

Friends of the Karl Oskar House/Nya Duvemåla

November 2025



Glader Cemetery

Word from the president, Gary Noren. As I look at a draft of this newsletter, I have so many stories and thank yous I want to share, but Sven has only given me a small box for my article. He tells me I must be concise, so here goes: I'm loving the progress Peter Osterberg has made with the Memorial Pavers Fundraising Project. (See article.) And the Second Grade Tours of the Karl Oskar House were a huge success; with a huge "Thank You" to Bonnie Anderson and Becky Dudley for coordinating them ... and to everyone else who volunteered for those 4 days in early October. John Linn's article about the Glader Cemetery is near and dear to my heart, too, as many of my relatives are buried there. Grandpa George Noren showed me where this cemetery was sometime in the 1970s, probably while he was approaching age 100. It was overgrown at that time and difficult to find the headstones. In conclusion, I want you to mark your calendars for a highlight of the holiday season: our annual God Jul (Merry Christmas) party at the Karl Oskar House Verkstad will be on December 8 at 11:30. Bring a dish to share and warm clothes.

Contributor, John Linn

We are happy to have John Linn, a great nephew of Carl Linn, as a contributor to this newsletter. John lives in Texas and has published several books about family history. In this issue of our newsletter he contributes to the story about Glader Cemetery. He was enticed by the book "The Secrets of Glader" by Robert Porter. At that time he had discovered enough family history to recognize that several of those long dead Swedes buried in Glader Cemetery were related to him.

Coming events

Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag entertains at Glädje in Lindström Saturday November 8 between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm for the Scandinavian Christmas Market.



Karl Oskar Hus/Nya Duvemåla (Chapter 3)

I have the intension to write some about the Karl Oskar House and it's history in each number of the newsletter in the future. This time I will present Smålandsstenen, the rock from Småland

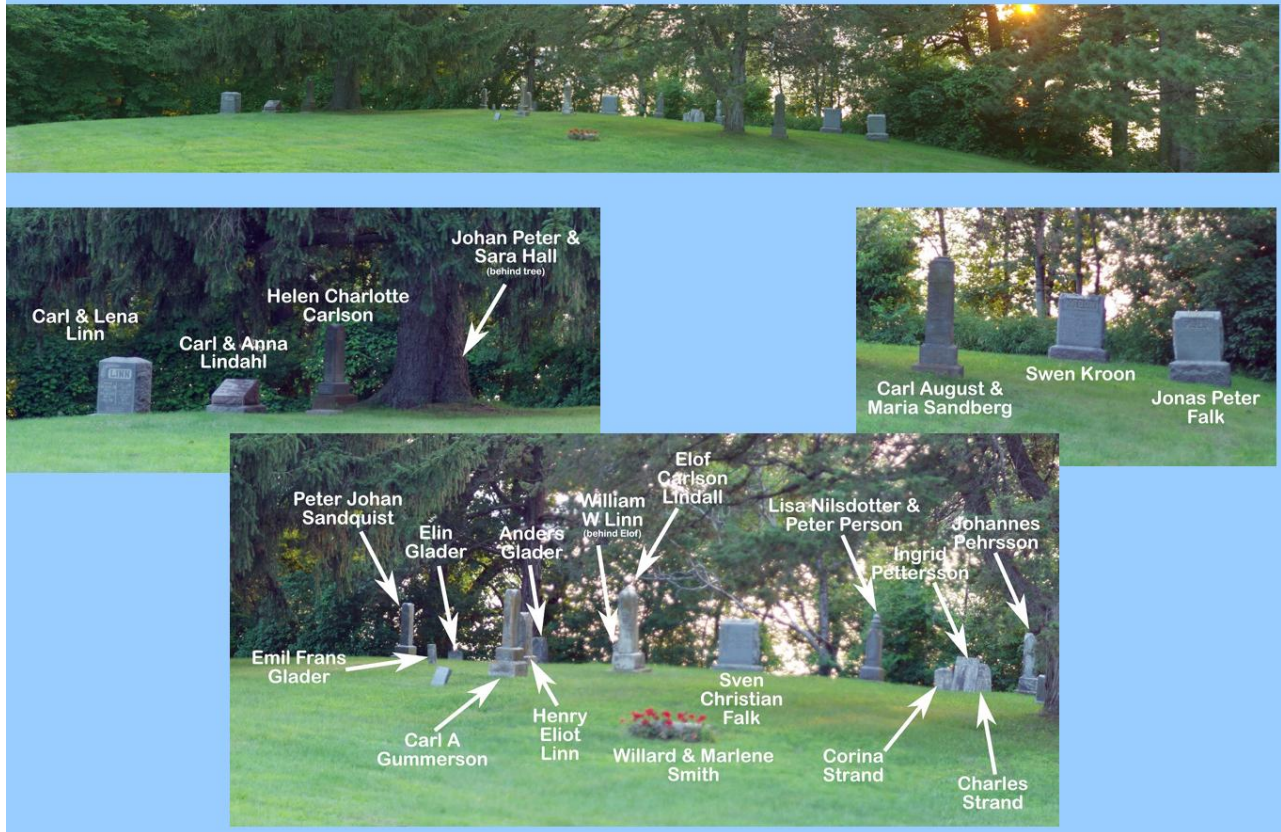
Airline Captain Carl-Werner Pettersson of Brinkelid, Åseda, Sweden, was a friend of Vilhelm Moberg and a relative to Sally Barrot in Shafer Minnesota. He was also involved in the Karl Oskar House. He thought as the Swedes settled in this area mainly for its nice, stone free, soil it would be suitable to place a rock from Småland, Sweden at the Karl Oskar House in Lindström, Minnesota. He found a suitable rock on his farm in Åseda and succeeded to arrange sponsorship from the Swedish car manufacturer Volvo for the freight from Småland to Minnesota. The following pictures is from when the stone arrived at the Karl Oskar House in May 1996.



Sally Barrot to the left and Carl-Werner Pettersson to the right



Glader Cemetery



A Brief History of Glader Cemetery

Glader Cemetery was, and still is, a focal point for the community surrounding South Center Lake. It began in 1855 when Anders Peter (Nillsson) Glader's¹ wife, Elin Swensdotter² died. This was only two years after their perilous voyage across the Atlantic. Elin was buried; and Glader Cemetery, the oldest Swedish pioneer cemetery in Minnesota, was born.

Anders (or A.P. as he was called) planned to come to America with his friend Magnus Jonasson, but for some unknown reason he delayed his emigration to 1853. Magnus and young Carl Linn arrived in 1852. Magnus was also from Furuby, and Magnus grew up next door to Carl's mother Maria Petersdotter. Jonas Andersson, Carl's father was born in Dädesjö, a few houses away from where Magnus' father was born. So there was a strong connection between these people.

The Glader Cemetery remained Glader's property until 1871, when he formally conveyed the cemetery land to the trustees of Chisago Lake Lutheran Church for \$50. However, he had a sporadic relationship with the church and burials continued to be local.

Most burials in the Cemetery were interrelated in some way, by birth, marriage or location in the old country. After 1919 no deaths were registered until the last known burial of the Smiths during the 1970s.

Of the 49 burials I know of (not including the Smiths) I have found only 12 individuals who appear to be unrelated to the rest in any way; 75% of the interred are related to each other.

Vilhelm Moberg visited Chisago County in the summer of 1948. Ted Norelius, editor of the Chisago County Press, introduced the famous author to Glader Cemetery. At the time, the cemetery was neglected and overgrown with grass, weeds and sprouting undergrowth. Moberg later declared "This is where I will bury Karl Oskar." He later remarked⁴:

In most cases the place of birth for the person who rests below is given on the tomb stone: "born in Algutsboda, Sweden," "born in Langasjö, Sweden," "born in Linneryd, Sweden," "born in Elmeboda, Sweden." These stones gave me a unique sensation; out here, so far from home, in another part of the world, lies grave after grave with those well-known parish names."

Moberg failed to recognize that most of the interred in Glader were actually born in Furuby, Dädesjö, Hovmantorp, and " Östra Torsås. And they were all connected!

John Linn September 28, 2025 1B. 18 December 1806 in Furuby Parish, D. 21 May 1875 at Chisago Lake. 2B. 20 January 1808 in Ljuder Parish, D. 7 September 1855 at Chisago Lake. 3Moberg's Archives 4The Unknown Swedes, 1988

(Submitted by John Lind , September 28, 2025)

B, 18 December 1806 in Furuby Parish, D. 21 May 1875 at Chisago Lake .

B. 20 January 1808 in Ljuder Parish, D. 7 September 1855 at Chisago Lake .

It is not allowed to bury people at Glader any longer. However, the Church, Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, which is governing the cemetery, can give permission for ashes to be scattered there. Thus the ashes of my first wife, Chris, who died 2016, is scattered there. I also have a permission to be scattered there. Very suitable solution for two childless immigrants from Sweden to be resting among the other old Swedish immigrants.

The picture is from the simple ceremony with Scandinavian folk music at scattering of Chris' ashes.
(By Sven Sjostedt)



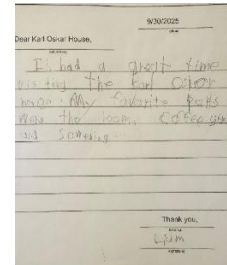
Area Second graders visit KOH



(Photo Gary Noren)



(Photo Chuck Gramling)



Second Graders Visit the Karl Oskar House

(Text Bonnie Anderson)

The last week of September we had second graders from Lakeside Elementary in Chisago City visiting the Karl Oskar House. “The story of the Karl Oskar House begins 175 years ago in Sweden.” We start out with an introductory talk about the story of the Linn house that became the home of Karl Oskar in Vilhelm Moberg’s novels. Then the students divide up into small groups and explore the kitchen, bedrooms and upstairs.

Upstairs, we were so fortunate to have Gloria Peterson working on the loom and demonstrating to the students how the loom works and showing them things she has made. Beth Engstrom brought her spinning wheel and showed the student how she spins wool into yarn. Many of the children went home with a small sample of wool.

Where is the knob to turn on the stove? There isn’t one. And so goes the discussion about the stove in the kitchen. Grinding coffee, trying out some of the kitchen and laundry tools, trying on the wooden shoes, rocking the cradle and looking out the window in Kristina’s bedroom to see the apple tree are among the experiences the students had.

The second graders from Lakeside Elementary, have come as a local field trip for several years. This year there were seven classes of student (about 180 students and at a couple of adults per class). We were so fortunate to have about 20 volunteers from the community and the Friends of the Karl Oskar Board, help with the field trip. Becky Dudley and Bonnie Anderson facilitated the field trip.

Joke of the month



The old white wooden church out in the country side needed a new coat of paint. The church board took in bids. The old painter Ole presented the lowest bid, which the board accepted.

When Ole had begun to paint, he realized that he had given a too low bid. Thus he begun to add water to the paint. After a little while he added more water.

Came Sunday, and Ole who never before had attended a church thought to himself he should visit the service. He sat down on the last bench and all went well until the very end when Ole thought that the pastor looked right at him and said “repaint and thin no more!”

Pavers.



. Mickelson Landscaping has installed a memorial brick walkway at the Karl Oskar House historic site. (see photo) The public is invited to participate in this ongoing fundraiser by purchasing a memorial brick, There are many blank bricks that can easily be replaced by your memorial brick!

There are two sizes of brick pavers available to purchase. One is four by eight and one is eight by eight inches. The smaller one will include three lines of 18 characters and the larger brick six lines of 18 characters— for a message or names/dates of descendants or any text you order that fits.

The group is partnering with the fundraising organization “That’s My Brick” to have the pavers produced and delivered. Small pavers are \$100 and the bigger size is \$200. You can order on line at thatsmybrick.com/karlooskar. The bricks can also be ordered by mail, send checks to FOKOH P.O. Box 12 Lindstrom, MN 55045-0012. Include what you want as characters for your text.

“ A personalized brick makes a great gift”

For more information: Website - <https://friendsofthekarloskarhouse.org/> ,
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