

6-1-2006

## Prominent Swedish Congressmen in 1923

Elisabeth Thorsell

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag>



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#), and the [Scandinavian Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Thorsell, Elisabeth (2006) "Prominent Swedish Congressmen in 1923," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 26 : No. 2 , Article 8.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol26/iss2/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Swedish American Genealogist by an authorized editor of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@augustana.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@augustana.edu).

# Prominent Swedish Congressmen in 1923



Senator J.L. Lenroth

Senator C.A. Swanson

Kongressman H. Knutson

Kongressman C. R. Chindblom

Kongressman W. Williamson

In a local thrift store in Filipstad I found this summer a bound volume of the weekly magazine *Vecko-Journalen* from 1923. During the summer months there were a few stories on Swedish-American personalities.

Senator *Irvine Lenroot* (1869–1949) represented Wisconsin. His father, *Lars Lönnrot*, was from Skåne, and his mother from Värmland.

Senator *Claude A. Swanson* (1862–1939) from Virginia, seems to have been descended from the *Old Swedes*. He spent 33 years in congress, was

governor of Virginia, and Navy Secretary under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Congressman *Harold Knutson* (1880–1953) of Norwegian(!) origins, represented the citizens of Minnesota for more than 30 years.

Congressman *Carl Richard Chindblom* (1870–1956) was born in Chicago of parents from Åsbo, (Östg). He represented the citizens of Illinois for 13 years.

Congressman *William Williamson* (1875–1972) was born near New Sharon, Mahaska County, Iowa, but moved as a small child to South

Dakota. He represented the citizens of South Dakota for 11 years, and during that time helped the efforts to get the carvings at Mount Rushmore done. His official biography does not mention his ethnicity, but the 1910 Census discloses him as being of Norwegian(!) descent. So *Vecko-Journalen* did not do its homework correctly!

Source: *The Swedish Heritage in America*, by Allan Kastrup (1975). Biography web site, see p. 30.

*Elisabeth Thorsell*