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Review of *Norwegians and Swedes in the United States: Friends and Neighbors* edited by Philip J. Anderson and Dag Blanck

Betty A. Bergland
University of Wisconsin - River Falls

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Norwegians and Swedes in the United States: Friends and Neighbors. Edited by Philip J. Anderson and Dag Blanck. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2012. xv + 326 pp. Photographs, notes, bibliography, illustrations, tables, maps, index. \$24.95 paper.

Norwegians and Swedes is an international and interdisciplinary collection of essays representing recent scholarship on migration and emphasizing relationships between two groups of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century immigrants from Europe. Emerging from a 2007 conference, the book contains seventeen essays by active scholars in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and the United States. Donna R. Gabaccia's thoughtful foreword helps frame the book and informs readers that twenty years ago Rudolph J. Vecoli called for an "inter-ethnic perspective on American immigration

history." This collection might be seen as the fruit of that vision. Emerging at a time when immigration continues to vex the nation, this collection shows a path for future projects on interethnicity or panethnicity. Norwegians and Swedes possessed *both* common ground in geography, history, language, culture, and tensions in their political history; and both crossed the Atlantic. The dynamic intersections of the commonalities and tensions form the core of this fine book.

Divided into four parts, the book leads readers systematically through diverse perspectives and subjects. Part 1, "Context," examines historical, political, and cultural links between Norway and Sweden in two essays: the first providing a useful chronology; the second examining similarities and differences that especially influenced emigrants. Part 2, "Culture," compares Norwegian and Swedish cultural institutions in five essays on fraternal organizations, language, literature, folklore, and history. Possibly a familiar topic but a welcome chapter compares immigrant novels by Vilhelm Moberg and Ole Rølvaag. Other essays offer comparative studies of transnational fraternal societies, publications of historical societies, and language retention. An informed study of ethnic folk humor will amuse readers.

Part 3, "Conflict," consists of four essays exploring tensions on varied fronts: American politics, the dissolution of the Swedish-Norwegian Union in 1905, church mergers, and an anti-evolution bill. The essay on Midwestern politics emphasizes a theme found throughout the book: pan-Scandinavian alliances were often fostered by outsiders (Yankees, politicians, the LDS Church) to serve their particular ends, in this case, political victories. The book's final part, "Community," moves geographically from eastern industrial cities to the Rocky Mountain West, although four of the six essays focus on communities in Minnesota. Allusions to the Great Plains appear in several essays, but especially in the study of language retention that foregrounds Lindsborg, Kansas.

My central critique of the book concerns the omission of gender as an analytical frame-

work and the exclusion of women's perspectives. A chapter on Norwegian and Swedish immigrant women collaborating in the international women's movement during the period of migration would certainly provide a meaningful addition. Nevertheless, this rich collection demonstrates the vibrancy of the field of migration studies and the value of pursuing an "inter-ethnic perspective." The collection also points to possibilities for future studies foregrounding multiple ethnicities: these not only enrich our knowledge of distinct groups but deepen our understanding of regional histories and cultures in the United States, forged by relationships among diverse peoples.

BETTY A. BERGLAND
Department of History and Philosophy
University of Wisconsin-River Falls