maternal ancestry:

Ole Brandelion, great grandfather, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, in 1868, from Fla, Hallingdal, Norway. Upon arriving in the USA he chose to use the last name, Ganrud.

Oline Kroshaug, great grandmother, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Hallingdal, Norway.

Dr. Ole Storlie, great grandfather, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Hallingdal, Norway, with his parents, Ole Storeli and Gjorand Husemoen. Dr. Storlie was a veterinarian.

Carrie Johnson, great grandmother, immigrated to Spring Grove, Minnesota, from Gulbrandsdahl, Norway.



*Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet*  
(Yes, we love this country)

.Ja, Vi elsker dette landet, som det stiger frem, furet, værbitt over vannet med de tusen hjem. Elsker, elsker de tog tenker på vår far og mor og den saganatt som senker drømme på vår jord. Og den saganatt som senker, senker drømme på vår jord.

Yes, we love this country as it rises forth, rugged, weathered, above the sea, with the thousands of homes. Loving, Loving it and thinking about our father and mother and the saga night that sends dreams to our earth. And the saga night that sends, sends dreams to our earth.





## Barry Alan Graham

Barry's maternal grandparents, Ella and Adolph Fiskum, are of Swedish and Norwegian descent respectively, although both of his grandparents were born in the United States. Barry has been a member of the Norden Club for the past five years.

Barry's maternal great-grandfather, Carl Nelson Bergquist (May 9, 1859-Sept. 14, 1934), emigrated from Vexio, Gronber, Smaaland, Sweden, in 1879. He came to the US as a young man about 20 and found employment in Fargo, ND. He married Thea Marie Helgeson on December 12, 1891. They had seven children of which Ella, Barry's grandmother, was their eldest daughter.

Thea's parents, Tov and Martha Helgeson, emigrated from Telemarken, Norway in 1867 to Quebec, Canada, with two sons and a three week old daughter. These five immigrants narrowly escaped death as a fire broke out aboard their steamship. It was the courageous efforts of the crew and passengers that saved their vessel. Then, traveling by oxen and wagon, they eventually arrived in Ottertail, County, Minnesota.



Here Tov built a small hut of hazel brush and other small branches but had to take shelter in their covered wagon when it rained. Before winter set in, Tov, a carpenter by trade in Norway, was able to build a two room log home from swamp oak. When this house was remodeled in 1906, only one log was rotten and had to be replaced. He also made a loom for Martha so she could weave blankets, sweaters and socks.

Tov developed a technique to save the wheat heads of his crop from the hoards of grasshoppers. It involved dragging rope across the heads of wheat at sundown to force the grasshoppers to drop to the ground. This technique was scoffed at by other neighbors but proved to be useful at harvest. Tov saved enough wheat to fulfill their flour needs. He milled the wheat in his coffee mill in his home.

Tov's and Martha's youngest child, Thea, was born in Minnesota on March 9, 1870.

Barry's grandfather's parents, Peter O. Fiskum and Sophie Bartelson, were both born in Norway. Peter O. was born in Trondjem, Norway on October 9, 1836. He served in compulsory military service in Norway. He immigrated to America in 1858 arriving in Houston County of Minnesota and later moved to Menomonee, Wisconsin. In April of 1861, he enlisted in Co.K. 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and saw considerable service in McClellan's Army. He took part in the seven day battle in the Penninsular Campaign and became ill after wading through swampy water. He spent a considerable amount of time in one of the Civil War Hospitals in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



After discharge, he moved to Fillmore County where he met and married Sophie Bartelson on January 7, 1869. Peter and Sophie had ten children of which Barry's grandfather, Adolph, was their youngest child.

Sophie was born in Ringerike, Norway on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1846. She came to America with her parents at the age of 14 (1860), settling in Fillmore County of Minnesota.

Peter and Sophie moved to Ottertail County, Minnesota, in 1871 where Peter's varied skills proved to be quite useful. He built his own sod home, farmed with oxen, cut hay and grain with a scythe, was the settlement's



dentist (pulling teeth with forceps and no anesthetic), and was the settlement's

physician. Members of the settlement would come to him, when ill, to be "bled". (Barry was given his great-grandfather's bleeder when he became a physician. Peter had used it



during the Civil War) Blood-letting or blood-cupping involved lancing the skin and then placing a heated and inverted cup over the incision. The heated air would cause a type of suction that would draw out the blood and hopefully, any impurities. This practice of blood-letting had been practiced for hundreds of years but slowly became outdated as medical knowledge increased. The psychological effect of blood-letting was probably more beneficial than the physiological effect. Peter had learned

the art of blood-letting as a soldier in Norway.

Peter was the justice of the peace performing many marriages in his home. This was a particularly embarrassing task for him so he ordered his family out of the house during the ceremony. However, his children remember listening to a few ceremonies through the stove pipe hole in the floor upstairs.

Peter was one of the organizers of Tansem Township in Clay County and was its first clerk. He was also the first County Commissioner of Clay County. Peter was also a charter member of the Grong Lutheran Church near Rollag, Minnesota, which was named in remembrance of his church in Norway.



#### Traditions:

Barry's family has held close their Scandinavian as well as their Scottish heritage. His mother is the sunbakkle queen and taught Vicki how to make them in the early years of Vicki's and Barry's marriage. Barry enjoys lefse, sunbakkles, kringler and spritz. He recalls his grandmother providing all the lefse for holidays. He remembers opening gifts on Christmas Eve, and Scandinavian decorations in his home. But mostly, he remembers summer family reunions by the lake---a midsummer dream. His Scottish heritage played a prominent role in our son's wedding. Barry wore a kilt, we had bagpipes at the church and at the reception, and Michael and Shauna were presented with traditional Scottish gifts bearing the Graham crest. Of course, we also had a Norwegian wedding cake. There are, of course, priorities.



## Vicki Lynn Graham



Because all of my ancestors originated in Norway, I claim to be 100% Norwegian-a pure bred. My husband, Barry, and I have been members of the Norden Club for the past five years. I am a current Co-President of the Norden Club and have been a Vice President and on the Membership and Smorgasbord Committees.

### Paternal ancestry:

My father's mother, Jonetta Schjodt (nee Warwick), was born on September 6, 1882 in Rissa, Norway, which is across the fjord from Trondheim. She immigrated to America through Ellis Island in 1902 and traveled by train to Renner, South Dakota. She had not learned to speak English before she left Norway, which proved uncomfortable for her when she reached her destination. Her brothers, who had immigrated earlier, erred on the date of her arrival so she sat in the train station for two days. Finally, another Norwegian immigrant helped her find her way to the farm where she would work as an indentured servant for 4 years. After her immigration to America, she would not speak Norwegian unless provoked. As she would say, "I am an American." She married John Schjodt on March 23, 1907. They had five children and my father, Merle, was their youngest child.

John Schjodt's father, Ole Pedersen Schjodt (1859-1953), was born on the Gudaamo farm near Meraker, Nord Trondelag, Norway on July 2, 1859 and immigrated by himself to America in 1880 aboard the vessel *Dampskib Tasso*. He never returned to Norway and never saw his Norwegian family again. He farmed in Minnehaha County in South Dakota. He was the Mapleton Township's Clerk, Assessor and Treasurer. He met and married Maria Jensdatter Berg on September



27, 1882. Maria (1862-1945) immigrated to America from Norway with her parents and grandfather in 1865. She was just three years old. She became a Naturalized citizen of the US in 1871. Her parents and grandfather remained in Minnehaha County until their deaths. Maria and Ole had seven children and John, my grandfather, was their eldest child. My family has ancestral data on Maria's family dating back to the 1400's.

### Maternal ancestry:

My mother's maternal great-grandfather, Ole Kasen (1838-1915), emigrated from Tinn, Telemark, Norway in 1843 with his parents, two brothers and a

three year old sister, Birgit.

My husband and I visited the church where Ole was baptized and his parents were married. It was near Atraa, Norway and was built in



1828 after the 700 year old Stavkirke was dismantled because of its pagan design.

Ole's mother, Kari Oldsdatter Maarheim, was baptized and confirmed in this Stavkirke. Kari and her husband, John Johnson Husevoll, adopted the last name of Kasen because it was the name of the tenant farm on the Maarheim estate. Unfortunately, there was not enough land to make a living at farming so they left Norway. However, this hope of finding more land would cost the family dearly. Birgit would die at sea and placed in a chest until they went ashore, one son would die of cholera and Kari would also succumb to cholera.



The family traveled by ship up the Hudson River to New York and then to Albany, New York where they buried their daughter Birgit. They continued through the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes to Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory where they arrived at a Norwegian settlement in Muskego, Racine County, Wisconsin Territory. After Kari's death John remarried



and moved his family to Fillmore County in Minnesota in 1856. Ole would eventually purchase his father's farm in Minnesota, marry Gunhild Olsdatter Bømgøen (1842-1874) on May 19, 1862, start a family and then be called to serve in the Union Army. He would return from duty to enjoy a few years of farming and then Gunhild and her unborn child would die during childbirth. This was her seventh child. Her eldest child, Karoline, would become my great-grandmother.

Karoline (1863-1880) married Andrew Brynjelson Lemme on November 11, 1880. Andrew (1848-1936) was born in Søndre Bergenhus, sub parish of Wangshoved, Voss, Norway. He immigrated to America in 1873. Karoline and Andrew had fifteen children, some of which died as young children. Their second eldest daughter, Bella, was my grandmother.

Bella Oleana Lemme married Alfred O. Waswick on January 7, 1907. Alfred was the second eldest son of Orin and Bertha Waswick. Census records indicate that Orin Waswick emigrated from Norway in 1868 and Bertha Olson immigrated to America in 1865 with her older brother, Isaac. Bella and Alfred had seven children and Hazel, my mother, was their youngest child.

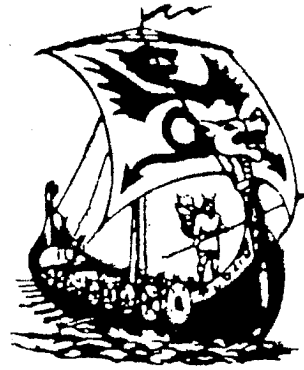


Vicki's relatives in ancestral bunads.

#### Traditions:

My grandmothers were ever present in my youth. One grandfather died long before my birth (my father was twelve) and one grandfather died in my home when I was six. Both of my grandmothers lived with us, sometimes at the same time. Of course, everyone lived with us or so it seemed. A two-bedroom bungalow gave shelter to uncles, aunts, cousins, grandmothers, and us. But that is how everyone had lived for as far back as anyone could remember. What's mine is yours. And not infrequently, what's yours is mine. It was sometimes loud, sometimes crowded, always together, and never alone---it was family. We ate lefse (my grandmother would control the amount), we ate lutefisk (my father hated it), we ate rye cakes (my brother and I would hide as much as we could for ourselves) and we ate a lot of red jello. We were confirmed Lutheran, always went to church, opened gifts on Christmas Eve, always had a "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree, took vacations in July, said "Uff-da", and loved the lakes and the mountains.

Barry's family is also steeped in Scandinavian traditions (and a little Scotch) so; Barry and I have tried to bring tradition into our family. Our daughters brought coffee and cakes to us in bed on December 13<sup>th</sup> for years to celebrate Santa Lucia Day. Nothing is more breathtaking than waking in the still of a night and seeing your beautiful daughter enter your room surrounded by an intense glow---very angelic. Our son is the kringler eating king (but not lutefisk). Barry can hold his own with lefse, kringler, sunbakkles, and spritz. We eat Swedish meatballs, pickled beets and lots of potatoes. We take vacations in July, our children are confirmed Lutherans, and we love the lakes and the mountains. And we try to surround ourselves with family. We love our heritage.



## **Section IV**

# **2007 Norden Club Membership Roster and Scandinavian Lineage**





# Norden Club 2007

	Surname	First Name (nee)	City	ST	Heritage	Membership
1	Ahlquist	Olaf Richard	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	11 years
2	Ahlquist	Dagmar	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	11 years
3	Alexis	Jeanette	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
4	Anderson	Dale	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
5	Anderson	Marjorie	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
6	Anderson	Donna	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
7	Anderson	Ginger	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	18 years
8	Anderson	Glen	Ceresco	Ne	Dane/Swede	10 years
9	Anderson	Bonnie	Ceresco	Ne	Swede	10 years
10	Anderson	Marilyn	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
11	Andrews	Bob	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	New
12	Andrews	Kathy	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	New
13	Aspegren	Roger	Denton	Ne	Norsk	4 years
14	Aspegren	Charlotte	Denton	Ne	Non-Scan.	4 years
15	Backstrom	Linnier	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
16	Backstrom	Marie	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
17	Baldwin	Robert	Lincoln	Ne	English	New
18	Baldwin	Lucy	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	New
19	Bangsund	Kathryn	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	3 years
20	Bellinger	Wayne	Lincoln	Ne	German	5 years
21	Bellinger	Leona	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
22	Berg	Osa	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	9 years
23	Bousquet	Mike	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	new
24	Bousquet	Vicki	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	new
25	Bowen	Vaughan	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	4 years
26	Bowen	Mary	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	4 years
27	Brass	Mary Cecilie	Lincoln	Ne	Dane/Norsk	3 years
28	Brass	Gene	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	3 years
29	Broman	Don	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	13 years
30	Burklund	Paul	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Charter member
31	Burklund	Sylvia	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
32	Campbell	Jack D.	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	18 years
33	Campbell	Sally	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Norsk	18 years
34	Carlson	Joan	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	12 years
35	Carlson	Stan	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	12 years
36	Carlson	Paul	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	8 years
37	Carlson	Carol	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	8 years
38	Carlson	Dick	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Norsk/Dane	13 years
39	Carlson	Gwelda	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	13 years
40	Carlson	Ralph	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
41	Carlson	Margaret	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	10 years
42	Carlson	Roy	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
43	Carlson	Loraine	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
44	Carlson	Sandra	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
45	Christensen	Clarence	Valparaiso	Ne	Dane	Life-membership
46	Christensen	Ruth	Valparaiso	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
47	Christensen	Isabel	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
48	Contreras	Mary	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	8 years

# Norden Club 2007

	Surname	First Name (nee)	City	ST	Heritage	Membership
49	Corcoran	Eileen N.	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	8 years
50	Crandall	Dr. Curtis	Lincoln	Ne	Dane/Norsk	7 years
51	Crandall	Patricia	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	7 years
52	Curtis	Mildred	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
53	Denicola	Christine	Lincoln	Ne	Dane/Norsk	10 years
54	Doe	Kenneth	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
55	Doe	Geraldine	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
56	Easley	Lillian	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	25 years
57	Easley	Dick	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	25 years
58	Eckersley	Dika	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	2 years
59	Ecklund	Rev. Stanley	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	17 years-?
60	Ecklund	Jeanette	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	17 years-?
61	Ekblad	Dorothy	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
62	Engstrom	Carl	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	5 years
63	Engstrom	Debbie	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	5 years
64	Erickson	Merlin	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Dane	15 years
65	Erickson	Donald H.	Omaha	Ne	Swedish Council	Honorary
66	Fairchild	Zane	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	52 years
67	Fairchild	Ethel	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	52 years
68	Fjeld	Edna R.	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	10 years
69	Francis	Charles	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	<5 years
70	Francis	Barbara	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Dane	<5 years
71	Fredrickson	Robert	Roca	Ne	Swede	22 years
72	Fredrickson	Jane	Roca	Ne	Swede	22 years
73	Fredstrom	Marvene	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	24 years
74	Friesen	Ray	Waverly	Ne	Non-Scan.	<5 years
75	Friesen	Mary	Waverly	Ne	Norsk	<5 years
76	Gage	Gene	Roca	Ne	Swede/Dane	New
77	Gage	Dorrie	Roca	Ne	Non-Scan.	New
78	Gilbertson	Ozzie	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	25 years
79	Gilbertson	Kay	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	25 years
80	Goggins	Vera	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	17 years
81	Grace	Dr. Oliver	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
82	Grace	Vera	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
83	Graham	Barry	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Norsk	6 years
84	Graham	Vicki (Schjodt)	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	6 years
85	Gustavsson	George	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
86	Hagelstein	Kenneth	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	35 years
87	Hagelstein	Delores	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	35 years
88	Hagstrom	Leone	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
89	Halvorsen	Charlotte	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	20 years
90	Hansen	Erik	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	20 years
91	Hansen	Ingrid	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	20 years
92	Hansen	Susan	Lincoln	Ne		1 year
93	Hansen	Vera	Ceresco	Ne	Dane/Norsk	Life-membership
94	Hanson	Lois	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	17 years
95	Hanson	Wave	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
96	Harms	Janet	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Norsk	13 years



# Norden Club 2007

	Surname	First Name (nee)	City	ST	Heritage	Membership
97	Hasselbalch	Marilyn	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	18 years
98	Hayden	Ralph	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	15 years
99	Hayden	Mildred	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	15 years
100	Heier	Rev. Harlan	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	3 years
101	Heier	Shirley	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	3 years
102	Holmberg	Darlene	Lincoln	Ne	Dane/Swede	New
103	Howard	Alice	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
104	Howard	Dan	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	15 years
105	Howard	Barbara	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	15 years
106	Huebner	Paul	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk/Swede	4 years
107	Huebner	Becky	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	4 years
108	Hultstrand	Mary Ann	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	1 year
109	Hultstrand	Kenneth	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Dane/Norsk	1 year
110	Jensen	Ansgar	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	10 years
111	Jensen	Linda	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
112	Jensen	Jan	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	11 years
113	Johnson	Marie (Jessen)	Ceresco	Ne	Danish	25 years
114	Johnson	Quentin	Ceresco	Ne	Swedish	25 years
115	Johnson	Marleen	Lincoln	Ne	Swedish	17 years
116	Johnson	Arlene	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	30 years
117	Johnson	Bruce	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	3 years
118	Johnson	Clarence	Lincoln	Ne	Dane/Norsk	7 years
119	Johnson	Charlene	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	7 years
120	Johnson	Clinton	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk/Swede	10 years
121	Johnson	Emogene	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	10 years
122	Johnson	DeMaris	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	3 years
123	Johnson	Dr. Lois I.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	11 years
124	Johnson	Lloyd	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	12 years
125	Johnson	Barbara	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	12 years
126	Johnson	Robert H.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
127	Johnson	Elaine	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
128	Johnson	Ronald	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	12 years
129	Johnson	Sally	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	12 years
130	Johnson	Virgil	Omaha	Ne	Norwegian Council	Honorary
131	Johnson	Ruth	Omaha	Ne	Norwegian Council	Honorary
132	Jorgensen	Dorothy	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	Life-membership
133	Kammann	Norma	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
134	Kammann	Karen	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
135	Kiple	Dr. David	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	17 years
136	Kiple	Joan	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	17 years
137	Kramer	Charlotte	Lincoln	Ne	Norwegian/Danish	5 years
138	Krauter	Kenneth	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	13 years
139	Krauter	Sonja	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk/Swede	13 years
140	Kuhn	Barbara	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	>15 years
141	Landgren	Dr. Norman	Shickley	Ne	Swede	25 years
142	Landgren	Eloise	Shickley	Ne	Non-Scan.	25 years
143	Larson	Roger	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	2 years
144	Larson	Shirley	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	2 years

# Norden Club 2007

	Surname	First Name (nee)	City	ST	Heritage	Membership
145	Lauritzen	Bruce	Omaha	Ne	Danish Council	Honorary
146	Lehecka	Patricia L.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	9 years
147	Lehn	Don	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	23 years
148	Lehn	Eudean	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	23 years
149	Lindgren	Marion	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	16 years
150	Lindgren	Dr. Janet	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	25 years
151	Lind-Olson	Douglas	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Norsk	6 years
152	Lind-Olson	Karen	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	6 years
153	Luethje	John R.	Roca	Ne	Swede	17 years
154	Luethje	Charlotte	Roca	Ne	Dane	17 years
155	Lund	Sheridan	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	4 years
156	Lund	Thomas J.	Omaha	Ne	Swedish Council	Honorary
157	Lunde	John	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	16 years
158	Lunde	Joyce	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	16 years
159	Madsen	Donald	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	5 years
160	Madsen	Beverly	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	5 years
161	Mares	Elva	Lincoln	Ne	Dane/Swede	10 years
162	Markin	Wyman (Bud)	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	6 years
163	Martin	Patricia (Patsy)	Eagle	Ne	Swede	10 years
164	Maseman	Stuart	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	25 years
165	Maurer	Marvin D.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	2 years
166	Mayhew	Helene C. (Ebberson)	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	12 years
167	McClain	Donna	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	17 years
168	Megard	Ruth	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	20 years
169	Mickelson	Emma Jane	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	12 years
170	Mickelson	Warren	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Norsk	12 years
171	Mook	Frank	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	11 years
172	Mook	Bonnie	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	11 years
173	Mumgaard	Milo	Lincoln	Ne	Danish	Life-membership
174	Mumgaard	Mary	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
175	Myrberg	Sandra	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	2 years
176	Narveson	Phyllis G.	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	10 years
177	Narveson	Robert D.	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	10 years
178	Nelson	Len	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	8 years
179	Nelson	Arlene	Lincoln	Ne	Swedish	8 years
180	Nelson	Robert J.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	11 years
181	Nielsen	Olga	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	15 years ?
182	Nimic	Robert	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	5 years
183	Nimic	Faye	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	5 years
184	Nord	Margaret	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	50 years
185	Nord	Irene	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	50 years
186	Norval	Harry	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	10 years
187	Norval	Bruni	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	10 years
188	Nuttleman	Karen (Dahlbeck)	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Finn	3 years
189	Nyquist	Merwyn	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
190	Nyquist	Lois	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
191	Oliver	Shirley	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	13 years
192	Olson	Stanley W	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	3 years
193	Olson	Loretta (Pohlman)	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	3 years

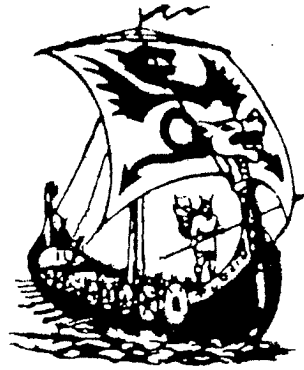
# Norden Club 2007

	Surname	First Name (nee)	City	ST	Heritage	Membership
194	Olson	Howard D.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	16 years
195	Olson	Mavis	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	16 years
196	Olson	Patricia	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	>15 years
197	Olson	Evert	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
198	Olson	Virginia	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
199	Olson	Ryan	Lincoln	Ne		New
200	Orr	Clarice	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
201	Orr	Kay	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Honorary
202	Ottoson	Howard W.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
203	Ottoson	Margaret Jane	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	Life-membership
204	Paulson, Jr.	Hubert	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	4 years
205	Pearson	Keith	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	3 years
206	Pearson	Ruth	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	3 years
207	Pedersen	William M.	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	11 years
208	Pedersen	Olga	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	11 years
209	Pedersen	Stenvald	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	25 years
210	Pedersen	Ida	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	25 years
211	Petersen	Dean	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	New
212	Petersen	Darlene	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	New
213	Peterson	Charles M.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	6 years
214	Peterson	Harlan	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	8 years
215	Peterson	Lois	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	8 years
216	Peterson	Paul	Lincoln	Ne	Norwegian	2 years
217	Peterson	Bernice	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	2 years
218	Peterson	Robert E.	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
219	Peterson	Joan	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	20 years
220	Price	Rod	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	13 years
221	Price	LaJean	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	13 years
222	Ramey	Virginia			Swede	New
223	Reed	Carol	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	21 years
224	Riedesel	Laureen	Beatrice	Ne	Dane	3 years
225	Riensch	Vernon	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	5 years
226	Riensch	Elaine	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	5 years
227	Riveland	Loretta	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	3 years
228	Rogers	Jane	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	>10 years
229	Rolofson	Fern	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	Life-membership
230	Rousek	Audrey	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
231	Rousek	Ernie	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	20 years
232	Ruliffson	Wayne	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	8 years
233	Ruliffson	Jan	Lincoln	Ne	Swede/Norsk	8 years
234	Rustad	Carol	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	3 years
235	Rudd	M. Eugene	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	39 years
236	Rudd	Eileen (Hovland)	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	39 years
237	Sahs	Hink	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	1 year
238	Salmon	Vera	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk/Dane	5 years
239	Salmon	Gary	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	5 years
240	Sandahl	Dean	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
241	Sandahl	Della	Lincoln	Ne	German	10 years



# Norden Club 2007

	Surname	First Name (nee)	City	ST	Heritage	Membership
242	Schneider	Connie	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	15 years
243	Seagren	Dr. Alan	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	>20 years
244	Seagren	Sharon	Lincoln	Ne	German	>20 years
245	Seagren	Lynne	Wausa	Ne	Swede	18 years
246	Sederberg	Curtis	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	15-20 years
247	Sederberg	Mary	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	15-20 years
248	Singsass	Duane	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	8 years
249	Singsass	Karen	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	8 years
250	Sirk	Illar	Lincoln	Ne	Estonian	17 years
251	Sjogren	Merle	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	5 years
252	Sjogren	Betty	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	5 years
253	Smith	Keith	Ceresco	Ne	Non-Scan.	10 years
254	Smith	Arlyce	Ceresco	Ne	Swede	10 years
255	Stefferd	Ruth J.	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	3 years
256	Stephenson	Carla	Omaha	Ne	Swede	20 years
257	Swanson	Ruth	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	Life-membership
258	Terrell	Louise	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk	5 years
259	Thomsen	Ron	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	5 years
260	Thomssen	David W.	Lincoln	Ne	Dane	8 years
261	Thomssen	Margie (Horst)	Lincoln	Ne	German	13 years
262	Tonak	Dee	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	2-3 years
263	Wagner	Jerrie	Lincoln	Ne		2-3 years
264	Wanek	Mary	Lincoln	Ne	Swedish	2 years
265	Wanek	Francis	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	2 years
266	Westberg	Vernon	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	10 years
267	Westberg	Jan	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	10 years
268	White	Joan Tomlinson	Lincoln	Ne	Dane/Swede	13 years
269	White	Dick	Lincoln	Ne	Irish	4 years
270	Whiteley	Arlene M. (Olson)	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	9 years
271	Wolter	John	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	20 years
272	Wolter	Doris	Lincoln	Ne	Swede	20 years
273	Zins	Bill	Lincoln	Ne	Non-Scan.	10 years
274	Zins	Karen	Lincoln	Ne	Norsk/Dane/Swede	10 years



## **Section V**

# **Norden Club Officers (past and present)**





## Norden Club Officers



Ozzie Gilbertson, Howard Ottoson,  
Dorothy Ekblad and Rev. Emory Pokrant  
1987

1. **Reuben G. Gustavson** *1<sup>st</sup> President* (1947)
2. **E.G. Ekblad** *1st Secretary/Treasurer* (1947-1960) He was also a member of the Grieg Male chorus.
3. **Harry Jespersen** *President* (1968)
4. **C.E. Berg** *Treasurer* (1968)
5. **James Brinn** *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President* (1968)
6. **Louis Langhus** *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President* (1968)
7. **A.E. Lind** *Assistant Secretary* (1968)
8. **Frank A. Johnson** *Sergeant-at-arms* (1968)
9. **Ernie Johnson** *Secretary/Treasurer* (1960-1973)
10. **Earl Christiansen** *President* (dates unknown)
11. **Ollie Christensen** *President* (dates unknown)
12. **Milo Mumgaard** *President* (dates unknown)
13. **Marion and Wave Hanson** *Vice Presidents* (dates unknown)
14. **Bob Palme** *President* (dates unknown)  
He was also a member of Grieg Male Chorus.
15. **Harold Holck** *President* (1959)
16. **Paul Burklund** *Secretary/ Treasurer* (1973-1987)
17. **Elmer Christiansen** *President* (1977- 1978)
18. **Otto Hoiberg** *President* (1979-1980) *Vice President* (1977-1978)
19. **G. Vincent Nelson** *President* (1981-1982) *Vice President* (1979-1980)
20. **Professor Lester Larson** *President* (1983-1984) *Vice President* (1981-1982)
21. **Sam Dahl** *President* (1985)
22. **Howard Ottoson** *President* (1985-1986) *Vice President* (1984-1985)
23. **Rev. Emory and Myrtle Pokrant** *Presidents* (1987-88)  
*Vice Presidents* (dates unknown)



24. **Dorothy Ekblad** *Treasurer* (1987-1988) *Secretary/Treasurer* (1989-2002)  
*Library Chairperson* (2003) *Newsletter editor* (1987-2007) *Historian* (2000-2007) *Reservations* (through 2007)
25. **Norris Swanson** *Vice President* (1988)
26. **Norman Landgren** *Secretary/Treasurer* (1988)
27. **Alan and Sharon Seagren** *Presidents* (1989-1990)
28. **Stuart and Martha Maseman** *Presidents* (1991-1992)  
*Vice Presidents* (1989-1990)
29. **Ozzie and Kay Gilbertson** *Presidents* (1993-1994)  
*Vice Presidents* (1991-1992) *Membership Committee* (?-2007)
30. **Robert and Jane Fredrickson** *Vice Presidents* (1992)
31. **Carol Reed** *President* (1995 1996) *Vice President* (1993-1994)  
*Courtesy Chairperson* (?-2004)
32. **Dr. William and Eleanor Splinter** *Vice Presidents* (1995-1996)
33. **Jan and Herb Lingren** *Presidents* (1997-1998)
34. **Ron and Sally Johnson** *Presidents* (1999-2000) *Vice Presidents* (1997-1998)
35. **Sally Johnson** *Library Chairperson* (2003)
36. **John Lunde** *Treasurer* (1999-2002)
37. **John and Charlotte Luethje** *Presidents* (2001-2002)
38. **Paul and Carol Carlson** *Presidents* (2003-2004) *Vice Presidents* (2001-2002)
39. **Len and Arlene Nelson** *Presidents* (2005) *Vice Presidents* (2003-2004)
40. **Carol Rustad** *Vice President* (2006)
41. **Ingrid Hansen** *Treasurer* (2003-2007)
42. **Charlene Johnson** *Courtesy Chairperson* (2004-2007)
43. **Karen Zins** *President* (2006-2007) *Vice President* (2005)
44. **Vicki Graham** *President* (2006-2007) *Vice President* (2005)
45. **Mary Contreras** *Vice President* (2007) *Secretary* (2002-2006)  
*Newsletter Editor* (1994-2007)
46. **Vera Salmon** *Secretary* (2007)

Others who have played a significant role in meetings:

1. **W. A. Rosene** - 1<sup>st</sup> music director of Norden Club
2. **Bob Palme**- song leader (early 1980's)
3. **Vince Nelson**- piano accompaniment and song leader (1980's)
4. **Larry Monson**- song leader
5. **Jeanette Ecklund**- piano accompaniment and song leader
6. **John Lunde**- song leader
7. **Ozzie Gilbertson**- song leader
8. **Eileen Rudd**- piano accompaniment (?-2007)
9. **Barb and Lloyd Johnson**- flags (2004-2007)
10. **Lillian Halberg**-help with reservations and mailings
11. **Leona Bellinger**- help with reservations (?-2007)
12. **Marge Anderson**- help with reservations (?-2007)

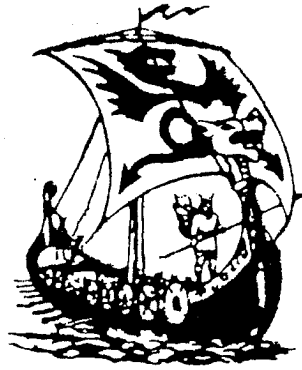




*The preceding information has been recorded in letters, newsletters or other correspondence. Most certainly, there are other members of Norden Club who have held offices that are not on this list. This list can be edited when additional information is available.*







## **Section VI**

# **Norden Club Constitution and Duties of Officers**



CONSTITUTION of the NORDEN CLUB of LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

March 1947

Article I

The name of this Club shall be--The Norden Club of Lincoln. The headquarters shall be Lincoln, Nebraska.

Article II

The object of this Club shall be to promote acquaintanceship with one another of residents of Lancaster County, and its environs, of Scandinavian descent; to interest the members in preserving for the benefit of the United States of America the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia; and to help promote progress of the Nation, State, and Community.

Article III

The officers of this Club shall be, President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a General and Financial Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, an Advisory Council of four members, a Sergeant-At-Arms, and an Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms. The immediate past President shall be a member of the Advisory Committee. The Executive Council shall be comprised of the officers and Advisory Committee.

Article IV

The president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer shall perform the usual duties pertaining to such offices.

Article V

The president, vice-president, and secretary, and treasurer shall be elected annually. The first member of the advisory committee shall hold office for three years, the second member for two years, the third for one year. Thereafter one member shall be elected each year to serve for three years. The president shall appoint a program committee, and a membership committee of 3 members each.

Article VI

Nomination of officers shall be made through a nominating committee to be appointed by the chair. The vote shall be by ballot.

Article VII

Any resident of Lancaster County or its environs, of Scandinavian descent or of Scandianvian interests, may become a member of this Club upon recommendation by a member, and approval by the membership committee, and election by the Club. Members shall be (a) Active Members and (b) Honorary Members.

Article VIII

The annual dues shall be five dollars. Honorary members shall be non-paying.

Article IX

The meetings, monthly or otherwise, shall be held at noon the third Monday of the month from 12-1:30, or at such time and place as the Executive Council may determine. Meetings to be held throughout the year, except for the months, June, July, and August. That an outing or Club picnic be held sometime during the summer months.

Article X

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any meeting provided the proposed amendment has received the approval of five members of the Executive Council.



CONSTITUTION of the NORDEN CLUB of LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

March 1947  
Amended May 1989

Article I

The name of this Club shall be--The Norden Club of Lincoln.  
The headquarters shall be Lincoln, Nebraska.

Article II

The object of this Club shall be to promote fellowship among individuals of Scandinavian descent; to interest the members in preserving for the benefit of the United States of America the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia; and to help promote progress of the Nation, State, and Community.

Article III

The officers of this club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be combined, or assistants may be appointed, as deemed necessary. The immediate past President shall be a member of the Executive Committee, which shall be comprised of the officers of the Club.

Article IV

The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall perform the usual duties pertaining to such offices.

Article V

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every two years. The Vice-President shall serve as program Chair, who may select other members to serve on the committee. The President may appoint a membership committee or any other committee deemed appropriate.

Article VI

Nominations of officers shall be made by the Executive Committee; but nominations may be made from the floor, upon consent of the proposed nominee. The election vote shall be by voice or by ballot.

Article VII

Any person of Scandinavian descent, and their spouses, or of Scandinavian interests, may become a member of this Club upon recommendation by a member. The membership shall consist of (a) Active members, (b) Honorary members, and (c) Life members.

Article VIII

Annual dues for Active members shall be determined by approval of the Executive Committee. Honorary and Life members shall be non-paying.

Article IX

The meetings shall be held at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee, after consultation with the membership.

Article X

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any meeting, provided the proposed amendment has received the approval of four members of the Executive Committee.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORDEN CLUB  
OF  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Originated March 1947  
Amended May, 1989  
Amended March 20, 2000

ARTICLE I

The name of this Club shall be -- The Norden Club of Lincoln. The headquarters shall be Lincoln, Nebraska.

ARTICLE II

The object of this Club shall be to promote fellowship among individuals of Scandinavian descent; to interest the members in preserving for the benefit of the United States of America the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia; and to help promote progress of the Nation, State, and Community.

ARTICLE III

The Executive Committee of the Norden Club Board of Directors shall comprise of the immediate past President, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board Members would include the chairpersons of the Membership Committee, Courtesy/Scandinavian Council liaison person and the President of the Norden Club Foundation. The Smorgasboard Committee and the Nominating Committee serve as stand alone committees and reports to the Board of Directors. As deemed necessary, assistants and/or additional committees may be appointed.

ARTICLE IV

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall perform the usual duties pertaining to such officers.

ARTICLE V

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasuere shall be elected every two years. The Vice-President shall serve as program chair, who may select other members to serve on the committee. The President may appoint a membership committee or any other

committee deemed appropriate.

#### ARTICLE VI

Nominations of officers shall be made by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. Nominations may be made from the floor, upon consent of the proposed nominee. The election vote shall be by a voice vote or by ballot if necessary at the September meeting. The Nominating Committee shall be selected by the President.

#### ARTICLE VII

Any person of Scandinavian descent, and their spouses, or of Scandinavian interest, may become a member of this club upon recommendation by a member. The membership shall consist of: (a) Active members, (b) Honorary members, and (c) Life members.

#### ARTICLE VIII

Annual dues for Active members shall be determined by approval of the Executive Committee. Honorary and Life members shall be non-paying.

#### ARTICLE IX

The meetings shall be held at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee, after consultation with the membership.

#### ARTICLE X

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any meeting, provided the proposed amendment has received the approval of four members of the Executive Committee.

Minutes of a Special Meeting called for the Organization of  
a Scandinavian Club.

Febr. 17, 1947.

Pursuant to the suggestion and invitation of Dr. J. E. Alexis a group of twelve men met in Dining Room No. 2 of the University Club located in the Stuart Building, Lincoln, Nebraska at 12 o'clock noon, Febr. 17, 1947, the purpose of this meeting to discuss and formulate plans for the organization of a society or club in this city, to be composed of male residents of Lancaster County who are of Scandinavian birth or descent.

Those present were:

Dr. J. E. Alexis	H. M. Ohslund
E. G. Ekblad	Walter R. Johnson
Richard O. Johnson	A. L. Lung
F. A. Peterson	A. L. Elmquist
Chas J. Warner	H. W. Jespersen
G. Prestegard	C. E. Berg

Two men invited to this meeting were unable to be present namely Chancellor Gustafson and Geo. Rosenlof.

Dr. Alexis called the meeting to order and on motion was unanimously elected temporary chairman of this meeting. C. E. Berg was named temporary secretary.

Motion adopted that the twelve members present together with the two absent members be named as a committee on membership.

On motion of Walter R. Johnson the chairman was authorized and instructed to select a suitable place and make arrangements for future meetings.

On motion of Walter R. Johnson the chairman was directed to name a committee to nominate and present a list of candidates for permanent officers, at the next meeting.

Motion adopted that the chairman appoint a committee of three to draft a tentative constitution for this club.

To this committee the chairman named G. Prestegard, H. M. Ohslund and H. W. Jespersen.

The chairman called for an expression of the group with reference to proper dues for membership in this organization and the consensus of opinion favored an annual fee of \$5.00.

The group also favored having an annual evening meeting some time this spring to which the ladies should be invited and also the members of our present Legislature.

No definite decision was reached on discussion pertaining to a suitable name for the club, and eligibility to membership, further discussion and action being deferred until the next meeting.

The chairman fixed the date for the next meeting of this group as Febr. 24, 1947.

Meeting adjourned

C. E. Berg, Sec. pro tem



## **Duties of the Various Offices**

### **Presidents or Co-Presidents**

Prepare an agenda and preside at four general meetings, work as ex-officio on the Membership, Foundation, Smorgasbord, and Budget Committees as well as others that are deemed necessary. Write news articles for the four newsletters.

### **Vice President or Co-Vice Presidents**

Preside at any meetings if the President is/are absent. Secure the speakers for the three programs during the year. Assign greeters, social hour hosts, people in charge of the table flags as well as the large flags, invocator, pianist, and song leader. Contact by phone and/or letter to the Church and East Campus Union to secure dates for the coming year no later than August the preceding year.

### **Secretary**

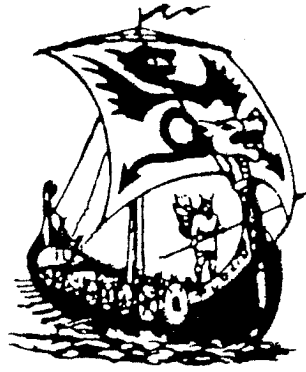
Maintain up-to date membership list, take minutes at the four Board Meetings and submit interviews of Norden members to the Newsletter.

### **Treasurer**

Maintain financial records, prepare an annual financial budget to be presented at the November Board Meeting and submit financial reports for the Board Meetings. Work with the Membership Committee to bring delinquent members to current status. Work with the reservation persons to collect dues and reservations monies at the meetings.

### **Historian/Editor**

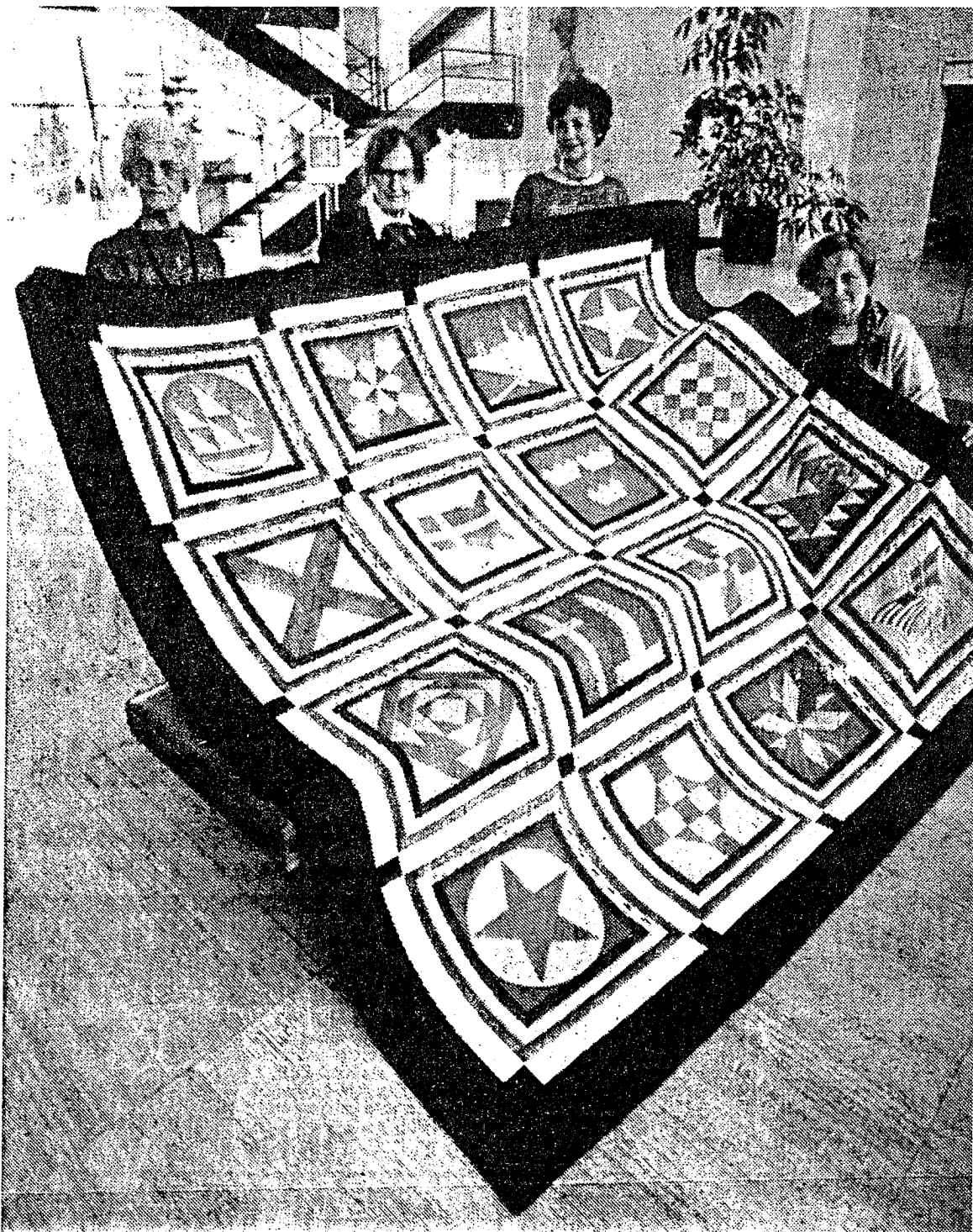
Maintain a scrapbook of any printed material, photo's etc. Be a source of data about the Club's traditions, etc. as well as to suggest persons to help in various ways. Also, collect and prepare articles for the Newsletter. May also do interviews of Norden Club members to be published in the Newsletter.



## **Section VII**

# **Newspaper articles, Publications, and Memorabilia**





Quilt sewn for the New Sweden 1988 Celebration  
commemorating the first Swedish immigrants to America in  
1638

Mattie and Emmaline Stilwell, Anne Gohde and Sally Campbell





# Nebraskans stitch together quilt of history for Swedish monarchs

By David Swartzlander  
Journal Writer

By Christmas, a beautiful quilt made in Lincoln could be keeping King Carl Gustaf XVI and Queen Silvia of Sweden warm.

The quilt was sewn as part of the New Sweden '88 celebration — commemorating the first Swedish immigrants to America 350 years ago.

It took more than 350 hours to make. There is at least one mile of stitching in it. And it includes blocks that were approved not only by the 12 U.S. cities that hosted the king and queen in April, but by the royal couple themselves.

"It's irreplaceable," said Sally Holmes Campbell, a regional adviser to New Sweden '88.

Work on the quilt started in February, but the reason for it began more than 350 years ago. In 1626, Peter Minuit hoped to set up a trading company to rival a Dutch West Indies company, and persuaded Axel Oxenstierna, the Swedish queen's first minister, that a Swedish

settlement in North America was possible. After getting the royal blessing and financial support from Dutch and Swedish merchants, the first merchant ship, Kalmar Nyckel, left Stockholm in 1635. The naval vessel Fogel Grip followed in November 1637.

## Arrived in 1638

The Swedes arrived in Delaware Bay in March 1638 at what is now Wilmington, Del. They built Fort Christina, named after the queen. Log farmsteads, the first in America, soon sprang up around Fort Elfsberg, built in 1643 near present-day Salem, and soon stretched throughout the colony.

With 1988 being the 350th anniversary of the New Sweden Colony, organizers of the New Sweden celebration decided a patchwork quilt would be a truly American gift to present to the king and queen.

They called Campbell to see if she could put it together. She did.

Lincolnite Ann Gohde, who is not Swede but is an accomplished quilter, pieced each of the squares. They include the three-crown Swedish symbol, the New Sweden logo, a Nebraska windmill and squares representing the 12 cities the royal couple visited as part of the New Sweden celebration last spring. Also included was a block representing the Jubilee Cities, towns the royal couple could not visit but that staged New Sweden celebrations. In Omaha, one of the Jubilee Cities, Carl Wilhelm Olson, former president of Olson Construction Co. of Lincoln, was honored with the Swedish Heritage Award.

## Cities chose designs

Each city chose the design it wanted, Campbell said. The quilters used log cabin borders that depict tiny American flags and Statues of Liberty to frame each quilt square because the Swedes brought log cabins to America.

The quilt uses the colors of the Swedish flag.

See QUILT on page

From  
page 1

## Quilt

Sweden and the United States — the familiar red, white and blue and Sweden's blue and yellow — to make the squares.

Once approved by the cities and the king and queen, the squares were returned for quilting — all except the New York City skyline square — the most difficult to make. The quilt would have been finished sooner but for that one lost block that never was recovered. So

Gohde set to work duplicating it.

The blocks then were assembled into the quilt by internationally known quilters Emmaline and Mattie Stilwell of Unadilla.

"If we were all paid by the hour, you couldn't afford it," Emmaline Stilwell said.

## Showing at Sheldon

A private, preview showing of the quilt was held Thursday at the Sheldon

Art Gallery. It now is on public display at Sheldon until Oct. 9. Then it will be taken to Minneapolis to be displayed at the Swedish Institute. Sometime late November or early December, the quilt will head overseas to the king and queen.

## NEW SWEDEN '88

### ROYAL QUILT PROJECT

NEW SWEDEN '88 is a year-long celebration commemorating the first Swedish immigrants to America. These early Scandinavian pioneers sailed aboard the Kalmar Nyckel and landed in Delaware in 1638. The settlement was called New Sweden.

In January of this year, the national NEW SWEDEN committee met in Minneapolis to finalize their plans for the Royal visit in April. King Carl XVI Gustav and Queen Silvia would be visiting twelve pre-selected cities on their tour.

The Royal Cities determined that they wanted to present a quilt to their Majesties. We were asked to coordinate the project and were told that the quilt was to be the red, white, and blue of the American flag and the blue and yellow of the Swedish flag.

Through research in quilt reference books, magazines, etc., several choices were sent to each city and they chose the design they preferred. Some of the designs are the official state patterns and some are original. We decided to use "Log Cabin" borders to frame each quilt square after finding through additional research that the Swedes introduced the log cabin home to America.

There are four additional squares in the quilt -- one with the NEW SWEDEN '88 logo, one honoring the King and Queen, one with the official Nebraska state square -- where it all happened -- and one for the 100 Jubilee Cities (cities and towns in the USA celebrating the occasion with a special event). Omaha was one of the Jubilee Cities and hosted a dinner in April honoring Lincolnite Carl Olson (representing successful descendants of Swedish immigrants in the state), Immanuel Medical Center in Omaha, and Bethphage Mission in Axtell.

Ann Gohde of Lincoln, a most accomplished quilter, pieced each of the squares. They were then mounted and sent to the twelve Royal cities for presentation to the King and Queen at the time of their visit to that city. Following the Royal visits, the quilt squares were returned to Lincoln where they were assembled into a quilt "top" and then quilted by two internationally-known quilters, Miss Emmaline Stilwell and Mrs. Mattie Stilwell of Unadilla, Nebraska.

It goes without saying that this project has been both a challenge and a pleasure. We were privileged to see the Minnesota quilt square presented to the King and Queen in Minneapolis in April, and to meet them personally.

It has indeed been a thrill to celebrate our Swedish heritage during this very memorable year in this very memorable way.

Marjorie Olson Eaton  
Sally Holmes Campbell

Regional Advisors, NEW SWEDEN '88

**Dorothy Ekblad shares**  
**"the best-known secret in Lincoln"**  
**Lincoln Journal Star**  
**Monday, January 6, 1992**

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1992 LINCOLN, NE. JOURNAL

***Norden Club called 'the best-known secret in Lincoln'***

# Club shares interest in Scandinavia

By Fred Knapp  
 Journal Writer

One person called it "the best-known secret in Lincoln." But its roughly 275 members know the Norden Club as a place to share their interest in Scandinavian heritage.

Four times a year, the group meets for dinner and a program, including singing.

"We probably murder the national anthems, but we struggle through" in the Scandinavian languages, jokes past president Al Seagren.

The name of the club is apparently an amalgam of the names of the countries from which most members trace their lineage — Norway, Denmark and Sweden — as well as a reference to the Norse heritage, according to Dorothy Ekblad, club secretary-treasurer.

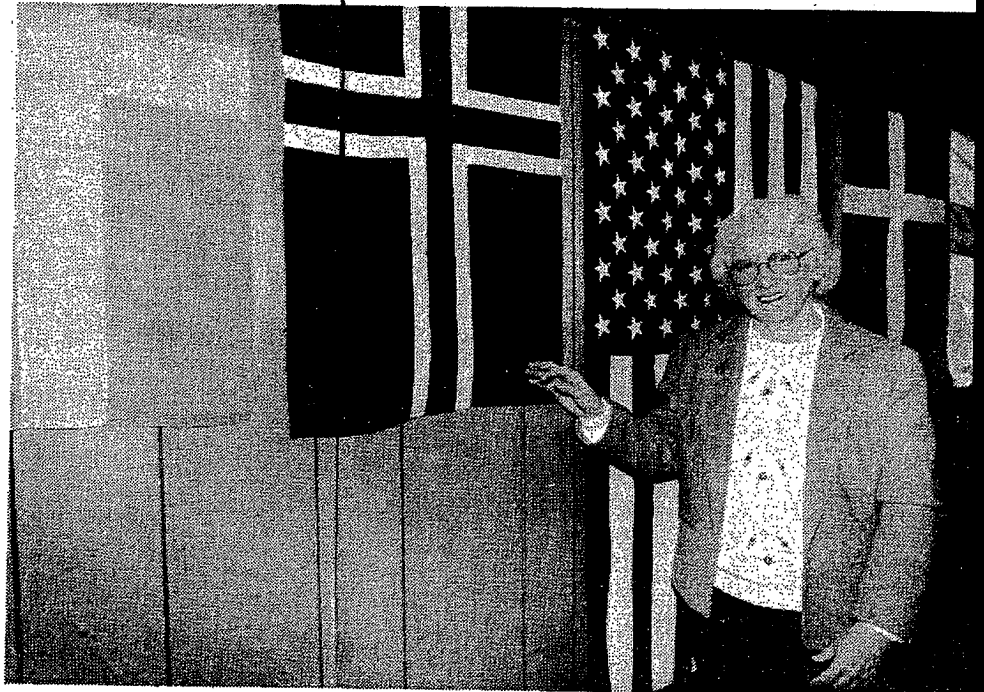
The largest group of people in the club is of Swedish descent. Next in number come those with Danish backgrounds, followed by Norwegian-Americans. There also are a few people of Finnish extraction, although none of Icelandic heritage.

Ekblad's father, Emmanuel, was a charter member of the club, which was organized in 1947. Since then, members have included many from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, along with former Govs. Val Peterson and Robert Crosby and former Sen. Carl Curtis. Former Gov. Kay Orr is an honorary member.

## Similar interests

For the famous and not-so-famous members, Norden Club offers a chance to get together with others of similar interests and learn more about their ancestral lands.

"I just like being with other Scandinavians and learning what I can — it's kind of a good feeling," said Jane



GAIL FOLDA/LINCOLN JOURNAL

**Dorothy Ekblad, secretary-treasurer of the Norden Club, with the flags of Sweden, Norway, the United States, Denmark, and Finland.**

Frederickson, a vice president.

Frederickson said she and her husband, Robert, had heard about the club over the years, but joined only about six years ago when they were planning a trip to the area of Sweden where her grandfather came from.

In recent years, club programs have included presentations on genealogy, Scandinavian settlers in Amer-

ica and slide shows on various areas. Meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 16th and A streets, except for the annual Christmas smorgasbord, held recently at the Nebraska East Campus Union.

The cuisine at the smorgasbord rotates among the various nationalities within the group, although there are certain basic similarities.

"One year we didn't have herring in the food line, and boy, did we hear about it!" Seagren said.

Membership is open to all people with a particular interest in Scandinavia. The club particularly needs younger members, according to Ekblad. Annual dues are \$5 per person and people can join by contacting any officer. The next meeting is March 16

Original flags bought by Harold and Adela Holck in 1957 from  
 Norway, Sweden and Denmark







DOROTHY EKBLAD

**ABOVE:** Guests at an earlier Norden Club Scandinavian Smorgasbord dish up Danish food — red cabbage, peas and Christmas potatoes.

**RIGHT:** Historic immigrant's trunk with essentials for voyage to America, with U.S. and Scandinavian flags in the background.



# Festive feasts await

BY LINDA ULRICH  
For the Lincoln Journal Star

Sumptuous food and lots of it. Delightful entertainment.

These are two of the main ingredients of a holiday feast. You can, of course, cook your own feast at home, but that means shopping, slaving over a hot stove, serving the meal and then staggering to the kitchen with a huge pile of dirty dishes. Whew!

Option No. 2: You can sit back and merrily feast at a banquet prepared by someone else.

If the second option is sounding good, here are two holiday feasts to whet your appetite: Nebraska Wesleyan University's Elizabethan Feast and the Norden Club's Scandinavian smorgasbord.

The Elizabethan Feast was started about 15 years ago by William Wyman, Nebraska Wesleyan director of choral activities and professor of music.

It is a festive evening that transports feasters back 500 years to an English castle.

To get guests in the madrigal feast mood, the castle (Smith-Curtis

See **FEASTS**, Page 10



NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



**ABOVE:** Costumed performers enter the banquet hall for Nebraska Wesleyan's annual Elizabethan Feast. **LEFT:** Traditional boar's head — complete with apple — decorates the banquet table.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

### ■ Feasts

Continued from Page 5

Administration Building) is lit with candles and decorated with banners. Amidst a trumpet fanfare, a jester and singers lead the guests into the dining hall and the steward proclaims:

*"Wes hale, good lords and ladies fair,  
We bid thee welcome, we bid thee share*

*Our feasting and our revelry  
Our musick and our company.  
Time, this night beware. And this is a timely warning.*

*We shall curb thy frantic force.  
Don't worry, we shall not actually kill time, that wouldn't be right.*

*We may even save time, and in the nick of time, of course.*

*Oh, there'll be a hot time in the old castle tonight."*

The Lord and Lady of the castle are led to the head table, presented with boar's head, and the food and the fun begin.

The performances of student singers, dancers and musicians with period costumes and instruments are woven into the serving of the four-course meal, which includes cheese and crackers, two meats, potatoes, breads and flaming pudding.

Lots of non-alcoholic Wassail toasts add to the merriment.

"We try to make it as authentic as possible, but there's also a certain comedic shtick," Wyman said. "It is theater. It is music. It is dance. It is early instruments."

"It is a very good meal and a unique

way to celebrate the holiday season."

It is also a lot of work. Wyman estimates that more than 150 people are involved in preparation and production of the event. "It is a big project and it is not an easy thing to do, but it is really great fun and the students really enjoy it."

Every year's feast is different and every audience is different, he said. "You never know what the audience is going to do and that can be both a good thing and a bad thing."

The audience's behavior is more predictable at the Norden Club's Christmas smorgasbord, but they, too, experience an enjoyable evening.

The Norden Club was organized in 1947 by a group of University of Nebraska faculty and Lincoln businessmen and politicians who were interested in preserving their Scandinavian heritage.

The word Norden refers to the Scandinavian north countries, including Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland, although most members are of Norwegian, Swedish or Danish descent, said Dorothy Ekblad, whose father, the late Emanuel G. Ekblad, was one of the club's charter members.

The Norden Club promotes fellowship among Scandinavian-Americans and their descendants and helps preserve the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia, said Karen Zins, the club's president-elect.

The annual Christmas smorgasbord alternates among Norwegian, Swedish and Danish meals. This year's smorgasbord will be Danish.

The menu will include pork loin stuffed with prunes and apples, meatballs with brown gravy, red cabbage, green beans with bacon and almonds,

### If you go . . .

■ **Elizabethan Feast:** 6 p.m. Dec. 10., Smith-Curtis Building. Prepared by NWU food service staff. Open to the public. Reservations required. Tickets: \$15; call 465-2269 by Dec. 7.

■ **Norden Club's Scandinavian Smorgasbord:** 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12., UNL East Campus Grand Ballroom. Catered by Union food service staff. Open to public. Tickets: \$18. Call Dorothy Ekblad, 488-6018, or Len and Arlene Nelson, 489-2290, by Dec. 6.

parslled buttered potatoes, pickled herring, rye, white and wheat rolls, Danish apple cake, coffee and iced tea.

The smorgasbord is at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus Union and is catered by the Union staff. The smorgasbord committee supplies the recipes.

In addition to the meal, the event includes ethnic entertainment and a Danish heritage table displaying old and new Danish memorabilia, Zins said.

There also will be a raffle to benefit the Norden Club of Lincoln Foundation, which provides scholarships to help students who want to learn more about their Scandinavian heritage.

The club, which has 300 members, also has three dinner meetings throughout the year.

"The club is a way for us to keep our heritage alive," Zins said. "Since joining the club, I've gone back and asked more questions about my heritage. It helps keep that spark alive."

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# Valkommen!

## The Norden Club of Lincoln

Members of the Norden Club wearing traditional Scandinavian folk costumes include: Stu Maseman, Carol Reed, Martha Maseman, Sally Campbell and Marge Eaton

Lincoln 55+ 2001

### The purpose

The purpose of the Norden Club is *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.*

It was on February 17, 1947, that a meeting was held to organize a Scandinavian club. Twelve men gathered to discuss plans for the club which became *The Norden Club of Lincoln.*

Membership has grown to nearly 300 men, women and/or spouses. Anyone with an interest in Scandinavian heritage and culture is welcome to attend.

### Meetings

The Norden Club meets the third Monday in March, May and September at 6:30 p.m. for dinner, followed by a program which usually pertains to Scandinavian topics of interest. These meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 16th & A Streets, in Lincoln.

### Smorgasbord

In December, a Christmas Smorgasbord is held on the second Monday at the UNL East Campus Student Union at 6:30 p.m. Each year, a different

Scandinavian committee develops a menu featuring their country's food, followed by a program concerning the culture of that country. Entertainment in the past has included: folkdancers from Omaha, Stromsburg and Lindsborg Kansas,



*Costumed Members at a Smorgasbord*

singers, speakers from Scandinavian museums and colleges, slide shows of Scandinavian countries, and talks on genealogy.

Anyone interested to learn more is invited to attend one evening without paying yearly dues (but you pay for your meal ticket). However, reservations for dinner must be made no later than the Tuesday prior to the event. For more information contact Dorothy Ekblad at 488-6018 or 488-6313 or current presidents Paul and Carol Carlson at 327-8642.







# Swedish dancers from Lindsborg, Kansas

## Höganäs News article

### Mer svenska än svenskarna

HÖGANÄS (HD) Blonda kalufser, ljust fiolspel och färgglada folkdräkter... Mer svenskt kunde det inte bli när 55 amerikanska ungdomar dansade och sjöng för de boende på Väsbyhemmet Kastanjegården i går.

Trots en vissnad midsommarstång och en himmel som hotade med regn, infann sig midsommarstämning på nytt på servicehemmet Kastanjegården igår. För underhållningen stod en glad skara amerikanska ungdomar från en liten stad i Kansas med det svenskklingande namnet Lindsborg.

Ungdomarna är svenskkåttlingar och har kommit till Sverige för att närma sig sina rötter.

Bakom gårdagens arrangemang står Vasa Orden av Amerika, en organisation som främjar det kulturella utbytet mellan USA och Sverige och som firar hundra år i år.

#### Heliga traditioner

Hemma i Lindsborg, eller "Little Sweden", som staden också kallas, värnar man om svenska traditioner och tränar svensk folkdans i skolan varje vecka.

— Vi brukar säga att "allt bra kommer från Sverige", berättar Janne Jan Swanson, som bott i Sverige några år som liten och talar hyggligt svenska.

— Alla vill göra som förfäderna och traditionerna är heligare än Bibeln.

Frågan är om svenska ungdomar ens skulle kunna kom-



ma i närheten av de amerikanska ungdomarnas uppväxning i svensk kultur. Förmodligen inte. Med saft och svenska kanelbullar i magen bjöd de på en imponerande uppväxning av svenska folkdanser, allt till ackompanjering av fiol och nyckelharpa. När

de stämde upp i psalmen "Tryggare kan ingen vara" på renaste svenska, var det många i publiken som höjde förvånat på ögonbrynen.

#### Trötta men nöjda

Ungdomarna tycker att Sverigebesöket har varit

spännande men tröttsamt. För många är Sverige drömlandet som deras föräldrar och farföräldrar alltid talat om. Nu har de själva tillbringat två veckor i Sverige och kunnat bilda sig en egen uppfattning. Och det är inte konstigt att de säger sig vara tröt-

ta. De har dansat sig igenom halva Sverige! I alla fall här de hunnit med Värmland, Stockholm, Göteborg, Helsingland och Dalarna. Mot-svarar då Sverige deras förväntningar?

— Jaaa då, försäkrar några av flickorna i munnen på vandrarna. De kommer att sakna många saker i Sverige, men framförallt en.

— Den svenska glassen är otroligt god. Vi har spenderat vansinniga summor pengar bara på glass.

Lisa Jarensko

The  
Swedish  
dancers  
from  
Lindsborg,  
Kansas  
performed  
for the  
Norden  
Club

Lincoln Journal-Star

2001

### LOCAL

## Norden Club moves up annual dinner, dance

A Lincoln-area organization whose major goal is to preserve Scandinavian traditions is breaking a tradition of its own this year — though it turns out they wouldn't have had to.

The Norden Club's annual Christmas dinner and dance was moved to earlier Saturday, anticipating many of its members would want to watch Nebraska play in the televised Big 12 football championship that night.

But ufa! Turns out Saturday night would have been free after all.

Nonetheless, the Scandinavian smorgasbord will go on as scheduled at 2 p.m. in the Great Plains Ballroom of the East Campus Student Union. Cost of the dinner is \$16, with reservations due by Wednesday. Guests are welcome.

For reservations, call Dale and Marge Anderson (466-7918) or Dorothy Ekblad (488-6313 or 488-6018).

The adult Swedish Folk Dancers from Lindsborg, Kan., will perform. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes or other clothing representative of their Scandinavian heritage.

The Norden Club was founded in 1947 to preserve the Scandinavian cultural heritage — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden — in the Lincoln area.

The club, with nearly 300 members, meets the third Monday in March, May and September for dinner and a program, in addition to the annual Christmas smorgasbord.

### (TRANSLATION OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM HOGANÄS) MORE SWEDISH THAN SWEDEN

Blonde hair and beautiful violin music, colorful dresses. It could not have been more Swedish when the 55 American young people danced and sang for the people at the Väsbyhemmet (retirement home).

Even if the maypole was drying up and the sky looked like rain — it felt like Midsummer's in the service home. The entertainment was a happy group of American young people from a small town in Kansas called Lindsborg.

The young people are of Swedish descent and came to Sweden to be close to their roots. Behind yesterday's entertainment was the Vasa Order of America, an organization for the cultural exchange between the U.S.A. and Sweden. They are celebrating 100 years.

Home in Lindsborg or the "Little Sweden" as it is called, they honor the Swedish tradition and practice Swedish folk dancing in the school every week. "We used to say everything good comes from Sweden," says Jan Swanson. He lived in Sweden for some years and speaks Swedish. "Everyone likes to do like the ancestors and the traditions are holier than the Bible."

The question is if the Swedish young people could come close to the American folk group's dancing. Probably not. With juice and Swedish cinnamon rolls in their stomach, they started performing with Swedish folk dances to the accompaniment of violins and a nyckelharpa. When they started "Children Of The Heavenly Father" many of the public raised their eyebrows. (Swedish expression for were surprised)

Tired but happy the young people thought the Swedish visit was exciting even if tiresome. For many of them Sweden is a dream land that their parents and grandparents have talked about. Now they have been two weeks in Sweden and have the picture for themselves of Sweden. They have been dancing through 1/2 of Sweden — Varmland, Stockholm, Göteborg, Helsingland and Dalarna. Was Sweden up to their expectations?

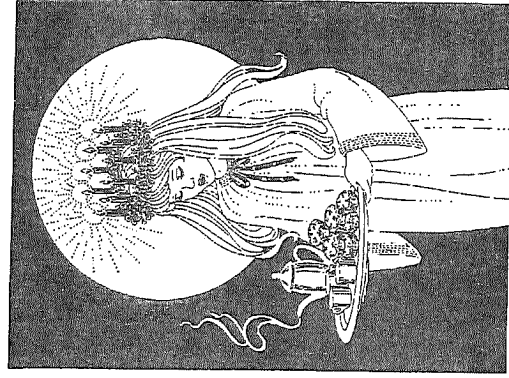
— "Oh yes," many of the girls answered at the same time. They are going to miss many things in Sweden, especially the ice cream

— "The ice cream is exceptionally good. We have spent lots of money on ice cream."



## Ways You Can Participate in Norden Club (check areas of interest)

- ☐ 1. Greeters (prior to the meetings)
- ☐ 2. Assist with registration before meetings
- ☐ 3. Distribute flags and song booklets on tables prior to the meeting and collect them afterwards
- ☐ 4. Give the invocation
- ☐ 5. Be a song leader
- ☐ 6. Be a pianist at the meetings
- ☐ 7. Serve on the December Smorgasbord committee
- ☐ 8. Help with newsletter (4 times a year)
- ☐ 9. Serve on the membership committee
- ☐ 10. Serve a two-year term on the executive board
- ☐ 11. Serve on the Social Hour committee



## The Best Reasons to Join Norden Club

- 1. Fun, food and fellowship!
- 2. Meet friends—old and new.
- 3. Learn about Scandinavian culture and heritage.

### The following patriotic songs are sung at our dinners:

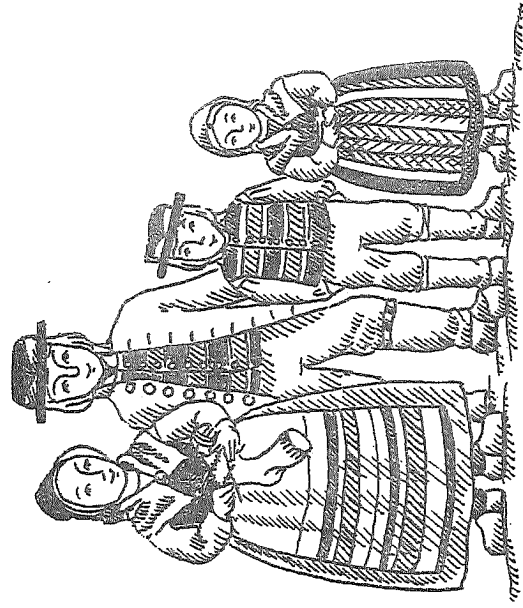
Denmark: "There Is a Beauteous Land with Proud and Stately Forests"

Finland: "Our Land, Our Land, Our Native Land"

Norway: "Yes, We Love this Land of Ours, As With Mountain Domes"

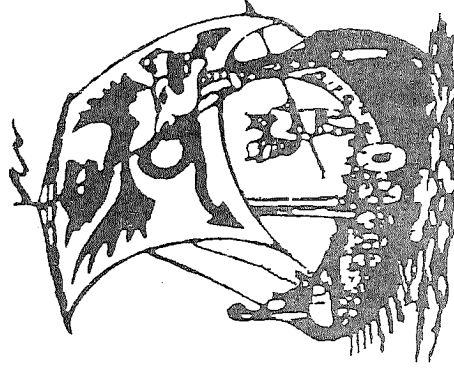
Sweden: "O Glorious Mountain Crowned Land of the North"

America: "God Bless America"



## Celebrate Scandinavian-American Cultural Heritage

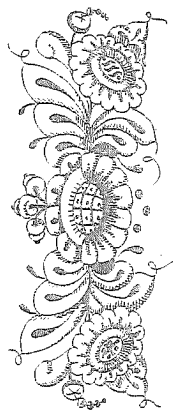
# The Norden Club of Lincoln



"Founded in 1947 to preserve the  
Scandinavian heritage in the  
Lincoln area."

Denmark – Finland – Iceland  
Norway – Sweden





### *Purpose*

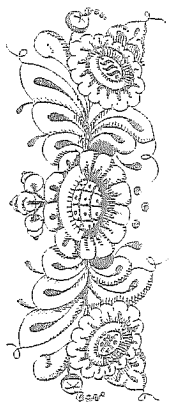
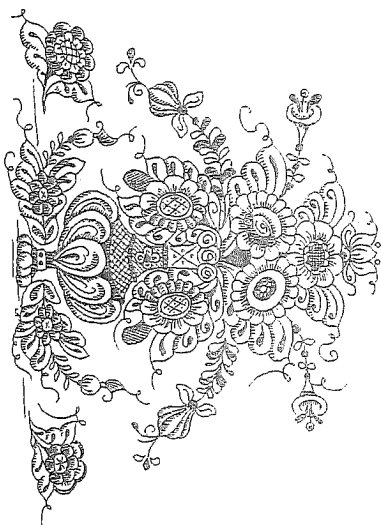
The purpose of The Norden Club has always remained the same:

*"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."*

It was on February 17, 1947, that a meeting was held to organize a Scandinavian club. Twelve men gathered to discuss plans for the club which became "The Norden Club of Lincoln."

We now have grown to a membership of nearly 300 men, women and/or spouses of members of Scandinavian descent.

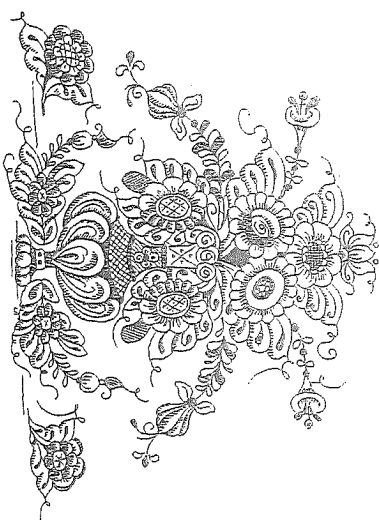
We also welcome anyone who has an interest in Scandinavian heritage and culture.



### *Meetings*

The Norden Club meets the third Monday in March, May and September at 6:30 p.m. for dinner, followed by a program which usually pertains to Scandinavian topics of interest. These meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 16th & A Streets, in Lincoln.

In December, a Christmas Smorgasbord is held on the second Monday at the UN-L East Campus Student Union at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise specified. Each year, a different Scandinavian committee develops a menu featuring their country's food, followed by a program concerning the culture of that country. You are invited to attend one evening without paying yearly dues (but you pay for your meal ticket). However, reservations for dinner must be made *no later* than the Tuesday prior to the event by calling one of the members on the registration form.



### Membership Registration Form

Dues: \$10.00 Individual or \$18.00 Couple

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Existing Member(s)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### SCANDINAVIAN ANCESTRY HERITAGE-

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ % Danish \_\_\_\_\_ % Finnish \_\_\_\_\_ % Norwegian \_\_\_\_\_ % Swedish

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ % Danish \_\_\_\_\_ % Finnish \_\_\_\_\_ % Norwegian \_\_\_\_\_ % Swedish

Mail registration to: Mary Contreras, Secretary  
4230 Progressive Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
(402) 467-2666

Please read back of this form and indicate your areas of interest.

## Scandinavian American Society of Omaha

7575 Crown Point Ave., Omaha, NE 68154  
(402) 572-5772

**Sunday, June 26, 1995**

**Midsummer Festival**

3 p.m. Entertainment - Dinner - 4 p.m.

Contact: Sharon Carlson

3228 4th Ave., Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Phone: (712) 343-8811

**Sunday, November 7, 1999**

**Smorgasbord**

2575 Arthur Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Contact: Elaine Roberts • Phone: (402) 331-1687

or Sharon Liljedahl • Phone: (402) 754-0782

## Vasa Order of America

Omaha Lodge #330

Founded in Omaha October 21, 1915

7575 Crown Point Avenue

Omaha, NE 68154 • (402) 572-5780

Monthly meetings: The Society of American

Fun, Food, Fellowship: Arrive at Blanche & Baker Sts.

Sunday, April 23, 2003, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Contact: Norma Sundberg, (402) 331-7885

**Annual Christmas/Lucia Festival**

**December 12, 1999**

SAS Club, 7575 Crown Point Ave., Omaha, NE 68154

Social hour 12:30 p.m. and dinner at 1:00 p.m.

Crowning of Lucia Festival

Contact: Lila Marks, (402) 331-7885 or

Norma Sundberg, (402) 331-7885 or

Harold Olsen, (402) 331-7885

## SCANDINAVIAN FOLKDANCERS OF OMAHA

We invite you to join in the fun at folk dancing

every Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

at the Scandinavian-American Club.

**Folk Dance Workshop**

**February 2000**

7575 Crown Point Ave., Omaha, Nebraska 68154

Beginners, Welcome! - 12:00 p.m.

Sharon Liljedahl

(402) 754-0626

## Norwegian Consul

Virgil Johnson • (402) 337-2200

10330 Regency Parkway Dr.,

Omaha, NE 68114

## Danish Consul

Bruce R. Lauritzen • (402) 341-0500

First National Center

Omaha, NE 68102

## Swedish Consul

Thomas J. Lund • (402) 341-3333

700 Service Life Building

Omaha, NE 68102

## Independent Order of Vikings

Orvar Odd Lodge #24

109 Years of

Scandinavian Heritage

Monthly Lodge Meeting followed by Pot Luck Supper

Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on 4th Thursdays

2nd Thursdays in November and December

**SCANDINAVIAN - AMERICAN**

**SOCIETY HALL**

7575 Crown Point Avenue

Omaha, Nebraska 68134 • (402) 572-9730

Contact: Ben Rosenquist

(402) 571-0278

## Sons of Norway

Elveby Lodge #1-604

103 Years of Heritage • "11 Years of Growth"

Cooper Farm Picnic - May 16, 1999

Syltendi Mai

**Annual Torsk & Meatball Dinner**

**& Boutique - November 21, 1999**

Meetings 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner.

7575 Crown Point Ave., Omaha. Visitors always welcome!

For information contact:

Gjonna Lee, Cultural Director, 1735 S. 116th St.,

Omaha, NE 68144-1714 - Phone: (402) 394-5265

U N I O N E

## Nebraska

### FESTIVAL DATES

May 1 - Omaha

May 16 - Omaha

June 3, 5, 12 - Omaha

June 9 - Burlington

June 18, 19 - Holdrege

June 19, 19 - Storme

June 21 - Omaha

June 27 - Gothenburg

July 31 - Wausa

Aug. 13, 14, 15 - Newton Grove

September 3 - Wausa

October 11 - Storme

October 12 - Omaha

October 12 - Omaha

December 12 - Lincoln

December 13 - Lincoln

### Travel Conference

October 20, 21, 22, 1999

The Village Courtyard Garden

5200 "O" Street • Lincoln, NE

(402) 464-9111

## 1999 Scandinavian Council of Nebraska

### OFFICERS:

President

Sharon Liljedahl

8602 So. 42

Omaha, NE 68137

(402) 734-3926

2nd Vice-President

Bonnie Persson

863 N. Oakland

Oakland, NE 68045

(402) 685-9102

Secretary/Treasurer

Chia Mager, Box 247

Newton Grove, NE 68756

(402) 447-8013 - Work

(402) 447-2461 - Home

Send

A Postcard

From

## Nebraska

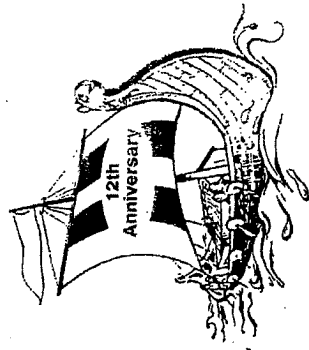
Produced in Part by a Grant from the Nebraska Tourism Office

For More Information Contact:

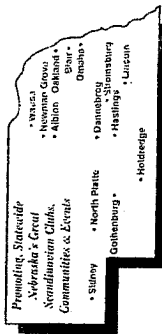
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM • 800-228-1397 or (402) 471-3731

## Scandinavian

## 1999 Schedule of Festivals and Activities



## Scandinavian Council of Nebraska



**Dana College**  
 Attn: Public Relations, 2048 College Drive,  
 Blair, NE 68008 • Phone (402) 426-7216  
**The Sights and Sounds of Christmas**  
**December 5, 1999**  
 Worship, Smörgasbord, Jukebox, Danish  
 Dancers, Concert, Storytelling, Santa Lucia

## The Norden Club — of Lincoln —

For all Scandinavian Descendants and their Spouses:  
 Dinner, Meeting and Program for the  
 3rd Annual Christmas Smörgasbord  
 at the Lincoln Hotel, Main Ballroom  
 700 Main Street, Lincoln, NE 68502  
 Ticket Dates: March 15, May 17 and September 20  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SMÖRGASBORD**  
**December 13, 1999 - 6:30 p.m.**  
 Upt. First Campus Union, 30th and Holdrege.  
 \*Menu reservations required for all meetings.  
 \*Contact: Dr. Herb Ungren  
 2437 S. 75th, Lincoln, NE 68506  
 1-800-488-1916

## Noon Day

**Scandinavian Club**  
**Swedish Pea Soup Supper - Feb. 2000**  
**Spring Banquet - May 7, 1999**  
**Wiking Fest - October 1999**

\*Delicious meals with Scandinavian related programs  
 at Omaha's historic Club for Sunday in December  
 \*Special menu for the Banquet featuring Scandinavian food  
 \*Program and Santa Claus for children  
**The Highlight Event of the Year!**  
 Contact: Steve Lundholm,  
 Home: 556-5147, Work: 572-3250

## Newman Grove Norwegian Day

**August 13, 14, 15, 1999**  
 Norwegian Days at the Norwegian Capital of Ndutasku  
**Our History & Heritage**  
 Festivals, Silent Auction, Fun Run, Penny Drive,  
 Ethnic Foods, Foreign Olympics,  
 Antique Farm Equipment, and more.  
 Antiques and Farm Equipment contact: Kathy Ware  
 Newman Grove, NE 68759 • Phone (402) 417-2296

## Oakland

**June 4, 1999**  
 Crowning of the King and Queen

**June 5, 1999**  
 Singing group, Swedish dancing, Band concerts,  
 Dramatic performances, Van tours, Horse-drawn  
 carriage rides, a craft show, art show, quilt show

Many activities for children  
**Visit the Swedish Heritage Center**  
**and take a "Troll Stroll"**

**Famous Oakland**  
**Swedish Festival Smörgasbord**  
**5 - 8 p.m.**

**June 6, 1999**  
 Community Worship Services at 10:30 a.m.  
 Picnic in Park at 5:00 p.m. Showband  
 The "Nobles" Headliner at 8:00 p.m. Showband  
 will be followed by a dramatic concert  
 followed by a fabulous fireworks display

**June 12, 1999**  
**Swedish Basketball Classic**  
 Contact: Oakland Independent  
 Doreanne Gahan  
 217 N. Oakland Ave., Oakland, NE 68045  
 Phone (402) 685-9224 or (402) 585-0229

## Holdrege "Midsummerfest"

**Friday - Saturday**  
**June 18 & 19, 1999**

Friday a.m. Crowning of King and Queen  
 Honorary Swedish Award: Children's games,  
 Raising of Midsummer Maypole, and Midsummer  
 traditions. Danish and Swedish food.  
 Saturday a.m.  
**Swedish Breakfast**  
**at 7 - 9 a.m.**  
 Rose-Ann Swanson  
 901 Main Street  
 P.O. Box 101  
 Holdrege, NE 68940  
 978-4638 • FAX 978-4372

## Dannebrog "Grundlovsfest"

**1st Weekend in June**  
 High school and family reunions, melodramas,  
 parade (Saturday 10:30 a.m.), muzzleloaders, indigenous,  
 kids' activities, talent show, bike tour, Danish foods  
 at the Dannebrog Capital of Nebraska.

**Danish Christmas**  
**Second Weekend in December**  
 Christmas Tree Fantasy, Danish pastries and  
 paper cutouts, Danish songs, Danish folk  
 singing, music and dancing, Danish foods,  
 Living nativity scene, Parade of Homes, Advent Service,  
 Guided tour of lights in Santa's Fantasy Park and  
 ground town in see large lighted and animated displays.  
**GLAEDIG JUL!**

Contact: Shirley Johnson  
 520 E. Roman Welch Ave., Dannebrog, NE 68831  
 Phone: (308) 226-2237

## Scandinavian Heritage Group Gothenburg/North Platte

**Midsummer Picnic**  
**Sun., June 27, 1999 - 1 p.m.**  
 Blum Park - 15th & Lake, Gothenburg  
 Curry-in Dinner • Music and Dancing

**Saint Lucia Celebration**  
**Sun., Dec. 5, 1999 - 2 p.m.**  
 High Community Center, Brady, NE

Program followed by Curry-in Dinner, Entertainment,  
 Growing of Lucia Queen. Table service & drinks provided.  
 For information contact: Marilyn Carlson  
 711 18th St., Gothenburg, NE 68138  
 Phone (308) 537-2924

## Swedish Cultural Committee of Nebraska

**Omaha, Nebraska**  
**Promoting the Preservation of  
 Swedish Culture and Heritage with  
 Special Events and Programs**  
 Contact: Tom Lund,  
 1914 Farnam Street • 700 Service Life Building  
 Omaha, NE 68102

## Wausa Community Club

**Pork Chop Barbecue**  
**July 31, 1999**

**Labor Day Celebration**  
**September 5, 1999**  
 at Gladstone Park  
 Horse shoe tournament,  
 food stand, video carnival, car show,  
 inflatables, barbecue and much more.

Contact: Doug Johnson or Troy Schwenebeck,  
 Box 170, Wausa, NE 68786  
 Work phone: 596-2265

**Annual Swedish Smörgasbord**  
**Saturday, Oct. 23, 1999**  
**Serving 5 - 8 p.m.**  
**ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY**

Audience: Swedish foods, costumes,  
 decorations and local entertainment.  
 Contact: Doug Johnson  
 Box 170, Wausa, NE 68786  
 Work phone: (402) 338-2507  
 Home phone: (402) 866-2718

## Stromsburg Swedish Festival

**47th Annual Midsummer's Fest**  
**Friday & Saturday**  
**June 18, 19, 1999**

**at the Swede Capital of Nebraska**  
 Friday - Children's Parade 2:00 p.m., Hoppozy  
 Chicken Barbecue 4:30-7:00 p.m., the King and Queen  
 Swedish Parade 7:00 p.m., the King and Queen  
 Saturday - Children's Parade 10:00 a.m., Hoppozy  
 2 mile fun run, barbecue, contest, craft and art in the  
 park and server center. Big float parade at 2:30 p.m.

**Carnival, Swedish Food and  
 Free Entertainment both days**  
 Contact: John Berglund  
 Rt. 1, Box 47, Stromsburg, NE 68066  
 Work Phone: (402) 445-5531 • Home Phone: (402) 764-7221

**10th Annual Julefangst**  
**December 11, 1999**

7th Annual "Tear of Joy" contest, kids activities,  
 Swedish food, craft, soup & pie supper 5-7 p.m.,  
 with music, etc. held at the Scandinavians.  
 Contact: John Berglund

## Early Membership Application



# The Norden Club

CLUB YEAR  
JAN. 1-DEC. 31  
DUES \$5.00

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

To the Secretary: I hereby apply for Membership in the Norden Club,  
and enclose \$5.00 covering first year's dues.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

Business or Profession \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Membership Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Chrm. \_\_\_\_\_

Received as member \_\_\_\_\_

The Norden Club promotes fellowship among Scandinavian-Americans and their descendants and helps preserve for the benefit of the United States the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia.

## Bookmark Celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Norden Club

Norden Club  
of  
Lincoln

50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
1947 - 1997

Denmark  
Finland  
Iceland  
Norway  
Sweden

**Denmark**  
Capital - Copenhagen  
Square Miles - 16,579  
(City of Copenhagen)  
Population - 5,148,000 (1992) Increasing  
Climate - Temperate  
Insects - Flea and Telling Fleas  
Natural Resources - Cattle, Pig, Fish, Limestone  
Religions - 91% Lutheran, 2% Protestant/  
Catholic

**Finland**  
Capital - Helsinki  
Square Miles - 150,128  
(Smaller than Montana)  
Population - 5,072,000 (1992) Increasing  
Climate - Cold Temperate - Subarctic, 40,000  
Insects - Lice and the Telling Fleas  
Natural Resources - Timber, Copper, Zinc,  
Silver, Fish  
Religions - 89% Lutheran, 11% Other, 5%  
None

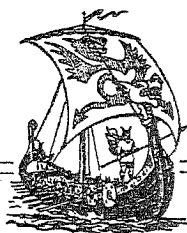
**Iceland**  
Capital - Reykjavik  
Square Miles - 290,769  
(Smaller than Kentucky)  
Population - 230,000 (1992) Increasing  
Climate - Temperate/Moderate  
Insects - Mostly Fleas, Mosquitoes and Lice  
Natural Resources - Fish, Dairies  
Religions - 94% Lutheran, 4% Other/None

**Norway**  
Capital - Oslo  
Square Miles - 125,182  
(City of New Haven)  
Population - 4,276,000 (1992) Increasing  
Climate - Coolish Temperate, Interior Colder  
Insects - Mosquitoes, High Fleas, Bugged  
Natural Resources - Cattle, Pig, Fish, Iron, Zinc,  
Timber  
Religions - 87% Lutheran, 4% Protestant/  
Catholic, 5% Unknown

**Sweden**  
Capital - Stockholm  
Square Miles - 172,132  
(City of California)  
Population - 4,619,000 (1992) Increasing  
Climate - Temperate South, Subarctic North  
Insects - Flea and Telling  
Natural Resources - Fish, Deer, Iron, Copper,  
Timber  
Religions - 94% Lutheran, 1.5% Catholic,  
4.5% Other



(1968)



# The Norden Club

HARRY W. JESPERSEN, PRESIDENT  
4236 E STREET

E. W. JOHNSON, SECRETARY  
856 SO. 38TH ST. - TEL. 468-7051

Lincoln, Nebraska

## HONORARY MEMBERS

DR. R. G. GUSTAVSON  
HON. VAL PETERSON  
DR. J. E. A. ALEXIS  
SEN. K. W. PETERSON  
W. A. ROSENE

## ADVISORY BOARD

W. A. ROSENE  
G. ED SWANSON, P. P.  
EARL H. CHRISTIANSEN, P. P.  
G. W. ROSENLOF, P. P.  
LAWRENCE ENERSEN, P. P.

## MEMBERSHIP

EARL H. CHRISTIANSEN, CHR.  
A. E. LIND  
WALLACE S. JOHNSON  
LOUIS LANGHUS

## PROGRAM

ROBERT A. NELSON, CHR.  
W. A. ROSENE  
KAI O. ANDERSEN  
OTTO HOIBERG  
ROBERT PALME  
LAWRENCE ENERSEN

## ACTIVITIES

DR. HAROLD HOLCK, CHR.  
G. ED SWANSON  
FRED IVERSON  
L. T. NELSON

## WELFARE

OTTO G. HOIBERG, CHR.  
DR. G. W. ROSENLOF  
CLARENCE FORSBERG  
REV. ROBERT NELSON  
REV. J. W. EKWALL

## PROJECT

DR. HAROLD HOLCK, CHR.  
DR. THEO JORGENSEN  
A. CLIFFORD ANDERSEN  
A. E. LIND

## CALLING COMMITTEE

E. W. JOHNSON, CHR.  
488-7051  
A. E. LIND  
477-5848  
FRED IVERSON  
477-3292  
A. B. BLOMSTROM  
477-2454  
CARL H. FREEMAN  
477-2028

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dear Norden Club Members:

The club will meet at 6:30 o'clock on Monday, Dec. 16, 1968 at KINGSOREST DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT, 945 SOUTH ST.

Mr. Steffon Moeller from Union College will give a talk about Christmas in Denmark.

At 7:30 a group of 10 girls from Union College will entertain us with Christmas songs.

Our president will have a big surprise for the ladies so be sure to make your reservations.

Mr. Rosene will bring his Christmas songs with him.

If our callers do not call you, please call our secretary before noon on Monday.

This is Ladies Night. Bring your Guests.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

HARRY W. JESPERSEN,  
President

E. W. JOHNSON,  
Secretary

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DEC 17 1956

SVENSKA OCH ENGELSKA  
JULSÅNGER

THE NORDEN CLUB  
Lincoln, Nebraska



### THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields  
as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their  
sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so  
deep.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

#### CHORUS:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

### JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room;  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and Heav'n and Nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, and wonders of His love.

#### IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men  
From Heav'n's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,  
By prophets seen of old.  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heav'n and earth shall own  
the Prince of Peace their King,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

#### O, LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

### O, COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and  
triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of  
angels:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come,  
let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ  
the Lord.

Sing, choirs of Angels, sing in  
exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n  
above;  
Glory to God, in the highest, Glory!  
O come let us adore Him, O come, let  
us adore him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ  
the Lord!

### AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His  
sweet head,  
The stars in the heavens  
Looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the  
hay.

The cattle are lowing; the Baby awakes;  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He  
makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is  
nigh.

### CHRISTMAS SONG

There's a song in the air!  
There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer  
And a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the  
beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles  
a king!

We rejoice in the light,  
And we echo the song  
That comes down thro' the night  
From the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel  
they bring,  
And we greet in His cradle our Savior  
and King!



### NÄR JULDASMORGEN GLIMMAR

När juldagsmorgen glimmar,  
Jag vill till stallet gå,  
Där Gud i nattens timmar  
Re'n vilar uppå strå,  
Där Gud i nattens timmar  
Re'n vilar uppå strå.

Hur god du var, som ville  
Till jorden komma ner!  
Nu ej i synd jag spille  
Min barndoms dager mer!  
Nu ej i synd jag spille  
Min barndoms dager mer!

### O DU SALIGA, O DU HELIGA

O du saliga, O du heliga  
Jordens förjdfulla högtidsdag!  
Ära ske Herren!  
Måra och fjärran  
Anglar förkunda Guds välbehag.

Stora, heliga, utsägliga  
Gåvor få vi av Faderns hand.  
En är ock anden,  
Som oss vid handen  
Leder till himmelens sälla strand.

### STILLA NATT

Stilla natt, heliga natt!  
Öfver jord gjuter matt,  
Stjernehimlen sitt milda sken  
Barnet slumrar i natten sen  
Uti helig ro,  
Uti helig ro.

Stilla natt, heliga natt!  
Fralsarn född, anglar gladt,  
Budskap bringa från himmelen's höjd  
Herdar lyssna med bäfvande fröjd.  
Kristus kommen är,  
Kristus kommen är,

### DET ÄR JUL, OCH ÅTER KLINGAR

Det är jul, och åter klingar  
Detta högsta glädjebud:  
Frälsaren är född till jorden,  
Ära, ära vare Gud!  
Ljeset uppgått öfver världen,  
Saligheten är nu när.  
I den ringa krubban vilar  
Konungarnas konung där.

Må då julens blida stjärna  
Sprida ock sitt ljus till dem,  
Som i mörker än försmäktat  
I de fjärran öde hem!  
Dit ännu ej någon stråle  
Av Guds ljus har trängt sig fram,  
Må den bryta genom natten,  
Må den peka på Guds Lam!

### DET ÄR HÖGTID IGEN

Det är Högtid igen  
Ty vår Himmelska Vän  
Kommer åter som Gäst till vårt bo.

Därför tända vi nu  
Våra Jul-ljus och så  
Honom möta med kärlek och tro.

Självt ett barn Han ju är  
Och de små har Han kär  
Man har givit sig självt upp för dem.  
Tastän harlig och rik  
Blev små barnen Han lik  
För att leda dem upp till sitt hem.

### HVIT JULTID

Jag drömmer om en hvit Jultid,  
En som jag nu i minnet har  
Där träd toppor glittrar,  
och barnen lyssnar  
till släd bjällor uti snön.

Jag drömmer om en hvit Jultid  
På alla Jul-korten ja skrev.  
Må dina dagar bli glädje och glans,  
Och må alla dina Jular vara hvit.

GUD VÄLSIGNA AMERICA

Gud välsigna America  
Landet jag håller kårt;  
Stå ni trofast, med ledning  
I den natt, från en lysande sky;  
Från hoga bergen och grona kullar  
Till oceanens hvita fragg,  
Gud välsigna America  
Vårt hem, kära hem,  
Gud välsigna America  
Vårt hem, kära hem!

God bless America, land that I love;  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above;  
From the mountains to the praries  
To the ocean white with foam,  
God bless America, my home, sweet home,  
God bless America, my home, sweet home!

Parting Song  
(Tune: EIDELWEISS)

May the Lord, mighty Lord,  
bless and keep you forever;  
Grant you peace, perfect peace,  
courage in every endeavor.  
Lift up your eyes and see His face,  
and His grace, forever;  
May the Lord, mighty Lord,  
bless and keep you forever.

**SONGS**

**OF**

**THE NORDEN CLUB**

**LINCOLN,**

**NEBRASKA**

# SWEDEN: TILL SVENSKA FOSTERJORDEN

1. Du gamla, du fria, ju fjällhöga Nord,  
Du tysta, du glädjefrika, sköna;  
Jag hälsar dig, vänaste land uppå jord,  
Din sol, din himmel, dina ängder gröna.  
Din sol, din himmel, dina ängder gröna.

O glorious mountain-crowned land of the North,  
Thou quiet, thou joyous land, I love thee,  
I hail thee as fairest of lands on this earth;  
Thy meadows green, the sun in heav'n above thee.  
Thy meadows green, the sun in heav'n above thee.

2. Du tronar på minnen från fornstora dar,  
Då ärat ditt namn flög över jorden.  
Jag vet, att du är och du blir hvad du var;  
Ja jag vill leva, jag vill dö i Norden,  
Ja jag vill leva, jag vill dö i Norden.

Thy throne is the mem'ry of great days of yore,  
When all through the world thy name was carried,  
Thou art this, I know, the same as of old.  
In thee I'll live, in thee I'll die, thou North Land,  
In thee I'll live, in thee I'll die, thou North Land.

# FINLAND: VART LAND

1. Vårt land, vårt land, vårt fosterland,  
Ljud högt o dyra ord!

Ej lyfts en höjd mot himlens rand, ej sänks en dal,  
Ej skjöls en strand, mer älskad än vår bygd i nord,  
Än våra fäders jord.

Our land, our land, our native land,  
O precious word ring forth! No lofty mount, majestic  
gränd, No deep down dale, no sea-washed strand,  
Was e'er more loved, nor deemed more worth,  
Than our own land up North.

2. Vårt land är fattigt, skall så bli  
For den, som gull begär.

En främling far oss stolt förbi; men detta landet älska vi.  
För oss med moar, fjäll och skär et gull-land dock det är.

Our land is poor; and shall be, too,  
For those who gold desire;  
Proud strangers look at us askew,  
But we, we love this land, we do -  
To us, our cliffs, and fields, and mire,  
Are gold for son and sire.

# NORWAY: NORSK FÆDRELANDSANG

1. Ja, vi elsker dette landet, som det stiger frem  
Furet, værbit over vannet med de tusen hjem,  
Elsker, elsker det og tenker på vår far og mor  
Og den saganatt som senker drøm me på vår jord,  
Og den saganatt som senker, senker drøm me på vår jord

Yes, we love this land of ours, as with mountain domes,  
Storm-lash'd o'er the sea it towers with the thousand homes.  
Love it dearly, ever thinking of our fathers' strife,  
And the land of Saga sinking, dreams upon our life,  
And the land of Saga sinking, sinking dreams upon our life.

2. Norske mann i hus og hytte, takk din store Gud!  
Landet vilde han beskytte, skjönt det mørkt så ut,  
Alt, hvad fedrene har kjempet, mødrene har grett,  
Har den Herre stille lempet, så vi vant vår rett.  
Har den Herre stille lempet, så vi vant vår rett.

Norsemen, in whatever station, thank your mighty God,  
He has kindly saved our nation from oppression's rod.  
That for which our sires contended and our mothers wailed,  
Silently the Lord defended, so our rights prevailed.  
Silently the Lord defended, so our rights, our rights  
prevailed.

# DENMARK: DANSK FÆDRELANDSANG

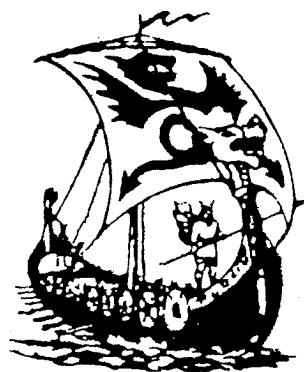
1. Det er et yndigt Land, det starr med brede Bøge,  
Nær salten Østerstrand, nær salten Østerstrand.  
Det bugter sig i Bakke, Dal, det hedder gamle Danmark,  
Og det er Freias Sal, og det er Freias Sal!

There is a beauteous land with proud and stately forests,  
Near salty eastern strand, near salty eastern strand.  
Has hills and vales with maples tall; Its name is good old  
Denmark,

And this is Freya's hall, and this is Freya's hall.

2. Det Land endnu er skjönt; thi blaa sig Søen belter,  
Og Løvet staar saa grönt, og Løvet staar saa grönt.  
Og ædle Kvinder, skjönnø Møer og Mænd og raske Svende,  
Bebo de Danskes Øer, bebo de Danskes Øer.

Its beauty still is seen, the blue sea has it girdled,  
The leafage stands so green, the leafage stands so green.  
And noble women, maidens fair, and men, and sturdy laddies  
Dwell on the Danes' old Isles, Dwell on the Danes' old Isles



## **Section VIII**

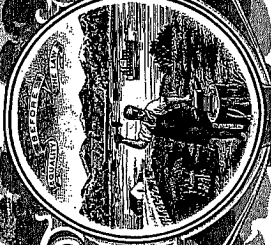
# ***New Sweden Celebrations of 1938 and 1948***

**An account by E. G. Ekblad**





**R. L. COCHRAN**  
**GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**



TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME GREETING

Know Ye, that I, **R. L. Cochran**, Governor of the State of Nebraska, reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity, patriotism and ability of

C. L. Cobble on behalf and in the name of the State do hereby appoint and commission him President of the State of Nebraska and do authorize and empower him to discharge the duties of said office according to law; this appointment to take effect, and be in force on and after June 1 - 30 1937 and to continue for such time as he shall satisfactorily perform all the duties imposed upon such officer by law, not to exceed, however, two years.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed to be affixed the Great Seal of the State: Done at Lincoln, this 15 day of June A.D. 1937.

BY THE GOVERNOR

**Harold E. Swanson**

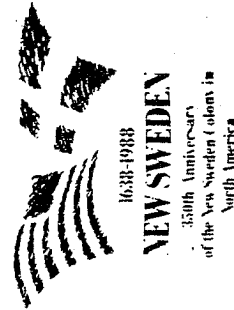
SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

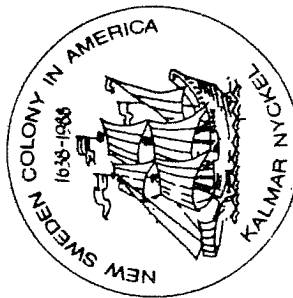
STATE JOURNAL OF LINCOLN, NEB.



**SEND TODAY**  
**FOR YOUR NEW SWEDEN**  
**350TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**COMMEMORATIVE COIN**  
**— only \$4.50**



(Actual coin size is 1 1/2" x 1 1/2")



The Swedish Cultural Committee of Nebraska proudly presents a commemorative mecalion honoring the 350th anniversary of the first Swedish landing and settlement in North America.

This handsome heavy gauge antique bronze coin depicts on one side the Kalmars Nyckel, the famous ship which brought the first Swedish settlers to New Sweden Colony in the Delaware Valley. The reverse side pictures John Hanson, a descendant of one of the first Swedish colonists, and the elected president of the first Continental Congress. A noble American patriot, Hanson, today, represents his state of Maryland in the Statuary Hall of Congress in Washington, D.C. He was an important American.

To order this special commemorative coin: Mail \$4.50 (check or money order only) per coin to: Swedish Cultural Committee, P.O. Box 34614, Omaha, NE 68134 (cost includes postage & handling). For quantity orders, please write for special discount information. Nebr. residents add 4% plus local sales tax.

By E. G. Ekblad.

THE SWEDISH-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL OF 1948

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NORDEN CLUB OF LINCOLN.

The year 1948 has been an eventful year for the people of Swedish descent in the United States, and especially to those residing in the MiddleWest. This year represents the 100th Anniversary of the settlement of the Swedes in the MiddleWest of the United States.

In 1938 the Swedes celebrated the 300th Anniversary of the landing of the Swedes in this Country, which landing took place in 1638 on the banks of the Christina River, at what is now Wilmington Delaware. This celebration was held at Wilmington Delaware, and also at Philadelphia, Pa.

It was my privilege to attend this 300th Anniversary of the landing of the Swedes in this country at the above named cities, which are both rich in Swedish-American history. To this anniversary Sweden sent a large delegation from their native country, to participate in the celebration. The delegation included the present Crown Prince, Gustaf Adolph, and the Princess, and also his son Prins Bertil. At the festivities at Wilmington, Delaware, Sweden presented to the United States a marble monument, built by the famous Swedish sculptur, Carl Milles, and placed same on the very spot on the shores of the Christina River where the first Swedes are supposed to have landed three hundred years before. The presentation in behalf of the King of Sweden, was made by His Royal Highness, Prins Bertil, and accepted for the United States by the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, then President of the U.S. Several acres adjoining the rocks where this monument was erected, was donated by people of Wilmington, Del. for the purpose of making same into a park, commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the landing of the Swedes. This park has been completed, a beautiful location on the banks of the Christina River, and is now a very historic spot both in United States history, as well as of the history of the Swedes in this country and in Sweden. Upon the monument the builder has inscribed and illustrated a great deal of history, depicting the landing of the Swedes and much of the beginning history of their landing, and a replica of the boat is hewn into the monument--the boat the Swedes used in their first landing. If you ever visit the East and are near Wilmington, do not fail to visit this historical spot, and also the "Old Swede Church" in Wilmington, only a short distance from the monument. This church erected by the Swedes in 1698 is still there, now owned by the Episcopalians, but used by the Swedes for many years until purchased by the other denomination. It is rich in Swedish history, and has been changed very little from the original appearance. It is said of this church, that services have been held there every Sunday since its erection in 1698, and that no other church in the U. S. can show such a record of so many years of continuous services. The Swedes have attempted purchase this church as a historical shrine, but the Episcopalians will not part with same. When this church was sold, and several others on the East Coast, built by the Swedes around 1698, (all purchased by the Episcopalians), the history of the Swedes in this country almost came to a standstill, and not much is recorded of this Swedish American history or of their churches until 1848, or perhaps a few years prior, which was the period when the Swedes began to land in the Middle West. From this time on we find a very complete history recorded of the Swedes, their church, and their progress in many lines of development., and the real reason for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the settlement of the Swedes in the MiddleWest--1848 to 1948.

As in 1938, it was also my pleasure in this year 1948 to attend several of the festivities commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the settling of the Swedes in the MiddleWest. As Secretary of the Norden Club, and with the approval of our President, Dr. R. G. Gustavson, I have prepared a report covering briefly what took place at the festivities where I was privileged to attend. Before I go on with the report let me mention another historical spot in the East in connection with the 1938 Anniversary. In Philadelphia is located the Swedish American Museum, directed by the Scandinavian-American Foundation and similar organizations. This



museum was dedicated on June 24, 1938 by His Royal Highness, Prins Bertil, and by the Crown Princess of Sweden. The Crown Prince was ill on that day and could not be present for the dedication. This museum contains some thousands of records, of Swedish history in Sweden and in this country, art galleries, antiques from Sweden, and depicting Swedish history back as far as the year 1400 or before, when Sweden was a mighty power in Europe, and controlled vast territories. It is a very interesting spot, and should not be missed by Swedish people when traveling in the East.

The opening of the Middle West Swedish-American Centennial took place at Chicago on June 4-5-6. I arrived in Chicago in time to attend the broadcast of Don McNeils Breakfast Club Friday morning in the studios in the Midse. Mart building. Don McNeil took time in his broadcast to mention the significance of the Swedish Centennial which opened in Chicago on that day. As a guest of his program he had invited the Swedish actress, Martha Toren, who had come to Chicago from Hollywood to take part in the Centennial and was interviewed during broadcast by Don McNeil and other members of his cast. Another guest who was interviewed was a Swedish Stewardess from the Swedish-American Air Lines. The Swedish Actress autographed the programs of almost all the people present in the studio for the broadcast.

The First program of the Chicago Centennial celebration took place Friday Eve. June 4th at the Chicago Stadium, one of the largest assembly halls in Chicago. It will no doubt, go down in history as one of the greatest festivals or events ever held by Swedish-Americans in this country. Over 20,000 people of Swedish descent gathered in this Stadium at this opening program, to honor His Royal Highness Prins Bertil of Sweden and his official delegation who were sent here in behalf of Sweden by its 90 year old King, to represent his Country at these festivities in the United States. This vast audience also came to the Stadium to honor high officials of our country who had been invited as representatives to represent the U. S. and take part in the festivities, among which was the Chief Executive of our Country, President Harry S. Truman, who addressed the vast Audience, during the evening. Other guests with the President were the Governor of Ill. U. S. Senator from Ill, and Mayor of Chicago.

The members of the Official Swedish delegation present at the Centennial were as follows. Heading the list, and representing the Royal family of Sweden:

His Royal Highness, Prins Bertil, grandson of King Gustaf.

Dr. Nana Svartz	representing	Professional Women's Groups of Sweden.
Mr. Bertil Kugelberg	"	Swedish Employers' Association
Mr. Einar Sjogren	"	Swedish Farmers
Mr. Nils Goude	"	Swedish Labor Organizations
Dr. Gunnar Westin	"	Swedish Educational Institutions
Mr. Gunnar Hirdman	"	Workers' Study Groups
Mr. Oskar Franzen	"	Swedish Temperance Societies
Hon. Sven Dahlman	"	Swedish Foreign Office
Dr. Gunnar Grandberg	"	Swedish Institute
Mr. Allan Kastrup	"	American-Swedish News Exchange
Mr. Per Sandberg		Secretary to Delegation
The Rt. Rev. Eiling Eidem		Archbishop from Upsala-Sweden

Also at Chicago were present: -

Mr. Olof Rydbeck	First Secy.	Swedish Embassy in Washington, D. C
Mr. C. B. Winqvist	Attache	Consulate General in New York.
Hon. Gosta Oldenburg		Consul General of Sweden-in Chicago.
Mr. Set Svanholm	Guest Artist - Repr.	Royal Swedish Opera ---Stockholm.
Dr. Karin Koch--Member Swedish Cabinet		Advisor on Economic Matters.

(Dr. Koch belongs to the group from Sweden as above) She replaced Hon. Axel Gjores, Minister of Commerce, who had to cancel his trip to U. S. very suddenly, because of urgent business in Sweden in connection with the Marshall Plan).

It is interesting to note that the more than 20,000 who packed this Stadium all paid admission charge, ranging from 50 cents to \$5 per seat. No complimentary tickets granted to any one, and proceeds would be distributed to causes of charity. This program continued for five hours, beginning at 7:30 P.M. The entire stadium was air conditioned, and well provided with loud speakers, and acoustics seemed to be almost perfect. Many of Norden members no doubt, have been in this Stadium. Republican and Democratic National Conventions have been held in this building.

Principal speakers on the festival program were: His Royal Highness Prins Bertil; President Harry S. Truman; the Swedish Actress, Martha Toren, and Dr. Carl Sandburg, the famous Swedish poet, and biographer of Abraham Lincoln. With the exception of these speakers, most of the remaining numbers were in the form of a pageant, depicting the 100 years of Swedish-American History in the settlement of the Midwest, from 1848 to 1948.

The musical organizations who took part in the program were as follows: A Chorus of 2000 voices made up from church choirs in Chicago and vicinity.

A Male Chorus of 400 voices from Chicago and vicinity.

The famous Acapella Choir from Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill.

A Chorus of Nurses, from all the Swedish-American Hospitals in

Chicago, and nearby cities.--250 voices

A Childrens' Chorus sponsored by the Swedish lodges of Chicago.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra of 80 pieces

A powerful pipe organ played by a professional organist.

Mr. Harry T. Carlson of Chicago was the Director of the large Chorus and the Combined Choruses.

The United States Navy Band from Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago.

A Drum Corp sponsored by one of the Swedish Lodges of Chicago.

The Audience was honored by the presence of the Guest Artist, Mr.

Set Svanholm, Tenor Soloist with the Royal Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera of Stockholm, Sweden. As he favored the audience with several Tenor solos, his rich, melodious, and powerful voice rang out in all parts of the Stadium.

The first number on this historical Centennial program was the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by the Audience and combined Choruses, accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra and Organ. With 20,000 voices singing this National number with power and enthusiasm, and loyalty, coming from the hearts and souls of people who love this country in which they possess citizenship, the thought comes to us-- what a great army for peace is represented by these voices.

A second number followed, with just as much power and loyalty, when the immense audience sang Luther's Hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God".

The Invocation was given by Dean Erik Hewkinson of North Park College Chicago, who is perhaps well known to some of our Norden members.

Before the arrival of the President, the Orchestra and the Choral organizations presented several selections, after which the Swedish Actress Martha Toren spoke on the Centennial. She is still a citizen of Sweden, and marvelled at the progress and development in this Middle West by these Swedish Americans, and the contribution they had made to make this United States what it is to-day.

The President of the United States and his party arrived at 9 P.M. escorted by the U. S. Naval Band from Gr. Lakes Naval Station. Prins Bertil gave a brief address previous to the address by the President, in which he expressed warm appreciation to the President.

and the whole American nation for the reception tendered him and his fellow delegates from Sweden. He brought personal greetings from his grandfather, King Gustaf of Sweden, now past 90 year of age, in which he expressed warmest wishes for continued success of the Swedish-Americans in the United States.

Prins Bertil further stated that Pres. Truman's presence at this great historical event, was the greatest honor which could be paid to the memory of the Swedish pioneers of the Middle West. He also thanked the Swedish-American committee and officials of the Jubilee for their contribution, saying: "You could not have shown in any better way your wish to promote continued friendship and good will between the U. S. and Sweden" He continued, you may be assured that the Swedish people who, like you, believe in democracy, and in the ideals of democracy and freedom, are moved by the same desire."

President Truman's address followed. The President began his address with a tribute to the Swedish Americans, saying: "America is proud of her citizens of Swedish descent and of the role which they have played in the building of the Middle West. He said, the principal stream of immigrants who sought a new future in this land of equality and freedom, was made up of men and women having strong love for the soil." The president continued, "Today more than one quarter of all the people of Swedish descent live in this country. This constitutes a tie which strengthens the friendly relation between our two countries, and we can look forward to a long period of friendship between Sweden and America. He also stated that this friendship is strengthened because Sweden is today one of the most progressive and successful nations in the world. (I am sure we are all of the opinion that in his last statement the President could have paid the same tribute to our two other Scandinavian nations---Denmark and Norway). The President left immediately after conclusion of his address, for Omaha, Nebr. (It was interesting to note that with the arrival of the President in the Stadium, we were aware of the presence of some 300 uniformed police officers in the Stadium, guarding every section of the Stadium. These officers left as soon as the President had safely been escorted to his official car.)

After the address by President Truman, the remainder of the five-hour program continued in the form of a pageant, flashed on a large screen, depicting the history of the Swedes in the Middle West for the past 100 years, beginning with the year 1848.

The largest number of these Swedish pioneers were deeply religious, and history tells us that one of the first things they did was to come together for religious services in their homes, even though they had no ordained minister; however many of the laymen were well versed in the scriptures and took charge of services until ministers could be secured. History continues to relate that the early organization of congregations and the building of churches was one of the greatest factors to keep these pioneers together; helping each others in sickness and sorrow, as well as sharing their happiness together. The influence of the church has continued to be an important factor for the Swedish Americans throughout these 100 years.

With these thoughts in mind, the Committee and officials in charge of preparing this program and pageant, chose as the theme for the pageant,

The Church, its activities, its Institutions, and its influence in the building of the Middle West, during these 100 years.

All the Swedish church denominations who had a part in this history, were included in this pageant; namely, Lutherans, Baptist, Methodist, Mission Covenant; also the Swedish Salvation Army, and one or two Swedish Lodges.

On the screen

On the screen was illustrated all phases of the church; its schools, seminaries, colleges, hospitals, nurses schools, home for orphans and aged, deaconess institutes; all established from the mother church. Home and foreign missions, youth activities and organizations were also given their place on the program.

The Chorus of 2000 voices; the Metropolitan Opear Tenor, Set Svanholm, from Stockholm; The Augustana Choir from Augustana College; the 400 voice male chorus; the Nurses Choir; the Childrens' Choir, the Swedish Drum Corp, and the Symphony Orchestra all furnished appropriate selections during the pageant program.

This Stadium festival will no doubt go down in Swedish American history as one of the greatest ever held. Perhaps never before have so many musical organizations of the highest standard, appeared on one program, and the audience enjoyed a treat which they will not soon forget.

Two outstanding Scandinavian radio artists, a Mr. Johnson from Chicago, and a Mr. Swenson from New York, both connected with the National Broadcasting Company, were the Master of Ceremonies during the presentation of the pageant, and did a most outstanding job.

There were several touching and outstanding scenes which highlighted the the program, which I will mention briefly.

When the work of the Swedish Church Hospitals in the Middlewest was illustrated on the screen, and narrated by the master of ceremonies, several hundred nurses in uniform from the hospitals in Chicago and vicinity marched through the aisles of the Stadium. The pageant illustrated this very important work of the church, starting from a small beginning, and now grown into immense proportions.

Another touching scene which I will not soon forget, was when the works of the Swedish artists were flashed on the screen; among them was the work of a Swedish Chicago artist who specialized in paintings for churches, altar paintings especially--when his painting of Christ was placed on the screen, with all lights dimmed except those by the screen; the audience standing and the entire chorus of 2000 voices sang "Beautiful Saviour". There was not a stir in the audience--perhaps never before had such a large chorus sang this beautiful selection, and at an occasion of this kind, when the setting for the rendition was almost perfect. With the Stadium's loud-speaking system operating perfectly, the soft voices of that big chorus, could be heard in all parts of the building.

On the screen was flashed the pictures of the men and women who, in the early part of the 100 years history, were the leaders and co-workers, especially in the church and its activities; also leaders in agricultural, industry, and public life. Agriculture has been one of the main occupations of the Swedish-Americans of the MiddleWest, hence it was given its place on the pageant program. In viewing this pageant one cannot help but be impressed with the bravery of these early pioneers, and the trials and difficulties they endured; also illustrated how their work was rewarded in so many ways, and to-day the descendants of these pioneers are enjoying the fruits of their labors, in the church, in their homes and communities. Large cities are now located in the communities where they pioneered. All over the MiddleWest and Swedish people are doing their part as good citizens in so many ways. They are not clannish, for in these communities they live side by side with other Nationalities, whose descendants also came to this country from other parts of Europe, and have succeeded as well. That is what makes our United States the great country it is to-day.

Another very interesting number was a gymnastic exhibition on the stage by the Sofiafllickorna from Stockholm, directed by Mrs. Maja Carlquist, considered one of the best teacher of gymnastics in Europe. The ease in which these girls performed

these difficult numbers indicated that they were well trained. Many of their gymnast numbers were new to the people of this country, having originated in Sweden. Only the very best performers are admitted into this organization, and it is considered a high honor to be a member of the Sofiafläckorna. The famous Swedish poet, Dr. Carl Sandburg, honorary President of the Centennial Commission, and famous biographer of Abraham Lincoln, gave a very interesting address. He spoke in his original way about the Anniversary, and what these 100 years have meant to the United States, because of what the Swedes and other nationalities contributed to its progress and towards the development of democracy. Dr. Sandburg is also musical. In Chicago he entertained the Archbishop Eilem of Sweden, with several vocal selections, playing his own accompaniment on his guitar.

It should be noted, and it was illustrated in the pageant, that many of these young Swedish pioneers volunteered for service in the Civil War, and in every war since, which involved our United States.

The closing number on this five-hour program in my opinion was worth the entire cost of the trip to Chicago, for it brought to a climax this very fitting festival of the first of the 3-day programs in Chicago, in which the church and its work had been the principal theme. With the audience arising- the 2000 voice chorus, accompanied by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the powerful organ, and directed by Harry T. Carlson of Chicago, sang Handells "Hallelujah Chorus. I doubt if this Oratorio had ever been presented with more enthusiasm and inspiration anywhere in the world, than it was as a closing number of this wonderful festival. The voices of this trained chorus rang melodiously throughout the entire building, blended with the beautiful tones from the Orchestra and organ. Although this was Centennial program, with very few exceptions, every number could have been presented in a church. This program illustrated that no country, no community, who wants peace and happiness as well as progress, and that permanently, cannot do so without the influence of the church. This 100 years of Swedish-American History has proven that fact. In this vast audience there was the absence of roudiness, no smoking, no commotion, no talking during the pageant; the most peaceful audience I have ever seen.

The Second great event of the Chicago Centennial Celebration, was the Royal Banquet held Saturday evening June 6, in the Grand Ball Room of the Palmer House, where 1000 Swedish-Americans were seated in this spacious room to honor His Royal Highness, Prins Bertil and his official delegation, including the Rt. Rev. Erling Eidem, the Archbishop of Upsala, Sweden, who gave the invocation at the opening of the Banquet. Other special guests included Consul Gen. for the MiddleWest Hon. Gusta Oldenberg of Chicago, who visited Lincoln last February, as guest of Dr. and Mrs. R. G. Gusravson, and the Norden Club. Other honor guests were Dwight H. Green, Governor of Illinois and Mrs. Green; U. S. Senator from Ill. C. Wayland Brooks and Mrs. Brooks; and Hon. Martin Kenelly, Mayor of Chicago. These officials presented greetings in their respective authorities, and warmly confirmed the appreciation of the State of Ill. and Chicago for the contribution the Swedes made in the development of this great MiddleWest. The Swedish Tenor from Stockholm, Set. Svanholm, was the guest artist, and sang several beautiful selections during the evening.

Mr. Vilas Johnson, a young Swedish-American of Chicago, who heads a large auditing firm in the big city, as General Chairman of the Chicago Centennial Commission, was master of ceremonies for this Ryoal Banquet.

The Principal speakers at the Banquet were Prins Bertil, and Dr. Conrad Bergendorf, a former Nebraskan, President of the National Centennial Commission. The Prins again brought greetings from his homeland; and made mention of the generosity of this country in helping the war-torn Europe, and made mention of the Marshall Plan as one of the big ways in which U. S. is doing a big job, and highly appreciated by the participants.

Dr. Bergendorf spoke in behalf of the descendants of the Swedish pioneers, that the immigrants had not brought with them much in wordly goods, but on the other hand brought with them their traditions, ideals and principles, which were the fruits of a Century of Christian citizenship.



The third day, and last day of festivities of the Swedish Pioneer Jubilee in Chicago was held on Sunday afternoon June 6. This was a divine service representing the 100 Churches of Swedish descent in Chicago. This service was held in the Moody Memorial Church, where thousands were gathered for this impressive service. Dr. Joshua Oden, pastor of the Irving Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, presided. Archbishop E. Eidem of Upsala, Sweden, representing the Church of Sweden, delivered a powerful sermon. He said he was the representative of God's congregation in the old Country.

Dr. Theodore Anderson, President of the Covenant Church of America, a native of Kansas, and well known to several of the Norden members, was the principal speaker as representative of the churches of Swedish origin in this country. He also gave a powerful sermon, and made special mention of the deep religious conviction which those early pioneers possessed, and how through their sacrifices and untiring work helped to lay the plans for the work of the churches in this MiddleWest, and how we rejoice to-day because these pioneers had the forethought to bring these early people together in services, out in the open, or in homes and later built churches, and brought ordained ministers into the communities to bring the gospel to them (It was a distinct pleasure for me to listen to Dr. Anderson for I had the opportunity for some ten years to work with him at Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, when he was President of the Academy, and I was a member of his faculty. )

During the closing moments of this service, there were exchange of greetings coming from Sweden to this country, by Prins Bertill, and from representatives of our country and churches, to Sweden and its King Gustaf. The Prins presented to Mr. Vilas Johnson, the General Chairman, a Swedish flag, a gift direct from the King of Sweden, in appreciation of Mr. Johnson's work as director of the preparations for this great festival, and which the Prins said was outstanding in every respect. The Prins also presented Swedish flags to several organizations, in appreciation of the close friendship with the Mother country.

This brought to a close the three-day Centennial festival in Chicago. The weather was almost perfect during those days. The many men and women who had been preparing for this Festival for almost a year, requiring very extensive preparations, were well repaid for their efforts by the great success of the festival, which they said was beyond their expectations.

Dr. Nils Olsson, a member of the faculty of University of Chicago, who was given a years leave of absence, served as Executive Secretary for the National Centennial Commission, and upon his shoulders he bore much of the responsibility for this great festival and for all the Centennial celebrations held throughout the MiddleWest, including the festivities in Omaha, and Lincoln. Dr. Olsson visited Lincoln last February, when he was the guest of the Norden Club, and principal speaker. He explained at length what preparations were being made for this great event.

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Before the opening of the Stadium program, the Centennial Anniversary issue of the Swedish-American Monthly was offered for sale to the audience. Hundreds of copies were sold. When I opened my copy I was delighted to have the pages open to the splendid article about Nebraska and the Swedish pioneers, written by our good friend, educator, writer, and charter member of the Norden Club--none other than our Dr. J. E. Alexis. His article was a masterpiece, and illustrated with beautiful photographs, of the early days and the present time.

Other Centennial celebrations continued throughout the MiddleWest, and Omaha and Lincoln were both honored by the presence of these official visitors from Sweden. In Lincoln we had our Royal Banquet in honor of the visitors, to which many had the pleasure to attend. We feel honored that Lincoln was placed on the itinerary of the Prins and his visitors. We appreciate the fine work of Dr. Gustavson, Dr. J. E. Alexis, and the late Swedish Consul, Hon. A. C. R. Swenson of Omaha, and others for their success in succeeding in bringing the Royal visitors to Lincoln. Dr. Nils Olsson also had a part in this itinerary.

The Luncheon, honoring Prins Bertil and his delegation, which was held in the Student Union Ball Room, was sponsored by the Norden Club of Lincoln, in cooperation with the University of Nebraska. This is one of the highlights of the year for the Norden Club. (June 19-1948) The Royal visitors, together with several officials of the Centennial Commission from Omaha arrived in Lincoln 11 A. M. and visited the State Capital, the Chancellor's Residence, then to Student Union for the Luncheon, where 350 people, mostly of Swedish descent, came to honor Prins Bertil and his official Swedish delegation. Members of the delegation were the same as listed on Sheet 2. Other guests at the Luncheon were The Regents of the University of Nebraska, Dr. Nils Olsson of Chicago, Executive Secy. of National Centennial Commission, W. O. Swanson of Omaha, State Chairman of Centennial Commission, Swedish Consul of this Region, Hon. A. C. R. Swenson, Mr. Einar Viren, President of Swedish American Folk Festival Society of Omaha, and member of Norden Club at Lincoln, Mr. James Pittinger, Administrative to Governor Val Peterson, (Gov. not in city June 19). Mayor of Lincoln, Clarence Mills, Rev. C. P. Hall member of Lancaster County Centennial Commission, and others. In most instances the named guests were accompanied by their wives.

Dr. R. G. Gustavson and Mrs. G. Gustavson, were the host and hostess for the day, representing the Norden Club and University of Nebraska. Dr. Gustavson was also Master of Ceremonies at the Royal luncheon. Rev. C. P. Hall of First Lutheran Church-Lincoln gave the invocation. Greetings were extended by the representatives from State and city of Lincoln. Dr. J. E. Alexis, one of the best known Swedish-Americans in this country, greeted the visitors in behalf of the University. He spoke in Swedish, to the great delight of the Prins and delegation. Dr. Karen Koch of the Swedish delegation, and first woman member of the Swedish Cabinet was the principal speaker at the Luncheon. She outlined economic and other conditions in Sweden; that Sweden had been at peace with the world for 134 years; no war debt; had set up a pension system for all of its people, free medical and hospital care; were able to help the destitute; the widows and orphans in war stricken countries with money, food, clothing, housing, etc. Because of these projects many food items are still rationed in Sweden, principally to prevent waste. The Prins spoke at Luncheon in both Swedish and English. He speaks English very fluently, as did most of the delegation. He said he was wonderfully impressed with Lincoln; its wonderful State Capital building, University And Agricultural College, as well as large and beautiful business buildings. He extended greetings to those present and to the city of Lincoln, from his grandfather, King Gustaf of Sweden, and from his father, Crown Prince Gustaf Adolph. Mr. Robert Anderson, the popular Lincoln Bass-baritone, and who is of Swedish descent, sang, including a Swedish selection entitled "Sverige". Soft organ music, consisting of Swedish melodies, was played during part of luncheon period.

Perhaps no one was more thrilled to be at this luncheon, than our good friend and Norden member, Mr. Richard Bjorkman. Mr. Bjorkman, who will be 89 years old in November, was a Captain in the Swedish Navy, stationed in Stockholm harbor, 67 years ago, when the present Crown Prince of Sweden, (the father of Prins Bertil) was born. Mr. Bjorkman (then Capt. Bj.) was ordered to have all bugles on the ships, blown, in honor of the new born, heir to the throne of Sweden. Mr. Bjorkman had an audience with the Crown Prince when he visited Mpls. Minn. in 1938. He also had an audience with Prins Bertil at this Luncheon on June 19.

After the Luncheon the Royal delegation visited points of interest on University and Ag. campuses, including the museum and Love Library, and some of the stock barns at the Ag. College.

The delegation returned to Omaha in mid-afternoon, for on this Saturday evening, the Noon-Day Club of Omaha gave a Royal Banquet at the Fontennelle Hotel, honoring Prins Bertil and the official Swedish delegation, with 600 in attendance. This was one of the highlights of the Omaha Centennial Celebration. The Omaha Noon-Day Club is a Scandinavian organization, one of the largest of its kind in the MiddleWest. It is noted for its fine hospitality, its interest, not only in Omaha, but throughout the State, and Nation, to individuals as well as to organizations. When this club puts on a Banquet, there is none better, and that we really proven when they sponsored this event. Mr. W. O. Swanson, Chairman of State Centennial Commission, was the toastmaster and master of ceremonies. Among other special guests were, Gov. Val Peterson, and Mayor Glenn Cunningham of Omaha. Both extended greetings. Special music was furnished by music groups from Omaha. Dr. R. G. Gustafson, Chancellor of Univ of Nebr, and President of Norden Club of Lincoln, who is honorary member of the Noon-Day Club, was a special guest and one of the speakers at the Banquet. His Royal Highness Princ Bertil responded to the many greetings extended to him and his delegation, and expressed appreciation for the wonderful reception tendered them by the people of Omaha. Also extended cordial greetings from his grandfather, the King, and his father the Crown Prince of Sweden, thanking most heartily for the invitation extended to the Swedish government to send a delegation to United States, commemorating the settling of the Swedes in Middlewest. There were also remarks from other members of the delegation, and an Address by Hon. Bertil Kugelberg of the Swedish Employers' Association.

Sunday afternoon, June 20, was Omaha's closing festival of the Centennial. The festival had been planned for Elmwood Park, but was moved to Aksarben Colliseum on account of rainy weather. Thousands of people gathered here for this final program.

Starting at 1:30 with a band concert by Nordin's Concert Band, followed at 2 P.M. by a religious service in Swedish language led by Dr. Emil Chinlund of Omaha, a former director of Omaha Immanuel Deaconess Institute. A combined chorus from Omaha choirs of Swedish origin, furnished Swedish singing, directed by Justin Helgren.

At 2:30 the Swedish American Folk Festival Society of Omaha, took charge of program, with Mr. Einar Viren, President of the Society, as Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Viren, a member of our Norden Club, is an expert in leadership and did a wonderful job.

The Prince and delegation were all present for this occasion, and were all introduced to the audience by A.C.R. Swenson, then Swedish Consul for the Omaha Region.

Musical numbers were furnished by following:

The Viking Quartette of Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill.

The Grieg Male Chorus of Lincoln--Prof. Marvin Wedley, director.

Vocal Solos by Robert Anderson of Lincoln, Soloist with Grieg Chorus.

Greetings were extended by Mayor Cunningham for the city of Omaha.

The Sofia flickorna -- gymnastic team from Stockholm, under direction of Mrs. Carlquist, give a wonderful exhibition, which thrilled the audience; also later in program give an exhibition of Swedish Folk Dances. Principal Speakers were Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska, and Prins Bertil.

The Governor referred to the part the Swedish people had had in helping to make Nebraska the great state that it is, referring to the hardships of the early settlers; how through their determination, and skill and their Christian background, had made wonderful progress, in establishing wonderful communities, building beautiful farm and city homes, and churches in every community; also many had been very successful in business and industry. He said they were not clannish, but can get along with most nationalities living in our State. Therefore he said we find

our Swedish people, not in communities by themselves, but rather in settlements where many nationalities are represented, and they all get along wonderfully well. The Governor also referred to the contribution the Swedish people have made and are continuing to make in civic and public life; that many are filling positions of trust and responsibility as public officials; that through their honesty and integrity, they have won the confidence of the citizens. They have established, not only churches in their communities, but wherever needed have established schools, colleges, hospitals, homes for aged, and orphans; not only for the education and care of their own people, but the doors are also open to others who need such services and care.

Prins Bertil, in his address, spoke quite at length in response to the many greetings he and his delegation had again received, and thanked the people of Nebraska, in behalf of himself and his delegation, and for the King of Sweden, for the wonderful hospitality extended to the King's representatives, while in our midst. The Prins also referred to the position of Sweden in the present world crisis, and the work for peace all over the world. He again stated, as he had done previously, of the services Sweden could render to the people of the war-torn countries, because Sweden had been at peace for 134 years, and had incurred no great war debt; her economic conditions being very sound. Food, clothing, money, and many other kinds of aid, were sent to the many neighboring countries; taking care of widows and orphans, shipping boatloads of food and clothing wherever most needed. Missionaries and other churchmen were sent where they could be of best service. How Sweden could remain neutral in both world wars, he said, was a question hard to answer. The Swedish King, he said, who has now served 40 years as head of the government, was strong for peace, and his decision was that Sweden must do everything possible to keep out of the conflict. The Prins said that the Marshall plan, if properly administered, should do a great deal to relieve the suffering in the war-torn countries, and put them back on their feet. He expressed the hope of the continued good feeling between the United States and Sweden, and that our presence at this Centennial, and the exchange of greetings, meeting so many of your citizens, public officials and people in all ranks, should do much to even more strengthen these friendly relations.

After the Crowning of the Festival Queen by the Governor of Nebraska, the May Pole Dance by a group of Omaha girls; the Swedish Folk Dances by the Sofiafllickorna; the presentation of the oldest pioneer; the couple married the most number of years; the pioneer with the most descendants in attendance; and the presentation of prizes; and the presentation to the audience of the Prins and his official Swedish delegation by Swedish Consul, Hon. A. C. R. Swenson, this Centennial Festival at Omaha, Nebraska, was brought to a close. The Centennial Committees and others of Omaha, including the Noon-Day Club; The Swedish American Folk Festival Society, and the Churches of Swedish descent of Omaha, deserve high credit for their work in arranging and successfully carrying out these Centennial festival events in Omaha on June 18-19-20.

From Omaha the Prins and his delegation went to Des Moines, Iowa, where preparations had been made for a great Centennial festival, including luncheons, banquets, and community gatherings. Iowa and Des Moines felt greatly honored to have the Royal visitors in their

## MidWest

State, because the first pioneer Swedish settlements were made in the community known as New Sweden, Iowa in 1848, and it is from this year that this Swedish MiddleWest Centennial had its origin, and why we are this year 1948, celebrating this Centennial. It was at New Sweden, that the Swedish Lutherans of the MiddleWest organized their first congregation, which was in the year 1848, and built their first Church. The second church of this congregation was built in 1860, which is still there. In June of this year this church was dedicated as a historical shrine of the Augustana Lutheran Church of America. The Right Rev. Eiling Eidem, Archbishop of Upsala, Sweden gave the principal address in the dedication of this Shrine.

It is interesting to note, that in the month of June of this year, at the time the Prins and his official delegation were attending these Centennial festivals, another great Centennial Anniversary Convention was held at Rock Island, Ill. It was the National Convention of the Augustana Lutheran Church (Synod) of America, and the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of Lutheran church work in the MiddleWest, which had its beginning, as above stated, at New Sweden, Iowa in 1848. At this convention, where over 1500 pastors and delegates were present, another Swedish delegation from Sweden, consisting of the Archbishop Eidem, and several bishops and pastors and church educators, representing the Church of Sweden, were present. The Convention was held on the campus of the Augustana College, and the Theological Seminary at Rock Island. Not only did Sweden send representatives to this Convention, but also, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Palestine, China, Estonia, India, representing the Lutheran church in these countries.

Another historical shrine to the Augustana Lutheran Church was dedicated at this conventions. This was the Lutheran church at Andover Illinois, built in 1850. It was dedicated as "The Jenny Lind Chapel" because Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale, donated \$1500 for the construction of this church in 1850. This was the second congregation organized by the Swedish Lutherans in the MiddleWest. Rev. C. P. Hall, pastor of First Lutheran Church, Lincoln, and a member of the Norden Club, and myself, both attended this Convention at Rock Island.

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To the Centennial festivals at Rockford, Illinois the Prins, driving a new Lincoln car, led a motor cavalcade from Chicago, where a two-day festival was held, including an official Chamber of Commerce Banquet, and the corner-stone laying of a new wing for the Swedish hospital. They also viewed many original settlements, including Bishop Hill, and Andover, Ill, where a State Marker was unveiled by Prince Bertil.

The Sweden Day celebration in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota was highlighted by a two-day visit from the Royal party, where the Prins was the principal speaker at a Royal Banquet, and a record number of visitors from all parts of Minnesota participated in the festivals. Detroit, Michigan was also on the itinerary of the Prins, where a great festival, as well as banquet were held. On their return to East Coast, the Royal party stopped at Philadelphia, where memorial services were held at historic sites.

The last event on the itinerary of the Royal party. was a Royal banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, when the Address of the Prins, was heard over a nation-wide radio hook-up. This banquet marked the close of the Centennial Observance honoring the Swedish pioneers in America.



Governor Thomas E. Dewey of the State of New York, made the following statement, as he welcomed the Prins and his official delegation to the State of New York:

"I am happy to have the privilege of welcoming His Royal Highness and those who accompany him to New York State. They come to us as representatives of a sturdy, free, and independent nation, the land of origin of so many Americans who have contributed to the free institutions, the strength and the progress of our free Republic. A substantial measure of the prosperity of our own Empire State is due to Americans who have come to us from Sweden, and to their descendants. Their diligence, their thrift and ability in many lines of endeavor have become proverbial amongst us." "We greatly admire the resolution of spirit with which the government and people of Sweden preserved their sturdy independence in the face of the menace of two World Wars and neighboring despotism."

While this festival in New York City, brought to a close that part of the Centennial Celebration, in which Prins Bertil and his official delegation took part and were honored, the year of the Centennial is not yet closed. There are still festivals being held, and will be held in this country, commemorating this anniversary, and in Sweden this Centennial Anniversary is continuing.

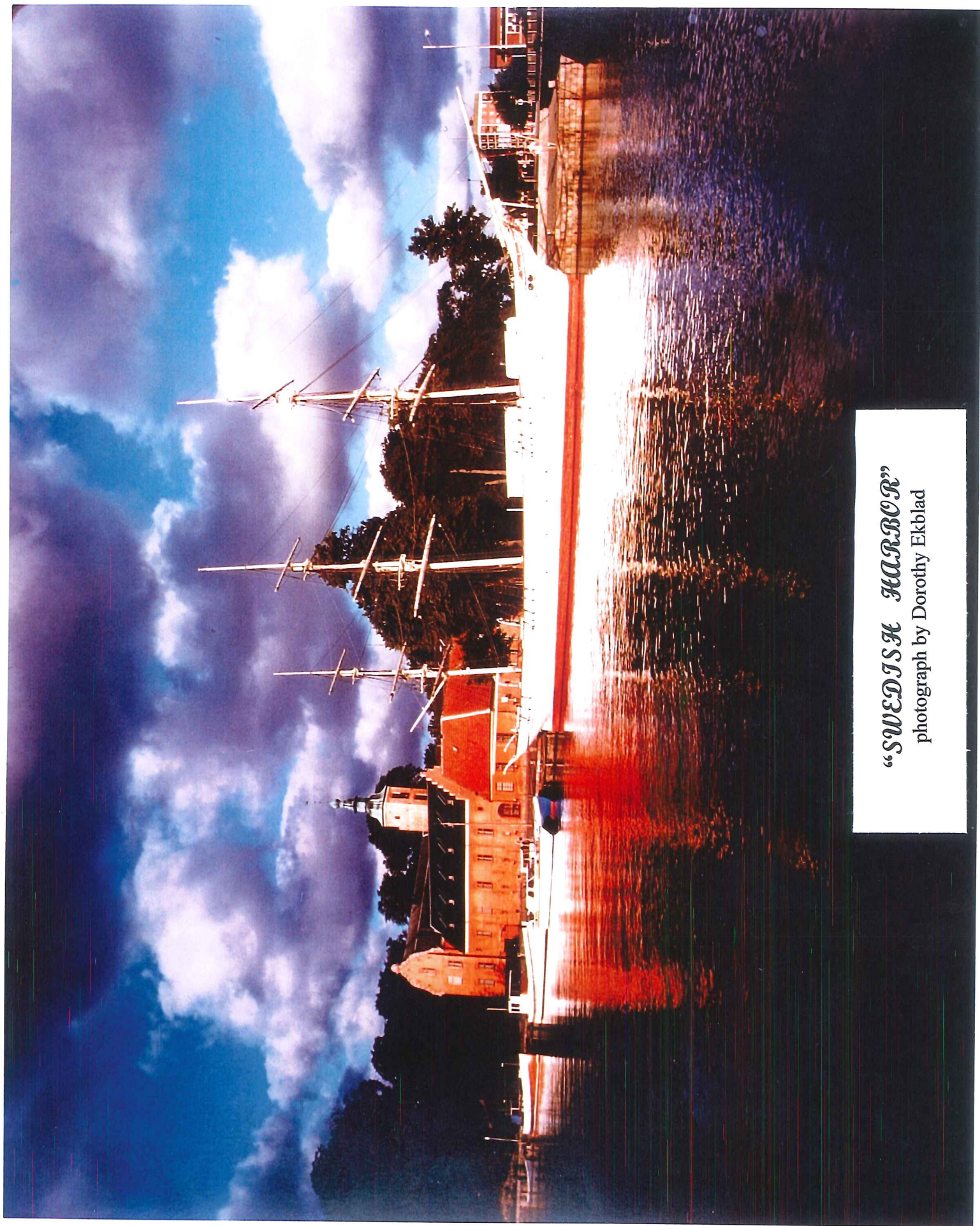
Our President of the Norden Club, Dr. R. G. Gustavson, and three others noted Scandinavians in the United States, have been greatly honored by the King of Sweden and the Swedish government in that they have been invited to come to Sweden to take part in the Centennial Celebration there, visiting many historical part of Sweden, giving lectures and addresses at Swedish Universities and other institutions. Dr. Gustavson together with Mrs. Gustavson, sailed June 10 on the "Gripsholm" for Sweden, and arrived several days later. A recent communication received from Dr. Gustavson, mailed at Gothenberg, ("Goteberg") Sweden, states that he had given a lecture in Swedish in this city, and they were at that time leaving for Stockholm. They will return to the United States about Nov. 1st. Some time after their return we plan to have an evening meeting, (Ladies' Night) of the Norden Club. Nov. 15 had been suggested, but we learn that the Chancellor cannot be present until the latter part of November. Announcement of this meeting will be made later.

I have enjoyed writing this report of the 1948 Centennial. I hope that as you read same, that I have made report clear enough, that you can in some degree visualize what took place at these festivals. To those of us who had the privilege to be present at these anniversaries, we shall always value and cherish what we witnessed. It has given us a clearer understanding of the life of the pioneers, and what they did that we to-day may enjoy the fruits of their labors.

When the Prins and his official delegation visited Lincoln, we were successful in getting a few camera snapshots of them. Extra prints of these can be procured, either in regular or enlarged size. Give your name to the Norden Secretary. Also keep in mind that if you wish a copy of Saturday Evening Post, Aug. 23., giving history of the Kensington Stone from Minnesota, such back copies can be secured for 15 cents. Stone now in Smithsonian Institution, Washington D. C. Give your name to the Secretary, or J. P. Nelson at next Norden meeting, Oct. 18, or before.

Sincerely,

E. G. Ekblad. Secy. Norden Club.



*"SWEDISH HARBOR"*  
photograph by Dorothy Ekblad