

# The Swedish Minnesota

It is not without pride that Stillwater calls itself "The Birthplace of Minnesota." In Stillwater the territory of Minnesota gained statehood in 1858, making 2008 an anniversary that can't go unnoticed.

From the Swedish horizon it is a significant anniversary. Numerous Swedes and Swedish descendants set their stamp on Minnesota – which isn't surprising, considering the large proportion of Swedes in the population. Swedish-sounding names have always been found among the state's prominent business people and politicians, and the Swedish flag still flies in Chicago City.

Who are those people, places and events that shaped Minnesota? The question was put to its inhabitants, and the people's selections have been gathered in a book. Included are both the obvious and choices that are often forgotten or even surprising.

Aviator Charles Lindbergh, Governor Floyd B. Olson and Greyhound Bus founder Carl Eric Wickman are a few self-evident choices. But among them is even Vilhelm Moberg, whose books on the emigrants

were voted as the best novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Sweden.

When the people of Minnesota get to have their say, Vilhelm Moberg, an author from another continent, is among the most significant for their state! That says a lot, chiefly about the quality and power in Moberg's books, but also about the feeling for Sweden that a large number of Swedish descendants still hold. Moberg's characters seem so alive that "Karl-Oskar Days" are celebrated annually in Minnesota.

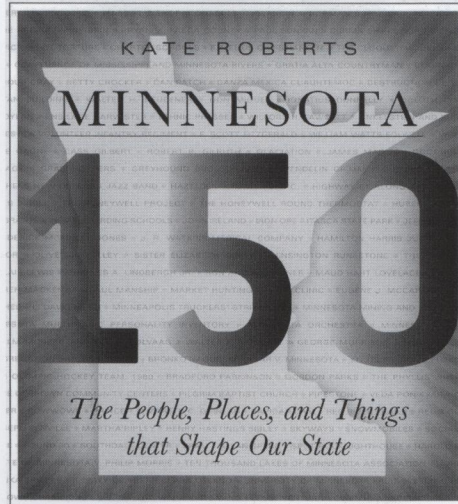
This also shows that the Swedish cultural heritage in Minnesota to the highest degree is full of vitality and offers possibilities for thrilling exchanges between our two countries.

Naturally, for everyone involved with the Emigrant Register /Kinship

Center, this is nothing new. We have daily proof of the value of this institution's work and look forward to expanding operations after the move to our new facilities during 2009.



Tommy Hellström  
tommy@hellstrom.net



The book about the most important people and events in Minnesota's history. Vilhelm Moberg is included with others.



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**Mailing address:**

Box 331, SE-651 08 Karlstad, Sweden

**Visiting adress:**

Hööksgatan 2, Karlstad

Phone: +46 54-61 77 20, fax: +46 54-61 77 01

e-mail: gunnel.lunde@emigrantregistret.s.se

www.emigrantregistret.s.se

Bankgiro: 338-2199

Membership: Sweden SEK 120

USA and Canada: \$16

Staff: Tommy Hellström, Alf Brorson

Translations: Martha Jansson

Legally responsible: Erik Gustavson

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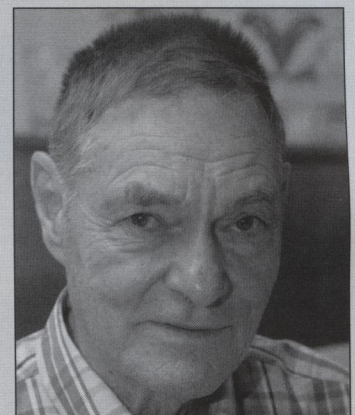
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*The Bridge* is published by the Emigrant Register/Kinship Center which has as its goals to strengthen the ties between the Swedish people and their kin in North America, support research on the emigration's causes and extent and to contribute to the preservation and development of the cultural exchange between Sweden and Swedish-America.

Governor Eva Eriksson is the president of the Emigrant Register's Board of Directors, and Erik Gustavson is its secretary.

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One of the many dedicated souls preserving the Swedish cultural heritage in the USA: Carl Boberg of Minnesota.