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Korsbaneret – an interesting publication

During my recent stay in Minnesota, I found many interesting things.

One of those was a volume of *Korsbaneret* (The Banner of the Cross), which until now I had not seen. This small bound book is a yearly calendar for the Augustana Synod, and was published by the Augustana Book Concern from 1880 to 1950, in Swedish. Its first editors were: Olof Olsson and C. A. Swensson, E. Norelius, O. Siljestrom, J. G. Dahlberg, O. H. Ardahl. Swenson Center seems to have the full collection from 1880 to 1950.

The volume I have been studying is for 1915, and starts with several prayers and sermons. The next section is called *From the church's field of work*, and here are reports on the Synod's Immigrant' and Sailors' Home in Boston, and on the retirement home in Chicago, with pictures. Also there are reports from the mission fields in the U.S.

Next comes a number of obituaries on deceased pastors and their help-mates: *Johan Edvin Morton, Martin J. Englund, Anders Hult, Nils Gibson, Georg Reinhold Peterson, Victor Nelson Thorén, A. J. Elmer, Gustaf Nelsenius, Erik Rehner, Anders Johan Enstam, Brynolf Westerlund, Per Erik Fredlund, Viktor Setterdahl, Johan Peter Neander, Carl Otto Swenson, C.M. Ryden, Widow (änkefru) Christina Lindeblad, Widow (änkefru) Ida Josefina Sannquist, Sigrid Amalia Blomgren, Gustaf Hultquist, Anna Katrina Peterson, Magnus Larsson, Sven August Svenson, and the Henrickson Family.*

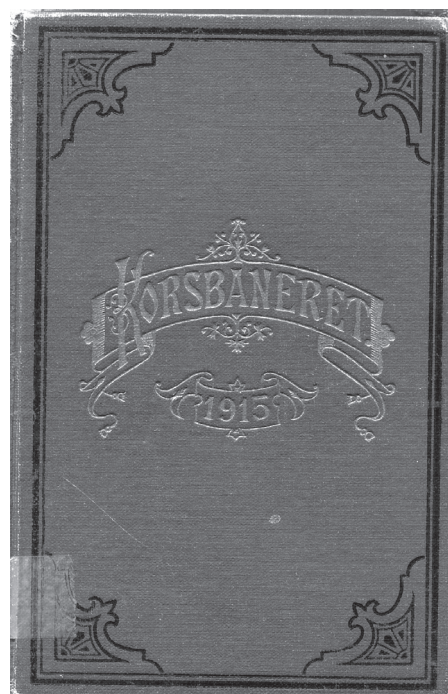
These obituaries, in most cases, have enough information, to trace the deceased person back to Swedish sources. Some of them were among

the early immigrants, and there can be some very personal views on the deceased that can be hard to find now. There are photos of most of them.

Next comes a few stories, among which perhaps the Paxton-minne (memories from Paxton), by M.J. Englund, is the one with great interest, as it tells about the early days of Augustana College.

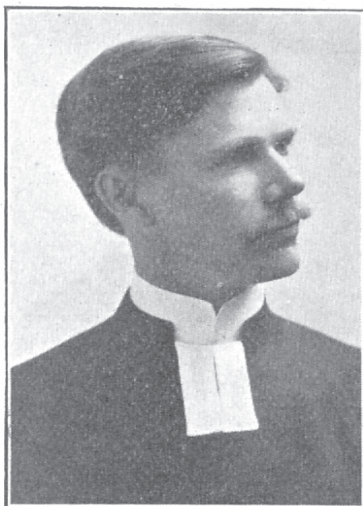
The book ends with photos of all the new pastors that were ordained in 1914, and of churches and pastors' houses around the country.

As can be seen this series of books has a lot of information that can be useful for family historians, but there does not seem to be an index online, and it was not possible to find a comprehensive article about the series either.



The Swedish Lutheran Bethlehem church in Gary, Indiana.

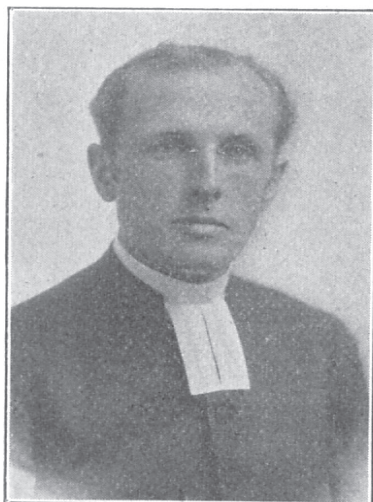
Four new pastors, ordained in Sycamore, Ill. in 1914



1) Andrew G. Anderson.



2) John L. Benson.



3) Nels Benson.



4) Kenneth A. Bescher.

Who were they?

With the help of Conrad Bergendoff's *The Augustana Ministerium. A Study of the Careers of 2,504 Pastors of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Synod/Church 1950-1962*, we can find out more about these solemn men.

1) **Andrew Gustaf Anderson** born 1884 Mar. 4 in Antrim, PA, died 1973 Apr. 22 in Gresham, OR. He went to Washington State University and got a B.A. in 1909, graduated in 1914 from Augustana Seminary with a

B.D. in 1914. After his ordination he served in Strandburg, SD, 1914-18, and Marshfield, OR, 1918-20. Next he went to Mount Vernon in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, for a short time, returned to the U.S. in 1920, and served in La Conner, WA, 1920-29, Gresham, OR, 1929-39, then he had secular work until 1946, when he served at Idaho Falls, ID, until 1953.

He was married 1914 Oct. 7 to Hildegard Miller, and they had 3 children.

2) **Johan Leonard Benson** was born 1884 Jan. 4 in Breared, Halland, Sweden (not found in *Emibas*), immigrated in 1900, died 1973 Mar. 4 in St. Paul, MN. He first graduated from Upsala College with a B.A. in 1909, then continued his studies at the University of Chicago and graduated there in 1913 with an M.A., and then spent the next year at Augustana Seminary. He served at Hsüchow, Honan, Taiwan, China, from 1914-56, and was the president of Augustana China Mission. He got a D.D. from Upsala College in 1942.

He was married in 1914 July 29 to Lillie Starbranch, who died in 1959.

3) **Nels Benson** was born 1885 May 15 in Hastings, MN, son of John Peter Benson and Brita Lena Nelson. He died 1979 Apr. 3 in Hector, MN. He went first to Gustavus Adolphus college and graduated from there in 1910 with a B.A. He studied in 1914 at Augustana Seminary and received a B.D. Then he served at Honan, China, 1913-31, and again 1946-49. 1932-34 he served at Winter, Ojibway, and Draper, WI, and at Hinckley and Dell Grove in MN 1935-46, and at Strandburg, SD, 1952-54. He was also Secretary of the Lutheran Church in China.

Married 1st in 1914 to Wilhelmina Nelson, R.N., who died in 1946, and had three children with her. Married 2nd in 1951 to Alice Holm, who died in 1976.

4) **Kenneth Anton Bescher** born 1878 Mar. 25 in Ålesund, Norway, and came in 1900 to the U.S. He studied at the Augustana Seminary 1912-14. Then served at Kearney, NE, 1914-16, and at Fort Dodge, IA, 1916-17, and dropped from the roll in 1922. In 1920 he was a "Minister of the Gospel" in Minneapolis. In 1930 he was a travelling salesman.

He was married to Ellen C., born around 1888 in Sweden. He died in Minneapolis in 1940 May 6, as Bercher.