

Copyrighted 1889, by H. Mattson.

## INTRODUCTORY.

---

On the eighteenth of July, 1888, the following call appeared in Svenska Folkets Tidning, a Swedish newspaper published in Minneapolis, Minnesota:

MASSMÖTE.—Härmed inbjudas alla svenskar i och omkring Minneapolis, Minn., att möta Lördagen den 21 Juli, kl. 8 e. m. i Sv. Lutherska Augustana kyrkans undervåning, hörnet af 11 ave. och 7 st. S., för att vidtaga förberedande mått och steg att i sammanhang med "Minneapolis Industrial Exposition" fira den 250:de årsdagen af svenskarnes ankomst till Amerika. Carl J. Petri, pastor för Lutherska Augustana förs.; A. J. Enstam, pastor för Lutherska Bethlehems förs.; E. Aug. Skogsbergh, pastor för Svenska Missions förs., Frank Peterson, pastor för Svenska Baptist förs.; Jno. Ternstedt, pastor för Lutherska St. Pauli förs.; K. H. Elmström, pastor för Svenska Methodist förs.; Hans Mattson, statssekreterare; M. Lunnöw, redaktör för "Svenska Folkets Tidning"; A. Mellander, redaktör för "Minneapolis Veckoblad"; N. O. Werner, kassör för Swedish American Bank; P. P. Swenson, sheriff för Hennepin county; Jno. F. Peterson, register of deeds i Hennepin county; S. J. Turnblad, manager för "Svenska Amerikanska Posten"; J. H. Sandberg, läkare; A. Holt, advokat.

Minneapolis, Minn., den 11 Juli, 1888.

Pursuant to said call about two hundred Swedes met at the time and place named. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. C. J. Petri. It was resolved that the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the first Swedes in America should be celebrated on some day during the coming September and that a committee of twenty be appointed by the chairman to make the necessary arrangements for the same.

The committee so appointed consisted of Hans Mattson, J. F. Peterson, P. P. Swenson, Charles Peterson, A. J. Enstam, Magnus Lunnöw, A. Malmsten, J. L. Johnson, P. J. E. Clementson, C. J. Johnson, John Ternstedt, Andrew Holt, S. J. Turnblad, J. W. Anderson, N. O. Werner, N. P. Peterson, C. C. Bennett, C. G. Vanstrum, E. A. Skogsbergh and C. J. Petri. The committee met at the Swedish American Bank on the twenty-sixth of July and organized by electing Col. Hans Mattson chairman and Rev. C. J. Petri secretary. It was resolved that the festivities should take place in the exposition building on Friday, the fourteenth of September, at two o'clock P. M.



The following subcommittees were appointed:

ON INVITATIONS AND PROGRAM.

Hans Mattson, C. J. Petri, E. A. Skogsbergh, John Ternstedt, N. O. Werner, Magnus Lunnow, A. Malmsten.

ON ADVERTISEMENTS AND PRESS.

Magnus Lunnow, A. J. Enstam, S. J. Turnblad.

ON MUSIC AND SINGING.

C. G. Vanstrum, A. Holt, C. J. Petri.

ON FINANCE.

J. W. Anderson, P. P. Swenson, Chas. Peterson, C. J. Johnson, C. G. Vanstrum.

ON DECORATIONS AND PARADE.

P. J. E. Clementson, C. C. Bennett, J. F. Peterson, J. L. Johnson, P. P. Swenson, A. Holt, N. P. Peterson.

Two weeks later the following invitation appeared in all the Swedish newspapers in the United States:

Alla svenskar, svenska församlingar och societeter i Minneapolis och staten Minnesota och svenskar på andra trakter inom Förenta Staterna hafva vi härmed äran inbjuda att deltaga i firandet af den 250:de årsdagen af svenskarnes ankomst till Amerika. Denna fest firas i Expositions-byggnaden i Minneapolis, Minn., Fredagen den 14 Sept. kl. 2 e. m. Högtidligheterna öppnas med en procession, i hvilken alla svenskar inbjudas att deltaga. Ett intressant program har utarbetats. Tal hållas på engelska och svenska språket. Det engelska talet hålles af f. d. amerikanske ministern herr W. W. Thomas, Jr., från Portland, Maine, och det svenska af redaktör J. A. Enander från Chicago, Ill. De medel, som samlas vid festen genom försäljningen af för tillfället förfärdigade dekorationsband, etc., tillfalla de brandskadade i Sundsvall, Umeå och Lilla Edet, Sverige.

Minneapolis, Minn., i Augusti, 1888.

*E. Aug. Skogsbergh.*      *N. O. Werner.*      *H. Mattson.*      *C. J. Petri.*  
*Jno. Ternstedt.*      *M. Lunnow.*      *A. Malmsten.*

Program- och Inbjudningskomite.

A souvenir badge was sold at the Swedish business places in the city and the net proceeds returned to the fund for the relief of the sufferers by the great fires in Sundsvall, Umeå and Lilla Edet, Sweden. The badge, which on the day of celebration was worn on the breast by thousands, consisted of a blue silk ribbon, 2x6 inches — with the photographic portraits of Gustaf

Adolph and Axel Oxenstjerna, the Swedish coat of arms in gold and the following inscription arranged in beautiful symmetry: "250th anniversary of the first Swedish settlement in America, Sept. 14th, 1888, Minneapolis, Minn." The program of the day included a fine parade with bands of music and banners, but a heavy rain came early in the day and the parade had to be abandoned and the people instructed to assemble at the exposition building at their own convenience, *and they did so*, in such great numbers that before the hour of commencing the exercises every seat and standing place in the great auditorium was occupied. Many came from distant towns, cities and states, a special train brought nearly one thousand from St. Paul with marshals and bands of music, the general council of the Lutheran church, then assembled in Minneapolis, came in a body and occupied seats on the platform to the right of Cappa's 7th N. Y. Regt. band while the Swedish chorus of one hundred and fifty voices under Prof. Norman occupied the platform on the left. The platforms were decorated with numerous society banners and the colors of Sweden were seen everywhere. The lofty pillars reaching to the roof were wrapped in alternate stripes of blue and yellow, the national colors of Sweden, and side by side and uppermost were the stars and stripes. A large picture of the "Old Swedish Church" at Wilmington, built 1698, was hung in front of the speakers' platform and attracted great attention.

Col. Hans Mattson presided and on his right and left were the speakers of the day. The government of Sweden was represented by Consul H. Sahlgaard — the historical society of Delaware by Maj. Geo. Q. White. Hon. W. D. Washburn, Hon. F. S. Christenson (Danish consul), Rev. F. Millspaugh, S. E. Olson, F. A. Husher, J. A. Blethen, Capt. O. G. Lange, A. Palmquist, John Swainson, H. L. Olson Luth Jaeger, A. Ueland, J. G. Elmquist, G. A. Carlson, A. Anderson, H. Stockenstrom, the members of the general committee and about fifty other representative men occupied seats on the speakers' platform.

As near as can be estimated there were fully 15,000 people present, and the interest manifested by that vast audience can best be understood from the fact that thousands stood immovable upon their feet during the whole ceremony, which lasted three hours.