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-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

**Snapshots of the Swedes Who Stayed
United Stockholms of America
Featuring the Photography of Charlie Bennet
Opens September 13th, 2015
Opening Reception at 4:30pm
At the American Swedish Historical Museum**

Philadelphia, PA- Did you know that there are at least eight towns in the United States named Stockholm? Each one is unique in its landscape, location, and population, yet all pay homage to the great Swedish capital. Come to the American Swedish Historical Museum this fall and discover the landscapes and people of each town when you visit our upcoming exhibition, *United Stockholms of America*, a beautiful, large-format photography exhibition by Swedish photographer, Charlie Bennet. Bennet eagerly traveled among the communities in the US that carry the name Stockholm; carefully photographing and documenting the varying degrees of Swedishness they embody.



Photograph by Charlie Bennet

Most of these towns are now sparsely populated, often desolate, yet lovely resorts that do not have much in common with Stockholm in Sweden. In the south of Texas only a sandy graveyard remains, and Stockholm in Minnesota is a shadow of its former self. But, in Anderson's Store in Maine, one can meet people with Swedish sounding names like Lundqvist, Anderson and Bondeson. One Mainer that Bennet encountered even spoke Swedish! Another Stockholm, in Wisconsin, is now a beautiful tourist destination that attracts visitors in droves.

"You'll find surprisingly many traces of the Swedish heritage and a couple of resorts are strikingly beautiful. But in some of these towns you will find only a Swedish name when walking around the graveyard, which is a strange experience for a modern-day Swede," says Charlie Bennet.

The point of departure for this project is the massive emigration that occurred from Sweden in the late 1800s and in the beginning of the last century. Approximately 1.2 million people left Sweden altogether. Many of them stayed and worked hard to shape and inform the identity of the United States as it grew and changed—leaving their mark in several Scandinavian influenced communities. The various Stockholms represented in the exhibition are located in

Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, Maine, Texas, and South Dakota. And, of course, the original Stockholm in Sweden.

United Stockholms of America opens at the American Swedish Historical Museum on September 13th, with a reception at 4:30pm, and will be on view through February 2016. Don't miss this extraordinary photographic documentary about the Swedes who stayed! Exhibition included with museum admission.

Call 215-389-1776, email info@americanswedish.org or visit www.americanswedish.org for more information. The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia, five blocks west of the Sports Complex. The Museum is easily accessible from Route 95 or 76 and has free parking. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street subway AT&T station, or SEPTA's Route 17 bus is within walking distance of the Museum.

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