



HERITAGE

Swedish Heritage & Cultural Center (SHCC)

<https://www.swedishheritageandculturalcenter.org>

Issue number: Eighty

September 2021

Välkommen!

This year we have renewed our Swedish traditions in spite of COVID-2019 changes. Even though our community had its challenges, it's been a busy year.

We had a warm weather Santa Lucia on April 30 on the same evening as the singing of Sköna Maj. This was a make-up for the postponed December 2020 event. (photos in May 2021 newsletter)

In June we were able to have a shortened version of Swedish School. Students danced and had fun at the Midsummers Day activities, June 19th. (see p. 2).



In July for the Stanton 150 years +1 celebration, we took part in several ways. The SHCC building was the site of the registration. The landscape approach and loway Indian display were both dedicated. A history walking tour of 5 Stanton business sites was acted out. (p. 2). The 2020 and 2021 "OLE" recipients were named. (p. 3). And, shortly after 150+1 activities, a time capsule was buried. (p. 3)

A refurbished horse drawn buggy is now housed in the remodeled red storage shed. (p. 3)

The SHCC Webpage was remade and energized. (p. 4)



Swedish School, June 16th, 2021

Twenty-six children attended Swedish School on Wednesday, June 16. Their activities included learning Swedish songs, dances, culture, language and playing a Swedish outdoor yard game called "Kubb". On Saturday evening (Midsummer) these students were in costume where approximately 90-100 people had gathered to eat and watch them perform the dances they had learned. After the raising of the Maypole, the dance "Seven Jumps" was performed by students, parents, grandparents and those who were Swedish at heart.



Children who attended the school were as follows: Makynzi Bergren, Emmet Case, Nolan Case, Kemper Doty, Cooper Dreyer, JT Dreyer, Lucy Dreyer, Adalyn Ellis, Tristan Elwood, Brett Hart, Brody Hart, Hadlee Hoyt, Bristol Johnson, Pippa King, Rhyse King, Delainie Magnuson, Lucas McClain, Karter Porter, Madison Ramsey, Brian Seifert, Mitchell Stoakes, McKinsey Ward, Natalie Ward, Allie Whigham, Greyson Whigham.

Adults who provided leadership, teaching and food were Maurine Allen, Jonas Borg, Cheryl Case, Ynonne Johnson, Gaye Lundgren, John Mainquist and Sheila Mainquist.

Thanks to everyone who was involved! Next year we plan to have a 5-day school as we did before the pandemic COVID-2019.

Business History Walk Actors



Sally Rossander Stoakes portrayed Lidia Olseen who was a long-time telephone operator.

Chris Nelson portrayed Ernest Mollenhoff who moved the Pederson-Wallin-Wistrom building to its present site.

Cameron Sallach portrayed a young teller of the bank.

Cheryl Case portrayed beautician Mabel Danielson (married name Nord). Cheryl's son, Nolan dressed as his grandfather, Glenn, was her customer.

John Mainquist portrayed Victor Blade who had a hardware store where the new Gibbs Chophouse is located (opened in October).

Gasson Buggy in SHCC Red Shed

(cover photo). This buggy's metal framework once belonged to Thomas & Sarah Gasson (see p. 4). It was found by John Palmquist and rebuilt by him. After many years of use, John recently donated it to SHCC plus he widened the shed doors so the buggy would fit. Thank-you!



OLE Award Recipients for 2020 and 2021 were Carroll Peterson and Sheila Mainquist respectively. Both spend countless hours promoting and preserving Swedish history and traditions. Congratulations!



2070 Time Capsule

Thanks to Ron and Sara DeMarce of Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home, Red Oak for their donation of a capsule and marker to be used. And, to Cathy and Dave Hart for ensuring it was properly buried. The below photo is at the burial site just north of the water tower. It is one of few photos where all advisors and directors and several volunteers were present at the same time. Someone asked, "How many Swedes does it take...."



If you have old photos, postcards, newspapers, artifacts and don't know what to do with them, please consider bringing them to SHCC. Perhaps the things you have will help fill-in the missing gaps in our records. We have a lot of information already, but we know there's more out there just waiting to be rediscovered. And, come see the records we already have. Many families have given us a copy of their family history. Some of these are brief, some are extensive. But, nevertheless, they are all valuable. Come read the family stories. Sometimes they seem come alive again simply by being read and not forgotten.

Roots in Sweden Project, Put Your Family on the Map!

by Chris Nelson

Document and preserve your family's stories as a part of the "Roots in Sweden" project at the Swedish Heritage Center (SHCC). Swedish immigrants came to America and Southwest Iowa in the mid-and-late 1800's for opportunity. Through Rev. Bengt Magnus Halland's advertisements in Swedish-American newspapers and elsewhere, Swedish ancestor immigrants come from in Sweden and what are the stories of their lives? Every generation that goes by without documentation of this history, makes it more difficult to remember or discover the stories of the Swedish immigrants that settled here. On the "Roots in Sweden" SHCC form, just fill out as much information as you know. It will be added to the archived immigration display history book. In addition, a flag will be placed at the ancestor's origin on a map of Sweden.

If you are not familiar with this Swedish immigration to Southwest Iowa and how it all happened, there is a book by Claus L. Anderson called "Gracious Bounty". This book can be purchased at the Swedish Heritage Center gift shop. Below is a quote from this book.

"The influx of settlers continued during the years following the opening of land for settlement in 1870. They came directly from Sweden or from older settlements in Illinois and other states. They were seeking homes they could call their own. The average farm consisted of 80 acres and the average family was 5 members."

To record your family information as a part of this "Roots in Sweden" project, find the information form on the Swedish Heritage Center's webpage at <https://www.swedishheritageandculturalcenter.org>. Another method of getting this information form is to contact Chris Nelson at 712-621-2785 or at nelson4@myfmtc.com. He will send a copy of the form direct to you either by U.S. Postal mail or to your e-mail address. Then, return the filled out form to the Swedish Heritage and Cultural Center in Stanton, Iowa 51573.





Unknown or Forgotten History...

(daughter Mabel, SHSS Gasson History binder, pp. 7-13)
“Thomas Edmond Gasson was of English ancestry. He was born in a suburb of London, a tailor by trade and came to North America at age 21. His family of origin were fishermen. Sarah Frances (Langford) Gasson was born near Carthage, Illinois, of Irish ancestry. Many years later some of their children and grandchildren married into the Swedish community of Stanton.

“Thomas and Sarah were married in 1866 at the bride’s home near Carthage, IL. They operated a little county store selling groceries, dry goods and ran a post office. Thinking that the west held golden opportunities, the young couple made their way west to Villisca, Iowa to spend the cold winter months of 1869. They traveled for 10 days by covered wagon. Thomas had bought a bred pure-bred Poland China sow. Sara later said the sow walked most of the way.



“Sarah’s sister, Mary already lived at Villisca. ‘There were few houses in town. One morning on an early train, a Swedish group came with their pastor. There was no one to cook a meal for them. I don’t know how many meals I cooked, but all were fed. They were the founders of Stanton. After dinner, their pastor and the people went to survey the place for houses. I think the pastor’s name was Halland.’

“The following spring the family found land to buy about three miles northwest of Stanton. Though an agreement had been made, the land agent discovered that the name Gasson was not Swedish as had been assumed. Since the area around Stanton was for Swedes only, the deal could not go through. Relatives said he was amused later when there was a terrible drought, and the Swedes begged him to let them haul water from his springs. He never held a grudge long being a Christian man. He had

many Swedish neighbors later on. He helped them when he could.

“The banks of the Tarkio seven miles southwest of Stanton became the site for their future home. Some of the land was bought for as low as \$1.25 an acre. The Tarkio River ran through this land. There were three good springs that never ran dry. It was here they reared their 8 children and lived the rest of their lives. To attain lumber for building a house Mr. Gasson forded the Missouri River with his oxen to reach Omaha. A house basement was built first which served as both store and home. Later the rest of the house was built, and they discontinued the store.

“The community grew as people continued to come to find homes. One family came with no place to live. They were happy when my parents let them live in our basement. Friendliness was one of the characteristics of the people settling in this vicinity. It appears as sort of a tradition that when people moved into a community, engaged in the same occupation, that a closeness developed. It was definitely true of our neighborhood. To be a good neighbor meant being available in time of need. Whether advice, help or comforting was needed, there was usually one sought out from the rest . In our community when the time came for the arrival of a new baby, it was my Mother whom they wanted to be there. She went winter and summer and could count 40 trips to deliver babies. In the winter the roads would be full of snow. Sometimes wolves would follow the sleigh but never attacked. She was scared though.

“The kitchen was the scene of much activity. With the exception of spices, sugar and coffee, every dish of food placed on the table had been raised and cared for. The flour used came from wheat we raised. We had a large garden, and it wasn’t unusual to can 500 quarts during the season.



Grandson Garland Lewis wrote the below accounts of his Grandmother Sarah's stories, Gasson History binder, p. 16-20.

“One of the highlights in Grandma’s life happened when she was a young girl and watched a Lincoln-Douglas debate. She recalled how frightened she became when they began shouting at each other and shaking their fists. After the debate, she saw them walking ‘arm-in-arm’ down the street and decided that ‘they must have made up.’ She was very proud to tell her children and grandchildren that she had shaken the hand of Mr. Lincoln and actually talked to him that day. She told how grieved they were to learn of his death—news that did not reach them for almost three weeks.

“Grandpa had some of the largest barns around. The barn west of the house was huge. The first barn there, I’m told, was just as large as the last one. The first barn was struck by lightning after it had been filled with hay. That was common it seems. Whether the heat from new hay draws lightning, I’m not sure but most people think it does. It was a terrible loss, not only losing the barn, hay and grain but losing 18 horses besides. They said they had all the horses out but one and while trying to get it out the others panicked and ran back in.



“When the Gasson’s first settled on the farm there were days when Grandpa went to town for supplies and was gone all day. Grandma would begin to think of her relatives back around Carthage and become very homesick. Many times she would walk to the Tarkio River to fish or think about home and cry. It was so peaceful there. One day while she was there, across the river, two Indians appeared out of the grass. They sat down and watched her. Though she was afraid, she stayed. Finally, the Indians backed off into the grass. Later she found out they were protecting her.

“In 1870, Grandfather went to town early for supplies. As Grandmother was outside and saw about forty Indians coming on horses. She was frightened being alone but had time to hide the children as best she could. They rode up to her dressed in colorful garments. One could speak a little English; she knew he was asking for food. She noticed one Indian was dead. She asked why they came here. He

told her they used to camp on the east hill and had a burial ground. As he was speaking she thought of a sack of ground corn meal she had that she could use to make something for them to eat. She told him to go bury their dead, then return. He agreed. She later watched them eat sitting cross legged in their colorful robes. As they left they made signs of thanking her. The Gasson’s never bothered the burial ground because they figured it to be sacred.



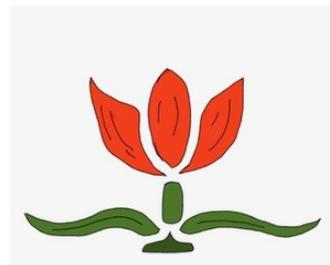
“The Prairie Home School was a mile north of Gasson’s and was where all the Gasson children attended. Laura Gasson taught while Mabel & Myrtle were going to school. Later Laura’s daughter Blanche taught there.

“I remember Grandma and Aunt Myrtle had many family reunions. All the Gasson girls would pitch in preparing the dinner. I know I always looked forward to these get-togethers especially around Christmas. I remember the English Plum Pudding that we had for Christmas. Even my wife, *Ruby likes it, and here she is a Swede! “

Thomas and Sarah had 8 children: Drusilla, Henry, Laura, Eliza, Celia, Myrtle, Mabel and Vera. Their genealogy information and stories are found in the Gasson History binders, SHCC office.

Thomas died in 1901 and Sarah in 1933.

* Ruby (Peterson) Lewis was one of the first SHCC directors and is likely the source of these Gasson photos.



New Swedish Heritage and Cultural Center (SHCC) Website

A new SHCC website has been launched! This is a great place to learn more about the SHCC. You can see photos of displays, find hours of operation as well as admission costs, find contact information as well as browse items that are for sale in the gift shop, find links to the Roots in Sweden project and learn how you can become a member. There are also links to Stanton businesses and local attractions.

We are working to keep the website updated with new information so come back and visit often. Website address is - <https://www.swedishheritageandculturalcenter.org>

If you have questions or would like something put on the website, please contact Vicky Rossander—ph. 712-829-2185—webmaster.

Many thanks to Vicky Rossander for doing this!

Volunteers are needed to help digitalize the videotapes taken by Donald Hallquist in the 1960s and 70s. Please contact Sheila Mainquist (712-370-6806).

Swedish Holiday Meal Special holiday foods are available again, Nov. 20, 5-7 pm at the Stanton Community Center, 326 Broad Ave. The appetizers and meal are at the Community Center so no need to go the SHCC. The meal prepared by Cathy Hart will consist of ham, creamed lutefisk, mashed potatoes, rye bread and ostkaka. Appetizers will consist of Swedish meatballs, pickled herring, cheese, crisp bread, lingonberries and glogg. Cost \$12.

Santa Lucia and Sköna Maj

Saturday, Dec. 11, 7 pm.
Stanton High School Gym

Singers will rehearse at 6:45, music room.



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 with the gift named 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
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Corporate contributing membership \$5000

Amount: _____

Names to be listed as members: _____

Another option: Donation, Memorial or Endowment in memory of: _____

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We need your info: We can reduce some of our mailing expenses by sending newsletters to you by email. An added benefit is that it would be in color! 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 with your name and information.

2021 Memberships, Donations & Memorials

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Honorariums: Jim & Ruth Nimrod in honor of (1) Dale & Sunny Nimrod, (2) William & Faith Sherman, and (3) Stu & Lorrie Peterson.



HERITAGE

THE JOURNAL OF THE STANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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