



A Turner in Jamestown



Detail of miniature desk drawer by Oskar Anderson, Jamestown, NY c. 1925. ASHM Collection

Immigration is the story of people and places, but we often forget how diverse these stories are. Instead, we focus on general pictures and the archetypical immigrant's story as representative of millions of people. Similarly, it is easy to imagine the story of Scandinavian immigration to the United States as always being tied to the American West, envisioning families working their way to Illinois, Minnesota, or even further to the Pacific coast. But this is not the full story of the 2.3 million Scandinavians who came to the United States in the 1800s and early 1900s.

Jamestown is a small town in Chautauqua County in rural New York, less than 30 miles southeast of Lake Erie. In addition to its proximity to the Chautauqua Institution, home of the late-1800s educational movement, Jamestown has the distinctions of

having been the second-largest furniture maker in the United States for much of its 200-year history (the largest being Grand Rapids, Michigan) and the highest-proportion Swedish population in the East. These stories are closely intertwined, as Jamestown Swedes provided skilled labor for hundreds of furniture factories between the Civil War and World War One.

Before this, though, Jamestown was "little more than a ragged hole in a gloomy forest wilderness", as described by settler Obed Edson in 1816. He was not far off—early Jamestown was an isolated lumber village surrounded by primeval pine forests. These ancient trees and the rivers around them were Jamestown's most valuable resources. Through the mid-1800s, local creeks helped in exporting simple manufactured goods such as wooden pails, tubs, shingles,

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Note from the Director

"Through music we may wander where we will in time, and find friends in every century."

– Helen Thompson

I never cease to be amazed at how many musicians continue to be inspired by Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale. Her influence in the 1850s is hard for us to understand today, and the elusiveness of her voice, since it was never recorded, could be why musicians continue to interpret her work. We are happy to host Zoe Vandermeer in July to bring Jenny Lind's soaring soprano voice to life again.

Like Jenny Lind's voice, folk music has a life of its own and evolves, is re-interpreted, and sometimes even takes on new lyrics over time. Something about folk music cuts across cultural boundaries and the dimension of time to speak to people. The band JAERV is a master of bringing Swedish folk music to life like no one else I have heard. You have a special opportunity to hear them play at this year's Midsommarfest.

Music is a natural complement to what we do as a museum—it helps bring alive eras, traditions and cultures in a way that everyone enjoys. In the modern era we are spoiled by the instant availability of music of every type (Thank you, Swedes for Spotify!). It is hard for us to imagine a time when the only way to hear music was through live performances or making music yourself. But live performances are still the best way to experience music, so whether it is here at ASHM or elsewhere on your travels this summer, I truly hope that you treat yourself to the experience of music.



Tracey Beck

A Turner in Jamestown continued from front cover

and scythe handles to outlying river towns. Importing people and products remained challenging due to water currents leading away from Jamestown.

The 1825 opening of the Erie Canal started a new chapter in the town's commercial history. This vital link between the Hudson River and Lake Erie spurred development throughout New York State, opening isolated villages to new markets and labor. Jamestown capitalized on these connections by importing hardwoods such as black walnut and white oak to supplement its pine furniture industry. Walnut and oak were ideal for cabinet-making, providing an attractive and durable wood grain at an affordable price. With these new imports came better exports, expanding Jamestown's markets to include cities as far away as St. Louis.

As much as the Erie Canal spurred economic development, railroad connections to New York City in 1860 caused a surge in Jamestown's population. With the Great Western Railroad, settlers could now travel directly from New York City to Jamestown, where they found quick employment in its many furniture industries. The period after the Civil War was particularly lucrative for Jamestown craftsmen as they attempted to fill the market for furniture caused by wide-scale destruction in the American South.

Swedes and Danes were among the more successful immigrants in Jamestown. With its temperate summers, cold winters, and expansive forests, Chautauqua County was similar to much of southern and central Sweden. Even if they did not ultimately settle in Jamestown, many Swedes simply passed through this town on their journeys west. Many of the Swedes who stayed in Jamestown were from rural areas and already skilled in woodcutting, carpentry, and cabinetmaking.

While Jamestown's early Swedes were skilled artisans, many also became business leaders. In the 50 years between the Civil War and World War One, Swedes founded at least 75 furniture companies in Jamestown. By 1920, around 75% of all businesses in Jamestown had been founded by Swedes or

those of Swedish descent. While many were small and short-lived, others such as the A. C. Norquist Company (1881), Atlas Furniture Company (1882), and Carlson, Bloomquist and Snow (1885) lasted well into the 1900s.



Norquist Brothers, Jamestown, NY 1921. Courtesy of Clarence Carlson.



Baseball star Ted Williams poses with a giant bat made by Andersson Woodturning. Courtesy of the Gardner Museum.

Swedes were drawn to the furniture industry because, unlike other trades, it was relatively inexpensive to begin a small furniture factory. With a national market—including chairs sold to the U.S. Supreme Court—furniture provided upward social and commercial mobility for those who were successful. While Jamestown was predominantly a Swedish town, Danes found success there too. Among the most socially-active citizens of historic Jamestown was Charles Ipson, born in Denmark in 1846 and son of a famed inventor. After achieving success in furniture, Ipson became heavily involved with Jamestown Board of Health and schools.

While the names of factory owners have survived, individual craftspeople have typically vanished. The American Swedish Historical Museum has recently been donated a miniature cherry furniture set and other turnings made by a Jamestown Swede named Oskar Karl Alphonse Andersson, allowing the museum to celebrate the craft and story of Jamestown's Swedish artisans.

Oskar and three of his brothers immigrated to the United States in the early 1920s when Oskar was in his early forties. The large Andersson family originated in Sweden, but they had lived in Denmark for several years prior to migrating to the United States, where they continued the family profession of wood turning. While the heyday of Jamestown's furniture industries was receding, turning was still a valued skill in all woodworking trades as it was used to create candlesticks, lamps, legs, spindles, pegs, balusters, and baseball bats.

Oskar's brothers were especially successful. His younger brother, Ernst, founded a woodturning plant, Andersson Woodturning, in Gardner, MA in the 1940s. Among other accomplishments, Ernst's plant turned baseball bats for the Boston Red Sox. In celebration of "Gardner Day at Fenwick Park" in 1946, Ernst even turned a giant bat from a telephone pole, which was photographed being held by baseball star Ted Williams. This giant bat is on display at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Oskar himself remained in Jamestown, likely working as a turner for one of the many Swedish-owned factories. His miniature furniture pieces were likely part of a larger set used for advertising, based on their remarkable stylistic and technical similarity to Jamestown's early-20th century furniture. While Oskar's place of employment remains unknown, these miniature furnishings highlight the skills of a Swedish-trained turner plying his trade in the United States.

Explore Jamestown's Swedish roots yourself with the American Swedish Historical Museum this summer!

Midsommarklubben at 40 Years: How the first Midsummer celebration at ASHM started.

by Ingrid Cagan and Maj-Britt Lautman
Photos by Ulla-Britt Apell

During the winter of 1979, we were a group of 8 to 10 Swedish women in our 30's, all friends, most with small children, who met at the Museum at the suggestion of Claes Boethen, the Director at that time. We learned that Midsummer was not being celebrated at the ASHM, so our group organized the first Midsummer in June of 1979. Also, in recognition of that occasion, we decided to name our group Midsommarklubben.

We were all a bit nervous about starting this new adventure, but we had a great team. For the Midsummer celebration we baked *bullar*, cakes (*Tosca*) and cookies, and served these along with coffee (of course), and homemade lemonade. In addition, we arranged games for children and a bargain table with items for sale. We all brought flowers and greenery for the midsummer pole.

Since that time, Midsummer has been celebrated annually in June at ASHM, organized by Midsommarklubben volunteers, to bring together families and friends for a joyous celebration. During the initial years the midsummer pole was set up on the lawn directly in front of the museum, where we had music and dancing. As the event grew too large for that space, we moved the midsummer pole to the grassy area beyond the road immediately in front of the museum.



Through the years we have had a variety of entertainers who have performed, including the *New York Folk Dancers* and several accordion and guitar players. Jenny Lind Stipendiater and the *Stockholm Boy's Choir* have sung. During recent years the *Swedish Meatballs* from Brooklyn, New York, have provided the music.

Since 1989, Midsommarklubben has also planned and executed Julbord, as part of the Lucia celebration at ASHM in early December. Midsommarklubben provides a wonderful selection of homemade traditional Swedish dishes.

With funds raised at these events, Midsommarklubben has been pleased to give the museum an annual donation of \$10,000 or more.

We now have many more members than when we started, but we welcome new members to join us. All our meetings are conducted in Swedish, making us the only group in the museum that is Swedish-speaking. When we started 40 years ago, we had no idea how successful our little club would become, and how much fun we would have along the way!



Summer 2019 Upcoming Events

To Register For Events

call 215-389-1776, or visit online at
www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm

There is always something going on at the American Swedish Historical Museum. See below for scheduled events. Please check with the Museum to confirm dates and other details. Refunds will not be granted for cancellations after the registration deadline. To register for events by phone call (215) 389-1776. Online registration is available through links in the museum's email announcements or on the Events Calendar page of our website, americanswedish.org



MONTHLY PROGRAM: Toddler Time

10:30 am - 11:30 am

The third Tuesday of each month ASHM offers specially designed programs to introduce Swedish culture through art, science, and literature in fun and creative ways to children ages 18 months to 4 years old.

The cost is \$5 per child or free for museum Household Members. There is no charge for accompanying caregivers. Optional pre-registration by phone or online.

Tuesday June 18, 2019

Fem Små Grodor- Five Little Frogs

Tuesday July 16, 2019

Float Your Boat

Tuesday August 20, 2019

Surprise!

Tuesday September 17, 2019

The Dala Horse



National Day Thursday, June 6 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

What better place to celebrate Swedish National Day than the American Swedish Historical

Museum! Enjoy free admission including guided tours at 11 am and 1 pm highlighting the history of the museum, and a special Swedish summer dessert.

**FIFA Women's World Cup: Sweden vs. USA
Thursday, June 20**

Pre-Game Party 2:00 pm

Match Starts at 3:00 pm

As far as we are concerned, this is a win-win match! Play hooky for a summer afternoon and head over to the American Swedish Historical Museum to watch some of the greatest soccer players in the world battle it out towards the championship. Cheer on both

teams surrounded by an enthusiastic group of fans. Free for members or included with admission for non-members. Food available for purchase.

New Member Tour Saturday, June 22 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

If you have become a new member of ASHM since the beginning of 2018, we invite you to join us for a special tour with Executive Director Tracey Beck just before we kick-off our Midsommar celebrations. Please pre-register through our website, as space is limited.



Midsommarfest Saturday, June 22 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Celebrate summer at our annual Midsommarfest, complete with food, drinks, homemade Swedish pastries, maypole dancing, as well as games for the kids. Don't miss this year's special musical performance by award winning Swedish folk band JAERV! Buy discounted tickets online in advance or pay regular prices at the door (Members \$8, Non-members \$12, Children 4-12 \$5).



Summer Concert— Jenny Lind's America Thursday, July 11 Reception 5:30pm, Concert 6:30 - 8:00pm

Soprano and Harpist Zoe Vandermeer, along with New York pianist/conductor Richard Nechamkin present their delightful program 'Jenny Lind's America', a potpourri of songs and arias sung by Lind on her American Tour 1850-1852. Enjoy music composed for Lind, Welsh triple harp and piano solos featuring music dedicated to Jenny Lind, a rousing 1850 vocal version of the 'Jenny Lind Polka', and the Swedish Nightingale's favorite opera arias. \$25 for members, \$30 non-members.

Bus Trip: Jamestown, New York Friday July 19- Sunday July 21

Join ASHM as we spend the weekend in Jamestown New York to visit the Scandinavian Folk Festival! Highlights of the bus trip include a visit to the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum, a fascinating lecture on the Swedish connections to Jamestown, all day admission to the Folk Festival, a private lakeside cocktail reception, and an exclusive chance to explore the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History. Hotel accommodations for the weekend will be at the deluxe Harbor Hotel located alongside the Chautauqua Lake. The

trip includes motor coach transportation, accommodation, two breakfasts, two lunches, and admission to all events. Registration is \$775 for members and \$850 for non-members (\$225 single room supplement).

**To register please call or go online to
www.americanswedish.org by May 30th.**
If you have any questions please contact
Lauren Burnham 215-389-1776 x106.



SmörgåsBeer Saturday, July 27 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Spend a summer evening sampling local Philly and International lagers, ales, stouts, ciders and meads paired alongside a spread of Swedish inspired eats. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, with a special designated driver price of \$15. Register online or by phone.



Crayfish Party Friday, August 16 6:30 pm

Get a taste of Swedish summer at our annual Crayfish Party! Enjoy a buffet of crayfish, Swedish meatballs, along with crisp bread, cheese, potatoes, cheese pie, and glass of aquavit all outside under our beautiful lighted and decorated tent. \$50 for ASHM and SACC Philadelphia members, \$60 for non-members. Register by phone or online by August 12th.

Scanfest

Sunday, September 1

Join other Scandinavia enthusiasts for a day of fun, food, and great shopping at Scanfest in Budd Lake, New Jersey. The bus will pick up at the Delaware Welcome Center on I-95 and at the ASHM. Your price includes transportation and the festival ticket. RSVP by August 5th at www.newswedenalliance.org, \$75. per person. Sponsored by The New Sweden Alliance.

Current Exhibit on View through Sept. 22

Be sure to visit our current exhibit *Outdoor Adventures: Navigating the Nordic Way* before it closes on September 22nd.

Annual Meeting

**Sunday, September 15
3:00 pm**

ASHM members are welcome to join us for our annual meeting, where the Amandus Johnson Volunteer Service Award will also be presented.

Images from Recent Events

Photographs by ASHM Staff

▼ The museum staff is looking forward to making the ABBA Dance Party a recurring addition to the museum's annual calendar of events.



▼ The first ever ExtrABBAganza Dance Party at the museum was a huge success.



▲ This year's golden egg winner.



▲ The highlight of the Easter Family Fun Day is the two egg hunts at the museum's front and back lawns.



◀ Parents got to shop for great quality clothes at the Polarn O. Pyret warehouse pop-up sale at the ASHM.

▼ Longtime museum members Kristina and Elisabeth preparing Semlor for our annual Semlor and a Movie event.



▲ Museum members enjoyed a special members-only preview before the opening of the new Nordic Navigation exhibition. Photo by Katherine Elgin Photography.



► During March Toddler Time we talked about the weather in Sweden and kids got to play with different interactive elements to enhance learning.



▼ During April's Toddler Time kids got to explore our new temporary exhibit and learn about maps and navigation.



◀ Swedish Cooking Workshop participants learned how to make several Swedish appetizers like Smörgåstårter and Toast Skagen, and then finished the class by making Princess Cake.



Contributions

Do you want to make a contribution? There are several easy ways to support us. Visit our web page americanswedish.org/support or call **215-389-1776** for more information.

Contributions to the Collection

As a nonprofit organization, the American Swedish Historical Museum relies on the generosity of its friends and supporters to meet the costs providing programs and services, year-round, to thousands of local, national, and international visitors. Thank you for your contributions!

The ASHM has recently received several generous donations to its collection. Among these is a series of Swedish-American Line menus from 1949, a SAL cocktail menu, and a folk costume dating to 1975. While ASHM already possesses many traditional folk costumes, this one highlights a special story of Swedish and American connections. Alfie Carlson Rulie relates the story of her Swedish father, born in Värnamo and emigrated in 1912, and her American mother. During a trip to Sweden in 1975, her mother was given a lovely folk dress that had been hand-woven and embroidered by her new Swedish sisters-in-law. Her Swedish siblings also taught her traditional Swedish recipes. Alfie jokes today that while her mother was never truly Swedish, marrying a Swede seemed to "get her in the club."



New Members

February 1 through April 30, 2019

Household

Doug & Susan Anderson
Terry L & Jacqueline L Anderson
Joanna Bowling
Carina Elgin
Percy Garvin & Erin Paulson
Erika Gillmeister
Eric Keller & Lee Albright
John & Susan Kloss
Kim LiVolsi
Megan Murphy
Linda Nuoffer
Olivia Phan & Ian Hayden
The Richardson Family
Alina Torres-Zickler

Individual

Susan Landgrebe
Jocelyn Stauffer
Carl Sveen

Seniors/Students

Axel Wicks

Annual Giving and Contributions

February 1 through April 30, 2019

Gold

Ragnhild & Bo Bergqvist
Eleanor Poe Barlow
PEW Charitable Trusts
Hope Rosenlund

Silver

Jens & Allison Clausen
Kristina H. Smith

Bronze

Görel Bengtzon & Roman Hrycushko
Valerie Cheyney
John Hanovsky
Kristina Mattila
Edith & Albert Rohrman

Friends

Jacqueline Axilbund
Helene Y. Basile & Family
Robert & Faith Hedin
May & Cliff Holgren
LaVonne & Eric Johnson
Swedish Cultural Society of Cleveland

Membership

Please print all information as you wish it to appear on the membership roster.

Return this form to:

American Swedish Historical Museum
 Attn: Membership
 1900 Pattison Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19145-5901

Among the benefits of membership are:

- free admission to the Museum and library
- use of the ASHM Swedish Film Library borrowing system
- guest passes
- subscription to the newsletter
- 10% discount in the Museum Store
- discounts on admission to most events, workshops and Swedish language classes

For more information, please call 215-389-1776.

 Please detach here and return.

Application & Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- \$35:** Senior/Student
 \$75: Organizational (Non-profit only)
 \$500: Patron
 \$50: Individual
 \$125: Friend
 \$1,000: Key Contributor
 \$65: Household
 \$250: Sustaining
 \$2,500: Life

Make check payable to ASHM or Charge my: VISA | MasterCard | Discover

Account # _____

Exp Date _____

The official registration and financial information of ASHM may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Your membership contribution to the American Swedish Historical Museum is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Jamestown New York Weekend Bus Trip!

Friday July 19-Sunday 21

As many of our members know, ASHM loves to travel! We organize day trips and week-long cross country adventures in search of Swedish and Scandinavian cultural experiences. This summer will be a journey in between. Join ASHM as we spend the weekend in Jamestown New York to visit the Scandinavian Folk Festival! Highlights of the bus trip include a visit to the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum, a fascinating lecture on the Swedish connections to Jamestown,

all day admission to the Folk Festival, a private lakeside cocktail reception, and an exclusive chance to explore the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History.

This trip is the perfect opportunity to escape the summer heat of the city and head west towards the mountains and lakes. Hotel accommodations for the weekend will be at the deluxe Harbor Hotel located alongside the Chautauqua Lake. Let ASHM help you relax by taking care of all the details for a weekend getaway.



The trip includes motor coach transportation, accommodation, breakfasts, two lunches, and admission to all events. All you have to worry about is bringing a big enough suit case to carry home all your treasures from the Scandinavian Folk Festival!

This trip has a short registration deadline so book your spot early. Registration is \$775 for members and \$850 for non-members (\$225 single room supplement). **To register please call or go online to www.americanswedish.org by May 30th.** If you have any questions please contact Lauren Burnham 215-389-1776 x106.



Swedes in Space!



Astronaut Christer Fuglesang

In order to reach a wider family audience the American Swedish Historical Museum creates a new summer library outreach program each year within the national Collaborative Summer Reading theme.

The 2019 reading theme for libraries is *A Universe of Stories*, and ASHM is ready to teach kids how to be an astronaut! During this program families will explore the life of astronauts and their intensive training to prepare for space. We will discuss the careers of Swedish-American NASA astronaut Buzz Aldrin (the second human to set foot on the moon together with Neil Armstrong in 1969) and Christer Fuglesang, who became the first Swedish astronaut in space in 2006. Participants will experience astronaut training, then blast-off into space to complete a mission to the moon! This program will help children practice STEM and team-building skills through hands-on activities.

To help kids get first-hand knowledge of the astronaut experience, ASHM was able to speak with Christer Fuglesang over Skype! Dr. Fuglesang discussed his experience with astronaut training, what it was like to float in space outside of the International Space Station, what duties he performed while on mission, and what it was like to experience a sunrise or sunset every 45 minutes. He then answered children's written questions including if a cell phone works in space, what does space smell like, and what does space food taste like? This interview will be played during each program this summer so that children can hear advice directly from Dr. Fuglesang on how to achieve their scientific dreams.

As always, we hope to bring the program to as many libraries and community centers as possible. The program can travel throughout Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey so if you are interested in having Swedes in Space at your library this summer, be sure to pass on the museum's information to your local librarian!