



# NORTHERN LIGHTS

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2010

## Birth of a Newsletter

- The members have spoken and we have heard! Each year during our August annual meeting membership drive, members have asked for a newsletter to keep abreast of what is happening within the New Sweden Historical Society and surrounding community. NORTHERN LIGHTS was conceived and born from this request. We gratefully accept articles and photos at the discretion of the editor. Please email all submissions to :

- Carolyn Hildebrand
- 207-896-3052
- rchilde@atiwi.com
- 354 West Rd
- New Sweden, ME 04762

Publication of the New Sweden Historical Society

Mail: P.O. Box 33  
New Sweden, ME 04762

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## Midsommar 2010

by Debbie Eustis-Grandy

This year New Sweden held its 140<sup>th</sup> Midsommar Festival – and a fun time was had by all! Held each year on the weekend closest to the summer solstice, Midsommar is celebrated in many countries around the world and in many Scandinavian immigrant communities in the US and Canada. Like festivals held in the old country, ours features traditional food, dance, music, crafts, and decorating the Majstång (maypole).

Several hundred people attended the 2010 event. On Saturday, festival-goers enjoyed a performance by the *Little Folk Dancers*, dala horse painting for the kids, hair wreath making, Swedish lawn bowling, creating

the Majstång, art exhibits, visiting historic buildings, good food, and homemade ice cream. A special feature was an exhibit of photographs taken by Anders Tidström (who was visiting from Sweden) when he was last in New Sweden in 1970.

On Sunday – despite rain forcing the program indoors – a large crowd was entertained by the musical talents of Birgitta Anderson Whited, Silas Gustafson, Steve Boody, and the *Little Folk Dancers*. Special recognitions for their roles in preserving Swedish heritage were given to Edmund and Eloise Anderson (Edmund has since passed away), and to the late John Ander-



Midsommar 2010 photo by Bill Duncan.

son. Finally, Karen Soderberg Hinchliffe and Paul Carlson led everyone in a traditional Långdans. Next year's Midsommar Festival will be held June 17-19 – we hope to see you there!

## Annual Meeting Held in Thomas Park

by Carolyn Hildebrand

The annual August membership meeting of the New Sweden Historical Society was held on August 14th in the Thomas Park dining hall. Members who attended enjoyed a potluck supper of chili, salads, meatballs,

fresh vegetables desserts and more. President, Deb Eustis-Grandy, provided an agenda which included the David and Edwina Anderson Award presentation, minutes of the past meeting read by secretary, Janice McDougal,

financial report read by treasurer, Gloria Ringdahl, the election of officers, committee roles and needs, Linsten Stuga maintenance needs, the need for audio/video tape preservation, general (continued pg.2, Meeting)

## Anderson Award

Prior to his death, David Anderson established and maintained a fund to be administered by the New Sweden Historical Society in memory of his late wife, Edwina Anderson. Following his death, it was decided that David should be added to this memorial, as both he and Edwina were active members of the NSHS. An annual \$2000 award is presented to a student enrolled in a college, following the criteria which David selected. An award selection committee consists of appointed members of the NSHS. The committee generates a list of potential candidates, researches and reviews information on the candidates, and recommends one candidate to the Executive Board of the

NSHS for a vote to confirm the final selection. The award is given at a public ceremony. Each year's recipient is listed on the "David and Edwina Anderson Memorial Award" plaque displayed in the New Sweden Historical Museum.

Criteria for selection of an honoree is as follows:

(1) Acceptance at a college for the coming year—preferably a Christian college. (2) Involvement in Swedish activities in New Sweden or surrounding communities in the Swedish colony. (3) Active involvement in a Christian church. (4) Preference will be given to a new high school graduate, in the absence of which graduates from previous years will

be considered. (5) "Good citizenship," involvement in school and community.

**The 2010 recipient is Finn Bondeson, son of Carl and Kristine Bondeson of Woodland. Finn has been very active in Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church, the New Sweden Historical Society and community.**



## Meeting

needs of the museum, lighting project for the Ladan, the need to purchase a new computer and printer for museum, museum hosts for weekends during the summer 2011, a museum/Ladan work day, clarification of the use of interest income from Thomas Fund and meeting schedules.

The slate of officers elected

is as follows:

President-Deb Eustis-Grandy  
V. President-Carolyn Hildebrand  
Secretary-Janice McDougal  
Asst. Secretary-Kathy Robinson  
Treasurer-Gloria Ringdahl  
Asst. Treasurer-Janet Erickson

Trustees: Debbie Blanchette (3 yrs)

Ernie Easter (2 yrs)

Wendall Spooner (1 yr)

Auditor-David Spooner

Collections /Displays-Bernice Randolph

(continued pg.3, Committees)

## Memorial Day Breakfast Supports NSHS Founder's Day Observed by Carolyn Hildebrand

The Brigade Lodge in Stockholm, ME was again the site of the annual New Sweden Historical Society (NSHS) Memorial Day Breakfast on May 31st.. Many local and seasonal residents began their summer catching-up with area happenings over scrambled

eggs, ham, home fries, beans, juice, pancakes and coffee, as funds were raised to support the NSHS.

Founder's Day at NSHS Museum-  
Photo by Carolyn Hildebrand



# THE GENEALOGY CORNER

by Lynn A. Johnson

In the 140 years since the town of New Sweden was first founded, more than 3,000 individuals, born in Sweden, have found their way to this corner of Northern Maine.

Most of those immigrants arrived in the years between 1870 and 1915. Dozens came as entire families, others journeyed alone. Some came, stayed for a short time, and then moved on. Others stayed, raised their children and their children raised their children. There are still people living in the New Sweden area that can trace their ancestry back to those that arrived here in the early 1870s.

But over the decades many of our Swedish ancestors have been lost; their stories forgotten or jumbled with others; the parish they left behind in Sweden a nameless mystery; the names of the family members who were never again seen, long forgotten. Even the lives of those that toiled here are only sometimes vaguely recalled.

With this column, it is my hope to resurrect some of those forgotten stories, rediscover the homes that were left behind, find our missing ancestors, and possibly solve some old family mysteries.

Each quarter, I will attempt to shed

some light on our ancestors past, tell a portion of their story, ask and answer questions, and likely uncover even more unanswered questions and family mysteries.

So, if you have family history questions or would like to know more about your ancestors, please send me your inquiries or stories; include as much information as possible and I will do my best to respond. Your story or inquiry could become the focus of next quarter's article.

Thank you for helping me to keep our heritage alive for generations to come. [newswedengenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:newswedengenealogy@gmail.com)

## Committees

Committees:

**Membership/Outreach**-Bill Duncan;  
Carolyn Hildebrand-Newsletter

**Trails**-Alan Jepson

**Social**-Elinor Hjulstrom needs helper

**Program/Publicity**-Brenda Jepson,  
Bill Duncan & Ray Hildebrand

**Genealogy/Oral History**-Lynn Johnson,

Ernie Easter & Elinor Hjulstrom

**Anderson Award**-Janice McDougal,  
Ernie Easter, Debbie Blanchette & Francine Anderson

**Northern Maine Fair**-need 2-3 people

**Midsommar**-need co-chairs

**Facilities (property & grounds)**-need members

*Many hands make light work!*

*Please volunteer to help.*

## Next Membership Meeting Set for November 13

The next membership meeting of the New Sweden Historical Society will be a potluck dinner on Saturday, November 13 at the New Sweden Baptist Church at 5:00 PM. Future meetings are being planned for February at the Covenant Church, May at the GA Lutheran Church and August at Thomas Park.

The program for the November meeting will be a history presentation of the New Sweden Baptist Church from the 1870's to the present, by Ray Hildebrand. We are looking forward to learning about the spiritual history of New Sweden and the influence of religion and values that gave strength to

the pioneers of this town.

We encourage your participation in these events, as each tradition is an on going history supported by your stories, photos, and contributions. This promises to be an interesting time of interaction, involvement and fellowship.



**NEW SWEDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 Station Rd.  
 P.O. Box 33  
 New Sweden, ME 04762

*Thank You\*\*\*Thank You\*\*\*\*\*Thank You*

*Debbie Blanchette for 10 years as chair of Midsommar 99-09*  
*Debbie Eustis- Grandy for chair of Midsommar 2010*  
*Matt Grandy and Debbie Eustis-Grandy for coordinating New Sweden Historical Society's exhibit at Northern Maine Fair*  
*Kathy Robinson for chair of Memorial Day Breakfast*  
*Ray Hildebrand and Pastor Chris Hearn for New Sweden Day*



Midsommar Memories by Bill Duncan

**Membership Application**

Annual dues-\$10 per person; family of two or more -\$20

Phone: 207-896-5240 Debbie Eustis-Grandy

Please send dues to **Gloria Ringdahl**  
**P.O. Box 33**  
**New Sweden, ME 04762**

Date: **Please Print**

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Your Name:

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Name of additional members:

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Mailing Address:

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Email:

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Phone numbers:

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Amount Enclosed: (check)

Single-\$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the New Sweden Historical Society.

Please include any information about a connection you may have to New Sweden and the Swedish colony (ancestors names, etc.):

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Donations for specific projects are greatly appreciated. Tack!

Memorial:

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Laden Memorial:

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Classe House:

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Lindsten Stuga:

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