

# Transcending Time

Carver County Historical Society

29/1 : Winter 2008

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## Bruce Karstadt visits the Peterson Farm



The historic Andrew Peterson received a high profile guest on January 31<sup>st</sup> when Swedish Consul General and Swedish Institute CEO, Bruce Karstadt toured the farm via horse and sleigh. Carver County Commissioner Randy Maluchnik invited Karstadt to help promote an understanding of the importance of Swedish immigrants in Carver County and to publicize the fact that the Peterson Farm is available for the public to tour.

Swedish immigrant Andrew Peterson is well known for his arrival to Carver County in 1855. Peterson kept meticulous diaries of his life in Carver County. The journals were later used as the basis for a popular four-novel series on Swedish immigrants in Minnesota by Vilhelm Moberg.

A public reception was held for Kartstadt at the Acorn House in Victoria. There Commissioner Maluchnik presented Karstadt with a County Proclamation in honor of the Swedish immigrants. Ron Holtmeier presented Karstadt with hinges made by Sven Lindfors for installation on the granary which was once owned by Andrew Peterson. Sven is a very active 90 years old and lives in Skelleftea, Sweden. Skelleftea is located in North East Sweden very near the Gulf of Bothnia which is between Sweden and Finland.

The Andrew Peterson farm is open to the public to tour via antique Currier and Ives type sleigh cutters or bobsled. Each unit is pulled by a team of large white draft horses called Percheron horses and all rides are 1 hour long. All rides are by reservation on the hour 7 days a week, reservations are required. A party room is also available. For a sleigh ride please contact Rock Isle Hay and Sleigh's directly at 952-442-2688. If you would like a tour please contact the Carver County Historical Society at 952-442-4234.



## *Snippets* *By Wendy Biorn*

*“History is a relentless master. It has no present, only the past rushing into the future. To try to hold fast is to be swept aside.”* John F. Kennedy

In January we said sad goodbye to outgoing board members; Barbara Carlson- 6 years, Steve Berquist- 6 years, Ron Roeser-4 years and Emmy Therres-13 years. We gratefully and humbly thank these board members for everything they have done for the society during their tenure.

Please join us in welcoming our incoming board members.

**Al Bongard** Allan is a life long resident of Carver County. He has a vocational business education teaching degree and works for Carver County. He has always been interested in history and takes a special interest in historic preservation and education. He volunteers for St. Bernard's in Cologne helping them with the construction of the new church. He has also been a volunteer for the CCHS helping to reconstruct the granary at the County fair this past August. Allan lives on 15 acres near Cologne.

**Sarah MacKay** Sara is a member of the Lakota Rosebud Sioux Nation and is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota majoring in Native American history. She works for St. Joseph Children's home in Mpls doing story telling, talking circles and Native American crafts. She also has always been interested in the history of Carver County, Native American history and ceremonial grace. She feels that the history of all people needs to be taught and that the museum is for all people to teach about caring, sharing and generosity. She is learning Ojibwa and Lakota, has done fundraising for a charity ball. Sara makes her home in East Union.

**Mary Eklund** Mary calls herself “just a history buff” but that is putting it mildly. The wife of former board president John Eklund, she is fully aware of what it takes to be on the CCHS board. She love genealogy and has lived in the county for 23 years. She works for an assisted living facility and volunteers for 150th anniversary celebration of Trinity Lutheran. She lives in Watertown.

**Lois Schulstad** Lois feels that there are two specific areas of expertise she can utilize to make a contribution to the activities of CCHS and its board. The first is research. Her expertise and understanding of family history research will bring a unique perspective to the table in planning for meeting the needs of the CCHS Library Patrons. The second of these areas is project management. Her expertise in this area will bring an analytical and detail oriented approach to CCHS plans and projects helping to move CCHS forward in prepared and thoughtful manner.

This quarter's Junior Curator is Emmy Lou Barden. Emmy chose to spend two days at CCHS learning about the Civil War. She spent most of her time working one on one with Educator Erin Anderson. Emmy's interest in the Civil War was encouraged by her father, himself a civil war buff. The following article is fictional but based on the real person, John Danielson of Carver. CCHS houses Civil War artifacts belonging to Mr. Danielson. Emmy is the daughter of Linda and Charles Barden of Waconia.

### **Don't Look Back Home** by Emmy Lou Barden

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1864, Matthew Danielson was drafted into the army to fight in the Civil War. But there was one problem. Matthew Danielson was secretly engaged to be married. Usually, the army wanted single men, but because nobody knew about his engagement he was drafted anyway. But his 26-year-old brother, John Danielson, had not been drafted. Matthew and his fiancée had saved up \$600 for the wedding.

"What shall I do?" yelled Matthew. Then John walked in.

"What are you yelling about?" asked John.

Matthew told John the whole story. "Oh," said John. "I could...I mean...um..." It seemed like forever before either of them spoke again. "I'll do it," said John.

"Are you sure?" asked Matthew.

"Yes, I'm sure," said John.

Matthew paid John \$500 to be his substitute, leaving Matthew and his soon-to-be wife with \$100 for their wedding. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1864 John Danielson was mustered into the army, and that's where his story starts.

### **Leaving Home in Carver**

"John," said his mother.

"Yes, Mother?" said John.

"I'll miss you."

"I know Mother. Good bye," said John.

"Don't look back...don't look back..." he told himself. Then he look back – not to his family, but to his life.

"What's your name, kid?" asked the man.

"John Danielson. And what's your name?"

"Daniel Smith."

"Nice to meet you, Daniel."

"And you too John."

"So you got any family?" asked Daniel

"Yeah a mom, dad, sister, and brother," he answered.

"How old is that sister of yours?" asked Daniel.

"Sixteen."

"I got a sister; she's seven." said Daniel.

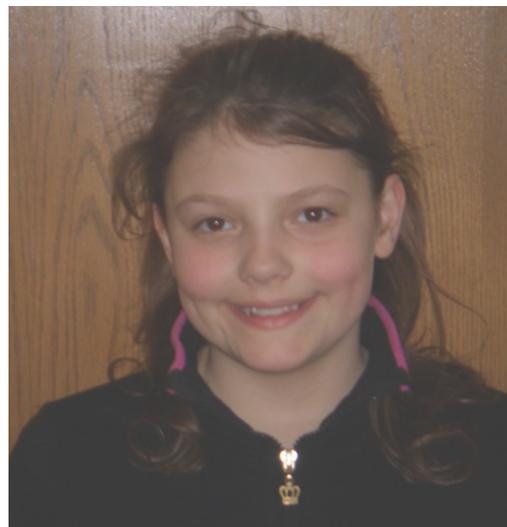
"So, John you ready for the march?" asked Daniel.

"What march?" John asked.

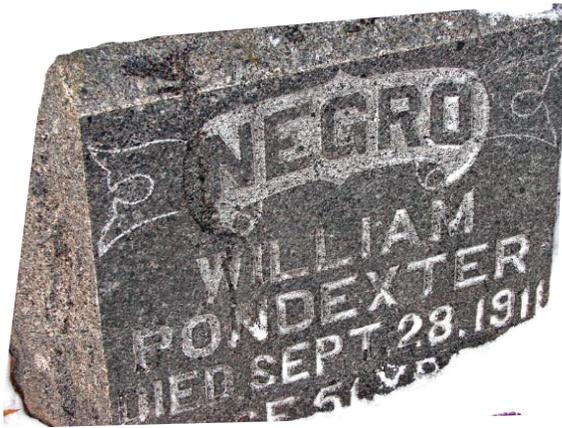
"The march to the sea," he answered.

John and Daniel went on fighting for about one year.

John was part of Sherman's March to the Sea. John Danielson was mustered out on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865. And that is the story of John Danielson



**Emmy Lou Barden**



## Who Was He?

By Marlene Magnuson

CCHS Researcher

As a little girl in grade school I remember marching in the Memorial Day Parade to all the cemeteries in Watertown. (Back in the 1940's) One cemetery stands out in my mind as very beautiful.

As we entered February and Black History month, I am again reminded of that cemetery, so I decided to do a little research.

Along a path in this beautiful tree-shaded cemetery, near a small stream is the grave marker of William Pondexter (Negro) died September 28, 1911, 51 years with no other information. I talked to several local history buffs who told me he was found dead in the livery barn having been crushed by a horse. The newspaper for Watertown for that time is missing so no obituary was found. In checking the Waconia Patriot for the following week I found a short paragraph stating, " 'Billy' Pondexter, a black man who has been living at Watertown for sometime, dropped dead in the livery barn there last week. Heart disease was the cause of death."

So that blew the theory that he was crushed by a horse. Or did it? As the circumstance of his death still nagged me, I decided to check the county death record. It lists: William Pondexter, died 9-28-1911-cause of death-sudden-ruptured coronary arteries-54 years old, black and a slave from the South. No birth date or family names were listed. I checked the US census and he was not listed. That doesn't mean he wasn't here, he may have chosen to avoid the census or maybe he was just missed.

The questions still linger: Who was William "Billy" Pondexter? Who was his family? Whom did he work for? Why did he come to Watertown? Did his family ever know where he was?

None the less someone thought enough of him to purchase a burial site and tombstone on the beautiful tree-shaded cemetery in Watertown and not bury him in the Potters Field which does exist in the Public Cemetery.

Will we ever know the mystery of his life? Will we have to use our imagination to satisfy our curiosity? Hopefully someday we will find information about William Pondexter until then...

"May He Rest in Peace"

**IN HONOR OF:**

**FEBRUARY-BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**MARCH-WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

## Women of Carver County

By Marlene Magnuson

Throughout generations women have played an important roll in the settling of Carver County as well as the whole nation. While there are many names we recognize such as Carol Molnau, Marion Ross, Clara Judd and Rosa Knotz there are many "Prairie Women" who gave up so much to live in "America-the Land of Opportunity" only to find it meant lots of hard work, heartache, disappointments and loneliness. Newspaper articles, diaries, scrapbooks, and word of mouth passed down through the years give us a peek into the lives of these women.

In articles by Larry Anhalt, we find a Mrs. Patske, who emigrated from Prussia to a better life in America only to be murdered by her husband in 1903.

Masa Dorthea (Sontag) Rudieger came to the Minnesota wilderness with her husband in 1850. Through much hard work hampered by illness, mosquitoes, swamps, etc. they managed to create one of the best farmsteads in Carver County.

We also learned of Lena Luedloff who was reaching for her husband's trousers, to mend them, and was hit by a bullet from a hidden revolver he had purchased to kill her. This would have enabled him to collect on the \$8,500 insurance policy he had taken out on her. She survived and he was sent to prison. Later, she married Edmond Anhalt and through lots of hard work and love they built a prosperous farm and raised a loving family.

In a newspaper article about 102 year old Meta Braun Luebke shared her life story of growing up on a farm in Camden Township, living in a log farmhouse with her parents and siblings. Her life at home was spent working on the farm, going to school, learning to speak English then going to Central High School and later to Normal training to become a teacher. In 1927 she married Alfred Luebke, raised a son and daughter on their successful farm in Helvetia. She was able to accomplish this through diligence and love for her family.

There are many more interesting stories hidden in the annals of our research library. Most have been donated by patrons who have passionately researched and written these articles.

Maybe you have a story you would like to share?

## Prominent women of Carver County

**Clara Judd**– Civil War spy

**Mathilda Ochs Weiningarth**-first female Carver County Superintendent of schools

**Rosa Knotz**-First mayor of Cologne

**Louise Kowalke Butke**– political activist and first woman mayor of Waconia

**Rachel Thomas Voegler Remer Gran**– first female pharmacist of Young America

**Elizabeth Bahr**– first woman postmaster in Waconia

**Laura Emily Mau**-author, poet, teacher and world traveler

**Mabel Monson Burford**-in 1930's traveled alone from Minnesota to Alaska

**Ethel Akins**-Chinese missionary

**Mariaon Ross**– actress

## **2007 Endowment Fund Campaign Update**

This year bring to a culmination our 3 year Endowment Fund Campaign. We are very grateful for the generosity of so many. The income from this endowment helps to support the Carver County Historical Society's general operating expenses and some special projects. Thank you to all who participated.

### **Jonathan Carver Circle**

**Including CCHS in estate planning**

Francis Condon

### **Founder's Circle**

**Gifts of \$1500-\$4999**

Marcella Klein

### **Legacy Circle**

**Gifts of \$500-\$1499**

Marianna Anderson

Chris and Kathryn Johnson

### **Sesquicentennial Circle**

**Gifts of \$150-\$499**

Leander and Virginia Erhard

### **Friends Circle**

**Gift up to \$150**

Doug and Susan Hoese

Len and Emmy Therres

Ron and Elaine Roeser

Gary and Ann Delaney

## **2007 Annual Fund Drive**

Our thanks go out to all for your generosity during the 2007 Annual Fund Appeal. Contributions to this fund help to support costs related to the library, education programs and exhibits.

### **\$100 or more**

Paul and Sheila Steiner  
Jo Mihelich  
Kermit Ohlsen  
Clarence and Dorothy Kelzer  
Mr. and Mrs. Lars Akerberg  
Ronald Holtmeier  
Marcella Klein  
Marianne Anderson  
Charles Sell  
Allen Schmitz  
Will Yetzer  
Mrs. Walter Bachtold  
Dennis VanSloun  
Val Barlau  
Carol Buesgens  
Paul Melchert  
Susan and Otto Dreydoppel

### **Up to \$50**

Alice Siewert  
Steven Lemberg  
Adeline and Kristine Kohman  
Wilmer and LuVern Kroells  
Vivian McGonagle  
Erwin Wetzel  
Leonard and Joann Capaul  
Joan Buhler  
Olvern Vinkemeier  
Mary Armstrong  
Sandra Batzli  
Gene Krey  
Charles Barden  
Don Forner  
Betty Lee Meadville

### **Memorial Gifts**

In Memory of Brian P. Eagan

by Christopher Golas

Matching Funds by Mrs. Walter Bachtold from General Mills

## Coming Events

**Life Stories: The Art of Memoir** Learn how to collect oral history, add stories to your genealogy research, or work on your own memoir. Classes are taught by Kathleen Free, a certified memoir writing instructor, a published writer, and an experienced group facilitator. Classes meet at the Carver County Historical Society Museum, every other week for six sessions, from 9:30 to 11:30, beginning Tuesday, April 15. Cost: \$50/six sessions. Society members receive a 20% discount. Class is limited to eight participants. To register, phone Kathleen at 952-442-4001 or 612-718-9326. Please leave a message and your phone number.

## Family Day Trip

### Syrup Spectacular

Experience the making of maple syrup from tree to bottle! Join the Carver County Historical Society as we visit Clark and his family on the shores of Lake Waconia to explore how East Bay Sugar Bush Syrup (on sale at Mocha Monkey in Waconia) is made. We'll learn how to identify a maple tree, the history of maple tapping in Carver County, and what exactly a *sugar bush* is. Join us back at the museum for a "lunch" of pancakes, maple syrup, and Maple Milkshakes. Call the Historical Society at 952-442-4234 today to sign up, because there is only room for 20!

Saturday, April 5, 10:30-2:30 pm

Fun for the whole family!

Are you a member of the Carver County Historical Society?

Your registration begins **TODAY!** Registration fee: **FREE!**

Not a member? Join today and save \$20!

Registration fee: \$20 per family



## Thank You New and Renewing Members!

Alice Siewert	Conrad and Lois Fiskness	Mark Willems	Mark & Lisa Steinbauer
Bill and Pearl Lieb	Jerome and Diane Hirsch	Theresa Miller	John & Linda Roebke
Donald and Jhone Ebert	Dale Hilk	Howard Loomis	Lars and Nancy Akerberg
Kathy Hirsch	Barbara Carlson	Nancy Thompson	Bonnie Anderson
Keith R. Halverson	Carol Schmalz	Lawrence and Zona Brown	Richard & Pauline Molnau
Neil Kelly	Allan Sauter	Bonnie Fimon	Carol Griffith
Martha Klammer	Gary and Anne Delaney	Mark Olson	Carolyn Durbin
Steven Lemberg	Betty Trende	Grace Schneider	Mary Fury
Mary Booth	Deanna Turton	Lee Knoll Jr.	Clarence and Mary Holm
Charles Matze	Whitney Reiners	Mary Ludowese	Ted & Ruth Wetzal
Paul and Sheila Steiner	Carol Buesgens	Lester and Nancy Burandt	Dale Enwiller
Judy Swenson	Sarah MacKay	Gayle Gerber	Drs. Scott and Mary Jensen
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Colliton	Barbara F. Drealan	Donald Swenson	Margo Klebe
Arline D. Hellekson	Allen and Phyllis Schmitz	Sandra Tanck	Mitchell Co. Inc.
Betty Lou Cederstrom	Frank Simon	Tom and Diane Beck	Doreline Wabbe
Brian Bergs	Kelsey and Leanne Brown	Mary Sauerbrey	Jim & Rita Zrust
Char and Rod Buckentin	Gerald & Madelyn Guettler	Myra Quale	Doris Neumann
Gene Daniels	Tom and Arlene Jensen	Virginia Burke	Laurie Tauscher
Ramon & Theresa Mendiola	Adeline & Kristine Kohman	Linda Strong	Gary & Barb Van Eyll
Don & Bernice Bloch	Roger & Shannon Montague	Mary Wilson	Richard & Becky Turpen
Merle Oberg	Linda Maxwell	Darlene Fasching	Nancy Schmidt Clarke
Carolyn, Christine & Vivian Cole	Mildred A. Brown	Ardy Moe	Cliff Falk

# CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Museum & Library Hours

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

## Board Members

Mike Fahey (Pres.), Carver  
Mary Booth (V.P.), Chaska  
Lois Schulstad (Sec.), Chanhassen  
Kevin Coffel (Treas.), NYA  
Val Barlau, Waconia  
Lori Lohman, Chaska  
Dianne Strandberg, Eden Prairie  
Al Bongard, Cologne  
Doug Hoese, Watertown  
Sarah MacKay, Carver  
Mary Eklund, Watertown  
Randy Maluchnik (Cnty. Liaison)

## Staff

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wbiorn@co.carver.mn.us  
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Marlene Magnuson (Researcher)  
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Nancy Pflug (Admin. Asst.)  
npflug@co.carver.mn.us

## Carver County Historical Society Membership Form

- |                          |                |      |
|--------------------------|----------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior Citizen | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual     | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family         | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining     | \$50 |

Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward your annual fund drive.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The Carver County Historical Society is a non-profit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, businesses and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, the newsletter of the Society.