



# Hagstrom Bros. and the Automobile

William Hagstrom along with his brothers formed Hagstrom Bros Manufacturing Company in 1907 as a necessity to bring their ideas to life.

William opened his first business though in the summer of 1900, a bicycle and gun shop in the back of Train Brothers store on North Main St. in Lindsborg. It was here where William honed his craft in ma-

chine work and troubleshooting. The first mention of an automobile and motorcycle in Lindsborg happened in the same year, 1902. Both were assembled in Hagstrom's shop from parts railroaded in. It is noted that Mr. Agrelius purchased the first motorcycle in June of '02. Seeing advancement, William moved to the new Lindquist building and changed the name to

reflect his brothers joining the operation. At that time sporting equipment was added to the bicycle and gun store and shop.

For the shop an enameling oven was added during the move. That added the ability to bake on a shiny enamel finish to bike frames or any-

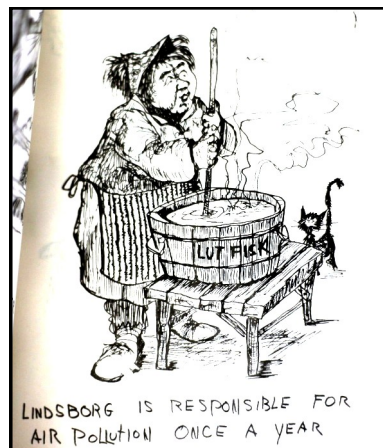


## Humor in

## Lindsborg

By Norman Malm

*Lindsborg settled 1869*  
*1st Railroad, Union Pacific, came through July 4th, 1879*  
*Lindsborg became incorporated as city 3rd class July 8th, 1879*



### Con't from above...

thing metal. With the foresight of gasoline engines becoming a necessity, William started working on a "sparking device" in October 1903, this device would help make Hagstrom Bros. a national name.

The brothers erected a large factory on Union street in 1905 but didn't

incorporate until 1907. The document above is one \$50 share in the company, dating August 1907. With the many patents, expansions, and manufactured items Hagstrom produced that stock surely increased quickly. Most patents were issued between 1908-1909 and included the spark plug, retractable lamp cord, and calling device for the tele-

phone. **"Nathaniel J. Thorstenberg**, merchant, manufacturer and for twelve years mayor of Lindsborg, He was one of the organizers in 1907 of the Hagstrom Bros. Manufacturing Co., and was elected vice-president. In January, 1911, he was made general manager of the business which is the largest manufacturing enterprise in McPherson county,

distributes \$50,000 per annum in wages. The company manufactures automobile specialties and covers the markets of the world." (Written 1912)



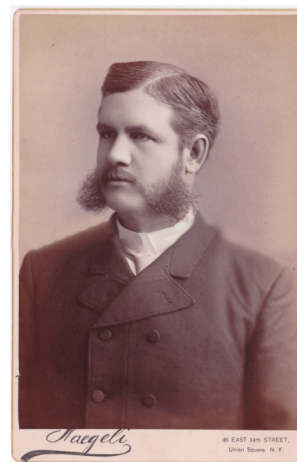
## Lindsborg's First Doctor

You look in most history books about Lindsborg, at least the ones that tell the beginnings, you will usually find the first Doctor *in the area* is Dr. John Rundstrom, who settled two miles west of Lindsborg in 1869. He became close friends with Olof Olsson but never moved his operation to town., and was considered a "naturalist". It wasn't until 1872 when Dr. JB Curtis moved to town did Lindsborg have a town Dr. and within that first year also

it's first drug store. Dr. Curtis practiced in Lindsborg until 1891, which is also the year he died, but had relocated to Denver July of that year. His time in Lindsborg did acquire some acknowledgement, but not in a positive way.

Our next meeting is May 10th, 2016 at 7:30 pm at Bethany Home in the activities room. All are welcome to come find out just who this Dr. is and why was he left out of so many historical

writings. Dr. J.B. Curtis



## Dr. Carl Aaron Swensson

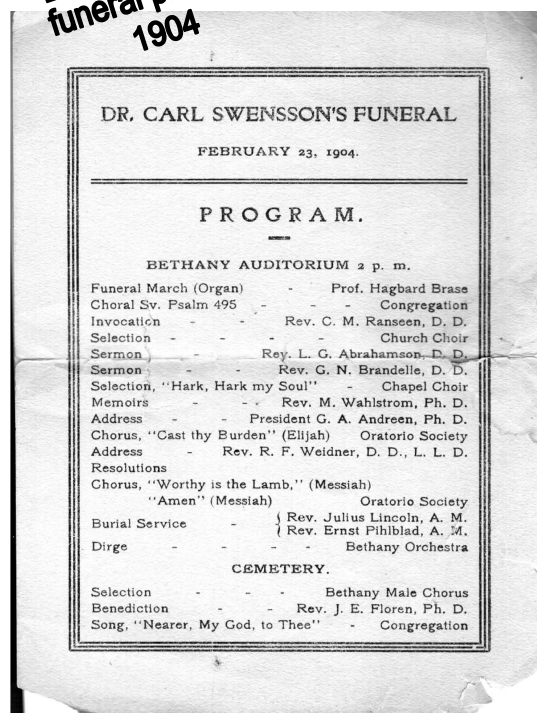
Dr. Carl Aaron Swensson was born in Pennsylvania 1857 to Swedish immigrants who came to America 1856. His father, Jonas Swensson was a minister of the Swedish Lutheran Church and later President of the Augustana Synod of the Swedish Lutheran Churches in America, so it was only natural Carl would follow that path. Upon graduating from both Rock Island, Illinois Augustana College (1877) and Theological Seminary (1879) he himself became an ordained minister. At 25 years old, Dr. Swensson founded Bethany Academy, later to be known as Bethany College in 1881. Carl's wife, Alma was a musical prodigy

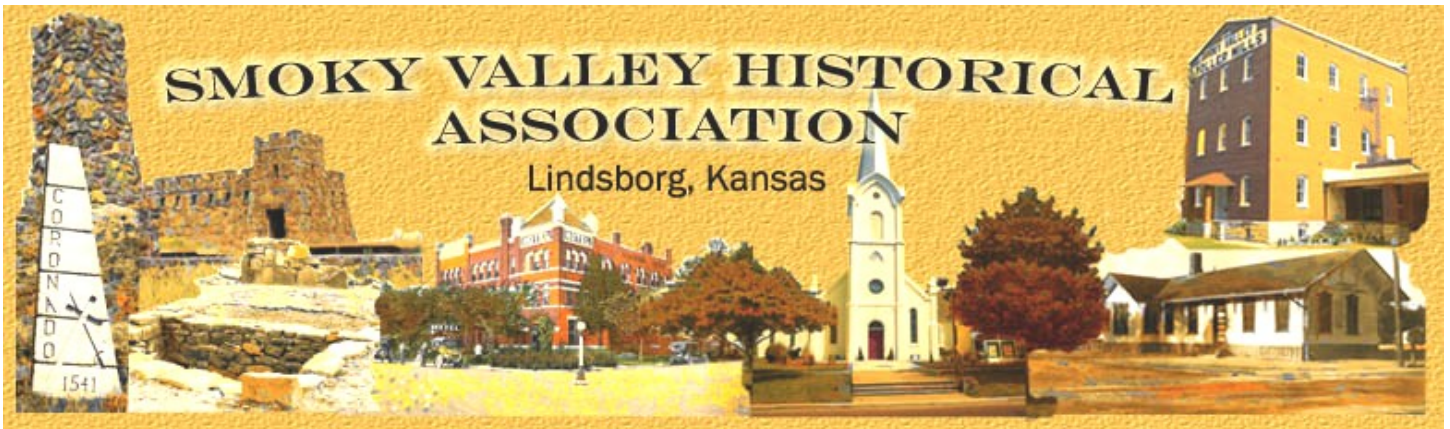
and founded an Oratorio society to perform Handel's Messiah as a fundraiser for this new college; it started 1882 and still continues today as does the college. Dr. Swensson's accomplishments are too vast to mention here, but he had a knack for hand selecting Swedes to come to Lindsborg to fulfill his vision of a music (organ and voice only) and art community based on Lutheran values. He died Feb. 16th, 1904 in Los Angeles, CA. At the time he was on the building committee for the Swedish Pavilion to be displayed at the 1904 Worlds fair in Saint Louis, MO. Even though he never got to see it completed, the Pavilion was donated to Lindsborg and graces Heritage

Square as part of the McPherson County Museum or "Old Mill Museum" as it is often called.

*112 years ago the founder of Lindsborg's Bethany College was laid to rest.*

**Dr. Swensson's funeral program 1904**





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**Meetings**

We have bi-monthly meetings (excluding July) held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Bethany Home in the Activities Room. Program starts at 7:30 p.m. with topics of local historical interest. Come join us!



**Funding**

Membership contributions are the SVHA's major source of on-going funding. A free-will donation in any amount will secure your membership in the Association for the year. Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year.

Grants, such as those awarded by the Kansas Humanities Council, are also available from time-to-time to further the mission of the SVHA.

**Contact Us**

You can e-mail us at: [info@lindsborghistory.org](mailto:info@lindsborghistory.org)

**Smoky Valley Historical Mission**

*The purpose of this association shall be to collect, arrange and preserve historical data, books, pamphlets and manuscripts pertaining to the early history and settlement of our community in general and the City of Lindsborg in particular; to preserve and beautify places of historical interest in our city and its vicinity; and to promote the study of history of our settlement and its cultural growth by lectures and other available means.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Smoky Valley Historical Association, Inc.  
 PO Box 255  
 Lindsborg, KS 67456



Check our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information concerning the Smoky Valley Historical Association, including our public meetings schedule.



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**AVAILABLE AT**

**The Old Mill Museum**

**on-line: [www.smokyvalleyhistory.org](http://www.smokyvalleyhistory.org)**

*Profits help the Smoky Valley Historical Association preserve our Central Kansas Wonder and Historic Site for future generations*

