

Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of SAHSWI and the Swedish Immigration to Wisconsin

- 1 PM – 3 PM on Sept 13, 2025
- St. Anskar's Episcopal Church
- N48W31340 Hill St (State Road 83), Hartland, WI

It was on **May 6, 1975** when the **Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin Inc.** application was submitted for incorporation as a non-profit organization whose purpose was to promote a greater awareness and appreciation of the role of Swedish immigrants in the growth and development of Wisconsin. **Harry Anderson** was elected President, **Richard Horngren**, Secretary, and **Anders Segerdahl**, Treasurer. The Incorporation was approved on May 9th by the Secretary of State in Madison.



In October of 1841, Gustaf Unionius arrived in Milwaukee and settled at Pine Lake, WI. He was accompanied by his wife **Lotten, Christine Sodergren**, who had been a maid at Lotten's family, **Iwar Hagberg**, a student from Upsala, **Carl Groth**, a relative of Unionius, and **Wilhelm Polman**, a medical student, who they met on the ship going overseas. They arrived in Milwaukee and settled on land at **Pine Lake**. Three years earlier, **Carl Friman** had arrived and settled down in Genoa City with his 5 sons. **This was the beginning of Swedish immigration to Wisconsin.**

The event will feature savory Swedish food shared by SAHSWI members and descendants of the first pioneers of New Upsala, a Swedish hunting song referred to in Unionius' book *A Pioneer in Northeast America, 1841-1858* will be performed. Presentation of the founding of SAHSWI will be introduced, as well as of the "Gustaf Unionius, New Upsala and the Scandinavian Parish" Historical Marker. Descendants of early pioneers, George Bergwall and Bengt Peterson will share their information. Traditional Swedish Folk music will be played by "Goda Vänner (Good Friends). And there is a surprise waiting for all who are attending.

As is the custom with Fika meetings, if you can share a special Swedish dish, it would be greatly appreciated.

St. Anskar's Episcopal Church is partly the descendent of Pine Lake Scandinavian Parish and is the location of the Wisconsin State Historical Marker recognizing Gustaf Unionius, New Upsala, and the Scandinavian Parish.

October 18, 2025, Fika Meeting featuring the Annual Business Meeting and program "Emma's Story/" presented by Karen Snowberg