

# Swedish American Genealogist

---

Volume 10 | Number 1

Article 6

---

3-1-1990

## Who Was Benjamin Suel?

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag>



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#), and the [Scandinavian Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

(1990) "Who Was Benjamin Suel?," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 10 : No. 1 , Article 6.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol10/iss1/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Swedish American Genealogist by an authorized editor of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@augustana.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@augustana.edu).

undoubtedly benefitted from the close ties between the Socialist movement and organized labor. In the final official overall totals, the 32 year old Sandburg finished only 2% and 77 votes behind the Democrat Mulhoney. All considered—his short residency in the district, the rural conservative nature of much of the constituency, and his status as a third party candidate—Sandburg ran a very creditable race. In the same district two years earlier, the Social-Democratic candidate had received only 14% of the vote in another three way contest.

Sandburg remained a member of Mayor Seidel's staff until March, 1911 when he resigned, disenchanted with the mundane day-to-day demands of public service and hopeful of spending more time writing for the *Herald* and the Socialists' new daily paper, *The Milwaukee Leader*. In September, 1912, he moved to Chicago, and except for occasional visits, thus ended his Milwaukee career. As far as is known, Sandburg never again offered himself as a candidate for public office.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>For example, see: North Callahan, *Carl Sandburg: Lincoln of Our Literature* (New York, 1970); Harry L. Golden, *Carl Sandburg* (Cleveland, 1961); Helga Sandburg, *A Great and Glorious Romance: The Story of Carl Sandburg and Lillian Steichen* (New York, 1978) and *Where Love Begins* (New York, 1989). The Milwaukee studies include Will C. Conrad, "Carl Sandburg's Milwaukee Days" and Walter Wyrich, "As Milwaukeeans Remember Carl Sandburg" in *The Historical Messenger of the Milwaukee County Historical Society* (June, 1953, vol. 9, no. 2) pp. 6-10, 11-12; and Gary F. Keller, "Carl Sandburg's Wisconsin Years," *The Historical Messenger of the Milwaukee County Historical Society*. (Winter, 1974, vol. 30, no. 4), pp. 106-116.

<sup>2</sup>Gary F. Keller, "Carl Sandburg's Wisconsin Years," *The Historical Messenger of the Milwaukee County Historical Society* (Winter, 1984, vol. 30, no. 4) pp. 106-110.

<sup>3</sup>Marvin Wachman, *History of the Social-Democratic Party of Milwaukee, 1897-1910* (Urbana, Illinois, 1945), pp. 70-72.

<sup>4</sup>*The Social Democratic Herald* (Milwaukee), July 9, July 23, September 3, September 27, October 1, 1910.

<sup>5</sup>J.D. Beck (compiler), *The Blue Book of the State of Wisconsin* (Madison, 1911, p. 771 (biographical sketch of Charles B. Perry provides official vote totals for the 1910 assembly race).

<sup>6</sup>*Milwaukee Journal*, November 9, 1910; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, November 9, 1910; *Social-Democratic Herald*, November 12, 1910.

## Who Was Benjamin Suel?

In 1846 the Swedish King, Oscar I, presented the North American sea captain, Benjamin Suel, his royal medal, *Illis quorum meruere labores* ("to those who through their labors are deserving") in gold for aiding the crew of a Swedish vessel in distress. Who was Benjamin Suel and what was the nature of his rescue action? The motto of this royal medal, still in existence, is taken from the Roman poet, Sex. Aurelius Propertius' *Elegiae*, IV, 4, 21.