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Brooklyn Daily Eagle

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Brooklyn Daily Eagle

FOREIGN NEWS AND GOSSIP.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle gives glimpses of life back then

By ELISABETH THORSELL

Founded in 1841 by Isaac Van Anden and Henry Cruse Murphy, the *Eagle* was published as a daily newspaper for 114 consecutive years without missing a single edition. The newspaper, which was originally conceived as a temporary political forum for the 1842 election, ironically lived the longest and absorbed all other Brooklyn daily papers except the *Brooklyn Citizen*. At one point the *Eagle* actually became the nation's most widely read afternoon newspaper. Unusual among major metropolitan daily newspapers of that time period, the *Eagle* chronicled national and international affairs as well as local news and daily life in Brooklyn. As a result the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* provides a window into Brooklyn's past, as well as documentation of national and international events that shaped history.

The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* was scanned for the period of 1842-1902 and published on the Internet about a year ago by the Brooklyn Public Library, and is a really marvelous web site. The address is <http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/> Just click on "log in" and then you can start reading or do a search, as there is a very powerful search engine. It is possible to search for just about any word or phrase. So I entered "Swed" and got 8952 hits, from 1841 onwards. I have not read all of those hits, but have picked a few, which gives a vivid picture of how life could be in those long-gone days.

Monday, June 14, 1869

*The Swedish Colonists in Kansas
Waterville, Kansas, June 12*

A mail carrier from Salt Marsh reports one Swede and a boy killed by a small party of Sioux on Wednesday. The settlers are generally well armed, but more trouble is apprehended. The Superintendent of the New York Colony was here today. He says the colony, with the exception of some twenty men who have enlisted, have come in as far as Washington, most of them taking homesteads in that vicinity.

Thursday, Feb. 8, 1877

WANTED - to do general housework

A good Protestant girl; German, Swede, Scotch or American; wages \$10 per month - best of references required. Apply, for two days, at 111 Johnson St.

Friday, July 13, 1877

A man hurt on the new road

A Swede, Charles Conach, who is employed on the Long Island Railroad, while engaged repaving the track near the Atlantic Avenue depot, was severely injured on the head by being struck by the cowcatcher of a passing engine. He also had his left arm bruised. He was attended by Dr. Adolphus Ott, and then sent to the City Hospital in an ambulance.

Sunday, Aug. 1, 1880

A Swedish Scandal

John A. Peterson, aged 20, a tailor, residing at 302 East Twenty-third Street, N. Y., was held for trial in the Yorkville Police Court yesterday for an assault on Eliza Engstrom. Three months ago Eliza landed at Castle Garden from Sweden. She was employed by Peterson and his brother to work for them as a tailoress. She was also to act as housekeeper. While acting in this capacity the other brother took advantage of her ignorance and assaulted her. She claims to have been perfectly helpless, because she could speak no English, and it was only through the good offices of a country woman who keeps an employment agency that she was finally able to get away from the brothers, who, not content with the injury they had already inflicted, had also stolen her watch and clothes and pawned them. The Petersons are also Swedes.

Thursday, March 17, 1881

Attempted Suicide - A Swedish tailor tries to drown himself from a Ferryboat

Andrew F. Peterson, a Swedish tailor, aged 38, married, and living with his family at No. 184 Pacific Street, attempted to commit suicide yesterday afternoon by jumping from the stern of the ferryboat Winona, while on its way from Brooklyn to New York. One of the deckhands saw him

jump overboard. The engines were stopped and a life boat launched – the would-be suicide being helped out of the water by a deckhand named Lewis Cano. Peterson was placed on board a passing tugboat and brought to this city, being removed to his residence in the ambulance. This morning he had entirely recovered. His family are unable to assign a cause for the rash act.

Saturday, Oct. 27, 1883

A Swedish Divorce Suit.

Married Abroad and Now Seeking a Divorce

Hannah Ahlquist has commenced a suit in the Supreme Court against Carl G. Ahlquist for absolute divorce. The parties are natives of Sweden and were married on March 19, 1871, at the city of Jönköping, in that country. They came to this country a few years ago. The plaintiff alleges that her husband acted improperly with a woman unknown to her, at a house on the Bowery. There is no issue in the marriage. It is said that Carl lives at No. 8 Woodbury Street, Ruysburg, Massachusetts. An order was entered yesterday directing the service of the summons and complaint by publication. For plaintiff, Edward J. Swanstrom.

Sunday, Dec. 19, 1886

Heartlessly Swindled.

A Swede Emigrating to This Country defrauded of His Saving.

Boston, Mass., December 18

Some time ago a New York paper published in its columns a clever advertisement of its own circulation, partly in the form of a U.S. bond for \$1,000 and including pictures of Cabinet officers and in one corner figures as to the number of the bonds of the paper's circulation. On November 21 Martin Ohlson, a young Swede, started from Glasgow with his bride. All his money, 3,750 crowns, he exchanged at a broker's in Glasgow for what he supposed to be a certificate of equal value to be cashed in this country: He intended to settle here as a farmer. This morning he required some ready money, to pay

his board bill and went to a broker's office on State street to get his certificate cashed. The broker pronounced it worthless, it being evidently the advertisement that had appeared in the New York paper.

Friday, March 9, 1888

A Swedish Girl's Claim

Nellie Says that Tunis Bergen Burr broke a Promise

Nellie Danielson, a Swedish girl, came to this country in the Summer of 1884, and subsequently was employed as a servant in the family of a Mr. Burr, on Long Island. The girl claims that she was led astray under a promise of marriage by Tunis Bergen Burr, a son of the family. She sued for damages, and the case came up for trial this morning in the Circuit Court. The plaintiff's counsel, W.C.B. Thornton, wanted to offer evidence as to the alleged betrayal, but General Catlin, for the defense, objected, on the ground that the only claim set up in the complaint was an allegation of breach of promise. The case went over until April to allow the complaint to be amended in that particular. The defense is a general denial.

Young Burr is a law student, and his family are well-to-do.

[Nellie later retracted her complaint against being paid \$500 for herself and the baby.]

Monday, Oct. 8, 1888

A Swedish Girl Disappears

Annie Jansen, a Swedish girl 18 years of age and unable to speak English, disappeared from 385 Fifth street, South Brooklyn, on Friday afternoon. She is dark complexioned and when last seen wore a green and brown plaid dress, a black sack and hat and had with her two paper bundles. Her friends, at 107 Huntington Street, have notified the police.

Sunday, Feb. 8, 1891

Swedes in Brooklyn

They Are Frugal, Industrious and Very Well Behaved, Worthy of Confidence and Held In High Esteem by

Employers Their Societies Beneficial and Otherwise, and Their Habits.

Like most foreigners who live in American cities the Swedes congregate and dwell together in a certain locality which they seem to look upon as their own. In Brooklyn the Swedes have chosen as their quarter, Atlantic Avenue, Pacific Street, Fourth Avenue and Dean Street. It is estimated that nearly twenty thousand Scandinavians live here, and the number is by no means diminishing. For when a Swede has once established himself anywhere he is likely to be followed by his neighbors and relatives, and in this way a colony is formed and enlarged.

The Swedes devote themselves to almost every kind of occupation. They continue the same business they have carried on in their own country, and unlike most immigrants, do not come here with a vague idea of realizing a large fortune without having learned a trade. They very soon become Americanized, though remaining in some way distinct from the remaining population. They have their own churches, charitable organizations, friendly societies, political clubs and newspapers. The rising generation, however, endeavor to acquire a good knowledge of English, as they recognize that Swedish is not of much value in this country. Many young Swedes do not even know their own language. In the churches Swedish is used exclusively, as those who have become wholly Americanized attend churches where English is used. There are several Scandinavian churches in this city. There are two in Atlantic Avenue, the Baptist Church having the Rev. O. Hedeon for its pastor and the Pilgrims' Church, where the Rev. A. L. Anderson preaches. There is a Swedish Presbyterian Church at 301 Pacific Street, with the Rev. A. Rodell for pastor and the Methodist Episcopal Church in Dean street, having for pastor the Rev. Dr. A. J. Anderson.