



# HERITAGE

Swedish Heritage & Cultural Center (SHCC)

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<https://www.swedishheritageandculturalcenter.org>

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September 2022

## Välkommen!

**Swedish School**—Twenty children attended our Swedish School held June 13-17. The activities included learning Swedish songs, dances, culture and language. They played a yard game called “Kubb”. On Saturday evening (Midsummer) these students were in costume and performed Swedish dances they had learned for the 80-90 people who had gathered. After raising the Maypole, “Seven Jumps” was accomplished by students, parents, family, friends and those who still felt young enough to be on their knees!



Children who attended were as follows: Makynzi Bergren, Emmet Case, Nolan Case, Kemper Doty, Brett Hart, Brody Hart, Hadley Holt, Pippa King, Rhyse King, Maeve McDonald, Quinn McDonald, Ella Norris, Tucker Norris, Madison Ramsey, Bria Siefrit, Cooper Stephens, Mackensie Ward, Natalie Ward, Ellie Whigham and Grayson Whigham.

Adults who provided leadership, teaching and food were Maurine Allen, Jonas Borg, Chris & Diane Campbell, Cheryl Case, Yvonne Johnson, Gaye Lundgren, John Mainquist, Sheila Mainquist, Anna Peterson, April Vanderholm and Terri Vennerberg.

And, thanks to the many other Summer School and Midsummer volunteers not named above!

*\* Midsummer photos on p. 4*

**The Swedish Holiday Meal** will be Saturday, Nov. 19, 5-7 pm at the Stanton Community Room, 205 Broad Ave. It will consist of ham, creamed lutefisk, mashed potatoes, rye bread and ostkaka. Appetizers will include Swedish meatballs, pickled herring, cheese, crisp bread, lingonberries and glogg.

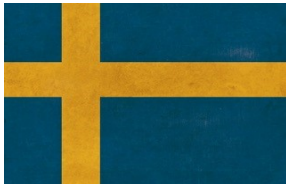
Cost: \$20, \$5 for children 10 & under.

## Santa Lucia and Sköna Maj

Saturday, Dec. 10, 7 pm.  
Stanton High School Gym

Sköna Maj singers—rehearse at 6:45,  
music room.





## Unknown or Forgotten History...

Country Schools—Education of children was a top priority in the minds of settlers who came to the Midwest. Following a practice instituted by the Northwest Territory, rural schools were established as soon as possible. An acre of land in each of four square miles was set aside for the purpose of a school. These schools were to be established two miles apart each way so that a child would not have to walk any further than that distance. This meant that in each township—six miles square—there would be nine rural schools. The school in the center would always be called Center, the other eight would have names to distinguish them. They were often called by the name of the family living near. Areas are still referred to by the early names, even though the building has long since vanished. Larson, Stanton, Blade, Hausen, Center, Lombardy, Neal, Spring Valley and Prairie Home comprised Scott Township. Others in the area were called Maplehurst, Pittsburg, Centennial, Urn, Burke, Wallin, Pilot Grove, Pleasant Lawn and Cedar Grove (Lundgren).

The Frankfort School Picnic, Oct. 3, 1912, (Stanton Call): Despite the cold and rainy weather last Friday, the union picnic of the Frankfort township schools was a very pleasant affair. A large crowd gathered at the Frankfort Methodist Episcopal Church where the program was given in the forenoon. It is claimed that all the children from the nine schools were in attendance. In the afternoon there were several speeches.

Rev. W.W. Merritt spoke of the early days in the county. He taught the first public school in Montgomery County, 53 years ago on the spot where the picnic was held. Frankfort was quite a place at that time, the county seat and metropolis of the county. Rev. Merritt, then newly ordained a Unitarian minister, was walking through from Kansas City to Glenwood, but he never got there. He stayed in the county, taught school, and later became county clerk. He had a large part in shaping affairs in Montgomery, and his story of early times was intensely interesting. Although there was not a house within sight of Frankfort town, his school numbered sixty pupils. It is evident that some of them came a long way to gain knowledge.

Roads were poor in early days and difficult to travel, and each family was responsible for getting their children to school. This usually meant for the children to walk. Occasionally in winter, bob sleds or wagons pulled by

horses picked up children on the way. Attendance was generally good.

A farmer in each district was named director, and he hired the teacher and in general was in charge of keeping the school yard in good condition. The director and his wife had to clean the school house just prior to the opening of the school year. Windows were washed, floors scrubbed, desks cleaned, grass was cut.

The teachers hired were usually young women who had completed a year of normal training, often offered in high school or at a session in the summer. Some had attended a year of normal training in college. Each had to pass an examination and hold a teaching certificate. Many of these teachers boarded with the director's family. Their duties were many. They conducted classes in all subjects to children in grades 1 through 8. They kept the building in order, swept out each day and were expected to get to school in time to have the building warm when pupils arrived. They built their own fires, brought in fuel and took out ashes. Some schools had wells, but drinking water had to be brought inside. Teachers taught music often with no instruments. In 1907, Maplehurst school purchased an organ.

Programs were an important part of the school year. The children prepared readings, plays and songs to present to an audience made up of parents and friends. Christmas was always special. A curtain on a wire was stretched across the front of the room making a stage. Handmade decorations for the tree and windows brightened the room. Candy and presents were distributed. Some schools had programs and suppers once a month. Lighting was provided by families bringing kerosene lamps.

Teachers supervised the playground at noon and recess. Playing ball in any form was always popular. Tag, Hide-and-Seek, and Andy Over allowed all ages to play together. Fox and Geese and making snow angels in the snow were fun in winter. After a winter recess, mittens were dried out near the stove in readiness for the next recess.





The teachers were supervised by a County Superintendent. For many years this was Lula B. Reed in Montgomery County. She visited each school every so often and advised teachers on special problems. She had an office in the Courthouse and was available on Saturdays to teachers who wanted to confer with her. Teachers salaries were more-or-less dependent on economic conditions—varied from \$25 to \$85 per month.

The Center school in each township was often used as a location for voting in election years. The country school houses were community gathering places. In 1886, news reports showed a spelling school, a law suit (drama), and debates at Lombardy Grove school. Box socials and other activities were a help to raise money for school equipment and expenses. Scott township school #3 had 49 pupils in 1886. Students had a four week vacation in March and then returned for the final 9 weeks.

Eighth grade graduation was an event planned long in advance. All rural Montgomery County 8th graders had to get to Red Oak to take the Eighth Grade Exams and had to pass these in order to be able to enter high school. Teachers spent much time reviewing and preparing students for examinations in every subject. Besides the basic subjects, there were tests in Agriculture, Home Making and Music. A county wide graduation ceremony took place in Red Oak upon successful completion of these exams.

Eighth Grade Graduation was cause for celebration and large township gatherings to honor the graduates. In Scott Township in 1913 and 1914, the township picnics were at the Wigstone Brothers farm with an estimated 300 in attendance. Businesses in town closed at 10 am so people could attend. All kinds of means were used to get to the picnic grounds. Three auto liveries were run, and they kept busy hauling people out from town. The farmers had their own conveyances—buggy or auto. Some of them were kind enough to hitch to a spring wagon or a lumber wagon and haul from town all that the rigs would hold. Boys and girls did not shrink from walking and most of them got a ride back—a distance of almost five miles.

The program in the forenoon was given by pupils of the township schools. A teacher made a plea for adding another month to the school year. Scott township was the only township in the county to have seven months of school. The rest had eight. The main part of the program was in the afternoon, shortly after the basket dinner. The Stanton Concert Band played as part of the program. Speakers came from Ames, a county agricultural advisor and a state representative. A male quartet performed and the band gave a closing concert. Ice cream and soft drinks were given in the early afternoon. A ball game was played in the meadow.

The Frankfort township school picnic was held at Frankfort Center and was attended by probably 400 people. This was the day preceding Memorial Day observed in Stanton. Scott and Frankfort should get together (in the opinion of The Call) and agree on picnic days far enough apart from each other and Memorial Day to make it possible for town people to attend. There is no reason why

Stanton and its band should not participate in Frankfort's picnic.

What grand parties they had in observance of the end of the school year and eighth grade graduation!

#### Rural School Teachers

1911—Frankfort Township: #1—Mamie Ruth, #2—Sadie Larson, #3—Maude Vetter, #4—Edna Johnson, #5—Irene Roach, #6—Olga Mille, #7—Edith Benson, #8—Nellie Johnson, #9—Mamie Johnson.

Scott: #1—Effa Truman, #2— ?? , #3—Ora Neal, #4—Manly Bixler, #5—Hazel Mann, #6—Hazel Alcorn, #7—Mable McMullen, #8—Emma Julian, #9—Elsie McCunn.

\* from an article written by Delma (Mainquist) Sundberg, "Lest We Forget: A History of Stanton, Iowa", p. 31-32.

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## Metal Dala Horse

**\$55** at SHCC gift shop.



**SHCC Open Hours:**

**Wed—Sat.—1-4 pm.**

**April—October**

## Midsummer photos:



## Swedish Roots—Documenting Halland Settlement Roots in Sweden

Thanks to those of you who have already completed the information form. The submitted information is available to anyone who visits SHCC and is looking for more genealogy information about relatives. Forms are available either at SHCC or by downloading the form from our webpage.

**We are all Volunteers!** Many hours and monetary gifts are given to keep SHCC “alive and kicking”. Thank-you for your memberships, donations and time! SHCC depends on all of us no matter if we live close-by or far away.

**Memberships:** I would like to support the Swedish Heritage and Cultural Center as designated below. Memberships and donations pay for maintenance, utility and project expenses.

Individual membership	\$10
Individual and spouse membership	\$20
Bronze contributing membership	\$50
Silver contributing membership	\$100
Gold contributing membership	\$200
Platinum contributing membership	\$500
Benefactor contributing membership	\$1000
Corporate contributing membership	\$5000

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Another option: Donation, Memorial or Endowment in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Tack så mycket!



**We need your info:** We can reduce some of our mailing expenses by sending newsletters to you by email. May we have your email? If you're willing, please include your email address when you send in your yearly membership contribution or send a separate email to [shcc@myfmtc.com](mailto:shcc@myfmtc.com) with your name and information. Thanks!

## 2022 Memberships, Donations & Memorials

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**Gold:** Robert & Maurine Allen, David Aanonson, Dennis & Jennifer Burke, Allen Hall & Deanna Hilton, Daryl & Anne Hallquist, Jim Hicks, Mike & Fran Lawson, Mike & Gaye Lundgren, James & Ruth Nimrod, Roger & Kathy Ossian, Bob & Lynn Peterson, William & Joyce Sederburg, Alan & Mary Ann Rydquist Skoog.

**Platinum:** Mickey & Marla Anderson, Nancy Bauer, Jason Lantz, Dean & Joan Olander, Daryl Peterson, Red Oak Chrysler.

**Benefactor:** Wendell Gourley.

**Memorials:** Barb Focht in memory of Phyllis Peterson, John Gabrielson in memory of Mable Marie Burke Gabrielson, Wendell Gourley in memory of Jeanine Gourley, Gary & Rhoda Hartstack in memory of Wendell Westerburg, William & Jefferie James in memory of Myra Johnson, Darlien Marie Johnson in memory of Ruth Jansson, Peter & Pamela Lundholm in memory of Gertrude Lundholm, James & Ruth Nimrod in memory of (1) Richard & Jenne Nimrod, (2) Anita Jean Briggs, (3) Michael Nimrod, and (4) Jean Ann Nimrod., Dean & Joan Olander in memory of Enola Peterson, Brian Peterson in memory of Clair & Marcella Peterson, Max Peterson Trust in memory of Jim Miller & Tom Williams, Kirk & Garnet Requist in memory of Tom Williams and Jerry Byrd, Delbert & Judith Schroeder in memory of Henry & Hilma Ossian, Mark & Juliette Rutledge in memory of Emma Hoagland, John & Dorothy Sholeen in memory of Dave & Dorothy Sholeen, Kathy Tornquist in memory of Kenneth Hart, JoAnne Wegler in memory of Jerry Wegler.





**HERITAGE**

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