

Vår Historia

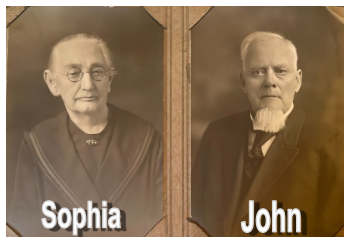
SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ARVID WALLIN * SOLOIST TO CONDUCTOR

Arvid Wallin 1905



Photo from Old Mill Archives



PUBLISHED
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Arvid Nathaniel Wallin had a surprisingly long career at Bethany College, but his legacy went far beyond Lindsborg's boundaries.

Born September 18, 1884 in Bethesda, Iowa to Johan "John" Svensson Wallin and Sofia Nilsdotter Lindberg-Wallin, Arvid was the youngest of seven, though would have been ten without previous infant deaths.

His father, John, came to America from Sweden in 1864 at the age of 21. His mother, Sofia, came to America from Sweden in 1865 and both lived in Geneseo, Illinois. A year later, Dec. 1866, they were married and in 1872 moved to Bethesda, Iowa.

Arvid's father and older brothers farmed until 1895,

when his parents retired and moved ten miles north to Stanton (*now home of the Swedish coffee pot and cup water towers*).

Arvid and his brother, Nathan, attended Bethany College 1902 to 1905. Nathan was a Commercial Dept. graduate, which led him to a career in business and sales. Arvid graduated 1903 in organ under Hagbard Brase, and again 1905 in piano under Samuel Thorstenberg. Arvid also sang in the Oratorio Society from the time he started school.



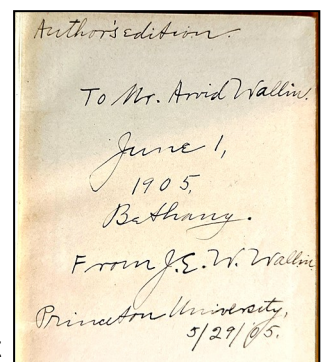
While family was visiting Lindsborg for the two brother's 1905 graduation, Arvid's brother-in-law decided to buy property and make Lindsborg their home. Carl G. Danielson brought his wife, Selma, to the new farmstead south of Lindsborg the next year, 1906. Selma was Arvid's eldest sister.

Upon graduating, Arvid moved to Chicago in 1906 to study piano under Arthur Speed at the Chicago Musical College, and in 1907-1908 under Jeanette Durno-Collins at the Cosmopolitan School of Music. His last season in Chicago was also spent playing professional concerts with Hugo Kortschak, a renowned violist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

No matter where Arvid lived, he was active with Lutheran churches, often as their organist. This sometimes called for special performances, like the 1927 organ dedication concert for the new "Two Tower" Salemsborg Church.

Another relative of Arvid and Nathan that made quite a name for himself was their cousin, John Edward Wallace Wallin (1876-1969), who had written his first of many books in 1905 and presented a copy to Arvid. His field was Psychology and sometimes frequented family gatherings.

After completing the courses at the Cosmopolitan



ARVID WALLIN * SOLOIST TO CONDUCTOR {CON'T}

School of Music, Arvid was sought out to come back to Bethany College as a teacher in the piano department. The fall of 1909, 25 year old Arvid picked up where he left off with the Oratorio Society, Messiah Lutheran Church, and other musical programs as an accompanist. The Thomas Johnson family took him in as a lodger for those first few years.



June 26th, 1912, Arvid and Esther Theodora Ranseen married in Chicago, where she was born and raised. The Ranseen name was familiar in Lindsborg though as Esther's sister, Anna or Mrs. Henry G. Johnson had lived there and were visited by family. Coming back to Lindsborg a married couple, Arvid had bought a house on north Main St.

While his piano recitals always drew rave reviews and sold-out performances, Arvid's voice shouldn't be overlooked. In 1914 and 1915 Arvid was a soloist in the Messiah! His tenor voice offered many opportunities both in singing and teaching. January of 1914 the College (male) Glee Club signed a fourteen week tour in the Midwest from the Eastern Chautauqua Bureau, which Arvid became Director. He also sang in and directed the Bethany Male Chorus and provided tenor to the Song-Cycle Quartet.

Two months after being a soloist at the 1915 Messiah in Lindsborg, Arvid participated in a smaller scale Messiah in Stanton, Iowa held at their church, once again providing tenor as a soloist.

Arvid did have a life outside music, he won a doubles tennis tournament, teamed with Anton Anderson the summer of '15, and he was a member of the Lindsborg Gun and Camera Club, which included many Bethany faculty.

By 1917-1918, WWI was taking hold, Arvid registered for service, but most likely due to his profession and age wasn't called to war.

Esther, his wife, got involved by becoming President of Lindsborg's first Red Cross Branch. Farmer's State Bank offered space for six months, then as the war progressed extended the free offering. The Red Cross met upstairs of the bank and immediately set out to make surgical dressings to be shipped out for the troops.

Despite the war, music continued and was a much needed relief. Arvid became Director of Bethany Symphony Orchestra. August 5th, 1918 gifted the Wallin's with their first daughter, Jean. She grew up to be an English teacher and church choir director.

In 1920, Arvid accepted a position at the Horner Institute of Music located in Kansas City, where, he taught piano for the next three years. During this time Arvid became organist for the First Lutheran Church in KC, but still visited Lindsborg frequently.

The summer of 1923 Arvid and family moved back to Lindsborg and he immediately was hired back as a Professor of Piano. The family moved to 747 N. Second St., the house he would spend the rest of his life.

July 4th, 1926 gifted Arvid and Esther with their second daughter, Ruth. She would grow up to be a music teacher and wife to Bethany trumpet player, Roger Thorstenberg.

Arvid remained very active with the Messiah Lutheran Church as organist and in 1934 initiated a Christmas Candlelight Service which became a tradition.

Arvid held the position of assistant director of the Bethany Oratorio Society Chorus under Brase for many years, so when Hagbard Brase chose to retire after the 1946 Messiah, Arvid was the natural to take over as conductor. The 1947 Messiah was a success, but illness was getting the better of Arvid during the 1948 performances. During the Palm Sunday performance, Arvid became ill and fortunately Brase was

sitting in the audience and left his seat to quickly take over. Arvid came back a few times, but ultimately had to leave most of the second half to Brase.

September 7th, 1948, Arvid Wallin passed away in his home. While his time as Conductor was cut short, his legacy remains long and wide-spread.



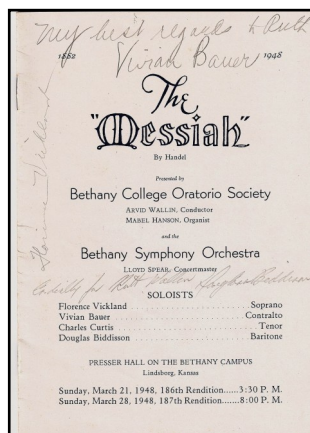
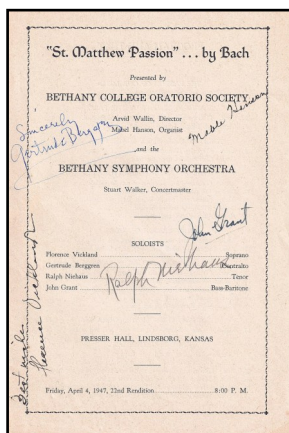
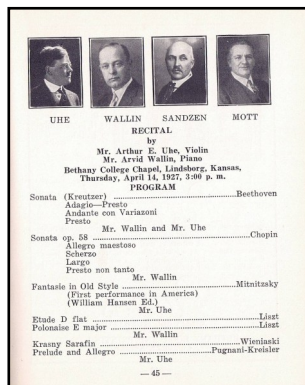
Stabat Mater
BY G. ROSSINI
Accompanied by
Musical Art Society
Bethany Symphony Orchestra
E. A. HAESENER, Conductor
SOLOISTS:
Ethyl Coover Soprano
Arvid Wallin Tenor
Hazel Engle Alto
George Ryden Bass
Sunday, November 22, 1914
Bethany College Auditorium, 8:00 p. m. Admission 25 Cents

CONCERT

Bethany Symphony Orchestra MR. CHARLES KEEF, Tenor MR. ARVID WALLIN, Conductor	Bethany Band MR. ROYAL CLAYCOMB, Cornet MR. HJALMAR WETTERSTROM, Conductor
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Assisted by Faculty Quartette:
MR. CHARLES KEEF, First Tenor MR. OSGAR LOFGREN, First Bass
MR. ARVID WALLIN, Second Tenor MR. THURE JADERBERG, Second Bass

Sunday, November 25th
8:00 O'clock P. M.
BETHANY AUDITORIUM ADMISSION 25c



Upcoming SVHA Programs

Sept. 9th, 2025

The History of Bee Keeping

Erik Peterson

Nov. 11th, 2025

The Old Mill Photo Project

Lenora Lynam and Tim Stewart

Jan. 13th, 2026

An Immigrant Saga: The Robert Muir Journey

The founding of Salina, KS.

Gavin Doughty

All programs
start at:
7:30 pm

Location:

Messiah Lutheran Church—Fellowship Hall
402 N. First Street—Lindsborg, KS.

Please cut along the dotted line

Smoky Valley Historical Association
P.O. Box 255
Lindsborg, KS. 67456

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year



Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

All Membership Donations, Bequests, Trusts, and Legacy Donations are tax deductible.

Please mail to P.O. Box listed above.

Thank You!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Meetings/Programs

Smoky Valley Historical Association hosts bi-monthly meetings on the odd months, held on the second Tuesday, unless otherwise noted. Programs start at 7:30 pm with topics of local historical interest. Location is listed on page three along with schedule.

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 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.

Smoky Valley Historical Mission

The purpose of this association shall be to collect and preserve historical photographs, manuscripts, and other items 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, its vicinity, and properties entrusted to the association; and to promote the study of history of our settlement and its cultural growth by lectures and other available means.

Contact info:

Email or visit our website:

smokyvalleyhistory@gmail.com
www.smokyvalley-history.org

Smoky Valley Historical Association
 P.O. Box 255
 Lindsborg, KS 67456

"History preservation and education"

TACK SÅ MYCKET!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 LINDSBORG, KANSAS 67456



Thank you for your contributions, and supporting the historical preservation of Lindsborg and the Smoky Valley of Central Kansas.

Our pioneers left their legacy long after they were gone, so can you. Managing estates, bequests, and gifts through retirement plans can help keep our preservation ongoing and long-lasting.

All donations are tax exempt, we are a 501-(c)3 organization.