

Points of Interest Along the Way

As you travel to and from the Augustana Heritage Association Gathering, there are a number of interesting historical sites along the way to St. Peter. We invite you to build some time into your schedule to include these stops.

The Local Planning Committee is also offering a pre-Gathering bus tour to Vasa, Minnesota (near Red Wing). This was the birthplace of Gustavus Adolphus College in 1862 by Rev. Eric Norelius. We will tour the Vasa Children's Home (which is currently a Lutheran Social Service site), and Vasa Lutheran Center and Museum, and the Vasa Lutheran Church. This tour includes the cost of the bus, a to-go breakfast on the bus, and lunch at Vasa. We would be leaving at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 21. Please check the "Yes, I am interested" box on the registration form if you would like more information when it becomes available.

In 1863, the school was relocated to Carver, Minnesota and named St. Ansgar's Academy where it remained until moving to the present location in 1876 and being renamed Gustavus Adolphus College. Two churches associated with the history at Carver are East Union Lutheran Church, found 3 ½ miles southwest of Carver on County Road 40 and West Union Lutheran Church which is 5 miles west of the East Union church. The modified original building for St. Ansgar's Academy is across the road from East Union Lutheran Church. Carver is southwest of Minneapolis on Highway 212.

Unto a Good Land, a title of one of the books by Vilhelm Moberg is based on research this Swedish author did in one of the oldest Swedish communities in Minnesota, Chisago County, located just north of the Twin Cities.

In 1854 Erland Carlson founded the first Augustana churches at Scandia (Elim Lutheran Church) and Center City (Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church). They both will be celebrating 158 years since their founding with Midsommar Dag celebration at Scandia on June 23.

Information about Scandia, the Gammelgarden Museum, and the Swedish heritage of this area can be found at www.scandiamn.com.

Another important stop would be the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. This is the largest and oldest museum of Swedish-American history and culture in the United States. The American Swedish Institute is located at 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407. More information can be found at www.americanswedishinst.org or by calling 612-871-4907.