

Swedish Roots in Oregon

An Immigration Research Project



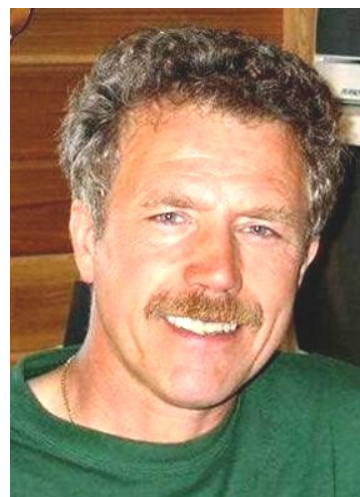
June 2014 Newsletter

Editor: Leif Rosqvist

Volume 29

Message from your President - Lars Nordström

It has been another productive winter and spring for Swedish Roots in Oregon. After the November publication of *Swedish Roots, Oregon Lives*, Ingeborg Dean and I have been busy sharing poignant excerpts from many of these stories. Sometimes we have appeared together, and sometimes we have spoken individually. Library audiences and members from various organizations in the Portland metropolitan area have come to listen to these presentations, as have people on the Oregon coast, Tacoma, and Victoria, B.C. So far we have received positive coverage and reviews in major publications such as *Nordstjernen*, *Swedish Press*, *Sweden & America*, and *The Swedish-American Genealogist*, as well as in several local newsletters and publications. We expect that a few more reviews will appear in 2014, and we all feel that the new book has been a success. It is both encouraging and inspiring to have so much positive coverage, and sales have been good as well. The use of PayPal on our website has worked flawlessly, and book sales there have jumped substantially during the last six months.



The fact that these oral histories have been so well received, tells us that there is a genuine interest in learning about the lives and experiences of Swedish immigrants and their children. Since we don't have the resources to include every good story that we come across in a book, we have made the decision to enlarge our website and add some of them there. Over the years, we have also received other kinds of written materials, such as diaries and reminiscences, and some of them are so good that we definitely would like to add them too. This year a couple of new stories will be posted there, so make sure you visit the "Stories" tab on the SRIO website.

For a long time we have known that there were a lot of Swedes working in the Oregon logging camps. The historian Ralph W. Andrews claimed that every logging camp had someone called "Swede"—whether or not that person actually was Swedish. But over time, due to the legacy of the Swedes in the Oregon woods, it had become an epithet that conveyed skill, strong muscles, and a hard work ethic. No book has yet been published that focuses solely on the Swedes in the woods a century ago, and to fill that gap, we have decided that this will indeed become our next book. We are now actively gathering images depicting the Swedish loggers as well as the women and children who also lived in the camps. This is an important piece of Oregon history that should not be forgotten. We are currently visiting people who have family photographs from this period, scanning them and collecting stories. If you have Swedish logging pictures and stories to share, please get in touch!

SRIO held its Annual Meeting in January, and a new board was elected. The election results are posted on our website under the “Contact” tab. Due to all his other duties, Barry Peterson, the SRIO Genealogist for many years, passed his position on to Ann Stuller. Barry will continue working with the Swedish Council of America, and we wish him good luck. We will miss his positive energy and contagious laugh, and thank him for all the good things he has done for SRIO.

Tusen tack Barry!

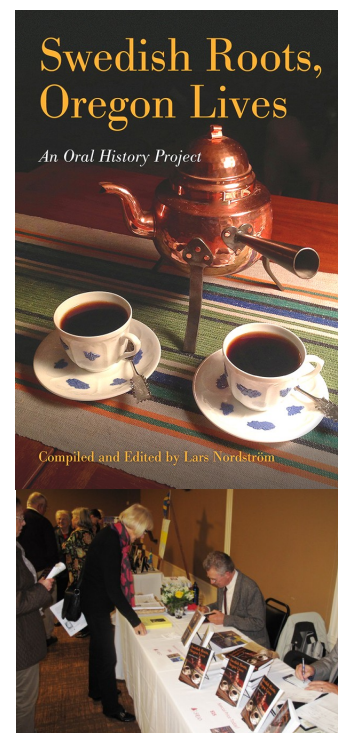
As I have mentioned previously, a marketing person for SRIO is sorely needed. We really need someone to help us contact bookstores, lodges, and organizations to spread the word that we have published three interesting books on the Swedes of Oregon. We know that you are out there somewhere, and we could really use your energy and enthusiasm in helping preserve and promote an important part of state history.

Trevlig sommar!

Swedish Roots, Oregon Lives: An Oral History Project

The fifteen stories gathered in our new book, *Swedish Roots, Oregon Lives: An Oral History Project*, confirm the richness and evolving character of the Swedish experience in the state of Oregon from the early twentieth century on. We look forward to sharing it with all readers interested in Oregon history, Swedes and Swedish-Americans in Oregon, and in oral history in general. Lars Nordström and Ingeborg Dean presented Swedish Roots, Oregon Lives at the book release party held at German American Society. Several other presentation were held including one at New Sweden Annual meeting.

Referenced in Nordstjernan, Swedish Press, Sweden & America, and The Swedish-American Genealogist, as well as in several local newsletters



Book release party at German American Society



Book release party at New Sweden Annual Meeting

The SRIO Web Site, by Herje Wikegård

Our web site has now been active for a long time. It has evolved over the years and has quite a bit of content by now. It would be a fair to ask the question “Is anyone looking at it, and if so, who are they and what are the most popular pages?”

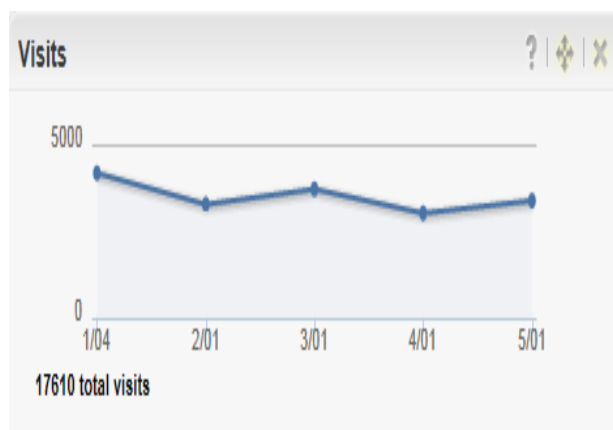
Our provider 1&1.com provides some statistics where we can see how the web site is used. From this we learn several things. First is that about 45% of visits are from “web crawlers”, automated search engines that scan all possible web sites. We can also see that our site is viewed from many countries, the top four being USA, China, Ukraine, Germany and Russia, but it has to be taken with a grain of salt, since those web crawlers can skew the statistics.

As one might expect the leading search words are “Swedish”, “Oregon” and “roots”. The Home page, Hill story and the Granat family story are the most visited pages.

Total visits, year to date, is about 17,610. Discounting for the crawlers we still had 9,685 independent visits from actual people.

We have an active and visited web site and our goal is to keep it updated and relevant. Go there and take a look for yourself.

www.swedishrootsinoregon.org



Supported links for Swedish-American journals:

www.swedishpress.com

www.nordstjernen.com

<http://www.swedishcouncil.org/magazine/>

<http://swedishamericanhist.org/publications/index.html>

*to learn about
the
IMMIGRATION
experience
through the
experiences of
SWEDISH-
AMERICANS*

Upcoming Events:

Midsommar at Oaks Park on June 14. Ross will submit necessary paperwork to reserve our table. Lars will not be available. Ingeborg is available and Rhonda also plans to be there although she will divide her time between SRIO and assisting the Swedish League with admissions.

Swedish Roots in Oregon and New Sweden will share a table at the 4th Annual Beaverton International Celebration, Saturday July 26, 11 am to 5 pm. The location is the corner of SW 158th & SW Walker Rd in Beaverton. Welcome!

Genealogy corner, by Ann Stuller

If you reside in a home in Portland that is somewhat older and you are curious about its history, you may enjoy learning about its previous owners. There are a lot of different ways to trace them, and I'll mention a few. To begin with, ask your real estate agent; if that leads no where, try to find neighbors who have occupied the neighborhood for an extensive period of time. If you're coming up with only blank walls, try the reverse directory section of the Portland City directories available at Multnomah County Library (Central) or the Oregon Historical Society. If you have access to Ancestry.com you can let your fingers do the walking as many of the directories are online. If you have a turn-of-the century house, there will be no reverse directory but you can still make use of the city directories if you know the name of an owner. Some sections of Portland were not annexed until 1893 (Sellwood for example) and so they are listed separately in the directories.

Prior to 1931, Portland homes had different addresses, too, so you will need to "convert" the address. There are a number of websites that will help you do this such as: rootsweb.ancestry.com. Google "Portland, Oregon street names changes/house number changes" to find others.

The website portlandmaps.com is helpful in providing facts about your house: square footage, year built, etc. It also shows historical permits that were issued when changes were made to the property such as conversion to sewer from cesspool.

The Multnomah County Library website (multcolib.org) also has an informative 3-part series on how to research houses both in and outside Portland.

Happy hunting!

Please support the shops that sell our books:

Scandia Imports, 10020 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy, Beaverton, OR 97005, (503) 643-2424

Finn Ware, 1116 Commercial Street, Astoria, OR 97103, (503) 325-5720

Beach Books, Beach Books, 37 North Edgewood, Seaside, OR 97138, (503) 738-3500

Scandinavian Specialties, 6719 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117, (877) 784-7020

Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 NW 67th St, Seattle, WA 98117, (206) 789-5707

You can always reach us with questions or comments through our website:

Contact the SRIO President: President@swedishrootsinoregon.org

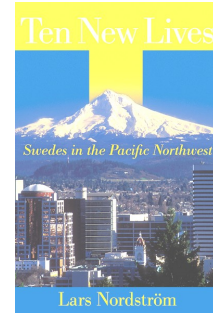
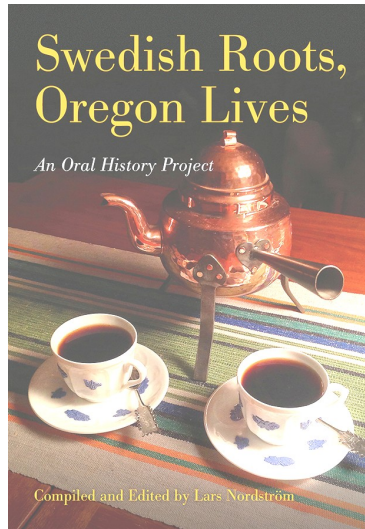
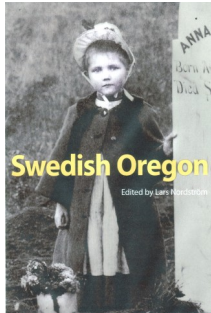
Contact the SRIO Genealogist: Genealogy@swedishrootsinoregon.org

Contact the SRIO Webmaster: Webmaster@swedishrootsinoregon.org or write an old-fashioned letter to SRIO, 8740 SW Oleson Rd, Portland, OR 97223

www.swedishrootsinoregon.org

SRIO will be participating in the 86th Annual Portland Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

Join us to celebrate the sights, sounds and tastes of a Swedish Midsummer. And most of all come and celebrate our new exciting book about Oregon lives. The book will be available for purchase at the event together with the rest of our publications.



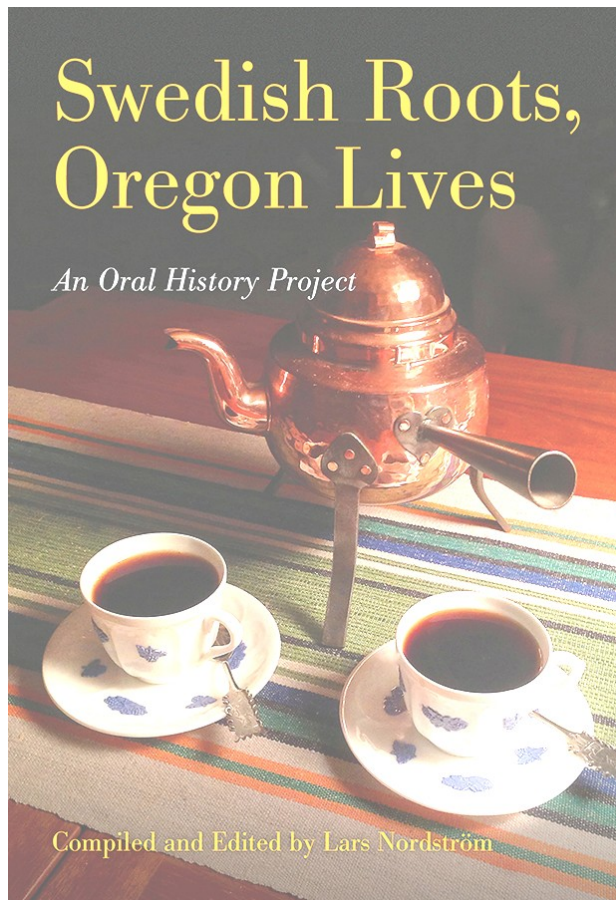
Request for Material on Swedish Loggers in the Pacific NW

That there were a great many Swedish loggers and sawmill workers throughout the Pacific Northwest a hundred years ago was once a well-known fact. Today the old-growth forest is mostly gone and so is the memory of the Swedish logger. In order to counteract that inevitable trend, SRIO would like to preserve at least a few glimpses of that magnificent forest and the people who worked there. Our vision is to gather as many historical photographs as we can and publish them in a coffee table book, and in order to do that we need your help. Please share with us any information you may have that could be included in realizing our new undertaking. We are looking not only for historical photographs, but also items such as old letters in Swedish or English, newspaper clipping, titles of books—in short, any historical material that fits our criteria. If you have something to share, we need to hear from you.



SRIO Needs Help with Marketing

SRIO is, as many of you know, an educational, non-profit organization. We are a small research group that usually meets every month or so. Each member is asked to focus on some of the many tasks we do throughout the year. Still, even though our combined skills add up to a great deal of expertise, we need help with marketing the books we produce. Would you like to help us preserve and make the Swedish history of Oregon better known by promoting our books to bookstores and Scandinavian gift shops? We could really use your help and would love to hear from you!



Book order form

Price: \$16

Shipping & handling: 1 copy = \$4.00 or 2 - 3 copies = \$5.00 or 4 – 6 copies = \$7.00

Number of books ordered _____

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____