

Swedish Roots In Oregon

An Immigration Research Project

June 2008 Newsletter

Volume 17

Message from the President, Barry Peterson

Books! Books! Books! It is early June as I write this message and I am almost overwhelmed by the activity needed to publish a book! Our Publications Director, Lars Nordström, of course, is taking the brunt of this. I have been assisting him as best I can in the grant applications, editing and contracting. Leif Rosqvist has taken on the hefty activity of reaching all our Oregon Swedes doing pre-sales of the book and some other fundraising, as well. Ross Fogelquist has been receiving funds and keeping tabs of book sales, so when our book, *Swedish Oregon*, arrives from the printer about October 15, it can be readily shipped to buyers.



Support! Swedes of Oregon! Time Lines! Fundraising! We are gifted with many generous Swedes in Oregon who have pre-purchased this book and by others who have given us gifts to keep this project moving along. We are especially thankful to the Swedish Council of America for its \$1500 grant, and to Linnea Society for a significant gift. We estimate the total cost of production at \$8000. We are now have obtained a little over \$6600 or about 80% of the way to meeting publication costs. We are continuing to search for this elusive 20% and we do plan to meet the publishing deadline. Gifts to SRIO are fully tax deductible.

There is still the opportunity to own this book at the pre-publican price of \$10. SRIO Press extended the closing date from June 1st to July 15 to enable those attending midsummer festivals and the Swedish Male Chorus Convention in early July the opportunity to buy this book at a reduced price. After July 15, it will sell for \$22. So, if you haven't taken advantage of this low price, or just wish to make a gift, now is the time to act. There is a book order form on the other side of the newsletter.

At our annual meeting this year, we elected Barry Peterson, President; Lars Nordström, VP & Publications Director; Leif Rosqvist, Secretary; Ross Fogelquist, Treasurer; Victoria Owenius and Laurel Peterson as Directors. Since that time SRIO has established a publishing arm called SRIO Press.

SCA 2008 Grant Recipients!

Swedish Roots In Oregon is one of the selected few to become 2008 Grant Recipients, in support of the "Swedish Oregon" book project. Although we received the grant we have a long way to go before we are able to publish the book planned for October 2008.

SRIO at Portland's Midsummer Festival

We hope that all of you have recognized the longer days indicating the soon arrival of summer, and maybe the warmth will arrive at the same time. This is also the time for our annual midsummer festival that will take place on June 28, 2008, at The German American Cultural Center, 7901 SE Division, Portland - It's the 80th Anniversary!

SRIO will have an information and sales booth at the festival to spread the knowledge about our heritage as well as our new book project "Swedish Oregon" of which we have received a SCA grant. We are still in need for your support in order for us to meet the planned publication in October, 2008.

SRIO at Astoria's Midsummer Festival

We will participate in the Astor midsummer festival June 20-22, 2008 at Clatsop County Fairgrounds, Astoria. We will have an information and sales booth at the festival to spread the knowledge about our Swedish heritage as well as in support of our new book "Swedish Oregon" planned for publication in October, 2008.

SRIO at 2008 AUSS National Convention in Portland in July

Portland will be filled with music during the AAUS (American Union of Swedish Singers) 2008 National Convention July 2 - 6, 2008. The convention hotel is Marriott Waterfront in Downtown Portland. The AUSS Cultural Heritage Foundation has played a critical role in preserving the history of AUSS, and so has Swedish Roots In Oregon with regards to the documented part of the history of Oregon's diverse cultural heritage. SRIO will have an information and sales booth at the convention to spread our story among the AUSS members.

GENEALOGY

By Barry Peterson

SRIO has fielded a few inquiries from folks seeking information about Swedes in Oregon in the last six months. These inquiries came both from Sweden and the US. The contacts from Sweden used the web-site contact address. We have been able to provide some information, previously unknown, to each of these contacts. In one of the inquiries, we were asked about a person who lived in Oregon until early in World War II, when he entered the US Army. He was killed in the Invasion on 6 June 1944 in Normandy, France and is buried in a US military cemetery there. We were able to provide the cemetery and grave location to the relative in Sweden and she plans to visit the cemetery this summer. While SRIO has been less active in its genealogical activity the past couple years, we still try to respond to requests.

SRIO Talks in Sweden

By Lars Nordström



In April and early May, SRIO Vice President and Publications Director Lars Nordström traveled in Sweden. During his trip, Lars gave a number of talks based on the work done by Swedish Roots in Oregon in its effort to document glimpses from the Swedish history of the state. On April 4th, he visited The Harry Martinson Museum in Jämshög, Blekinge, where he showed pictures and told the story of how the Nobel Prize winning author's mother ended up in Portland, Oregon. A few days later, on April 7th, Lars visited the local chapter of Riksföreningen Sverigekontakt in the city of Lund. Here, he lectured about the nature of Swedish emigration to the United States after World War II. Traveling north to Göteborg, Lars again visited the headquarters of Riksföreningen Sverigekontakt on April 9th. Here, to a very attentive and interested audience, he talked about the current book project Swedish Oregon and read various passages from the forthcoming book. And finally, on April 29th, Lars visited Svanstein, a small Norrbotten village north of the Arctic Circle along Torne Älv, which makes up the border with Finland. Again, Lars talked to a small but enthusiastic group about Swedish emigration to the United States after World War II and how this is reflected in his most recent book *De nya utvandrarerna*.

In short, Lars feels that there is genuine interest in Sweden today to learn more about the history of the Swedes in Oregon, and that creating connections with various groups in Sweden will always be beneficial to Swedes and Swedish-Americans alike.

Talks

If you belong to a group or organization that would like to schedule a Swedish Roots In Oregon presentation, please contact Lars Nordström for further details. You can reach him through the SRIO website, his personal website www.larsnordstrom.com, or at the mailing address below.

Open invitation

Are you interested in the Swedish history of the state of Oregon? Would you like to be part of a small friendly and dedicated research group? Would you be able to attend meetings about once a month in the Portland metropolitan area? If so, we would love to hear from you.

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The Great History of Swedes in Oregon
by Leif Rosqvist

A new book from SRIO entitled "Swedish Oregon" will be published this October. It is a volume that wants to sheds light on Swedish Immigrants' experience - which has never been documented in a book previously - by trying to answering some of the following questions: Who were they? Where did they come from? What did they experience? How did their lives turn out?

This book is based on many years of research, and several wonderful photographs are included. It is presented in an estimated 300-pages soft cover book. The book follows a strong tradition of providing great wealth of fascinating information about our earlier generations of Swedes in Oregon.



In order to help us with the book fund-raising we offer people the opportunity to buy the book at a discounted price of \$10 (which is about half the price of the estimated bookstore price). The pre-release price \$10 is valid until July 15th, 2008.

Together we can make the Swedish - American immigrant experience a documented part of the history of Oregon's rich and diverse cultural Heritage.

SwedishRootsInOregon (SRIO) Book Order

A new book from SRIO entitled Swedish Oregon will be published this October. It is a volume that sheds light on the Swedish immigrant experience – which has never been documented in a book previously – by answering the following questions: Who were they? Where did they come from? What did they experience? How did their new lives turn out?

The book is organized chronologically:
Part I: How did they get here? Three immigration stories
Part II: New Lives in Oregon, 1880 – 1915
Part III: After the Big Wave, 1915 – 2000

When available: Planned for release in October, 2008
Price: Price \$22 per book, AFTER \$10
Pre-release price until July 15th is \$10 (ordered and paid for)
No of Books Ordered Person, name and address, phone number (cash or check, a check is preferred for your safety)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
e-mail address _____

Number of books ordered _____
Amount sent \$ _____

Mail to:
SWEDISH ROOTS IN OREGON
8740 SW Oleson Rd
Portland, OR 97223
Book orders must be postmarked by July 15th, 2008