

Swedish Roots In Oregon

An Immigration Research Project

December 2008 Newsletter

Editor: Leif Rosqvist

Volume 18

Message from the President, Barry Peterson

It is a sunny November day as I write this message. November seems to be a month of remembrance and thankfulness for times past. This November is no different. In fact, it may feel good to look back on some interesting times, just to get relief from the troubles of today.

Our big news of 2008 is that Swedish Roots In Oregon (SRIO) published a history called *Swedish Oregon*. We are very proud of this accomplishment. Lars Nordström put together a book of over 300 pages that has been very well received by the community. It is selling fast and that makes us happy.

The book had some challenging times getting published because SRIO is a small organization of only six members dedicated to the investigation of Swedish immigration to the area. Aiding the efforts of SRIO in pursuing publication, we honor those who offered financial assistance in making this project successful --- It starts with the Swedish American community we live in that agreed to purchase the book in advance and furnished cash to keep us operating during the development.

A major part of the funding also came from three grant sources: The Swedish Council of America, Swedish Society Linnea of Portland and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation whose gifts account for about half the cost of publication.

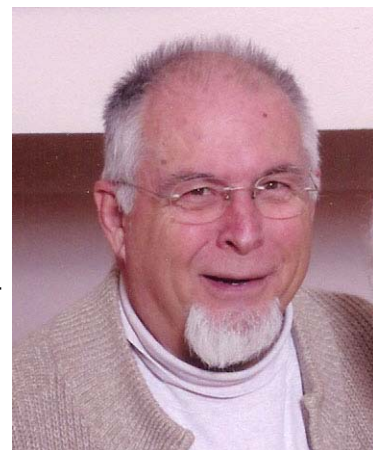
We thank all of you supporters and we believe your confidence in us will be rewarded with an excellent read --- enjoy *Swedish Oregon*.

Lars Nordström was a good leader in the preparation of the book, but all of us at SRIO had various roles to play in the editing, translations, chapter preparations and even a little bit of the family history background for the book. It was a team effort.

In 2009, we anticipate getting back into the family history/genealogy area to a greater degree. Perhaps it will begin with some website additions of stories developed by early Swedish settlers in Oregon and could even continue with the eventual publication of a CD. We are open to assist those persons working on family histories/genealogies to the extent we can. This is a focus we have deferred for several years as we concentrated on the book.

We would like to hear from you and can be reached at president@swedishrootsinoregon.org. Look at our website also: it's at www.swedishrootsinoregon.org.

All of us at SRIO wish you a God Jul och Gott Nytt År.



The BIG 2008 SRIO EVENT — The “ Swedish Oregon” Book release!

The long awaited book “Swedish Oregon ” , providing an extensive report on immigration from Sweden to Oregon, was released on October 15th at the Hollywood Senior Center with an appreciative crowd in attendance.

The enthusiasm for the book was high and the books were flying off the table, most of them signed by Lars Nordström, who compiled and edited the book. Many others also contributed to the successful book development and release.

The dedication of the book tells the very essence of the story:

To the memory of all those
Who had the courage to leave home, family, friends, and culture behind
To make the journey into the unknown.

The book has received favorable reviews in several publications such as: The Oregonian, SHF Newsletter, The Swedish Council newsletter , Oregon Teachers of English journal , and The Oregon Historian of Astoria among others.



Lars Nordström signing the book



Ester Skarstedt, age 6, at front page of the book



Crowd eagerly awaiting their signed book

Need a speaker on Swedish History in Oregon?

Current Vice President, Lars Nordström, is available to speak to groups interested in the Swedish settlement of Oregon and of contemporary issues of Swedish-American interest.

He travels frequently to Sweden and will be giving a series of talks there in the spring of 2009. You can reach Lars at his website, www.larsnordstrom.com, or at our SRIO website, www.SwedishRootsInOregon.org.

SRIO at the 24th Annual ScanFair

The sights, sounds, tastes and traditions of a Scandinavian Christmas Celebration at Portland State, where SRIO provided information about the newly released book “ Swedish Oregon ” that seem to generate significant interest among the participants.

Mike O ' B ryant of SHF followed up with a very good book review that appeared in SHF newsletter prior to the ScanFair event.



Book discussions



SRIO Booth at ScanFair

Do you have a Swedish story to share

SRIO has returned to working with stories of immigrants and their families here in the Northwest. We seek your stories and photos of how those pioneers in your family entered the USA and came to live and work in this area. We would like to know about carpenters, merchants, day laborers, fishermen, sailors and especially loggers. A book on the Swedes logging in this area may be next on our publication agenda.

Some of you have given material to us over the years and may wonder what use it got. Well, we do plan to concentrate on that material again, now that *Swedish Oregon* is on the bookstands or in your homes. So, you can help us continue the study of Swedish Immigration to Oregon by sending us information, family histories, stories and photographs for our review. Some of these could be edited and published, so we would also like permission to use the materials when you send them to us. You will get credit for materials you submit and we are able to use.

The SRIO address is 8740 SW Oleson Road, Portland, OR 97223.

An Open Invitation

Are you interested in the Swedish history of the state of Oregon? Would you like to be a part of a small, friendly and dedicated research group? Would you be able to attend a once monthly meeting in the Portland area? Do you have a passion (or even an interest) in history or genealogy? If so, we would love to hear from you. We have a number of oral histories which need to be transcribed onto the printed word and can use assistance performing that task. SRIO does have a transcribing machine to make the job easier.

Please support SRIO!

There are many ways you can support the study and dissemination of the Swedish history in the state of Oregon. Buying our publications is an obvious one, but you can also make a tax-deductible gift to SRIO. We are approved by the IRS as a Sec. 501[c] [3] organization. Financial assistance is greatly appreciated.

Tack så mycket!

How are you able to purchase our publications?

You are able to purchase our publications, including SRIO 's new book "Swedish Oregon" from our website, or via mail.

Website:

www.SwedishRootsInOregon.org

Address:

Swedish Roots In Oregon

8740 Oleson Rd

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