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## In Memoriam: Dagmar Olsson

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## In Memoriam

### Dagmar Gavert Olsson



*Dagmar G. Olsson during a visit to Sweden in the early 1990s.*

*Photo by Bengt Thorsell.*

In the early morning hours of September 28, 2008, Dagmar Gavert Olsson went – in that marvelous Swedish phrase – *ur tiden*. "Out of time."

She had lived a very full life, rich and varied. Born the year before the outbreak of World War I, she was the daughter of a Swedish Mission Covenant minister in the Midwest. There she attended college and graduate school, and started teaching during the middle of the Depression. She had married Nils William and started her family when World War II interrupted so much of American life, separating the young couple for nearly three years.

With the war over, she resumed life as a college professor's wife and mother of three, only to be swept up in the whirlwind of diplomatic life as she accompanied NWO to posts in Reykjavik, Stockholm, and Oslo.

Retirement to Florida gave her some hope of a quieter existence, but

Dad's constant travels and many interests meant that she kept her passport up-to-date and was always prepared to entertain a seemingly endless queue of guests. When time allowed, she was able to play her piano or her organ, or pursue her love of tapestry weaving. But mostly, she was a thoroughly supportive wife and partner to her husband of almost 67 years.

We will miss her smile and her sense of humor, her intelligence and her wisdom, and – yes – even her quirks and biases. She lived totally for Nils William and missed him terribly after he died. During the last 18 months of her life she was devoted entirely to her children, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren. We all miss her.

*Christopher Olsson*

## The Swedish American Immigrant Monument in Munterville, Iowa

The first Swedish settlement in this area, in Wapello County, Iowa, was known as Bergholm and was founded in 1847. In 1870, when the first post office was established, the community became known as Munterville in recognition of Swedish immigrant Magnus Munter, who served as postmaster, school teacher, and prominent church leader. The Swedish settlements that sprang up around the state of Iowa seemed to have one thing in common. Wherever several Swedish families located it was soon after that a little frame church was raised, indicative of the faith that characterized those early pioneers, and Munterville was no different.

The descendants of the pioneers have worked for a long time to set up a monument to their ancestors,

and finally on 12 October 2008 the monument was unveiled. It was dedicated to "honor Swedish immigrants and to allow future generations to reflect on their struggles and contributions."

There is a web site for this monument and the group that has worked to make it become a real attraction for all Swedish-Americans with roots in the area.

See p. 30 for the link.

