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Latin America and the Swedish diaspora: the case of Cuba and Argentina
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I spent a week at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Center to explore materials that would highlight the history and cultural influence of Swedish and Scandinavian immigration in Latin America. Before beginning my research, I pinpointed a few texts and publications at the Center that I thought would help to develop further connections between race and immigration for Latin America. My intention was to include the subject in the delivery of my Latin American Studies courses at Augustana College and eventually pen a journal article on the research findings. Once I began working at the Swenson Center, I was happy to find a wealth of unexpected materials to enhance my investigation.

Among the materials reviewed, were the accounts of Fredrika Bremer's travels in Cuba and the United States, which are translated into English and titled *The Homes of the New World: Impressions of America* (1853). Specific accounts of her time in Cuba were translated into Spanish and called *Cartas desde Cuba (Letters from Cuba)*. These chronicles of her experiences provide a unique perspective of life in Cuba through the eyes of a Swedish woman who described culture and daily life there in the mid nineteenth century. Of particular importance is the discussion she provides regarding slavery and her comparison of slavery between Cuba and the United States. Her writings demonstrate an advanced moral perspective regarding the treatment of slaves at that point in time. Her writings also reflected a feminist perspective of human beings but especially of female slaves.

Additional historical findings at the Swenson Center that provided perspective for the course were Jean Adam Graaner's account of the signing of Argentina's declaration of independence in 1816, *Las provincias del Río de la Plata en 1816: informe dirigido al príncipe Bernadotte*. Graaner was the only foreigner present during the signing, which reveals an early historical tie between Sweden and Latin America.

With regard to Swedish immigration to Latin America, the investigation conducted at the Swenson Center led me to archived volumes of the periodical *Augustana*, which published ads promoting Swedish colonization of Cuba and created a direct connection between Augustana

College and Scandinavian migration to the Caribbean. I also came across letters sent to the president of the synod at Augustana in Rock Island, Eric Norelius, by Lutheran priest Aaron Lindholm, who hoped to build a church in Bayate, the Swedish community in Cuba. At its largest, Bayate was home to 280 Swedish settlers. The letters provide insight regarding this community, the obstacles members faced, accounts of the weather, as well as Lindholm's personal and professional struggles as a clergyman working in a community that, according to him, was not devout.

CUBA
Svenska Lutherska kolonien i
Mayari-Dalen

Denna koloni kommer att taga sin början i februari, då många familjer ännu flytta dit. Båten lämnar New York den 9 febr. Resan kostar \$16.00 2:dra klass och \$28.00 internediet. Det sköda landet säljes fort. Ett sågverk, en planing mill, ett box factory och en mjölnare kommer att sättas upp nästa sommar. Vattenkraft kommer att bevaras. Från första början kan god skörd fås. Potatis kan planteras i slutet af februari och om 2 månader får man omkring 100 bushels per acre. Priset nu är \$2.50 per bushel. Gravel lottas under en chocoladstort mylla, vilj öfverad — i sådana jordarna växer livad som bost. Apelsiner växer tilli sådana jord. The United States Fruit Co:s trädgårdar ligga tilli vårt land.



Laget är alldeles utsäkrat. Från staden Palma i midten ser man livra del af kolonien. De sköda bergen ligga på södra sidan och landet slutar fort mot sjön, som är endast 8 mil äfrån. Floden Mayari är segelbar ända ned. Här gifves det alla bästa tillfälle för alla samhällsklasser att bo. Det bästa klimat (60 till 90 gr.), det bästa vatten från floden och från brunne. Det innehåller sköda av Lärns odlar som bost, löfver och njurensködmar samt förstopping. Det alla bästa klimat för sjukhet och hängsliga. Många sidans ha bestränd sig att flytta dit. Ett sanatorium sköda snart möjligt upprättas. Låt ingen lora eller långt intil landet, såsom berg. Köp i förra si setti vårt land. Fört sedan allitil. En fint illustrerad bok om vår koloni sködes fritt på begäran till blöda kopers. Tillsitt.

The Palma Lutheran Colony
REV. CARL HENDERSON, Promotor
126 Water Street, Warren, Pa.

Den Sv. Luth. Kolonien vid Bayate i Cuba



Ofransstående bild visar en del af innevärnarna i kolonien den 21 jan. Nu är det omkring 70 svenskar i kolonien och flera komma att resa dit inom kort. Den 8 mars äldge vår äldsta expedition från Minneapolis till Bayate genom Mobile till Havana. Priest för tar- och returbiljett med denna expedition blir \$76.50 och för skald biljett \$48.25. Detta är med andra klass. Vill man resa med tredje klass blir det ännu billigare. Dessa tar- och returbiljetter gälla för 10 dagars vistelse i Cuba. Landet säljes ännu för från \$20.00 till \$25.00 per acre, men den 1 mars höjes priset med \$2.50 @ \$3.00 per acre. Den som vill köpa till svarande priser si helle insända handpenningar före den 1 mars. Flera illustrationer komma att publiceras nästföljande veckor. En intressant bok om Cuba sködes fritt på begäran. För vidare upplysningar tillskrif **The Swedish Land & Colonization Co.** 812 Andrus Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

Advertisements for colonizing communities in Cuba appearing regularly in the periodical *Augustana* January – July 1906.

This investigation yielded important materials pertinent to ongoing discussions of migratory ties between Hispanic America and the Scandinavian world and will provide Augustana students and members of the academic community in general with insight regarding Scandinavian historical and cultural heritage in Cuba and Argentina, broadening what have often been narrow discussions of the Swedish diaspora experience in Latin America. I appreciate the availability of materials, expertise and invaluable help provided by Swenson Center staff members Lisa Huntsha, Jill Seaholm and Susanne Titus. Thank you!