

LINDSBORG

LITTLE SWEDEN, USA

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SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE
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For Immediate Release
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Julgransplundring! *King Knut Day, January 13*

LINDSBORG, KANSAS -01/06/2011-

"And his golden crown of empire never wore he from that day.
King Canute is dead and gone: Parasites exist alway."-William Makepeace Thackeray

The legend of King Canute (also known as Knut, Knud or Canute IV of Denmark) ruled England, Denmark, Norway and part of Sweden from 1080-1086 as paradoxically a good and just king and merciless to enemies. In repentance for his cruelty, he joined the Church and tried to establish a peaceful reign. He is remembered in literature for allegedly sitting on the banks of the Thames and demonstrating to his sycophant court that, contrary to their expectations, he was unable to command the tide to stop rising. Giving a literal lesson, Knut was attempting to expose how there are more powerful forces than Kings and war, instead it is God's power that is all-encompassing.



More commonly though, King Knut is known for declaring that Christmas should be celebrated for a full 20 days with no fasting, officially ending the holiday season on the 13 of January. On this day in Sweden, on *tjugondag Knut* (twenty days after Christmas Eve) it is the final holiday party. The candles and decorations are removed and edible candies and sweets are plundered from the Christmas tree (*Julgransplundring*) with a celebratory song and dance. Then it is time to throw out the tree for curbside collection.

Lindsborg legend says a local, Sam Knut Train, started our own King Knut Day tradition. A Community Potluck at Bethany Lutheran Church began the festivities and afterward as people threw their trees to the street edge, Mr. Train and his friends would pick them up to recycle. Mr. Train has since left town, so you are on your own with your tree. However, we still have the Community Potluck at the church, starting at 12:00 noon. Join in for some food and fellowship. Bethany Lutheran Church is located at 320 N. Main.



Contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau for more information regarding holidays in Lindsborg.
Ph: (785) 227-TOUR (8687) or Toll free: (888) 227-2227. E: cvbdir@lindsborgcity.org.
W: visitlindsborg.com. When in Lindsborg, please stop by at 104 E. Lincoln for all travel information.
See you in the 'Borg!

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