
INKLINGS and IDLINGS

The Newsletter of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

313 East Third Street • Galesburg, Illinois 61401 • (309) 342-2361

Summer 2002

Annual Meeting

In accordance with Article III of the By-Laws of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association, the annual meeting of the organization will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 9, 2002, at the Visitors' Center, 313 East Third Street, Galesburg, Illinois.

At that time, officers and directors of the Association will be elected for the coming year, and such other business as may properly come before the Association will be transacted.

We will also be wishing Carol Nelson a happy retirement. Light refreshments will be served. All members of the Association are encouraged to attend.

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Two New Members

It is always a happy task to welcome new members to the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association. The new additions are:

Janet Lundeen
D/M Donald (Molly) Verene

If you have joined the Association recently, and your name is not listed above, please notify **Inklings & Idlings** of the omission so it may be rectified.

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From the Superintendent

On August 1st, after 24 years at the Carl Sandburg Historic Site, I am

going to retire. I will remain as a member of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association board.

With the help of my co-worker, Steve Holden, and our wonderful support group, the Sandburg Association, a lot of progress has been made since I began here in 1978. What was once just the small cottage with the tiny museum and grave area has become a complex of three buildings and a beautiful garden. By the time you read this, the Barn, containing exhibits and restroom facilities, should be open to the public every day.

It's been a lot of challenges and a lot of fun. High points were the remodeling of the Visitors' Center, moving the museum room from the cottage to the Center, new exhibits, the newsletter, getting a computer, installing the garden and the completion of the Barn. An additional joy has been our outstanding summer help: Matt and Adam Reyburn, Katie McGunnigal and this summer her sister Kelly. They brought fresh ideas and young enthusiasm to whatever project we attempted.

I am sure that I will miss working at the Site, especially meeting interesting visitors and the pleasure I had working with Steve. But it's time for me to devote myself to other things, such as finish remodeling my house, travel with friends, children and grandchildren, gardening, working on family history with my sister Jane, Literacy Volunteers, golf, etc. I hope I will find time to write a history of the Swedes in Galesburg.

It's Steve's turn to develop the Site. I know I am leaving the Sandburg Site in good hands, but because of State cutbacks he will not have a fellow employee. We don't know the details yet, but we hope that there will not have to be changes in the hours the Site is open. Volunteers will be needed to fill in the gaps and make things easier for Steve. If you are interested, let Steve know.

Thank you all for your help and encouragement through the years.

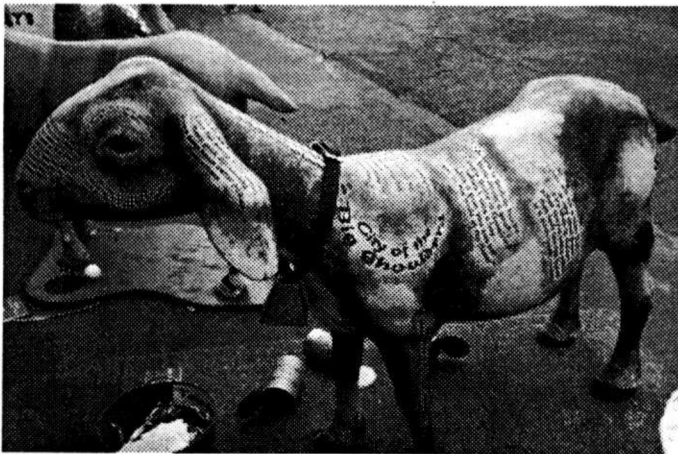
-- Carol Nelson

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Report on "Goats on Parade"

The Sandburg Days Festival in April featured an event called "Goats on Parade." It was intended as a tribute to Carl Sandburg's wife Lilian, who raised dairy goats at the family farm near Flat Rock, North Carolina.

Forty Nubian fiberglass goats were fabricated for the event.



The Quote Goat

Those goats really moved around. First, they were delivered to the people who were to decorate them.

Then, they were ornamented by businesses, organizations and school children.

Just before the Festival began the goats were displayed in the windows of Lindstrom's appliance store at the corner of Main and Seminary streets. On Saturday, April 20, they were herded into a pasture on Seminary Street. After all this activity, the goats seemed remarkably calm and enjoyed all the attention of passersby. There was painted grass on the street to make the goat pasture seem even more real.

Much effort was put into creating the personalities of the respective goats.

The students at Rose Hoben Welch School decorated a goat they named "Artamust." A real goat named Opal came to visit the school during the time the youngsters were reading about goats and preparing the design. "Artamust" and students even carried out a parade in Standish Park.

"Goativa" was created by The Calico Cat gift shop. She was the exact color of a box of Godiva chocolates. She was depicted as having taken a good-sized bite out of a two-pound box of the bonbons. As is well known, goats will eat almost anything, although Godiva chocolates are more palatable than most items of their diet.

"The Quote Goat" decorated by Steve Holden of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site presented her bucket of quotes from Sandburg works to all visitors. Viewers were invited to take a quote home with them. The goat is now grazing in the Visitors' Center.

Even though the day was chilly, many adults and, especially children, enjoyed visiting with the Nubian goats in Galesburg.

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Finding Those Elusive Ancestors

Carol Nelson mentioned in her report that she planned to work on her family history in retirement. So, we thought others with Swedish ancestors might be curious about the lives of those individuals who decided to leave their homes, travel a treacherous ocean and settle in an unfamiliar land. Present-day women and men of Swedish descent may have a difficult time discovering who were their immigrant relatives.

We will start with a few basic directions on how to find those elusive ancestors. There are six essential facts needed for each person on your family tree. You want to find out when and where the person was born, when and where the person married and when and where the person died. There are many more facts which can be discovered to add to the story of that individual's life. The additional facts are those which can make the life of the person more interesting to us. They can also give us a feel for the times in which our ancestors lived.

To start your family tree, you must begin with yourself. You are the first person on what is frequently called an ancestor chart. Your parents are the next people on the chart and then grandparents and great-grandparents, etc., as far back as you can find information. Remember, each generation doubles in number. You will have a good many individuals to identify after just a few generations.

The ancestor chart is used to record those six facts about each person. It is best to start with yourself. Then, you can record information about your parents and grandparents that you already know. Old family

scrapbooks and photograph albums are often useful in gathering information about your family. If older members of your family are still living, ask them what they know about previous generations.

Before trying to research family members in Sweden, you have to gather as much information as possible here at home. If you know the dates and places of death of family members, you can consult local newspapers for obituaries; check cemeteries for burial records; and church records for christenings, marriages and funerals.

Many publications are now available in print and on the Internet which make searching for ancestors much easier. Go to your public library and ask for assistance in finding genealogical publications. There are genealogical societies in many communities which will be very helpful to you so you should seek them out and become a member.

Next time we will describe some of the avenues you can follow to find those elusive ancestors. Some family history enthusiasts say that searching for ancestors can be addictive so be sure you want to get involved in looking for them.

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Wrinklings and Wild Things

Dear Carol--

I don't need to cross my fingers to remember the good times we've had here at the Site, or the terrific accomplishments you have achieved during your years as Site Manager. I wish you the happiest, healthiest and longest retirement possible.

Sincerely,
Steve
The Avid Rootabagist



PIG WISPS

There was an oyster king far in the south who knew how to open oysters and pick out the pearls.

He grew rich and all kinds of money came rolling in on him because he was a great oyster opener and knew how to pick out the pearls.

The son of this oyster king was named Shovel Ears. And it was hard for him to remember.

"He knows how to open oysters but he forgets to pick out the pearls," said the father of Shovel Ears.

"He is learning to remember worse and worse and to forget better and better," said the father of Shovel ears.

Now in that same place far in the south was a little girl with two braids of hair twisted down her back and a face saying, "Here we come--where from?"

And her mother called her Pig Wisps.

Twice a week Pig Wisps ran to the butcher shop for a soup bone. Before starting she crossed her fingers and then the whole way to the butcher shop kept her fingers crossed.

If she met any playmates and they asked her to stop and play cross tag or jackstones or all-around-the-

mulberry-bush or the-green-grass-grew-all-around or drop-the-handkerchief, she told them, "My fingers are crossed and I am running to the butcher shop for a soup bone."

One morning running to the butcher shop she bumped into a big queer boy and bumped him flat on the sidewalk.

"Did you look where you were going?" she asked him.

"I forgot again," said Shovel Ears. "I remember worse and worse. I forget better and better."

"Cross you fingers like this," said Pig Wisps, showing him how.

He ran to the butcher shop with her, watching her keep her fingers crossed till the butcher gave her the soup bone.

"After I get it then the soup bone reminds me to go home with it," she told him. "But until I get the soup bone I keep my fingers crossed."

Shovel Ears went to his father and began helping his father open oysters. And Shovel Ears kept his fingers crossed to remind him to pick out the pearls.

He picked a hundred buckets of pearls the first day and brought his father the longest slipper, shining rope of pearls ever seen in that oyster country.

"How do you do it?" his father asked.

"It is the crossed fingers--like this," said Shovel Ears, crossing his fingers like the letter X. "This is the way to remember better and forget worse."

It was then the oyster king went and told the men who change the alphabets just what happened.

When the men who change the alphabets heard just what happened, they decided to put in a new letter, the letter X, near the end of the alphabet, the sign of the crossed fingers.

On the wedding day of Pig Wisps and Shovel Ears, the men who change the alphabet all came to the wedding, with their fingers crossed.

Pig Wisps and Shovel Ears stood up to be married. They crossed their fingers. They told each other they would remember their promises.

And Pig Wisps had two ropes of pearls twisted down her back and a sweet young face saying, "Here we come--where from?"

(This is one of three stories which explains "About the Letter X and How It Got into the Alphabet." From Rootabaga Stories, Part Two by Carl Sandburg.)

-- Steve Holden

* * *

It's Who You Know

(In this reminiscence, Dr. Richard Sandburg suggests military promotions are not made on merit alone.)

During World War II, I was assigned for fourteen months to Christmas Island, which served as a bastion on the southern perimeter of defense in the South Pacific.

The island was south of Hawaii, about 80 miles from the equator. It also served as a refueling base for planes on their way to the battle zones.

My duties were with the First Station Hospital, where I performed blood tests in the laboratory.

A facet of my lab work was to drive several miles to a farm to test milk samples for E. Coli. Milk was served only to officers and patients, so we enlisted men were limited to the powdered variety.

Our procedure for obtaining the milk was to draw it up through a 10 cc. pipette, and release it into a sterile bottle before it reached our mouth.

Invariably, however, after adequate milk was withdrawn for testing, we devised our own method of abstracting additional fresh, wholesome milk, which never reached the bottle, but provided refreshment for the technician to atone for the shortage at mealtime.

As I was the only one with typing ability, the clerical work also fell into my lap. When a foot problem arose, a hurry-up call was sent to me from the dispensary, where I was called upon to practice my profession.

Although I held three jobs, I remained a private for over a year until Eleanor Roosevelt arrived, the first woman ever to visit the island.

She was very gracious, warmly shook hands with everyone she met, and when we were introduced, she asked, "Sandburg? Would you be related to Carl?"

After receiving an affirmative reply, she gave me a second handshake, and said her husband had invited Carl to the White House on several occasions for counseling and friendly visits.

From that point on, my stock soared, our detachment officers usually spoke first, before receiving my salute, and shortly afterward, I was promoted to a T/5 rating, comparable to a corporal.

Some time later, I was invited by the detachment commander for lunch at the officers' quarters. After several months of eating from a steel helmet, it was unique to be served at a table with a linen tablecloth and napkins. Our main course was rabbit, which we raised in the laboratory, and the liquid refreshment was either coffee or cool, tasty milk.

Eleanor Roosevelt was frequently chided by the media for her unattractive appearance, and protruding teeth. She was not beautiful, but had a warm, friendly charm. I always had the dismal feeling that if it hadn't been for her, I would have remained a private for the duration.

After the war, dedicated volunteers, led by Adda George and Juanita Bednar, were struggling to refurbish the rickety Carl Sandburg Birthplace.

The project was financed by interested Sandburg admirers, and, on one of my visits to the home, I observed a roster of names, listed alphabetically, of those who had made contributions. I was very pleased to see my name immediately below that of Eleanor Roosevelt.

-- Dr. Richard Sandburg

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How They Quenched Their Thirsts a Century Ago

From THE GALESBURG WEEKLY
REPUBLICAN-REGISTER, June 20, 1891:

We copy the following recipes for healthful summer drinks from Good Housekeeping. The time is now near when laborers in the harvest field have to be careful in their use of cold water. They may find an

innocent and cheap substitute by following the instructions given below:

GINGER BEER--This is the favorite drink in all parts of the country for use in harvest time, and is probably the very best for such use. It is agreeable to the taste, cooling, very slightly stimulating, and entirely free from any harmful effects. It is best when made some four or five weeks before it is to be used, though it can be made so as to be ready for drinking in three days. We give the two methods for making it, thus: First method: Add to fourteen gallons of water, fourteen pounds of loaf sugar and four ounces of root ginger well pounded; then boil all one hour; add the whites of eight eggs, beaten to a froth, and skim carefully. Now strain the liquor into an earthen jar, let it stand until cold, then put it into a cask, adding the strained juice of fourteen lemons, with their peel cut in thin slices; add half a spoonful of ale yeast on the top. Keep the cask closely corked for two weeks. Then put the beer into bottles, and in another fortnight it will be fit for use. Second method: To four pounds of sugar add four ounces of ginger, two ounces of cream of tartar and four lemons; put all into an earthen jar, and pour over it six gallons of boiling water, and when milk warm put in a little yeast. Let it stand all night to work, bottle it the next day, and in three days it will be ready for drinking.

SPRUCE BEER--This is also an excellent summer drink. It should be made and bottled in the spring. To make it, allow one ounce of hops and a spoonful of ground ginger to each gallon of water; when well boiled, strain it and put in one pint of molasses and half a pint, or less, of the essence of spruce; when cool, add a teacupful of yeast, and put into a clean cask and cork tightly.

Let it ferment for a few days, then bottle it for use. If more convenient, boil sprigs of spruce fir, instead of using the essence.

NECTAR--Squeeze the juice from three oranges and as many lemons into a pitcher, add two tumblerfuls of water, and sweeten to taste. Then put in plenty of pounded ice, half a teaspoonful of rose-water and a tumblerful of sherry or Madeira wine. Stir well and pour out.

FRENCH NEGUS--Take one pound of red cherries; four pounds of currants, two pounds of black cherries; squeeze all together and stand in a cool cellar for three days, then boil up the juice, add sugar, and bottle it. Added to ice water with slices of lemon, it makes a very refreshing summer drink.

(Inklings and Idlings takes no responsibility for the above recipes. They are a curiosity from the past. A little research revealed a very similar recipe for Spruce Beer in *The White House Cookbook* which was published in 1889 and appeared in many later editions as well. Please note: There is a fine line between spoilage and fermentation.)

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Coffee and Water

During his boyhood, Carl Sandburg was given many tasks to perform. One which he shared with his brother Martin was grinding coffee. One or the other would hold the mill, filled with Arbuckle's coffee beans, between his knees. The handle would be turned until all the beans had been ground down.

For several days, the fresh coffee

would be added to that which was already in the pot. After three or four days, the accumulated grounds would be thrown out and the process would begin again. For one day, the coffee was wholly fresh and at its best.

Water was needed to make the coffee. Another of Sandburg's responsibilities was bringing in pails of water from the back yard pump. In all seasons he worked the pump's handle until he had filled a bucket or two for drinking and cooking. In the hottest months of the year, the butter supply would be wrapped securely and lowered into the well. There it stayed cold and firm.

The house also had a cistern where rainwater was collected. That water was used mostly for doing laundry and for bathing. During the summer months, when water was often low in the well, the cistern water was used to prime the pump. At those times, water might also be drawn from the cistern for drinking. Generally, it was used as a last resort, largely because its flavor was not good. No real thought was given to the question of how healthful it might be.

When Carl Sandburg and his young friends attended the Knox County Fair, they would walk the four and one-half miles between Galesburg and the fair grounds in Knoxville. Along the way, they passed a farm which had belonged to Isaac Guliher. Neither the farm's house nor barn were impressive. Nevertheless, it was a place of historic significance, as was its well.

Mr. Guliher had been born in Kentucky, and moved to Sangamon County, Illinois. In 1832, at the age of seventeen, he had enlisted for the Black Hawk War. He had served under Captain Abraham Lincoln.

In 1833, Mr. Guliher moved to Knox County and took up farming, enjoying success in the endeavor. Twenty-five years later, in 1858, Mr. Lincoln came to Galesburg to debate Stephen Douglas. On the way, he stopped at the Guliher farm. There he had a dipper of cold water with his former comrade in arms.

Lincoln's buggy was at the head of a mile-long procession of horse-drawn vehicles, which were loaded with his supporters. All came to a halt while Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Guliher slaked their thirst.

In later years, Sandburg remarked he wished he and his friends had known the importance of the Guliher farm. If they had, he was sure they would have stopped to have a drink of water from the same pump.

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The name, "Inklings and Idlings," comes from the title of Carl Sandburg's first column, printed in the Galesburg Evening Mail under the pseudonym "Crimson", in 1904.

The newsletter welcomes articles, particularly about Carl Sandburg, Galesburg, and Knox County. Space limitations may require that they be edited. The articles should be sent to:

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-Barbara Schock
Editor

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Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association
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