

3-1-2016

## Andrew Peterson's Homestead in Carver County, Minn. lives on

Elisabeth Thorsell

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### Recommended Citation

Thorsell, Elisabeth (2016) "Andrew Peterson's Homestead in Carver County, Minn. lives on," *Swedish American Genealogist*. Vol. 36 : No. 1 , Article 11.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol36/iss1/11>

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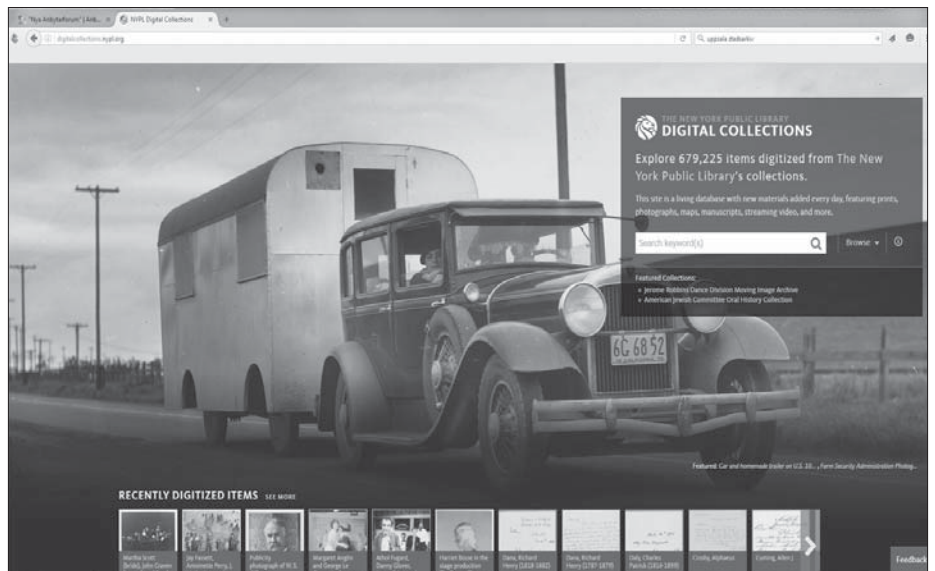
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**Author Anna Fredricks' E-mail: <ammzaar@gmail.com>**

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## Andrew Peterson's homestead in Carver County, Minn. lives on.

In an article in SAG 2008:2 the story of Anders Pettersson was told by Anders Köhler.

But who was this Anders Pettersson, one of the more than 500 Anders Petterssons found in *Emibas*?

This man was a very special man,



*Andrew Peterson in his old age.*

who, born in 1818 in Västra Ryd (Östg.), came to America already in 1850. He first settled in Iowa, but around 1854 he moved to Carver County, Minnesota, where he claimed land and started to farm at Rock Isle Farm, half a mile east of Waconia. By then he was using his Americanized name Andrew Peterson. But so far his story is not unusual.

The remarkable thing about Andrew is that he wrote a diary which he started already on the voyage from Sweden to America, and kept on writing until just before his death in 1898. The many volumes of his diaries are now kept in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, MN, where they were discovered in the later 1940s by two famous Swedish writers, *Astrid Lindgren* and *Vilhelm Moberg*. Astrid Lindgren never used this material in her own writings, she just enjoyed the study of older methods of farming. But for Vilhelm Moberg it was different. It was an important part of the research, which later became his Emigrant epos during the 1950s.

### The farm in Waconia lives

Andrew Peterson and his wife Elsa Ingman had nine children, but none of them married and none had children to take over the farm, so it went out of the family.

Now there was a happy news article in the *Tidningen* 2016/1 (the quarterly newsletter of the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota) in which it was told that the Carver County Historical Society (CCHS) recently is deeded 51 acres of the Peterson homestead by Ward Holasek, who had owned it for some years. The CCHS later was able to exchange the large area of land to a smaller area just covering the Peterson homestead. The CCHS is now working on plans to restore some of the buildings, first a huge barn, now almost falling down. There are plans to also restore the gardens and maybe keep poultry and small livestock, that can be used for schoolchildren to learn about their ancestors' lives in the area.

*Elisabeth Thorsell*