

6-1-2013

## News from the Swenson Center

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### Recommended Citation

Blanck, Dag and Thorsell, Elisabeth (2013) "News from the Swenson Center," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 33 : No. 2 , Article 5.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol33/iss2/5>

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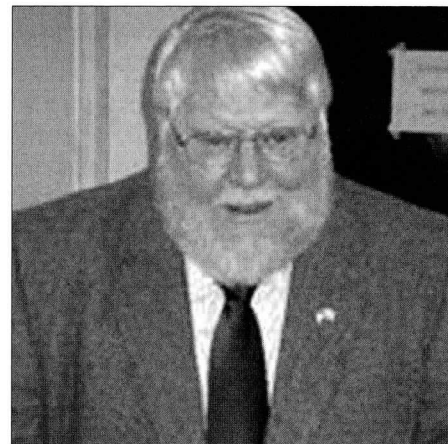
# News from the Swenson Center

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## Hej då Larry!

At the end of May, Dr. *Larry (Lars) Scott*, legendary professor of Scandinavian studies at Augustana College, retired after more than thirty years of teaching. Dr. Scott created a modern program of Scandinavian studies at Augustana, focusing on both the study of the Swedish language and on Swedish culture and society. He was also the moving force and co-director of ASSIS (Augustana Summer School in Sweden) through which he brought hundreds of Americans to the *folkhögskola* in Grebbestad in northern Bohuslän for intensive studies of the Swedish language for more than a quarter of a century.

His scholarly interests include Swedish literature and art, and Swedish-American history. In the latter area, he has a special interest in the history of the Swedes in Texas, and is the author of *The Swedish Texans* (1990). Dr. Scott has contributed significantly to the life of the Swenson Center, and serves on our advisory committee. We will miss him as a colleague in the Scandinavian department, but look forward to seeing him as a patron and friend in our reading room and in our stacks. Like the seventy plus students who came to Rock Island to honor him at the end of May, we say “*Tack för allt*



*du har gjort, Larry, och lycka till i framtiden!”*

*Dag Blanck*

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## Indians and immigrants – entangled histories

### A free seminar will be held at the Swenson Center in early October

During the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries millions of European immigrants migrated to North America. But for centuries this country had been home to several different Indian nations. Very rarely does this fact enter into descriptions of European, Scandinavian, and Swedish settlements. Not even a handful deal with the interaction – voluntary or not – immigrants and Native Americans. Most often when the question is raised, the response is that by the time, for example, Scandinavians settled the Midwest the Indians had already left. However, a cursory glance at the existing research on Native American history demonstrates clearly that this was not the case. Beginning in the 1860's and continuing until the 1930's Scandinavian immigrants settled on or near Indian reservations.

But it is not just immigrants who

seemed oblivious to the existence of some of their neighbors – Indian history performs as similar feat of excision. Immigrants are rarely part of accounts of Indian experiences, whether they are tribal histories or interpretations of relations with colonists. Instead, in Indian history the preferred counterpart are the representatives of American or Canadian governments, even though immigrant settlers constituted the vehicle for colonial westward expansion. When immigrants enter into the picture, they are most often lumped together as “white settlers.”

We know too little about the ways in which European immigrants and North American Indians encountered each other in during the 19th and early 20th centuries. They have mostly remained separated when their respective histories have been written, which has left an important

gap in our understanding of points intersection, contact, and conflict between immigrants and Indians.

To fill this gap, the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center is sponsoring a symposium on the topic, focusing on the Midwest and Scandinavian-Indian relations there, on **October 4-5, 2013.**

Symposium presenters include leading scholars in the fields of Indian and immigration history from the United States and Sweden.

The symposium is open to all who are interested in this important question, and is, with pre-registration, free of charge. It will take place in conjunction with a photo exhibition at Augustana College of photographs of the Rosebud Sioux, taken by the Swedish immigrant photographer John Anderson.

For more information, see [www.augustana.edu/swenson](http://www.augustana.edu/swenson)