

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (LINDSBORG, KAN.)

**AN INVENTORY OF ITS RECORDS
AT THE
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION NO. 5041
MICROFILM REELS MF 7188 – MF 7189**

FINDING AID PREPARED BY ROBERT L. KNECHT

**KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TOPEKA, KANSAS ♦ 2006**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Reference Section

Library and Archives Division, Center for Historical Research
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 6425 SW 6th Avenue

Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

voice: (785) 272-8681, ext. 116

fax: (785) 272-8682

TDD: (785) 272-8683

E-mail: reference@kshs.org

Website: <http://www.kshs.org>

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Repository

Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka)

Creator

First Baptist Church (*Lindsborg, Kan.*)

Title

First Baptist Church (Lindsborg, Kan.) records

Dates

1880 – 1986

Quantity

2 ft. (29 v.) on 2 35mm microfilm reels

Abstract

Minute books and other records of Swedish Baptist churches in Lindsborg and Falun, Kan. Records for the First Baptist Church at Lindsborg include minutes of meetings of the governing board, women's & youth groups, and finance committees; registers of members, pastors, & officers; and financial records, including special projects & funds and some fiscal records of women's & youth groups. Records of the Swedish Baptist Church at Falun consist of a minute book, 1912 – 1920. In addition, there are records of the Kansas Swedish Baptist Young People's Union and its predecessors, 1922 – 1941.

Identification

Microfilm cabinets in Reference Room

Ms. collection no. 5041

Language

Text in English and Swedish

Notes

This finding aid describes materials on microfilm held by the Kansas State

Historical Society. Microfilm may be used in the Research Room in the society's Center for Historical Research during regular research hours. Microfilm may also be borrowed through interlibrary loan for your use at a participating public, academic, or research library. Information on interlibrary loan is available from the Kansas State Historical Society and on its web site, <http://www.kshs.org>. Support for telephone, mail and online research and reference is limited.

In a continuing effort to improve the completeness and accuracy of finding aids, revisions are made as more or new information becomes available. Consequently finding aids in paper format, on microfilm, and on the Society's web site may differ slightly.

Descriptions are often based on a preliminary inspection of the material. As such, they may contain misspellings or other inaccuracies based on folder headings and other sources within the materials. As the collections are arranged and as time permits, these finding aids are improved and corrected. If you spot an error, please feel free to report it to the reference staff or an archivist.

HISTORY

First Baptist Church of Lindsborg

Olof Lind (or Lindh) — believed to be the first Baptist in the Lindsborg, Kansas, area — arrived in 1869 with his wife, Anna. When other like - minded people settled in the vicinity, they gathered in his home for Bible reading, singing, and prayer.

On 30 November 1880 the Swedish Baptist Church of Lindsborg was formed under the supervision of the Reverend Mr. August Johnson of Enterprise, Kansas, with twelve charter members.

As a result of disagreements, members of the Church decided to disband on 6 November 1886. However, two weeks later, another attempt was made to form a Baptist church. At first, the group met in homes without a minister, but in 1887 the American Baptist Home Missionary Society funded a missionary pastor. Later, the Methodists permitted the Baptists to use their building for Sunday afternoon services.

A Sunday School was organized around 1888. At a later time, an after - school religious instructional program was added.

Efforts to raise money and build a church of their own succeeded, and the Swedish Baptists' first building was dedicated in 1892. A parsonage was added in 1904.

In 1910, it was felt that there were a sufficient number of Baptists north of Lindsborg that a congregation was formed in Falun. This drew a significant number of members from the Lindsborg church, but most returned after the Falun congregation closed about 1920.

Meanwhile, in Lindsborg, the church building was proving to be insufficient, so a new structure was built in 1919.

As cultural differences became less significant, the Swedish Baptist churches in Kansas became more involved in the work of other Baptist bodies. First Baptist Church of Lindsborg joined the Central Association of the American Baptist State Convention in 1934.

The congregation through the years has supported missionary efforts and Baptist colleges and universities and conducted local prayer and instructional groups. Through the years, there have been several women's and youth groups. The Church has worked with others in Lindsborg for common efforts such as Vacation Bible School and ministry to the needy.

Hampered for many years by the architectural barriers and other deficiencies of their 1919 building, the congregation purchased land for a new building in 1996 and completed their newest church in 2005.

Swedish Baptist Church, Falun

A. B. Colvin was called in 1909 to be the first pastor for a new congregation to serve northern McPherson and southern Saline counties, many members of which came from the Swedish Baptist Church in Lindsborg. The church was established 15 May 1910. The congregation purchased a schoolhouse to use as church building. "After some years," or about 1920, the church was not thriving, so the decision was made to close. Many of the members returned to the Baptist Church in Lindsborg.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

These operational records can be used to provide information about the history of Swedish Baptist congregations in Lindsborg and Falun.

The first series, "Baptismal, Membership, and Officials' Records, 1880 – 1986, are the most comprehensive records, containing information on pastors, elected officials, and members as well as statistical information. The "*Matricel för Svenska Baptist Församlingen i Lindsborg, Kans.*" ("Membership Rolls of the Swedish Baptist Congregation in Lindsborg, Kans."), series 2, provides more detailed information about each member.

Information about children's and youth activities is recorded in series 3. The "*Ungdomsföreningens Sekretarare Bok*" ("Youth Society Secretary's Book"), 1915 – 1923, contains meeting minutes and other records of the Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU). The second volume, 1923 – 1948, is a treasurers' book. Other, State - level, records of the Swedish BYPU are in series 8. The third volume contains information about infants.

Minutes and other records of the two original women's groups, the Women's

Union (Ladies Aid) and the Sisters of Service, and records of the merged organization, the Women's Missionary Union, in series 4 provide details about meetings, projects, and devotions conducted by these groups.

The eight volumes of minutes of congregational, annual, and business meetings, *series 5*, trace important and routine events in the life of the congregation through 1950. In a similar way through different means, the financial records, *series 6*, show projects and priorities of the Church and how funding was obtained to finance them.

In general, records prior to the 1930s are in Swedish. Most records after 1940 are in English, though specifics are noted in the descriptions of each records series, below.

Following the six series of records of the Lindsborg Church is a minute book for the Swedish Baptist Church at Falun and a book containing minutes, clippings, programs, correspondence, and other documents relating to the statewide Swedish Baptist Young People's Union; for part of the period, this organization also embraced western Missouri.

On the microfilm, inserts were filmed where inserted, even though they may not be relevant to surrounding pages. Blank pages were not filmed.

ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

Collection (no. 5041). Organized by type of record with records of the Falun congregation and the Kansas Swedish Baptist Young People's Union at the end.

CONTENTS: ser. 1. Baptismal, membership, and officials' records, 1880-1986 — ser. 2. Membership rolls, 1897-[1918?] — ser. 3. Youth groups, 1915-1961 — ser. 4. Women's groups, 1910-1944 — ser. 5. Business meetings, 1880-1938 — ser. 6. Finances, 1892-1950 — ser. 7. *Protokolls bok för Svenska Baptistförsamlingen* = Record book of the Swedish Baptist congregation, Falun Kansas, 1905-1920 — ser. 8. Kansas Swedish Baptist Young People's Union, record book, 1922-1940.

RELATED RECORDS

All of the microfilm listed (MF or MS roll numbers) may be borrowed from the Kansas State Historical Society through interlibrary loan.

Bethany Lutheran Church (*Lindsborg, Kan.*), Book V [microform], 1869 – 1992: MS 1884.01

Bethany Lutheran Church (*Lindsborg, Kan.*) records [microform], 1869 – 1954: MS 747 – MS 749

Churches history collection: Ms. collection no. 299

Falun Evangelical Lutheran Church, Records, 1887 – 1995: MF 4777 – MF 4781

Freemont Cemetery (*McPherson County, Kan.*) records [microform], 1870 – 1990: MS 1178.03

Freemont Lutheran Church (*McPherson County, Kan.*) records [microform], 1869 – 1990: MS 1284

Trinity United Methodist Church (*Lindsborg, Kan.*) records [microform], 1870 – 1996: MF 711 – MF 713

West Side Baptist Church (*Topeka, Kan.*) records [microform], 1881 – 1981: MS 1112 – MS 1115

OTHER FINDING AID

Copies of this finding aid are available in the Kansas State Historical Society's Library and on each microfilm roll.

INDEX

Some volumes are indexed; see descriptions of individual series.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Buskirk, Barbara R. "A Short History of the First Baptist Church, Lindsborg, Kansas, On the Occasion of the Celebration of Its One Hundred and Twenty - Fifth Anniversary, November 13, 2005." E-mail attachment sent by Lonora Lyman, Old Mill Museum (Lindsborg, Kan.), 18 January 2006.

Lovene, P. *History of Swedish Baptist Churches in Kansas and Missouri, 1869 – 1927* [n.p., n.d.] Kansas State Historical Society library call number: K 286 Sw34L.

INDEX TERMS

Corporate names

First Baptist Church (*Lindsborg, Kan.*)

Kansas - Missouri Swedish Baptist Young People's Union (*co-author, subject*)

Kansas Swedish Baptist Young People's Union (*co-author, subject*)

South - West Swedish Baptist Young People's Union (*co-author, subject*)

Swedish Baptist Church (*Falun, Kan.*) (*co-author, subject*)

Geographic names

Falun (Kan.)

Kansas

Lindsborg (Kan.)

McPherson County (Kan.)

Missouri

Subjects

Baptists, Swedish – Kansas.

Baptists, Swedish – Kansas – Falun.

Baptists, Swedish – Kansas – Lindsborg.

Baptists, Swedish – Missouri.

Church finances – Kansas – Lindsborg.

Church group work with youth – Baptists, Swedish
Swedes – Kansas.

Swedes – Kansas – Falun.

Swedes – Kansas – Lindsborg.

Swedish Americans – Kansas – Falun.

Swedish Americans – Kansas – Lindsborg.

Document types

Church records and registers – Kansas – Falun.

Church records and registers – Kansas – Lindsborg.

Church records on microfilm.

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

Corporate minutes – Kansas – Falun.

Corporate minutes – Kansas – Lindsborg.

RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS

None

RESTRICTIONS ON USE

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PREFERRED CITATION

Note: [description of document, volume, and/or series], First Baptist Church (Lindsborg, Kans.) Records, Kansas State Historical Society microfilm [roll number].

Bibliography: First Baptist Church (Lindsborg, Kans.). Records, 1880 – 1986. Kansas State Historical Society microfilm MF 7188 – MF 7189.

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Loan: First Baptist Church (Lindsborg, Kans.) through Old Mill Museum (Lindsborg, Kans.), 2006; accession no. 2006-250.01.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

Initial organization and description by Barbara Buskirk of the Church and the Old Mill Museum (Lindsborg, Kans.) under the direction of Lenora Lyman. This finding aid was written by Robert L. Knecht, Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka) (KSHS) who also prepared the records for microfilming. Costs of this finding aid partially paid by KSHS.

ACCRUALS

Loan and microfilming of additional records of this Church is possible but not scheduled at this time.

LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Microfilm of originals held by: First Baptist Church (Lindsborg, Kans.)

NOTES

Microfilm. Topeka, Kan. : Kansas State Historical Society, 2006.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Archival records are typically organized by **series**, a group of records that has a common element or function and a distinct organizational structure of its own, for example *Correspondence Files*, arranged chronologically, or *Registers of Military Enlistments*, arranged by regiment. Within series, records may be further arranged into **volumes**.

Series Descriptions

Series 1. BAPTISMAL, MEMBERSHIP, AND OFFICIALS' RECORDS, 1880 – 1986.
1 v. (0.1 ft.) ; 43 cm. **MF 7188**

Volume titled *Universal Church Record: Prepared for Use of Baptist Churches ... Including Official Register of Pastors, Clerks, Treasurers, Deacons, Trustees, and Sunday - school Superintendents; Alphabetical Register of Members, Chronological Register of Members* (Chicago: Swedish Baptist General Conference of America,

undated). Entries "copied from old books and other sources, Dec. 1918." Annual Summaries of Membership, 1919 – 1955 (p. 1), show beginning & report dates; number of members; increases due to baptism, letter, experience, & restoration with totals; decreases due to letter, exclusion, erasure, & death with totals; net increases & decreases; and total membership. Also included are registers of pastors, 1887 – 1984 (p. 4); clerks, 1880 – 1986 (p. 6); treasurers, 1888 – 1954 (p. 7); Sunday school superintendents, 1887 – 1948 (p. 8); deacons, 1892 – 1942 (p. 9); moderators (*Ordförande*), 1880 – 1947 (p. 14); trustees, 1891 – 1941 (p. 17); and secretaries, 1936 – 1986 (p. 22), showing names, dates commenced & closed, and remarks. An Alphabetical Register and Index to Chronological Register (unnumbered, following p. 25) gives chronological register numbers, names, and changes to the register number. The Chronological Register and Record of Changes for the Year (separately numbered) shows for each person his or her chronological & changes register numbers; sex; name; place or parish, county, State or country, month, day, & year born; month, day & year baptized; quality & date of Bible instructions; date received; date arrived in America with original place & country; date arrived in this place with place or parish & State of origin; month, day, & year of marriage; date and to where removed or dismissed; month, day, & year of death; month, day, & year dropped; and remarks.

Organized with statistics first, followed by registers of church officials, followed by a membership index & register.

Index to names of members, arranged alphabetically by the first letter of each surname, precedes the membership register.

Series 2. MATRICKEL FÖR SVENSKA BAPTIST FÖRSAMLINGEN I LINDSBORG, KANS. = MEMBERSHIP ROLLS OF THE SWEDISH BAPTIST CONGREGATION IN LINDSBORG, KANS., 1897 – [1918?]. 1 v. ; 36 cm. MF 7188

Register of membership progress of individuals (pp. 4 – 27). Each entry contains the person's name; dates born, baptized, profession of faith made, expelled, membership canceled, or died; date & place transferred from & to; and remarks. A Flyttningsbetyg ("Moving Certificate") for Mabel Ellida Lovene, 29 June 1908, is inserted at p. 119; membership statistics, 1880 – 1886, are at pp. 124 – 25; and some obituaries are pasted onto the inside back cover.

Entries arranged chronologically.

Text is in Swedish.

Series 3. YOUTH GROUPS, 1915 – 1961. 3 v.

MF 7188

Three books recording activities of the Church's children and youth. Vol. 1, "*Ungdomsföreningens Sekretarare Bok*" ("Youth Society Secretary's Book"), 1915 – 1923, of the Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU) contains lists of members & responsibilities and meeting minutes & annual reports; entries before June 1918 are in Swedish. The minutes reflect service projects, Church & missionary work, worship

services, and social events. The 2nd volume, 1923 – 1948, is a treasurers' book containing monthly contributions by members, receipts, and disbursements; after * the name of the organization was Baptist Youth Fellowship. Vol. 3 is register of "Birthday and Records of The Cradle Roll of First Baptist Church at Lindsborg, Kansas, Started 1927"; it lists names of Cradle Roll superintendents with dates of service and babies by month of birth, thereunder by year and day, 1927 – 1961, giving each child's name & date of promotion. At the back of the book are photos, clippings, invitations, and descriptions of parties & social events.

CONTENTS:

- v. 1. *Baptist Young People's Union*. "Ungdomsföreningens Sekretarare Bok" = "Youth Society Secretary's Book," 1915 – 1923
- v. 2. *Baptist Youth Fellowship*. Treasurer's Book, 1923 – 1948.
- v. 3. *Cradle Roll*. "Birthday and Records ...", 1927 – 1961.

In part, in Swedish.

Series 4. WOMEN'S GROUPS, 1910 – 1944. 3 v.

MF 7188

Records of 2 women's groups — the Women's Union ("*Protokollbok för Kvinnoföreningen Svenska Baptistförsamlingen*" = "Minute Bok for the Women's Union, Swedish Baptist Congregation") (1938 – 40), also known as Ladies Aid, and the Sisters of Service (1927 – 1939) — and the Women's Missionary Union (1940 – 44) formed by the merger of the 2 organizations. Vols. 1 and 3 contain minutes of meetings and annual reports of the Women's Union, Ladies Aid, and Women's Missionary Union; entries prior to 1938 are in Swedish. The minutes describe business conducted, elections, devotions, and service projects. Vol. 2 is a ledger of the Sisters of Service.

CONTENTS:

- v. 1. *Women's Union*. Minutes, 1910 – 1926
- v. 2. *Sisters of Service*. Ledger, 1927 – 1939
- v. 3. *Women's Union* (1933 – 1937), *Ladies Aid* (1938 – 1940), and *Women's Missionary Union* (1940 – 1944) minutes, 1933 – 1944.

In part, in Swedish.

Series 5. BUSINESS MEETINGS, 1880 – 1950. 8 v.

MF 7188

Minutes of congregational, annual, and business meetings. Subjects addressed include worship services, membership, the building & its functioning, missions, evangelism, finances, planning, pastors, elections, music, the Sunday school, youth & women's groups, and other organizations. Included are annual reports for many years through 1938. The reason for overlapping dates between volumes 1 and 2 is unknown. Minutes before February 1932 are in Swedish with the exception of the 1931 treasurer's report (v. 5, pp. 272 – 73) in English; minutes Feb. – Sept. 1932 (v. 6, pp. 1 – 15) are in both languages; and minutes beginning October 1932 (v. 6, p. 14) are in English only. At the request of the lender, minutes after 1950 were not filmed.

CONTENTS: v. 1. 1880 Nov.-1889 Oct. — v. 2. 1889 Jan. 4-1896 Jan. 1 — v. 3. 1896 Jan. 8-1902 Dec. — v. 4. 1903 Jan.-1915 Apr. — v. 5. 1915 June-1932 Jan. — v. 6. 1932 Feb.-1938 Jan. — v. 7. 1938 Jan. 1-1945 May 3 — v. 8. 1945 May 31-1950 Dec. 21.

In part, in Swedish.

Vol. 7 – 8 titled Clerk's inutes.

Series 6. FINANCES, 1892 – 1950. 12 v.

MF 7188-

MF 7189

Journals and ledgers of church treasurers. Included are records of funds received for specific programs and purposes, amounts received from individual members for general church purposes, and amounts spent.

CONTENTS:

- v. 1. "Church Treasurer," 1892 – 1911. Ledger and lists of donors to specific funds, possibly maintenance of a seminarian (p. 82) and erection of a parsonage (p. 83). In Swedish.
- v. 2. "Church Treas.," 1894 – 1895. Journal. Income received for missions is listed on the last page. In English, except for Swedish last page.
- v. 3. "Financial Secretary," 1903 – 1906. Ledger of treasurers Henry Olson and Carl Johnson. Ledger of members' accounts, 1903 (pp. 1 – 95); with monthly recapitulations of member giving, 1904 – 6 (pp. 98 – 111); income from collections, 1903 – 6 (pp. 114 – 15, 125 – 26, 128 – 29, 141); fund ledgers, 1903 (pp. 131 – 37, 145); and pastors' salary ledgers [1903?] (pp. 150 – 51). Indexed by names of members and funds. In Swedish and English.
- v. 4. "Treas.," 1910 – 1922. Journal of Treasurer Joe Anderson. Mostly in Swedish.
- v. 5. "*Finans och Kass Bok för Swenska Baptist församlingen år 1907 – 1919*" = "Finance and Miscellaneous Book for Swedish Baptist Congregation, Years 1907 – 1919." Account book of Treasurer Carl Johnson. Monthly recapitulations of members' giving, collections, money borrowed, support of specific endeavors, house rent, and year – end debts for each year, as applicable. In Swedish.
- v. 6. "Ch. Treas.," 1923 – 1934. Journal of Treasurer Joe Anderson. Mostly in English.
- v. 7. Building Committee, 1917 – 1918. Minutes of the Committee showing expenditures. In Swedish.
- v. 8. "*Bok för Presthusets, Byggnads kassa. 1904. Carl Johnson kassor*" = "Book for Clergy House, Building Fund, 1904. Carl Johnson, Keeper of the Fund," Nov. 1904 – July 1905. Ledger of accounts with suppliers (pp. 15 – 18) and subscription list (pp. 25 – 30) for the parsonage building fund. Inserted at p. 30 are lists of costs for supplies, presumably for the parsonage, and for an adjoining stable. Indexed by name of supplier with an entry for the subscription list. In Swedish.
- v. 9. Organ Fund, 1950 – 1951. Amounts given by individuals (p. 1); journal entries for the Fund (pp. 2 – 17); a list of memorial gifts (p. [18]); a list of contributors for new hymnals, February 1950; and a list of contributors to the Clarice Jean Erickson memorial fund (last page).
- v. 10. *Twofold Account Book for Weekly Offerings : Church Support, Benevolence:* 1926 – 1933. Each entry contains the name & number of the member or family; amount pledged; amounts paid weekly, quarterly, & annually; and balance due for church

- support & benevolence.
- v. 11. *Twofold Account Book for Weekly Offerings : Church Support, Benevolence*: 1934 – 1937. Each entry contains the name & number of the member or family; amount pledged; amounts paid weekly, quarterly, & annually; and balance due for "left & right pockets," presumably church support and benevolence.
- v. 12. *Twofold Account Book for Weekly Offerings : Left Pocket, Right Pocket*: 1938 – 1945. Each entry contains the name & number of the member or family; amount pledged; amounts paid weekly, quarterly, & annually; and balance due for "left & right pockets," presumably church support and benevolence.

In part, in Swedish.

**Series 7. PROTOKOLLS BOK FÖR SVENSKA BAPTISTFÖRSAMLINGEN =
RECORD BOOK OF THE SWEDISH BAPTIST CONGREGATION, FALUN, KANSAS,
1905 – 1920. 91 p. (1 v.) ; 25 cm. MF 7189**

Minute book of the Falun Swedish Baptist church containing proceedings of the church's governing board.

Entries arranged chronologically.

Text is in Swedish.

**Series 8. KANSAS SWEDISH BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION, 1922 – 1941.
53 p. (1 v.) ; 35 cm. MF 7189**

Minute book of the State and regional association of Swedish Baptist youth groups, originally named the South - west Swedish Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU) (through 1922), later (1923 – 31) the Kansas - Missouri Swedish BYPU, and after 1931 the Kansas Swedish BYPU. Included are minutes of general & Executive Committee meetings, resolutions, constitutions, programs, clippings, and letters received, several from missionaries. The records include proceedings of annual meetings, reports from societies in individual churches & committees, descriptions of worship services & sermons, proposed & completed projects, financial information, and elections.

Entries arranged chronologically.