



David A. Anderson



Ann Baudin Stuller

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“I remember finding a photo in an essay written by a doctor,” Stuller said. “I contacted the medical school library to see if we could use that photo and it turned out to be a clipping of an old magazine photo. There was no way to know where it came from and whether it was copyrighted, so I drew it.”

“Ann’s quite the artist. It was fun to see her art,” Anderson added.

Stuller and Anderson are also avid photographers and genealogists. Both hobbies played a large role in how the book was created.

Anderson became interested in genealogy after his mother researched his family’s Swedish ancestors. He has since visited Sweden four times, where he was able to see his ancestors’ villages and original historical documents about his family.

Stuller, similarly, became interested in

genealogy after a cousin, who was a professional genealogist, visited her family in the 1970s and showed them their family tree. Since getting into genealogy, Stuller has connected with relatives she didn’t know about.

“I was able to make connections and find that I had a whole family in New Zealand I never knew about,” Stuller said. “I really enjoy doing other people’s family trees. It’s like detective work.”

A family tree was created for every person included in the book, Stuller said.

A story behind every photo

The book tells the stories of many Swedish immigrants throughout Oregon, including some who lived in or visited Clatsop County. Some stories are of prominent and well-known immigrants, while others are of lesser-known immigrants.

“I was surprised by the impact that some

people who were Swedes who didn’t live here very long but still had a big impact. Take for example the bridges in the (Columbia River) Gorge; the guy that designed them lived here for four years or so,” Anderson said. “The Simon Benson Bridge — it was designed by a Swedish guy whose designs were copied by an architecture company that built many of the bridges of the coast.”

Photographs range from profile shots of individuals and groups, to landmarks such as the Hammond Lumber Mill, which employed many Swedish immigrants.

“Behind every photograph, there’s a story to tell that isn’t told in the book — whether that’s how we acquired the photo or how we acquired the permission to use it,” Stuller said.

Preservation efforts

Anderson and Stuller are working on a second book. The Swedish Roots organiza-

tion will also be adding stories of Swedish immigrants to its website soon, swedishrootsinoregon.org. In the meantime, Anderson, Stuller and the six other volunteers for the organization hope to collect more photographs and stories from people whose ancestors lived in Oregon.

“We’re very receptive to receiving people’s genealogy questions, preserving documents and acquiring more photographs for our archive, as well as any kind of paper document,” Stuller said.

People are welcome to contact Anderson and Stuller directly by emailing them at ujelang@gmail.com and sasmac@comcast.net, they said.

“We’re open to copying photos and we’ll return them after copying them,” Stuller said. “I would like to get a lot more from Clatsop County if we could.”

“Don’t throw (any documents) away; give them to us,” Anderson added.