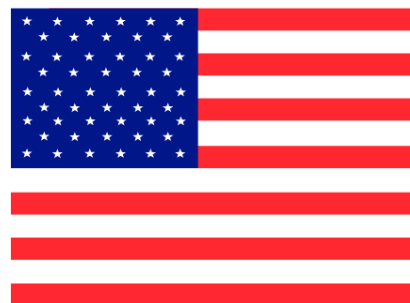




NORTHERN LIGHTS



Volume 3, Issue 1

Oct. 2012

- We accept articles and photos at the discretion of the editor. Please email all submissions to :

- Carolyn Hildebrand
- 207-896-3052
- rchilde@atiwi.com
- 354 West Rd
- New Sweden, ME 04762

Publication of the New Sweden Historical Society
207-896-5200

Mail: P.O. Box 33
New Sweden, ME 04762

Fall Membership Meeting

October 25, 2012

7 PM

New Sweden Covenant Church

Program by Wendell Spooner about New Sweden's 50th & upcoming 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Please support NSHS by attending!

Inside this issue

Music Bowl

2

The Genealogy Corner

3

Membership Application

4

August Annual Membership Meeting Held

By Carolyn Hildebrand

Members of the New Sweden Historical Society met at Thomas Park on August 9. A perfect potluck assortment was consumed by 16 members. Annual dues were paid, giving each member the right to vote for officers and committees for the 2012-13 year.

Those elected were:

President-Gary Dickinson
Vice Pres.-Karen Wakem
Secretary-Janice McDougal
Treasurer-Pat Williams
Trustees-Wendell Spooner, Debbie Blanchette and Ernie Easter.

Committee members are the keys to making the historical society function. Any active member is welcome to join a committee. Those volunteering at the Annual Meeting were:

Social Committee-Arlene Plourde and Elinor Hjulstrom.

Facilities (Property & Grounds)-Doug Anderson.

Midsommer Committee-Deb Eustis-Grandy, Caro-

lyn Hildebrand, Elinor Hjulstrom, Judy Holmquist, Kathy Robinson, Sven Bondeson, Brenda Jepson, Bill Duncan & Jerry Nelson.

Anderson Award-Janice McDougal, Diane Ward, Francine Anderson, Ernie Easter & Debbie Blanchette.

Genealogy-Lynn Johnson, Elinor Hjulstrom & Ernie Easter.

Membership-Kathy Robinson & Carolyn Hildebrand.

Trails-Alan Jepson.

Corresponding Secretary-Kathy Robinson.

Historical Building Committee-Doug Anderson, Matt Grandy, Ralph Ostlund, Dana Carlson & Ray Hildebrand.

Program & Publicity-Brenda Jepson, Wendell Spooner, Jerry Nelson & Carolyn Hildebrand with Newsletter & Brochure.

Gift Shop-Kathy Robinson.

Several items of business were discussed and have since been acted upon.

Gary Dickinson reported as follows, "There have been a couple of additions to the museum since the Annual Membership Meeting in August. Acadia Medical Supplies has installed a chair lift from the main floor to the upstairs. This makes the upstairs accessible to elderly and handicapped visitors."

"We also have had a telephone and answering machine installed in the office. It was voted at the Annual Meeting to put the telephone on hold until we could better afford it," Dickinson continued. "A donation by the Barrett Environmental and Education Foundation of California, through Lynn Johnson, enabled us to get the phone, answering machine, and pay much of the phone bill for the year. The phone number is 207-896-5200 and continued Pg.2 Meeting

Meeting

will be in the yellow pages under museums.

Some of the New Sweden Homemaker's Extension members have begun making new curtains for the large front windows on the south side of the museum. They measured and purchased material which Arlene Plourde and Lucy Nelson have begun cutting. These curtains have been desperately needed and will help to block some of the winter sun and cold. The organization's time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Music Bowl Receives "Makeover"

Built in 1937 in Thomas Park, large enough to seat a 30 piece band and with excellent acoustical properties, this music bowl has been a symbol of New Sweden to many. Concerts have been held here since its inception, as well as in recent years church services and Midsummer Programs. This year, it was discovered that our music bowl had aged and was in danger of collapsing. Several men in the community formed a committee to rebuild its foundation. This has been a big expense, but worth every bit of money, time and effort.

Now, there is a great need to help finish this project. You may not be able to help physically, but any donation from \$.01 to \$1000 will help keep our music bowl for our descendants to enjoy. If you are able, please send your donation to the New Sweden Town Office, Station Rd., New Sweden, ME. 04762

Anderson Award

by Sally Sandstrom

Jesse Sandstrom has been very active in the New Sweden Historical Society since the 3rd grade as a Swedish Little Folk Dancer. He went on to help his Nana (Gloria Ringdahl) setting up tables and carrying food



at various historical society functions. During Midsummer, he collected flowers to decorate the Midsummer pole with Debbie Blanchette, and then he volunteered to help with the children painting Swedish horses and items. As he reached the 7th and 8th grade, he found a place with the Lutheran and Baptist men serving breakfast at Thomas Park. He has helped serve breakfast for the past 6 years, and is always happy to do so. One year, he also volunteered to serve ice cream for the Lutheran church. There are

many things he has contributed and volunteered to do during Midsummer.

Sandstrom has attended the Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church all his life, attending Sunday school and being confirmed in the church. He has mowed the lawns at G.A. Lutheran for 5 years and helped out where needed. He has served as an acolyte in the church for 8 years, and ushered for 5 years.

Sandstrom graduated from Caribou High School in June of 2012. He is attending the University of Maine at Presque Isle, Sandstrom and is majoring in history with [certification for teaching](#).

Shop Relocates

SIMPLY SCANDINAVIAN, has a new home in the heart of Portland. They have reopened at 19 Temple St, located in Portland's Downtown District and Old Port. They also can be reached at: 207-874-6768 ~ 888-534-9712 and on the web at simplyscandinavian.com



THE GENEALOGY CORNER

by Lynn A. Johnson

REWRITING HISTORY (Part II)

In my article last quarter, I outlined the records that showed that Sven Adolf Svensson did not accompany his father & the other original Swedish immigrants that first arrived in July of 1870. Although his name is included in the list of the original 51, he did not arrive until 16 months later, accompanying his mother Brita Christina Larsdotter.

Sven Adolf's name wasn't the only one missing from the passenger list of those bound for Hull, England on 24 June 1870: there was 1 more.

In a 1929 article Marie Malmquist listed 51 immigrants. These included "Anders Svensson, med (with) son" – the son being Sven Adolf & it also included; "Jöns Person, hustru (wife) Anna, moder (mother) Elsa, syster (sister) Hanna" For the 100th anniversary of New Sweden, a list of "The First Settlers" included: Jöns Person, his wife Anna, his mother Elsa, & his sister Hanna.

The Orlando's passenger list includes: Jöns Person from Önnestad, Kristianstad male age 35; (his wife) Hanna, female age 27 & Elsa Mattis (dotter understood) female age 70 all having a destination of Halifax. Jöns sister, Hanna Persdotter is not included on that list.

Elsa Mattisdotter was born 30 Aug 1799 in Önnestad, Kristianstad. She married Pehr Andersson born 06 Jan 1800 in Sörby, Kristianstad. They had 6 children all born in Önnestad; Sven, Nils, Jöns, Sissa, Nilla, & Hanna. Pehr died in March 1867.

In the 19th century Swedish church law required that all residents of a parish acquire written permission from the parish priest or other authority before moving out of the parish. This permission slip was to be carried to their next destination and presented to the parish priest there. It was a

strictly regulated system that has allowed us to track our ancestors in Sweden from birth to death, or their emigration to America. However, not everyone played by the rules. Consequently, thousands of these people just "disappeared" & finding them again after they left "without permission" becomes a challenge.

This family did not play by the rules. There is no notation in the church records that Elsa left the parish, let alone left for America. In the clerical survey record for Okänd Vistelseor, Kristianstad 1862-1870 Jöns born 11 Mar 1834 is listed as a single man. Seven lines above him (working on the same estate) is Hanna Persdotter born 23 Nov 1842. She is listed as a single woman. Next to her name a note indicates that she went to America in 1870 without permission. A similar note next to Jöns says he may have left for America in 1869. They next appear as husband & wife leaving on the Orlando on 24 June 1870.

Also, among New Sweden's first immigrants was Jöns older brother, Nils born 03 Dec 1832. He came with his wife Karna & their two daughters, Sigrid and Elsa. They didn't report their departure either.

But at least one family member did: Jöns sister Hanna. Hanna Persdotter was born 16 May 1840. She did not travel with her two brothers, mother, sisters-in-law & nieces on that day in June 1870. She actually never left Sweden until 1874 – four years later. On June 29th, 1874 in Venestad 11, Träne, Kristianstad, Hanna Persdotter asked for & received written permission to go to America, alone.

Hanna arrived in New Sweden the summer of 1874. On 20 Sep 1874 she married the widower, Johan Victor Johanson. Over the next 4 years they had 3 children; Mary, Sophie & Axel.

Although I have, for now, been unable to locate Hanna on a ship's passenger list there is other evidence that she did not immigrate until 1874. The New Sweden census for 1900 records her, her husband Johan & their three children. The census records her birth as May 1840 & her immigration as 1874.

As the evidence outlined in these two articles shows (1) there were only 49 Swedish immigrants listed with a destination of Halifax on Orlando's ship manifest on 24 June 1870. (2) Sven Adolf Svensson, not on that list, actually immigrated with his mother in October 1871 & (3) Hanna Persdotter, the sister of Jöns Persson, who also was not on that list, immigrated in the summer of 1874. So why does New Sweden's history report that there were 51 original immigrants?

W.W. Thomas addressed the residents of New Sweden on the 10th anniversary of the original settlement & is quoted as saying, "The colony was composed of 22 men, 11 women, & 18 children; 51 souls." Surely, he would have remembered how many people he brought to the colony.

As to how or why history reports 51 when the evidence would indicate that there were indeed only 49; I do not know. But if there were 51, two of them had destinations other than Halifax recorded on the ship's passenger list & they were not Sven Adolf Svensson or the Hanna Persdotter who was the sister of Jöns Persson.

But when you think about it doesn't 49 make more sense? When W.W. Thomas arranged for passage, (presumably in advance of the departure considering the large number traveling) wouldn't it have made sense for him to reserve space for 50 people (forty nine plus himself)? 50 is such a nice round number. 52 is just, well, strange! newswedengenealogy@gmail.com



Music Bowl photos by Chris Hearn



Membership Application

Annual dues-\$15 per person; family of two or more of one household-\$30,
\$10 if paid Lifetime member

Newsletter is included in your dues!

P.O. Box 33
New Sweden, ME 04762

Date: **Please Print**

Phone numbers:

greatly appreciated. Tack!

Your Name:

Annual dues

Memorial:

Name of additional members:

Amount Enclosed: (check)

Laden Memorial:

Single-\$15

Family \$30

Lifetime \$150/\$10 annual

Please make checks payable to the
New Sweden Historical Society.

Mailing Address:

Please include any information
about a connection you may have to
New Sweden and the Swedish col-
ony (ancestors names, etc.):

Maine Swedish Colony Building
Restorations-Ostlund House, Clase
House, Lindsten Stuga, Noak
Blacksmith Shop and School:

Email:

Donations for specific projects are