



Scandia Baptist Cemetery Association

Cemetery Established: 1857

Issue: November 2019

Proposed NEW Entrance to Tell the Stories

KJ Bach

For those who wonder why there is a Cemetery in the middle of a golf course, there are few people left in the Waconia area to answer that query. With the church building moved in 1973 to Bethel Seminary, some 50 miles to the northeast, and the Cemetery Association taking over the maintenance of the Cemetery grounds in 1990, the stories of the Scandia Church pioneers started to fade from the local lore.

With encouragement from Wendy Biorn, Executive Director of the Carver County Historical Society, the Cemetery Association began exploring how best to share a story or two of this Cemetery and the pioneers who are buried therein. The old entrance from 1955 had been removed several years ago, leaving no clear 'entrance' to the Cemetery. There is no signage other than the one wooden sign stating the name 'Historic Scandia Baptist Cemetery'. With the help of local landscape designers, and a bit of prose, there is now a conceptual design for two new signs and a bench at the opening in the north fence.

One sign will highlight Andrew & Elsa Peterson and their role in establishing Scandia Baptist Church, as well as Andrew's diaries and his horticultural work. The second sign will tell a bit about the Scandia Baptist Church and the Cemetery Association's role in the maintenance of the Cemetery. The 'Swedish Rock', which came from Andrew Peterson's farm in Sweden in 2008, will be moved to the new entrance. The two small church centennial markers will also be incorporated into the new entrance. Having a primary entrance and signage will draw visitors to the Cemetery's stories!

Three Cedar trees removed to make room for new Entrance – Oct 2019



A new location has also been identified for a new flagpole and to move the existing wooden sign to the northwest point of the cemetery property. This will help identify the Cemetery as a special place to visit for a few minutes and learn a bit about Carver County history and its pioneers.

With grants from the Waconia Rotary and the Lion's Club, some funding has been secured to start implementing the new entrance and flagpole area. Please consider a year-end tax deductible donation to fund the hiring of local folks to install the landscaping changes: Scandia Baptist Cemetery Assn c/o Lisa Lundsten-Nees, 594 Brimhall St., St Paul, MN 55105, MEMO: 'Entrance'



Gravemarker Repair Project Completed

Dan Norman

In May 2018 the Board elected to push forward the funding request and execution of repairing grave markers that were in danger of toppling over, markers which had broken and deteriorated, graves where the marker bases had sunk and the removing of attached lichen, mold and dirt where markers could hardly be read any longer. Due to the generosity of supporters answering our financial plea for donations we were able to engage the services of Marker Maintenance operated by Nick Bengston of Jordan, MN to bring 27 grave markers along with their graves to a safe, level clean condition which will last many years. Our good friends at the Carver County Historical Society Board were instrumental in providing funds to install a new base and level the Andrew and Elsa Peterson grave marker which had been leaning for quite some time. The cost of this project was \$4,000. Many thanks to those who contributed to this important project.

Andrew/Elsa Peterson Grave Marker Before/After Oct 2018 repair!



Family Hilite – John & Catherine Broberg

Phil Broberg, son of Elwell & Anna Broberg, and great-grandson of John & Catherine Broberg.

The early life of the two Scandia pioneer settlers John and Catherine Broberg is well presented in Chapter 9 of the book on Carver County history by Josephine Mihelich: "Andrew Peterson and the Scandia Story". Andrew Peterson's diary is a primary source for this information.

The difficult times in Sweden during the mid- nineteenth century helped increase the emigration of people to the new land.



John and Catherine Johnson along with John's sister Maja Lisa and her husband John Danielson emigrated to America in 1854. They first settled in Andover, Illinois. There is no family history noting how they lived and survived. John Johnson was probably a hired hand in Sweden on a farm named "Bro". John Danielson was an apprentice tailor. While in Illinois the families met a Baptist missionary Fredrick O. Nilsson. He had to leave Sweden for preaching a faith outside the approved religion. Pastor Nilsson traveled from Minnesota to Illinois and many other places spreading word that a new country was opening to the northwest. The Johnson and Danielson families decided to move onto this new land.

The families earned money for the journey to Scandia by cutting wood in Red Wing and St. Paul. Continual hard work and possibly a boat trip from St Paul on the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers is likely the way they were able to reach a town called Carver only a few miles from Scandia. The Broberg family oral history says people in and near Carver told the Johnson and Danielson families they would know they had the right place when they found a large lake with a large island on it. The families decided Scandia met the specifications. The lake now named Waconia was their new home. Had they traveled a few more miles they would have found themselves at another large lake with an island in an area known as Minnetonka. The Johnson and Danielson families reached Scandia with "all their worldly possessions piled on a wagon pulled by a yoke of oxen" on June 10, 1856. John and Catherine Johnson claimed lakeshore property next to the property of Scandia founder Andrew Bergquist. John Danielson and Maja traveled a couple miles east of

the Nilsson and Andrew Peterson claims. John Johnson registered his claim upon arrival.

New arrivals with similar names caused problems with mail delivery. John Johnson grew frustrated enough to decide a name change was necessary and became John Broberg: 'bro' is the farm name in Sweden where John worked, 'bro' might also indicate a bridge one crosses to get to the cattle and 'berg' is Swedish for hill or mountain. John's brother-in-law, John Danielson also decided a name change was needed. His farm was in a unique area of trees and rock formations. He chose 'lund', meaning grove of trees or forest, and 'sten' or stone becoming John Lundsten.

Andrew Peterson's diary first mentioned John and Catherine Broberg in the fall of 1857. Peterson had borrowed their oxen. Andrew Peterson made a hay rake for shared use plus a new tongue for the Broberg wagon. John Johnson repaid Peterson's skilled labor with work. Arrangements between neighbors and family agreements for a fair value of traded services sometimes ended with hurt feelings.

Peterson's diary mentioned John Broberg's brother Otto on October 26, 1858. At a later date John Lundsten paid \$200.00 to retain draft exemption status in the Civil War. Otto was John Lundsten's substitute helping keep John with Otto's sister Maja Lisa in order to care for their five children: Sara, Frank, John, Emily and Joseph. Otto was mustered into the Union Army August 30, 1864 and discharged from company A of the Fourth Minnesota Infantry on June 12, 1865. There are no known military records of his service. It is possible he was involved with the Dakota uprising. Regardless, Otto soon left Scandia and did not reconnect with the family. This was probably the first case where brothers in the Broberg family separated.

Peter Broberg along with his wife Christina, her sister Stina and husband John (Magnussen) Monson may have arrived around May 3-4, 1867. Andrew Peterson's diary mentioned Peter and Christina's work in an April 21, 1867 entry. Peter Broberg was buried September 16, 1880 several days after sliding down a wheat stack landing on a pitchfork. The pioneers had years of backbreaking work on all sides of the families in Scandia. Families and neighbors continued to work with each other trading services as best they could. Occasionally families did settle in other areas. It appears soon after arriving with Peter and Christina, John Monson and Stina Cajsa settled near Willmar in Kandiyohi County. Jo Mihelich notes they visited Peter and Christina in 1877 and had more visits later.

The last family immigrant to arrive in Scandia was from the Bengt Gustafsson family. Bengt had three sons: Sven, Gustave and Eric. Bengt's sister Hanna emigrated in 1889. She was a servant on the Earl Brown Farm. When she became engaged to John Broberg's son Theodore, Mr. Brown gave her a cow as her dowry. Hanna also brought a unique Christmas tradition. The Earl Brown servants had a post-Christmas meal of a very thick, very rich meat based sauce. People would dip bread in the sauce and eat the soaked bread along with several side dishes including a rich rice pudding. After some

years Hanna's daughter-in-law Anna Broberg, Elwell's wife, was making the meal continuing the Christmas spirit with a slight German twist.

Theodore inherited the farm following John Broberg's death on December 31, 1885. His children were Elwell, Gordon, Catherine, Waldo and Margaret. Elwell born in 1900 was the last descendant to work the farm. He never forgot seeing a tornado in 1903. The house survived and there was minor damage to other buildings. The family myth was that the prominent hill near the house redirected some of the storm's fury. For years new visitors to the farm were curious and asked about an odd depression on the lawn next to the house. "That's where grandma's favorite horse is buried." The horse had been pulled into the tornado, carried over a highway, train tracks and dropped between the walls of an icehouse several hundred yards away. The rest of the livestock survived.

John (Johnson) Broberg March 11, 1831—December 31, 1885		Catherine Broberg June 26, 1832—December 19, 1889	
Andrew March 18, 1856 <i>m</i> Katherine M. Bergquist — —	Joseph January 27, 1858 <i>m</i> Katie Kelsey from Delano on February 3, 1897	Enoch R. January 17, 1860 <i>m</i> Mayme Holmquist — April 13 or 18, 1893	Annie Mathilda April 9, 1865 <i>m</i> Nathaniel Bergquist — October 1, 1887
Theodore Otto September 4, 1867 <i>m</i> Johanna Gustafson — February 28, 1899	James Gustaf December 6, 1869	John William November 24, 1872 <i>m</i> — —	Amanda Christina August 24, 1874 <i>m</i> Oscar Hawkins —

John Johnson's claim provided an opportunity to request the Broberg farm be named a Century Farm during the centennial celebration of Minnesota's 1858 statehood. The requirement was a continuous ownership by direct descendants for 100 years. The Broberg application was denied because the record didn't have Broberg name on the original 1856 filing. The denial was appealed and reversed. Elwell's son Tom picked up the sign.

Ted Broberg is a son of Waldo. Ted and his wife Jo have made several trips to Sweden. They have put effort into connecting with distant relatives. Some who were able to recall older generation family members. The Swedish relatives that have visited us include Hans Eek and Mikaela Bengsston.

Broberg photo and lineage images courtesy of "The Andrew Peterson and the Scandia Story" by Jo Milhelich.



Grave sites Now Available

Margart Osborne

Scandia Baptist Cemetery has a limited number of grave sites available for purchase at \$1000 per grave site. Each grave site can serve one traditional casket or two cremains burials. For more information contact Margart Osborne at mao99mps@aol.com.

Dearly Departed

KJ Bach

Two past directors of the SBCA Board departed from this earthly life this past year: David Lundsten and Dr. Ralph C.E. Peterson. David was instrumental in establishing the SBCA in 1990. He turned over his Treasurer duties to his daughter, Lisa, in 2014. Ralph served as President of the Board from 1998-2009 and continued to be active with the Cemetery Assn for a few more years. Mary Luedtke, pictured below, served as the Association's secretary from 1990-1999 and remained on the Board until 2015. Mary passed away in 2017. Let us all honor the selfless work of these servants who continued the legacy of the Scandia Baptist Cemetery.



Ralph Peterson, Dave Lundsten and Mary (Peltz) Luedtke – 2011.



Presentations to Waconia Lions & Waconia Rotary

Jacque Waugh

Spring of 2019 brought late wintry weather, heavy rains, and a new opportunity for our board members to give presentations to Waconia Lions & Waconia Rotary. With both holding their meetings at Island View Golf Club and windows looking out to our ancestor's resting place, it was a fitting location to share our cemetery's saga. Margaret Osborne opened by discussing the historical account and was followed by KJ Bach who spoke on new works in progress and planning such as building an official entrance with seating and signage on the history of the cemetery including a special tribute to Andrew Peterson. The presentations sparked questions and many members shared their remembrances and stories of the area. In the weeks following the presentations, SBCA was honored with grants from both organizations with the Waconia Lions covering the cost of a new flag pole and Waconia Rotary has offered to contribute to the cost of the new entrance. It was an honor to share our organization's history with local people who are interested and invested in this thriving community on the shores of Lake Waconia.



Your EMAIL Address... Please!

Dan Norman

The Board of Directors is constantly looking for ways to reduce operational costs, including publishing of our newsletters. An easy way to reduce costs is through email vs. hard copy mailing. Please...provide us with your email address by simply emailing Dan Norman, SBCA Vice President (dancnorman1@gmail.com) with your email address and any updates to street address or names/addresses of other relatives who would be interested in this newsletter and the happenings at the Cemetery.



SBCA Financial Statement

Lisa Lundsten-Nees

A big "tack sa mycket" (thanks so much!) to all who have donated to Scandia Baptist Cemetery Association over the years! We depend on your donations to help us maintain Scandia Baptist Cemetery — final resting place of some of the early Carver County settlers, many of whom are our ancestors. When Scandia Baptist Cemetery Association ("SBCA") came to be, it established a perpetual care fund. The income from this fund is to be used "solely for the care, maintenance and improvement of the cemetery and the avenues leading thereto." As of the end of August, the fund held just over \$34,000. However, the income produced by the fund alone is not nearly enough to cover all of our maintenance expenses. In 2018, our regular expenses, including lawn care, fence repair, issuing the newsletter and the marker maintenance project to repair and level many of the markers in the cemetery totaled over \$5,600. However, we were fortunate to receive over \$6,900 in donations during 2018, many specifically earmarked for the marker maintenance, signage and flagpole replacement projects. So far in 2019, we have received just over \$2,600 in donations, including \$1,500 from the Waconia Rotary Club to assist with our new entrance plans.

Your financial help is needed not only for continued maintenance, but also to bring us closer to making our plans for improvements to the cemetery grounds become a reality! Please consider contributing to help maintain the legacy of your pioneering ancestors. Donations can be made by check to "Scandia Baptist Cemetery Association" and sent to:

SBCA
c/o Lisa Lundsten-Nees
594 Brimhall Street
St. Paul, MN 55116

Thanks for your continued support!



THANKS!! – Island View Golf Course

KJ Bach

MANY THANKS to Kurt Knox and the Island View Golf Course maintenance crew for their partnership and support of SBCA!!

Virtual Visit... through our website:

Margaret Osborne

Want to find the latest info about the Scandia Baptist Cemetery? Go to <http://scandiabaptistcemetery.org> to find the SBCA website for the latest news, newsletters and a link to the website "Find a Grave", to look-up an ancestor's name to see if they are buried at Scandia Baptist Cemetery. More functions will be coming soon, and comments/suggestions are always welcome by sending an email to Margaret Osborne at mao99mps@aol.com. Be sure to follow us on FaceBook as well!



Clean-up Day 2019

Margaret Osborne

The cemetery received a spring cleaning on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Trees were trimmed, weeds removed and leaves raked to clear the grounds. And a few golf balls found their way back to the Driving Range! The grave markers are easier to read as we gently cleaned off the lichen obscuring names and dates. Participants in the 2019 Clean-up pictured below were Louis Nees, KJ Bach, Lisa Lundsten-Nees, Jean Tokar, Phil Broberg, and Margaret Osborne. Also participating in the cleanup were Jacque Waugh, Bruce Anderson Ric and Beth Johnson, We also appreciate the Island View Golf Course Maintenance Crew who last fall trimmed trees and cleared brush from their side of the perimeter fence. The Cemetery is much more visible now.



After the clean-up, Phil Broberg led us across Cty Rd 92 towards the lake, and showed us the original location of the Scandia Church building, which now resides at Bethel Seminary in Arden Hills, MN.

**Come!!! Share in a bit of cleanup and
hear the stories of the pioneers.**

**Cleanup Day 2020
Saturday, May 16 10am.**

**Scandia Baptist Cemetery
9175 Island View Rd, Waconia, MN**

Andrew Peterson 'Spring on the Farm' also May 16, 2020