



Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

37/4: Fall, 2016

Our Swedish Family

In mid-September, a group of 16 Swedes from our sister county of Ydre Kommun visited the museum and the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead. Many of them were members of the Andrew Peterson Sällskapet; three were elected officials from Ydre: Sven-Inge Karlsson, Anders Andersson, and Monica Kastensson.

In honor of their visit, the CCHS hosted a public picnic at the Peterson farm where people from both countries could meet and enjoy Swedish music provided by the Cloudberrries. The picnic was to be held outside, however, the weather was not on our side, with continuous rain and storms. This led to the "picnic" being moved indoors to the Peterson house. Sometimes when the best laid plans fail, you just have to look for the rainbow. In this case, the event was still a success despite the weather. Towards the end of the evening, the rain stopped, the clouds parted, and a gorgeous full rainbow appeared stretching from the north barn, over the 1917 barn and ending at the south barn. It was as if the heavens were welcoming our Swedish family to the farm and Minnesota, and wishing us good luck with the restoration work on the rest of the farm buildings.



The next day, Executive Director Wendy Petersen Biorn joined the Swedes in a trip to the Chisago County, Scandia, and Lindstrom, following the trail of Moberg's characters in the Emigrant book series. The following Monday, they left on a trip to Iowa, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois where some flew back to Sweden and others returned to Minnesota. Back in MN, they visited Dave and Doris Nelson's farm and other sites in the Renville County area. Back in Waconia, they met with Commissioners Randy Maluchnik and Jim Ische. We look forward to many other such visits in the future as we move forward at the farm and continue to grow our international connections. Thank you to everyone who welcomed our Swedish family, and helped to make their visit memorable.

"To me, history ought to be a source of pleasure. It isn't just part of our civic responsibility. To me, it's an enlargement of the experience of being alive, just the way literature or art or music is."

~David McCullough



Like us on Facebook!



At the Gamelgarden near Lindstom

SNIPPETS

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Fighting to Save a Barn

The fight to save the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead is a personal one. It didn't start that way. Ten years ago, when I became Executive Director of this organization, I knew nothing about Peterson and the diaries. The hoopla over him and the farm was as foreign to me as it is to many who live in Carver County. So, he wrote a journal. Ok, It was made into a book, which I had never even heard of. Yes, the farm was a research station for apples. It is on the National Register for Historic Places. Now that, I was interested in; not just any property can be placed there. It was, however, in private hands, and the owner was proud of the farm's history and allowed people to visit. That is a perfect relationship. I was glad to sit on the sidelines.

It was only two weeks in to my tenure that Ward Holasek introduced himself to me. Clearly he loved the history of the farm. He had helped place the property placed on the National Register. From that moment on, the Farm became part of my life, albeit in very small ways for many years, until the day Ward called and asked if the CCHS would be willing to be the recipient of the farm, when he passed.



In July of 2010, two storms hit the farm and caused full collapse of the east wall of the original north Peterson barn. Ward called and asked if we could help save it. Following due diligence, I called the State Historic Preservation Office and asked if someone would visit the property. Enter Linda Pate. Her response while looking at the building is one I will never forget. She simply said it could be saved. It was not the news I wanted to hear. Looking at the building, I had actually hoped she would say that it was lost. I couldn't imagine the time, money and energy it would take to save the building, but there was never a question of what we had to do.



I began by writing several emergency grants to stabilize the building and determine how it could be saved. Everyone who visited walked away, not wanting to touch it, except for one person. Architect Dewey Thorbeck prepared a report that showed how it could be saved. The foundation was restored, shoring put into place, and new footings poured. Then, Ward died. The contest of the would resulted in a two year delay of the restoration work, which meant more deterioration. In 2014, an agreement was reached and we were once again allowed to work on the building. Closing on the front 12.17 acres occurred in the fall of 2015.

Last December, we announced the receipt of a large

Legacy grant for \$182,000 for the final restoration of the North Peterson Barn. Now, close to the end of the year, the restoration of the structure is nearing completion. The walls are up, the roof is up, and fire-resistant shingles have been ordered and will be installed at the end of October, weather permitting.

The last stage of work, painting the exterior of the barn, will be completed in Spring of 2017.

Thank you Hansen HomeTech! You have no idea how much your extra effort is appreciated.

The north barn will be open for use in 2017. The rest of the structures on site are waiting for a Historic Structure report, which will be used to guide their structural rehabilitation.



Fighting to Save the Farm– Stage Two



Last Spring, I received notice that the Jeffris Family Foundation had vetted and approved us. This meant that they would agree to sponsor the restoration work of the remaining Peterson farm buildings. The first step in the process was to conduct an Historic Structure Report of the buildings. They generously offered to pay for half the cost of the report. We would then need to commit to a three year capitol fundraising campaign to restore the buildings, following directions in the Structure Report. Jeffris would contribute one dollar for every two dollars we raised up to a total donation of one million dollars.

A potential donation of \$1,000,000!

Requests for proposals for the Structure Report were sent out and five companies responded with estimates. MacDonald and Mac was chosen. The total cost of the comprehensive report for all the buildings was \$99,700. Jeffris reviewed the proposal, ensuring all the needed data was included in the bid, approved the estimate, and sent us a check for \$49,700. I wrote and submitted a Legacy grant for the other half of the cost of the Structure Report. This is where the Cinderella story takes a detour.

Two weeks ago, the Legacy committee turned down the request for the Structure Report. The formal reason why will not come for several more weeks. This means that we cannot reapply for another year, and in the mean time would lose the support of the Jeffris Foundation for the larger monetary donation during the capital campaign.

Last week at the October CCHS board meeting, the board voted to pursue fundraising for the other half of the money needed for the Structure Report. While \$49,700 appears large, we already have \$10,000 committed, and have applied to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for another \$10,000. The remaining \$29,700 can be broken down into approximately 119 people committing to giving \$250 between now and the end of May, or \$31.25 per month. I was the first one to sign up. What kind of a leader would I be if I didn't? In fact, I have committed to donate \$500. Any increment is appreciated.

Our annual fundraising letter will be going out soon. It will have a different feel to it, as it focuses on raising the funds needed for the Structure Report. Without it, we cannot receive the capitol fundraising match from Jeffris. Please thoughtfully consider where you fit into the preservation of the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead. We have already proven success by saving the north barn and garnering the support of the Jeffris Family Foundation, now lets preserve the rest for the future.



U of M archaeology students working toward completing the State Historic Preservation Office required archaeology report, at the farm. The work for this report was being donated by U of M students. Thank you Joe Pnewski



Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

555 West First Street
Waconia, MN 55387
Phone: 952-442-4234
www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.org
E-mail: historical@co.carver.mn.us

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 17
Waconia, MN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Museum & Library Hours

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Board Members

Peter Gustafson (President),
Waconia
Darlene Fasching (VP), Minnetrista
Richard Scott (Treasurer), Victoria
Michael Owen Hill (Secretary),
St. Paul
Dan Lund, Chanhassen
Al Bongard, Cologne
Michael Fahey, Carver
Mike Coleman, Cologne
Burton Johnson, Chaska
Lin Deardorff, Waconia
Maureen Farrell, Chanhassen
Randy Maluchnik (County Liaison),
Chaska

Staff

Wendy Petersen Biorn (Exec.
Director)
wbiorn@co.carver.mn.us
Erika Hildreth (Curator)
ehildreth@co.carver.mn.us
Heidi Gould (Curator
Education/Exhibits)
hgould@co.carver.mn.us
Marilyn Braun (Researcher)
mbraun@co.carver.mn.us
Linda Nelson (Office Mgr.)
lnelson@co.carver.mn.us

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW MEMBER FORM

- Senior Citizen \$15.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Sustaining \$55.00
- Please email me my newsletter.
- Please accept my donation of _____ toward your annual fund drive.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift Membership to: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The Carver County Historical Society is a nonprofit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.