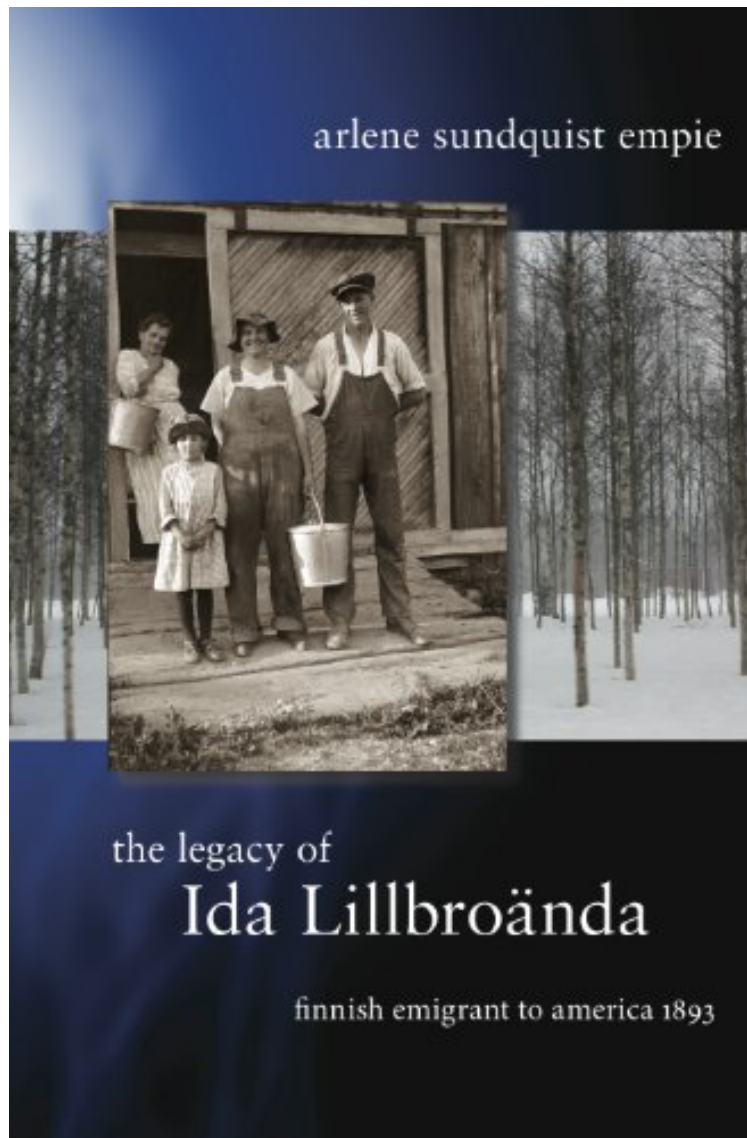


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The Legacy of Ida Lillbroanda

Arlene Sundquist Empie

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Arlene Sundquist Empie : The Legacy of Ida Lillbroanda before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Legacy of Ida Lillbroanda:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Legacy of a GenerationBy Story Circle Book ReviewsI am the storyteller in my family, the keeper of tales, the one who strives to connect the generations through words, both spoken and written. Because of this, I felt an immediate affinity with Arlene Sundquist Empie when she identified herself as the same for her family in the introduction to her book, The Legacy of Ida Lillbronda.Empie tells the story of her

grandmother, Ida Lillbronda. You won't recognize her name; she was not a famous actress, singer, or writer. She did not make any sweeping social reforms or change the history of Europe. And in this lies the importance of her story. As a young Finnish woman, Ida chose to emigrate to the United States. Once there she married, had children, ran a business and, later, a farm. She lived her life quietly and fully, and her story is, in many ways, the story of millions of women like her. It is no less vital or fascinating for this; indeed, it is this which makes her story more important. How many stories go untold, and are lost after they are lived? By reading Ida's story, we gain insight into the lives of women who had no one to record their lives and share them with others. I have to admit that I did find the names of people and places confusing, as well as the intricacies of Finnish church records and ships' passenger lists. More often, though, I found myself drawn into the pictures painted by Empie of life in Finland, and then later in Colorado and Washington state, during the late 1800s and early 1900s. I enjoyed reading about the roles of different people in the story and how they related to each other. In a more specific sense, I grew to admire Ida for her intelligence and courage as she faced each new challenge that presented itself in her chosen homeland, testing boundaries and making a unique place for herself in her world and time. The legacy of Ida Lillbronda is the legacy of one smart, strong, spirited woman. It is also the legacy of generations of women who followed a similar path. All of them have stories worth telling. by Khadijah Lacina for Story Circle Book Reviews reviewing books by, for, and about women

WINNER Gold Medal, Independent Publishers Group 2011; Silver Medal Ben Franklin award; Bronze IPPY award; USA BOOK NEWS National Best Books 2010 Awards Finalist in the Multicultural Nonfiction category and Finalist Narrative Non-Fiction -- The West didn't close in 1893, contrary to what American historian Frederick Jackson Turner proclaimed. There were opportunities for adventurous Nordic women who became part of America's westward expansion. Seduced by stories of promised riches in the New World and America Fever, that intense desire to emigrate to America, seventeen-year-old Ida Maria Andersdotter Lillbroanda leaves her family in Ostrobothnia on the West Coast of Finland for a destination halfway around the globe to the wild western edge of the North American continent. Ida crosses over the little bridge Lillbroanda that is her namesake. Or is it the metaphysical, genetic, spiritual, metaphoric bridge to a new world, Ida being the link from the Old World to the new? The compelling story about a young Finnish peasant girl follows Ida Maria Andersdotter Lillbroanda's trek across North America from her disappointing arrival in Quebec in 1893 where she is quarantined because of diphtheria aboard ship, to Minnesota and Telluride, Colorado where she marries an ore miner and manages their boarding house. Turbulent conditions at the mines prompt their return to Finland in 1901 for a visit. Her husband urges that they remain in Finland, but Swedish-speaking Ida Maria responds adamantly, *Till Amerika vi go*; Finland is an Autonomous Grand Duchy under Russian rule; her husband lacks appropriate papers, so Ida Maria enacts her stealth plan to get her husband aboard the ship to America. The Legacy of Ida Lillbroanda retraces the life of an ordinary woman who attains extraordinary achievements in her time and place. Historical, cultural and genealogical material are skillfully woven into the immigrant story as well as personal recollections of the author and those of the prior generation. As her daughters attest, Ida Maria is a determined young woman with a goal in mind and a mind of her own. Despite adversities and family tragedies, Ida Maria Sundquist fulfills her American Dream on their own farm in the fertile Skagit Valley of Washington State. Eight-time award-winning historical narrative nonfiction. The Legacy of Ida Lillbroanda is being translated into Swedish.

This book is one of the most important events in the history of Swede Finn immigration to North America. A rich source of historical and genealogical information; a compelling story of courage, pioneer spirit, and family tradition and an inspiration for people of all ages coping with modern day society. --Gunnar Damstrom, Editor The Quarterly, Swedish Finn Historical Society An insightful analysis of a Swedish-speaking Finnish woman and of her adjustment within a multitude of different settings in the American West. A true account of the immigrant experience and an inspiration to all who knew Ida personally and her family. --Vincent O. Erickson, Retired Professor of Anthropology University of New Brunswick and Editor of The Officers' Quarters, York-Sunbury Historical Society, Fredericton, NB, Canada. --Vincent O. Erickson, Retired Professor of Anthropology University of New Brunswick and Editor of The Officers' Quarters, York-Sunbury Historical Society, Fredericton, NB, Canada. Publishers Weekly 10/17/2011 The Legacy of Ida Lillbroanda Arlene Sundquist Empie. Boulder House Publishers \$24 (288p) ISBN 978-1-931025-05-8 An immigrant woman finds broader horizons in America in this warmhearted family history. Empie (Minding a Sacred Place) recounts her grandmother Ida's journey from a Swedish enclave in western Finland in 1893 and her life as a farmer's wife in Washington's Skagit River Valley. The first part of the book is an epic of genealogical sleuthing that introduces the author to long-lost relatives and Finland's haunting midsummer twilight. The rest is an exegesis of family lore drawn mainly from her Aunt Leona's lively memoirs. (There's a scrapbook feel to many passages, as the author sprinkles in recipes, news reports, and a bookshelf catalogue.) There are flashes of adventure--Leona is a witness in a kidnapping case--and tragedy, when Ida loses a son to drowning and a grown daughter to a grisly car crash. Mostly, though, it's a quiet story of happiness achieved --Publishers Weekly 10/17/2011 Migration studies have traditionally focused on men as the typical immigrants whereas the fates and aspirations of women have received

much less attention. I therefore wholeheartedly welcome this engaging study with a female protagonist who created a life for herself and her family in a new country. As the story follows the endeavors of a young immigrant woman in the early 20th century, yet another quest unfolds the historical and genealogical detective work of the author striving to bridge the gap of generations. --Susanne Osterlund-Potzsch, Ph.D., co-author Swedish Folklore Studies in Finland 1828-1918

About the Author Award-winning Pacific Northwest Arlene Sundquist Empie received her Bachelor of Arts degree from The Evergreen State College and Certificate for Narrative Nonfiction Writing, University of Washington. Minding a Sacred Place under pen name Sunnie Empie, received 2002 Independent Publishers IPPY Award for architecture book. Award-winning Finalist in the Poetry category of the 2012 International Book Awards for Love Is A Place: A collection of poetry. The Legacy of Ida Maria Lillbroanda became a personal quest to find her Finnish roots, to learn about her cultural heritage, and not the least, to fall in love with a place called Finland. Reading and research open horizons not seen before, but only by being in a place can one assimilate the sense of place that is Finland. I search for words that would do justice to the magic of our summer nights in Finland when earth slept, and it seemed that someone forgot to turn out the lights. An experience that will remain with me forever, as I contemplate that haunting, lingering luminous color and sound of the northern night when the sun doesn't set. Skagit Valley in the Pacific Northwest is the author's spiritual home. From her writer's studio on an island in the San Juan archipelago, thought and memory meld into twilight moments overlooking the Salish Sea.