### **Swedish American Genealogist**

Volume 28 | Number 3 Article 7

9-1-2008

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#### Recommended Citation

Johansson, Christina (2008) "News from the Swenson Center," Swedish American Genealogist: Vol. 28: No. 3, Article 7. Available at: https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol28/iss3/7

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# News from the Swenson Center

# Swenson Center photographs and archival holdings available online

By Christina Johansson

A majority of the Center's photographs and archival holdings are now available for users in an online database. All photographs included in the database have a digitized representation whereas the archival records are only available in the form of a catalog record. The database allows users to do keyword searches as well as just browse randomly selected images and/or archival holdings.

This database is a work in progress and we will continue to add both images and archival records as time permits. At the time of writing this, photos from the following collections have been scanned:

Augustana Book Concern (Rock Island, Illinois) photographs. Photographs from this collection include many of the Augustana women's homes, orphanages, hospitals, and other buildings.

Scandinavian American Portrait collection. This collection consists mainly of portraits of the Swedish American Lutheran clergy, Augustana synod institutions, and related events.

Upsala College photograph collection, East Orange, New Jersey. This collection includes early sport teams at Upsala, class photos, photographs of campus buildings, and individual portraits.

Rev. C.A. Larson family papers. Photographs from this collection include family and individual portraits of family, and photographs from family outings in the Quad Cities and along the Mississippi River

Madrid photograph and subject collection. This collection includes portraits and family photos of early settlers in Madrid, Iowa, and a photo of St. John's Lutheran Church, Madrid, Iowa.

The archival records cataloged in this database include personal papers, organizational and lodge records. In the near future we also hope to add digital representations of selected archival holdings.

If you have any comments or would like to order a copy/copies of a particular photograph or archival record, please contact us at

### SAG@augustana.edu.

Please share this database with friends interested in Swedish American history and genealogy.

# Web site: http://augustana.pastperfect-online.com/

### Some hints on how to use this site

First, when you enter the address in your web browser, you will get a dark screen which says that it is a "Splash screen" and below this there is a link that says "click here to go to the search page," so just click on the link.

Next you will see the "Search screen," where you have several options to look for various things. Just try the different options until you get what you are looking for.

If you want photographs, you can click on either "only records with

images," or on just "photos" at the bottom. The search window accepts both uppercase and lowercase letters [Hasselquist versus hasselquist].

Next you will get a result window, as shown on the next page. It contains copies of the photos. Then you can click on the link below to get more information, like the full name of the person, years of birth and death, occupation, photographer's name, the person's dress, and much more. There are even related links

that may take you to other photos that you did not know about. There is another button for "Random Images," which is also fun. I found a nice picture of King Oscar II by that search.

If you are looking for an archival collection, you will get a full description, but no pictures of the documents. Instead you have to contact the Swenson Center to get the information you want.

Elisabeth Thorsell



The "Result Screen."

### **Examples from the photo section of the database**



Portrait of Dr. C. A. Evald (1849-1909) and his wife, Emmy Evald Carlsson (1865–1946), and their two daughters. Undated.



Exterior view of the Immanuel Deaconess Institute, Omaha (Neb.). Group portrait of approximately 100 people standing on the porch, sitting on the entrance steps, and sitting on a bench next to the left of the steps. Undated.