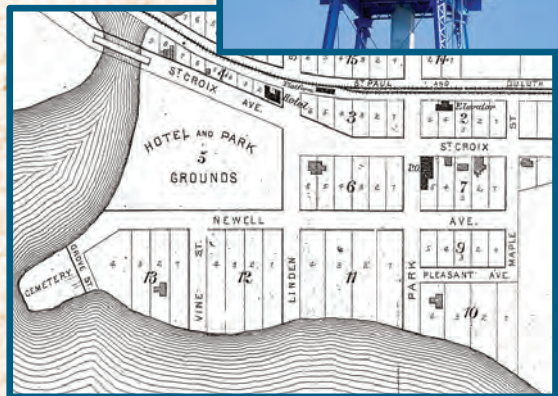


Lindström

Historical Walking Tour



CITY OF LINDSTRÖM, MINNESOTA

LINDSTRÖM

AMERICA'S 'LITTLE SWEDEN'

Incorporated in 1894, Lindström was first settled by Daniel Lindström who left Sweden for America in 1853. Among the Swedish immigrants settling the area was Erik Norelius, whose personal journals formed the basis of Vilhelm Moberg's novels of the Swedish Emigration to America. Moberg's fictional heroes, Karl-Oskar and Kristina Nilsson, remain the City of Lindström's logo.



A statue of these iconic personas stands in Lindström as a tribute to the early Swedish settlers and their descendants who continue to populate our area.



Starting Point



1) **Veterans Memorial.** The Chisago County Veterans Memorial is a monument honoring our community and recognizing the individual sacrifices and service of all the Veterans from throughout the Chisago Lakes Area and Chisago County. Mounted in the face of each of the five sides of the pentagon, surrounded with inlaid fieldstone and etched in granite are the seals of the five branches of the military. Radiating out from the

central pentagon is a plaza inlaid with bricks that bear the name, branch and dates of service of those who honorably served in war and peace. To the east of the pentagon is a large planter with three upright granite slabs. The central slab bears the inscription: CHISAGO COUNTY ALL VETERANS MEMORIAL; SOME GAVE ALL, ALL GAVE SOME; HONORING ALL OUR VETERANS. To the left is a slightly shorter granite slab displaying a U.S. Flag with the inscription, "KIA—SUPREME SACRIFICE". To the right is the third granite slab paying tribute to all of those still being held as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action with the POW/MIA emblem encircled with YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN; FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. Below the emblem are the names of all the veterans from Chisago County that are still listed as a POW/MIA.

Downtown West Walking Tour Loop

2) **Karl Oskar and wife Kristina Statue.** The statue of Karl Oskar and Kristina Nilsson is a copy of the original work by Swedish sculptor Axel Olsson in Karlshamn, Blekinge, Sweden. The figures are characters from Vilhelm Moberg's immigration novels that dramatize the dream of the new world and the loss of the Old Country. Vilhelm Moberg came to the Chisago Lakes area to do research for his famed trilogy "The Emigrants". The books, describe the hardships of the first Swedish settlers in central Minnesota. Karl Oskar looks toward the new land and Kristina takes a last look back at Sweden.

The Emigrant Stone
The stone was broken off from timelessness stands now here, approxed like the pioneers in their time. A remembrance rock of the people who traded the stone for golden harvests.

3) **The Emigrant Stone** was donated by Volvo from Småland, Sweden.



4) **Chisago County Press, 12631 Lake Blvd.** Charles A. Victor printed his first newspaper in the local blacksmith shop. Since most of the village residents were of Swedish ancestry, the newspaper (the Medborgaren) was written in Swedish. The Medborgaren has gone through several transformations and locations since 1898. Today the local newspaper is the Chisago County Press.

5) **Vilhelm Moberg's Desk.** Vilhelm Moberg is one of Sweden's foremost 20th century writers. Moberg was primarily recognized as a novelist who documented and dramatized the life of the rural peasantry of Sweden. His characters represented small peasant farmers, crafters, soldiers, and emigrants of the province of Småland. He visited the Chisago Lakes Area in 1948 and spent much of his time with the local newspaper editor. The desk that Vilhelm Moberg used to do the research for the famed trilogy "The Emigrants" is now located in the Chisago County Press building.



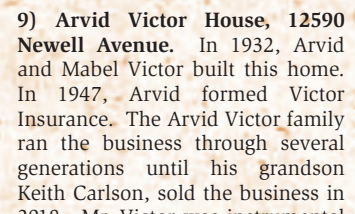
6) **Peninsula Apartments and Restaurant, 12565 Lake Blvd.** Peninsula Apartments sits on the site of Daniel Lindström's first log home. In 1889, Charlie Bronson purchased the site and built the Peninsula Hotel. In 1893, Bronson opened an adjacent opera house and the City of Lindström, newly incorporated, issued him the first liquor license in Lindström. Each year he held a festival celebrating the arrival of spring and the reopening of the popular summer resort. In 1900, Charles Acker purchased and operated the hotel until 1932 when the great depression caused its foreclosure. The hotel did not reopen again. In 1946, the building re-opened as the Dinnerbell Restaurant becoming Mercedes Bistro in 2015. The old hotel reached the extent of its usable life and was demolished in 2020. It is now the site of the Peninsula Apartments and Restaurant.



7) **Beach Park, 12605 Newell Avenue.** Daniel Lindström deeded cemetery lots to earlier Lindström pioneers. These lots were in the vicinity of his first wife's grave. The land for the cemetery was purchased from Charles Andrews for \$722.50 in 1897. After WWI, the bodies were removed and relocated to the new "Fairview Cemetery" at the east end of town on Akerson Street. The hill was cut into and the land leveled along the lakefront to establish the current public beach.



8) **N.P. Helberg House, 12585 Newell Avenue.** In 1901 N.P. Helberg purchased 160 acres of farmland on South Lindström Lake. A year later he built a mansion on a hill on the North Shore of the lake. N.P. Helberg and his wife Christena lived in this fine home while earning a living from their farms and other investments. After his death, his son Oscar W. Helberg lived on in the grand old home. Oscar owned the Princess Theatre and operated the Farmers' Co-op Store in town.



9) **Arvid Victor House, 12590 Newell Avenue.** In 1932, Arvid and Mabel Victor built this home. In 1947, Arvid formed Victor Insurance. The Arvid Victor family ran the business through several generations until his grandson Keith Carlson, sold the business in 2018. Mr. Victor was instrumental in many community development projects including the hospital, library and Parnly Residence. Arvid also suggested the name of our local celebration "Karl Oskar Days" as a tribute to our Swedish Settlers.



10) **Fridhem (Home of Peace), 12625 Newell Ave.** This property was built in 1895 by B.B. Fullerton of Minneapolis as a summer cottage. It features a large porch supported by columns and a roof broken by a central gabled dormer. In 1911, Frank A. Larson, a publisher from Chicago, purchased the house for his family where they spent most of their summers. Axel Gustafson and his stepbrother Algot Martinson bought the home in 1932 for their mother Nelly Gustafson and their sister Marinda Martinson. Fridhem Home is now operating as an "Airbnb". The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



11) **Linden Overlook.** In 2011, The City of Lindström in cooperation with the Lakes Improvement District and the Soil and Water Conservation District undertook a storm water treatment and South Lindström Lake Overlook project. The storm water from the area runs off the road into two rain gardens at the corner of Linden and Newell and is then directed down Linden into a sand and iron filing filter at the overlook that removes up to 90% of the phosphorous and helps to clean our lakes.

Downtown North Walking Tour Loop

2) **Lindström Bakery Mural.** This mural, painted in 2015 by Massachusetts artist, Mary Veronica Sweeney and funded with a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council is a tribute to the Swedish Immigrants. The mural is a variation on a famous picture from Sweden depicting a family that is sorrowfully saying good-bye to Sweden as they begin their journey to America. Mary turned the picture around to show the family eagerly embracing their new American homeland.



She included a mural of old-fashioned postcards in the center to show various historic scenes from the Lindström area and to capture a common form of communication (post cards) from the past.

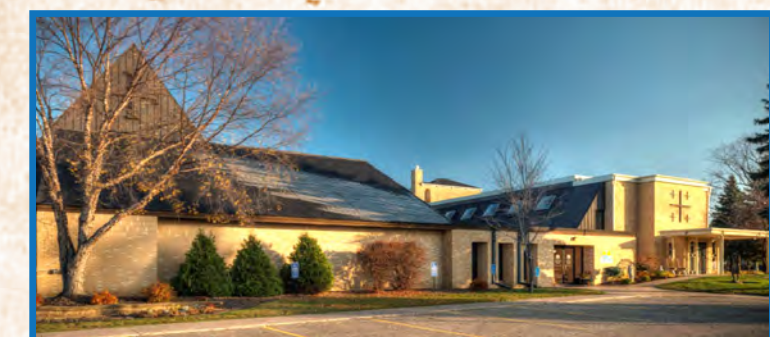


3) **Lindström Bakery.** Between 1898 and 1905, this building was a newspaper office and later a Ford dealership, and later still, used by the Abrahamson's Fire Truck Factory until the 1940s. Ray Nelson operated his Ford Motors dealership from the building until the 1970s. Now the Lindström Bakery provides area residents with Scandinavian doughnuts, Swedish white bread, caraway limpa bread, raisin rye, caramel rings and coffee cakes.

4) **"Kaffe Kanna" (Swedish for Coffee Pot) Park and the "Muni".** When the water tower in downtown was decommissioned, Mrs. Marlene Smith, owner of Plastic Products Corporation, envisioned a unique icon. She commissioned a painter to create a Swedish Welcome and fashioned the tower into a Swedish Coffee Pot fit with a working steam plant that from time to time would pour out steam to emulate a steaming pot of coffee. The tower still stands as a welcome to all of our visitors.



The "Muni" (Municipal Liquor Store, 12860 Lake Blvd) is owned and operated by the City of Lindström. This building housed the original Off-Sale Liquor Store and Fire Department. The building now stands as Lindström's Municipal Bar and serves as a social gathering place for our local residents.



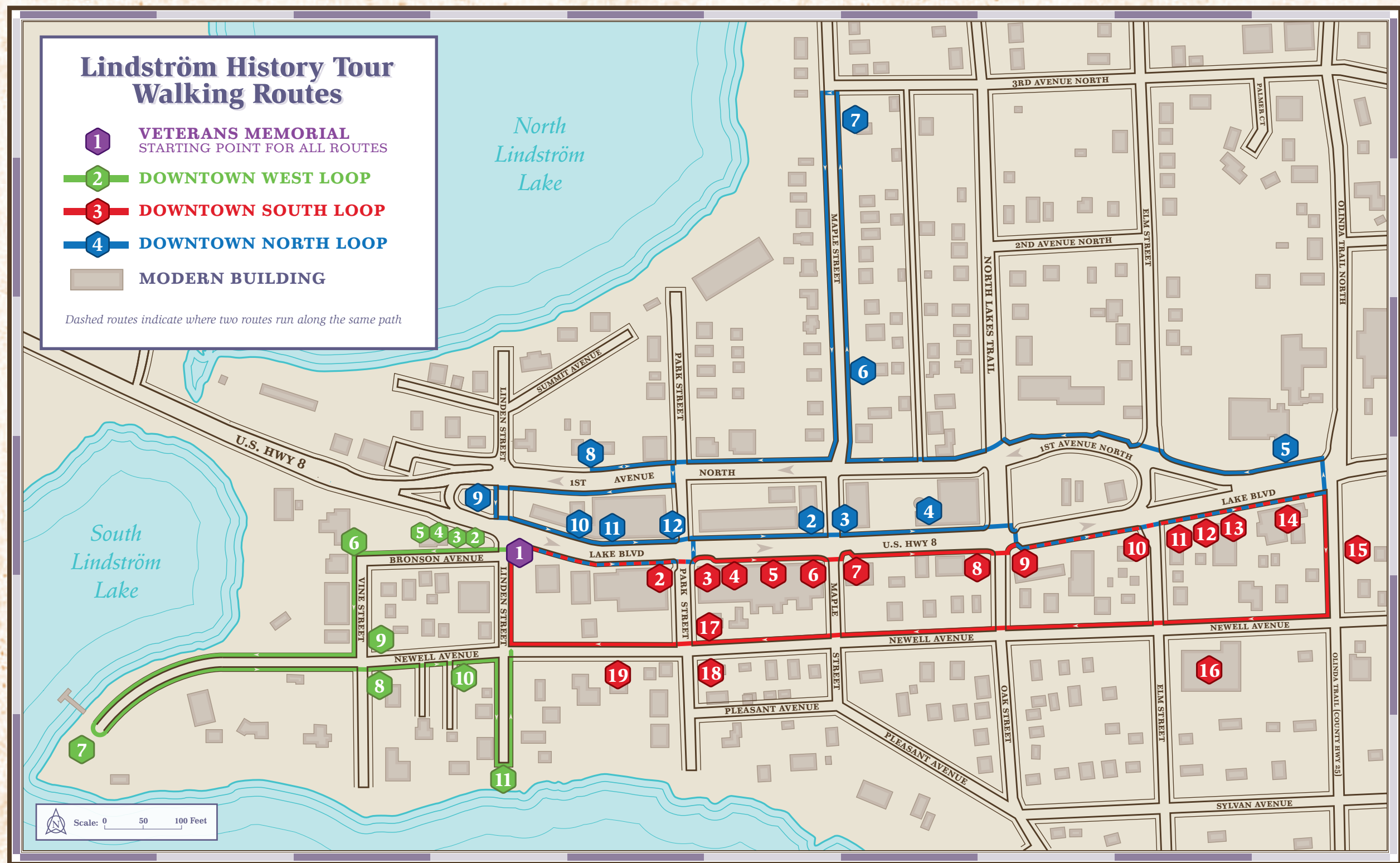
5) **St. Bridget's of Sweden Catholic Church, 13060 Lake Blvd.** St. Bridget's moved to this site in the early 1950's. Originally the parishioners held their services in private homes. Each of the colored windows of St. Bridget's represent a month of the church calendar and tell a symbolic story from Epiphany through Lent, Easter, and into Christmas.



St. Bridget (Birgitta Birgirdotter) was a noblewoman and mother to eight children, a counselor to kings and emperors, one of the founders of the great monastery at Vadstena, Östergötland and is known for inspiring holiness. She lived from 1303-1373.



The St. Bridget's Wooden Statue (at right) was hand-carved by well-known sculptor Bertil Nyström from Götland, Sweden. The statue was a gift from the St. Olaf Church of Minneapolis in 1958.



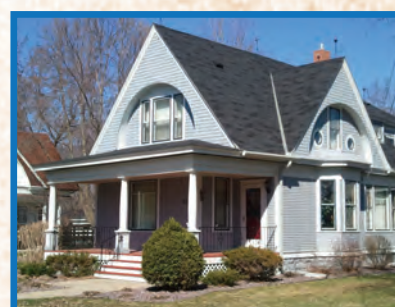
6) **Oscar Lindström House, 30735 Maple Street North**

Built in 1922, Daniel Lindström's son Oscar, his wife Sophie and their family moved into this home. Oscar F. Lindström served as the postmaster for two years and also served as the assistant cashier of the Bank of Lindström beginning in 1901.



7) **Frank Bloom House, 30615 Maple Street North**

This was the home of Frank Bloom and his wife Ruth Porter. Frank was among several Lindström residents who established the Security State Bank and was the bank's first president. Frank was also the dentist here in Lindström. Patients would travel from miles around in horse-drawn carriages or the train, and often stayed overnight at the Maple Street house because of extensive dental work.



MINNESOTA'S VISION
A Better State of Health
Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)
http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/ship

Acknowledgements:
This brochure was made possible by the contributions of the following individuals and organizations: Chisago County Historical Society, Marcella Emcott, Keith and Joan Carlson, Joe and Carolyn Wisby, Allen and Pat Wahlgren, Susan Wilson, Bachman Photography, Penline Productions and Leilani Freeman.

References:
Lindström Centennial Committee, "Lindströmsjö: Lindström on the Lake" Lindström, Minnesota, 100 Years; Taylor Publishing, Dallas, TX, 1994.

Chisago County Historical Society, "Heritage"; multiple volumes

Lindström Historical Notes

On August 17, 1850 the City of Lindström's story began when Swede Joris Pelle Andersson and a party of 100 set off on an 11-week voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. Lured to the Chisago Lakes area by tales of beautiful lakes and abundant game, Andersson and his party established the first permanent Swedish settlement in Minnesota at Center City in 1851. Andersson's half brother, Daniel Lindström, sailed for America in 1853. On May 28, 1854 Daniel walked to Stillwater to purchase the 130.4 acres that would become the village of Lindström.



Daniel Lindström and his wife Johanna (Peterson), 1866.
Photo: Courtesy of Lloyd Hackl, taken from "Lindströmsjö: Lindström on the Lake" text

Daniel built his log cabin on a peninsula on the west arm of Big Lake, as the Chisago Lakes chain was then known. His first wife, Brita, died in 1864 and was buried near the present swimming beach. In 1879, Daniel and his second wife, Johanna and their children; Theodore, Oscar and Clara Lindström Holt, sold part of their land to be subdivided for homes and businesses and built a new home at the SE corner of Maple and Highway 8 (then called St. Croix Avenue). Lindström was platted in October 1880, only a few weeks before the railroad branch line was completed from Wyoming to Taylors Falls.



The Peninsula Hotel, constructed in 1889, built on the approximate site of Daniel Lindström's original log cabin, became the Dinnerbel in 1949.
Photo: Courtesy of Dave Elfstrand, taken from the text of "Lindströmsjö: Lindström on the Lake"

The train brought progress, but it didn't drop off passengers in Lindström until a plucky widow named Ida Van Horn Elmstrom saw the area's tourist potential and opened the LakeView Hotel. The LakeView was joined a few years later by the Peninsula Hotel (later converted to the Dinnerbel restaurant).

Downtown North Walking Tour Loop (Continued)



8) Northwoods Roasterie, 12710 Lake Blvd. The Swedish Coffee Experience simply means a rich cup of coffee, a way to relax, see each other, and to catch up. Just a couple of blocks west of the Coffee Pot Water Tower, the locals and visitors meet at the Northwoods Roasterie to enjoy a cup of fresh ground coffee. Just like in Sweden, we love something sweet to go with our coffee!

9) Daniel Lindström, Erik Norelius and Per Anderson Sculptures

These sculptures created by local sculptor Ian Dudley commemorate our founding fathers. Per Anderson was the first to arrive with his nephew Erik Norelius and 100 of his neighbors in 1850. Erik Norelius enrolled at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio where he spent four years studying, being ordained in 1855. He served as the first preacher and teacher at the newly formed Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church in Center City. Norelius moved to the newly formed congregations in Red Wing and Vasa, Minnesota in 1856. In 1858, he was called to serve the Swedish Lutheran congregation in Attica, Indiana. In 1863, he was called back to the Vasa and Red Wing congregations in Goodhue County. Norelius went on to initiate Minnesota Elementar Skola, a predecessor of Gustavus Adolphus College.

Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota traces its history to 1865 when Eric Norelius and his congregation took in four orphaned immigrant children and later opened Vasa Lutheran Home for Children. He was also active in the publishing world and began the publishing of Minnesota Posten, from 1857-58 which merged with Hemlandet. Daniel Lindström, Per Anderson's half-brother, arrived in 1853 and with help from Erik Norelius bought 130.4 acres that he eventually platted and sold as the first lots in the area to be known as the City of Lindström.



Downtown South Walking Tour Loop



Security State Bank moved to its current location on 1st Avenue in 1975 and is now known as Lakes Area Bank. The old bank currently holds the 'In The Moment' Boutique

3) The C.A. Victor Store, 12755 Lake Blvd.

Build by M.C. Tomblor on the corner of Park and St. Croix Avenue (Lake Lane) in 1880, this was the first commercial building in the platted portion of Lindström.

The Victor family lived above the store until their very large home was built in 1905.

4) Floral Creations, 12775 Lake Blvd.

Another of Lindström's oldest Main Street businesses and one of the businesses to have belonged in the same family through the years. Elsie Skinner, the founder of this establishment, was born in 1893. She moved to Lindström but was left a widow at an early age with a young son to support.

She opened Skinner's Millinery in 1924. Elsie passed away in 1970, and for many years loyal employees operated the store. The building now houses the flower shop "Floral Creations".



5) Chisago County History Center, 12795 Lake Blvd. The History Center houses the research library and Office for the Chisago County Historical Society. The Chisago County Historical Society has been collecting and sharing stories and artifacts about the county for more than 74 years. Stop in and visit the museum exhibits and gift shop; learn about Chisago County's history and find out about your Swedish ancestors.

6) Community Market, 12825 Lake Blvd.

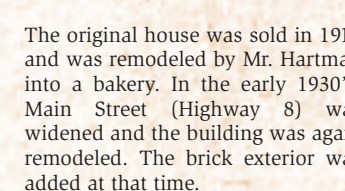
Located on the corner of Maple St. and Highway 8, the Community Market was started in 1936 by Cy Palmquist and Howard Nelson. It was originally intended to be a custom meat processing and cold storage locker plant; however, economics dictated the need to diversify, and so retail meat sales were added.



Howard owned the market until 1976. Today, this location is now "Deutschland Meats" a family-owned-and-operated meat processing company that provides stores, restaurants, and the general public with high-quality, fresh meat such as German sausage, bratwurst, pork, and steaks.

7) Original Lindström Home (RE/MAX Real Estate) 12835 Lake Blvd.

This building was the original home of Daniel Lindström, the founder and namesake of Lindström. The home was built in 1885 on the Southeast corner of Maple and Highway 8.



The current owners of the property is RE/MAX real estate.

8) Rosenbauer America and CustomFIRE, 12895 Lake Blvd.

Nels Johan Smith and his brother Anton Smith were blacksmiths from Sweden. The Smith's sold their shop to Mr. Abrahamson.

Elmer Abrahamson, who operated the blacksmith shop at the corner of Oak Street and Lake Boulevard, was Lindström's mayor and was on the local fire department.



The town requested Mr. Abrahamson replace their horse-drawn wagon with a new-fangled self-propelled fire truck. Abrahamson built them one and went on to win a contract to build fire trucks for the war department that were shipped right out of Lindström from the old rail line. Mr. Abrahamson's daughter married Mitchell Kirivida, who was from a Russian farming family. Kirivida joined the thriving business, known as Minnesota Fire Equipment. Later, Mitch's son, Jim, joined his grandfather and father learning their traditional values. Today, the fourth generation in Wayde Kirivida of Osceola, WI with CustomFIRE and Kevin Kirivida in Wyoming, Minnesota with Rosenbauer America still produce fire trucks for their worldwide clients. The original fire truck produced by Mr. Abrahamson for the City of Lindström was restored and sits in the foyer of the Rosenbauer America facility in Wyoming, Minnesota.

10) Swedish Inn, 12678 Lake Blvd.

This property was once called August Anderson's bar where August received the town's second liquor license. The town knew how to get organized so the first ordinance was the establishment of officers and meetings. The second ordinance was pertaining to intoxicating liquors and the sale thereof. There was a \$500 license fee and a bond of \$2000 required for selling liquor. This location now serves the community as a local diner featuring home cooking. Folks are friendly and daily specials are served up fresh.



13) Gustaf Anderson House, 13045 Lake Blvd.

This two-story, redbrick home was built in the Italianate style in 1879. Gustaf Anderson emigrated from Sweden in 1864 and settled in Minnesota; though he later prospected for gold in Montana. When he returned to farm in Chisago County, he constructed this house for his retirement.

The building now houses Gustaf's on Main Eatery; our city's finest lunch destination.



11) Ingrid Bergman Window, 12720 Lake Blvd.

In the window of Goldstar Printworks is the tribute to one of the most famous individuals to visit Lindström, film star Ingrid Bergman. Ms. Bergman lived in the community the winter of 1943 when she came to record "Swedes in America" for the Office of War Information.



The War Office was trying to encourage Swedish immigrants to fight on the side of allies in World War II.



12) Farmer's Co-op Store, 12749 Lake Blvd. This building was constructed by Oscar Helberg in 1914 for the Farmer's Co-op Store. The building was sold to Arnold Carlson who operated a department store and eventually sold to Mr. Edson who operated the store until the 1980s. The upstairs portion was occupied by various concerns including, but not limited to, the Masonic Temple (1924-1969). The building was also the location for the Draft Board and the local telephone company switchboard.

14) Samuel Hallberg Drugstore, 13705 Lake Blvd.

Samuel Hallberg constructed the house and drugstore in 1885. The home was shared by Samuel and Alina Hallberg and Dr. Oscar Hallberg and his family. Samuel was the druggist and Oscar operated a clinic located upstairs.

Both the drugstore and the doctor's office were on the left side of the original structure. The building is now being used as a business for the "Picket Fence Gals".



Lindström quickly became a popular tourist haven, renowned throughout the Midwest. By June 1894 the bustling young community had its own newspaper, the Chisago County News, which reported that citizens were "agitating the matter of incorporation." A vote was held on Aug. 21 1894, and passed. Lindström, with 245 residents, had become a City.

The Bronson Opera House, located where the Chisago County Press now stands, served as Lindström's first entertainment and cultural center and often played host to plays, concerts and debates. By 1900, the community had three weekly newspapers. One of them, the Medborgaren, was printed in Swedish. On weekends, the whole town would turn out for weekly baseball games and monthly dances and balls held at the opera hall or outdoors in the LakeView pavilion overlooking North Lindström Lake.

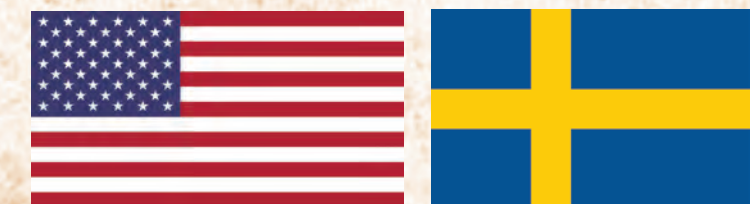


The Lindström Baseball Club, 1921.
Photo: Courtesy of Connie Swanson, taken from the text of "Lindströmsjö: Lindström on the Lake"

In 1901, a desire to use the English language in worship led to the formation of Trinity English Lutheran Church (See site #16 on the "Downtown South Loop"). The Methodist-Episcopal church had moved from Center City to Lindström's main street in 1892. Telephone poles were installed along Highway 8 in 1903. Gas lights were present from 1896 to 1912. Highway 8 was widened in 1931 causing the front of the buildings on the south side to be cut back 14 feet. The "White Way" street lights were added in 1932, the street was paved with asphalt in 1934 which was replaced with concrete in 1955. Upon completion, the Commercial Club sponsored a celebration complete with a drum and bugle corps and a series of speakers on a stage in front of Community Market.

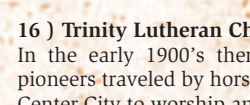
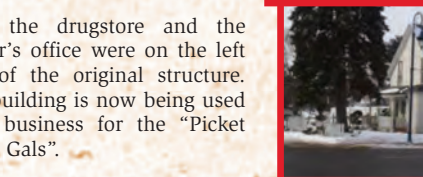
Potatoes and dairy served as the major cash crop for the scores of farms surrounding Lindström. The town at one time boasted six potato warehouses along with a creamery, a flour mill, sawmill and stockyards as well as scores of retail businesses.

Text by Leilani Freeman

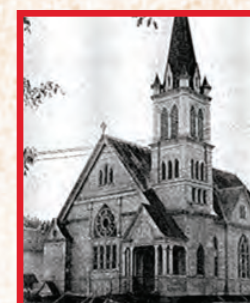


15) Dairy Queen, 13262 Newell Avenue

This ice cream store was built by Arvid Victor in 1956. For nearly 60 years, the "DQ" has been serving great-tasting food and tempting treats to the Lindström community and visitors.



16) Trinity Lutheran Church, 13262 Newell Avenue. In the early 1900's there was no Lutheran Church in Lindström. The Swedish pioneers traveled by horseback, buggy or sleigh to Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City to worship and hear God's word preached in their native tongue. In 1902 the white frame Trinity Lutheran Church was erected. It became the area's first English-speaking Lutheran congregation.



17) C. A. Victor House, 30495 Park Street. This two and one half story frame home was built by Charles A. Victor in 1905. Victor was born in Sweden, migrated to the United States and eventually settled in Lindström in the 1880s. He became one of the town's earliest merchants, operating the C. A. Victor General Mercantile Store, located on Main Street. He was also involved in milling and politics. In 1898, C.A. Victor founded The Medborgaren (The Citizen), one of the local Swedish newspapers.



18) Johan Gustaf Victor House, 30465 Park St. Johan Gustaf Victor, the parents of C.A. Victor arrived from Sweden in 1891. He was a shoemaker in Alftånsboda, Sweden. Around the turn of the Century Johan and his wife Ingrid came to the United States. They retired next door to their son C. A. Victor and his family.



9) Erickson Gas Stations, 12945 Lake Blvd.

Before this location became a laundromat, it was one of the first of the Erickson Gas Stations. Eventually it became part of the Holiday Gas Station Chain.



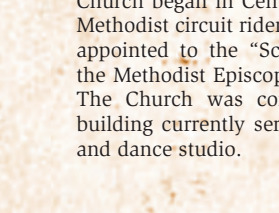
The Erickson Gas Station used a unique form of promotion to beat their competition. Their attendants wore white coveralls and emphasized speed in filling the gas tank, checking the oil, washing the windows and getting the customer on their way quickly.



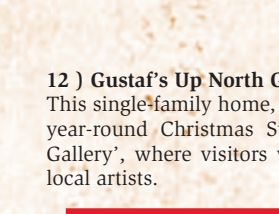
10) Empire Victory Agency, 12985 Lake Blvd. The Empire Victory Agency was one of the oldest continually operating businesses in Lindström. Established in 1919 by Arvid Victor, it was maintained by his grandson Keith Carlson until 2017.



11) First United Methodist Church, 13005 Lake Blvd. The First United Methodist Church began in Center City in 1854. Pioneer Methodist circuit rider Carl Petter Argelius was appointed to the "Scandinavian Mission" by the Methodist Episcopal Church of Saint Paul. The Church was constructed in 1892. The building currently serves as a Masonic Lodge and dance studio.



12) Gustaf's Up North Gallery, 13025 Lake Blvd. This single-family home, built in the 1930s was converted by Marlene Smith into a year-round Christmas Store in the 1980s. It is currently 'Gustav's Up North Gallery', where visitors will find collections of original fine art craft items from local artists.



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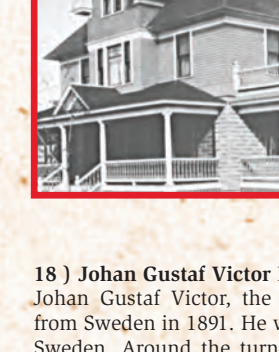
Lindström Street Scene (Circa 1905)



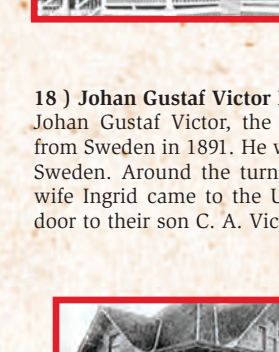
Lindström Street Scene (Circa 1905)



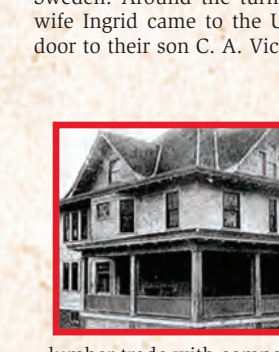
Lindström Street Scene (Circa 1905)



Lindström Street Scene (Circa 1905)



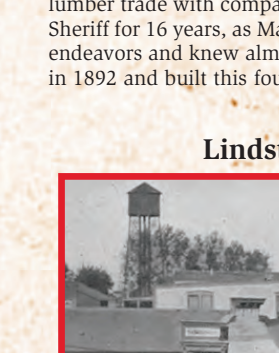
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