



## COLLEGE ARCHIVES

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**Gustavus Adolphus College Archives  
St. Peter, Minnesota**

**Swedish Pioneer Essay Contest, 1948.**

**CAMC Collection 106**

**Swedish Pioneer Essay Contest, 1948. CAMC Collection 106. 1 oversize Hollinger box.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Swedish Pioneer Essay Contest collection contains copies of essays submitted to the Swedish Pioneer Essay Contest sponsored by the Swedish American Line in 1948. The submissions fell under three different age groups with prizes ranging from government savings bonds to an all-expense paid trip to Scandinavia on the M.S. "Gripsholm," a ship of the Swedish American Line.

**CONTEST DETAILS:**

Essays were submitted in three different groups: Group 1 – College Undergraduates, Group 2 – High School and Preparatory School Students, and Group 3 – Adults Regardless of Occupation. There were winners and honorable mentions for each group. A total of 2,012 essays were received from every state as well as Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Only identification numbers and no names were presented to the judges. Submissions were judged on three categories: originality of material; method of treatment; and literary skill.

The judges were:

- Adolph B. Benson, professor emeritus, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
- Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, president, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois
- Dr. Reuben G. Gustavson, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Dr. Naboth Hedin, professor in Scandinavian Languages, University of California, Berkeley, California
- Helge Kökeritz, professor in English, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
- Dr. Evald B. Lawson, president, Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey
- Dr. Algoth Ohlson, president, North Park College, Chicago, Illinois
- Lithgow Osborne, president, American Scandinavian Foundation
- Dr. Roy V. Peel, professor, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
- George M. Stephenson, professor in History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Dr. Marshall W.S. Swan, curator, American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- **Dr. Edwin J. Vickner, professor in Scandinavian Languages, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (formerly of Gustavus Adolphus College)**
- John B.C. Watkins, First Secretary of External Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

There were six winners and five honorable mentions from Groups 1 and 2, and six winners and ten honorable mentions from Group 3.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

This collection is divided into the three groups that the essay contest was divided into: Group 1 – College Undergraduates, Group 2 – High School and Preparatory School Students, and Group 3 – Adults Regardless of Occupation. Papers are organized alphabetically by title within each group.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

There are no restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of the College Archives, the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

**COLLECTION CITATION:**

Swedish Pioneer Essay Contest, 1948. CAMC Collection 106. Gustavus Adolphus College Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

**ACQUISITION:**

Ruth Almen donated this collection during September 1978.

**PROCESSED BY:**

Adrianna Darden processed this collection and developed the finding aid during March 2011.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Swedish Pioneer Essay Contest.

Swedish-Americans.

Swedes in the United States.

Vickner, Edwin J., 1878-1958.

Swedish American Line.

<b>CAMC Collection 106</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Contest Description; News Release of Winners; Letter to Ernest Bearnarth from Edwin Vickner; List of essays, 1948	1	1
<b>Group 1: College Undergraduates</b>		
“A.N. Pierson, The Rose King” SECOND PRIZE	1	2
“Carl Milles: An Artist of Influence” Honorable Mention	1	3
“Charming Jenny Lind” Honorable Mention	1	4
“Dr. Ernest Frederik Werner Alexanderson – Swedish-American Scientist, Engineer and Inventor: His Influence on American Life” FOURTH PRIZE	1	5
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: The Little Dutch Baker and the Champion Farmer” [Early Swedish settlers in Colorado - August Burke and Peter Magnes] Honorable Mention	1	6
“L.P. Esbjorn, Swedish Pioneer of 1848”	1	7
“Leather Hinges” [Based on diary of writer’s great-grandmother, pioneer housewife] FIRST PRIZE	1	8
“Man of the Prairie” [Dr. Carl A. Swensson of Lindsborg] THIRD PRIZE	1	9
“‘The Messiah’ Festivals of Lindsborg, Kansas” Honorable Mention	1	10
“T.N. Hasselquist: Minister, Educator, Pioneer” FIFTH PRIZE	1	11
Untitled [Imaginary letter by Carl Sandburg giving biographical material] SIXTH PRIZE	1	12
Untitled [Life of John Ericsson] Honorable Mention	1	13
<b>Group 2: High School and Preparatory School Students</b>		
“But One Lindsborg” [Messiah]	1	14
“Carl Sandburg – An Essay” SECOND PRIZE	1	15
“The Christmas Tree” [About Peter Anderson, Falmouth, Maine] SIXTH PRIZE	1	16
“Great-Hearted Genius: Emil Tyden – Inventor, Industrialist, Philanthropist” FIRST PRIZE	1	17
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: The Influence of the Family of Johannes and Katherine Olson on the Regions Known as the Marquette Iron Range and the Gogebic Iron Range, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan” Honorable Mention	1	18
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: John Klingberg”	1	19
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Teachers of Tomorrow” [Monte Lindwall] Honorable Mention	1	20
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: A Tribute to Doctor Howard Swanson” [Eastman School of Music]	1	21
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Untitled” [Story of writer’s grandfather, a Swedish immigrant to Utah]	1	22

“The Life of Sven Sherdahl” [Writer’s great-grandfather] Honorable Mention	1	23
“North Park Academy – Clifford Swenson, Dean” Honorable Mention	1	24
“A Sage of New Sweden” [Maine] Honorable Mention	1	25
<b>Group 3: Adults Regardless of Occupation</b>		
“The American Way – Swedish-American of Jamestown, N.Y.” [Essay on Elof Rosencrantz]	1	26
“... And So Our Lord Created the Smalander” [Story of Blenda Olson, teacher at Western Illinois Teachers College] Honorable Mention	1	27
“Ballard”	1	28
“Bengt Magnus Halland and the Halland Settlement” Honorable Mention	1	29
“A Biography of Andrew Erikson”	1	30
“Bishop Hill – Loadstone of Swedish Immigration”	1	31
“Captain William Matson – A Modern Viking”	1	32
“Carl Milles at Cranbrook” THIRD PRIZE	1	33
“Dahlgren of the American Navy”	1	34
“Ernst F.W. Alexanderson – Inventor Extraordinary” Honorable Mention	1	35
“Frank O. Eliason”	1	36
“Gotham’s Guardian of Law and Order: A Sketch of the Life of Arthur William Wallander”	1	37
“Granite in his Bread” [Essay on Anton Carlson of the University of Chicago] FIFTH PRIZE	1	38
“Gustaf Unonius: Pioneer-Pastor”	1	39
“His Specialty Was Children” [Essay on Rev. John Klingberg, New Britain, Connecticut]	1	40
“The Influence of Carl Sandburg on American Culture” SIXTH PRIZE	1	41
“The Influence of John Nilsson’s Sons and Daughters in the Blue Valley, Kansas” Honorable Mention	1	42
“The Influence of a Swedish Settler on a Community: Ernst B. Larsson and Unalakleet, Alaska” FOURTH PRIZE	1	43
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community in Greater Chicago”	1	44
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Lake Chisago, Minnesota”	1	45
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: A Pioneer in Isanti County, Minnesota”	1	46
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Swan J. Turnblad and His Swedish Castle”	1	47
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Sven Magnusson, A Brief Biography”	1	48

“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: The Terrible Swedes of Henry County”	1	49
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Untitled” [Eric Janson]	1	50
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Untitled” [Oscar G. Lange, Chicago]	1	51
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Untitled” [Sandberg Family of Goodell, Iowa]	1	52
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region: Untitled” [Swedes in Brooklyn]	1	53
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region with Reference to Clay County, South Dakota, and Reverend Brown”	1	54
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Mid-Western, Rural Community in Kansas”	1	55
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Region: Inner Mission Bethphage”	1	56
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on the Economy and Development of the Western States”	1	57
“The Influence of Swedish Settlers on Vasa, Minnesota” Honorable Mention	1	58
“Johan Magnus Danielson – Founder of Smolan, Kansas, 1869-1920”	1	59
“John Albert Johnson – Three Times Governor of Minnesota” Honorable Mention	1	60
“John Ericsson: His Influence on My Community and Beyond”	1	61
“John Morton the Signer”	1	62
“John O. Anderson” [Schoolman, Superior and Duluth]	1	63
“John Peter Sjolander, 1851-1939”	1	64
“The Life of William Williams Keen, M.D., L.L.D.”	1	65
“Lindsborg’s Messiah” [Oratorio at Bethany College]	1	66
“Matts Swenson: An Essay About a Swedish Pioneer”	1	67
“A Noble Experiment” [New Sweden, Maine] Honorable Mention	1	68
“Ola Nilsson Liljenquist and His Cooperative City” SECOND PRIZE	1	69
“One Hundred Years of Swedish Influence on the City of Worcester, Massachusetts – In Retrospect Years, 1948-1848”	1	70
“President John Hansen: Father of American Unity”	1	71
“A Questing Norseman” [Essay on Dr. George Norlin, Classics professor at the University of Colorado]	1	72
“Samuel A. Carlson – Mayor Emeritus of Jamestown, New York”	1	73
“Scandia, Alberta”	1	74
“To the Scandinavians of Minnesota!” [Hans Mattson]	1	75
“The Seed of the Blessed of the Lord” [Life of Dr. William Williams Keen]	1	76
“The Story of Anna Ernberg” FIRST PRIZE	1	77

“Swedish Kanaka” [Essay on Dr. Nils P. Larsen, physician in Hawaii] Honorable Mention	1	78
“Swedish Settlers of Minnesota’s Mesabi Range”	1	79
“Swedish Theatre in Chicago”	1	80
“Swen M. Swenson: The First Swede in Texas”	1	81
“A Tribute to a Swedish Pioneer Who Wrought a Living Memorial” [Story of Pastor Carl Renhard, founder of Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon]	1	82
“Woman at Work: The Story of Mary Anderson – Lidköping, Sweden, Chicago, Illinois, Washington, D.C.” Honorable Mention	1	83
Untitled [Deals with Albert John Swanson, the father of the author]	1	84
Untitled [Deals with Ellen Johnson, librarian and teacher at Oberlin College]	1	85
Untitled [To My Father, Axel Henry Grundstrom, Civil War veteran, etc.]	1	86