

MADE HOMES IN THE WILDERNESS

How a Colony of Swedes Made Good in State of Maine

They Passed Through St. John Fifty Years Ago This Summer - Now Number Five Thousand.

The colony of New Sweden, in Maine, has just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

The following are extracts from the address of Hon. W. W. Thomas, former minister to Sweden and founder of the colony.

In August, 1675, the Swedish ship of war, Kalmar Nyckel, accompanied by smaller vessels, the Fogel Grip, set sail from Gothenburg for America, with a Swedish colonist on board, which founded the first New Sweden in the New World on the banks of the Delaware.

This adventurous band then left home and country and faced the perils of a voyage of 4,000 miles and the hardships and toils of making a new home in the wilderness of a strange land without as much as the scratch of a pen by way of contract or obligation, but with simple faith in their leader and in the honor and hospitality of Maine.

The colony was composed of twenty-two men, eleven women and eighteen children, fifty-one souls in all. All the men were farmers, in addition some were skilled in trades and professions.

We sailed over the stormy North Sea, crossed England by rail, and on July 3, 1875, landed at Liverpool in the steamship City of Antwerp, for America.

On July 13 we landed at Halifax. The next day we continued our journey across the peninsula of Nova Scotia and over the Bay of Fundy to the city of St. John.

July 18 we ascended the St. John river by steamer. The steam navigation ceased on account of low water, but two river flat boats pulled by horses were chartered. The colonists and their baggage were placed on board and at five o'clock the next morning our colony started on its way again up river.

On the afternoon of Thursday, July 21, the flat boats reached Tobique landing. Six days had been spent in towing up from Fredericton; the journey accomplished by railroad in as many hours.

Friday morning, July 22, I procured teams for the colonists and their baggage and at eight o'clock the Swedish immigrant train started for Maine and arrived at the border where they were warmly welcomed by the citizens of Fort Fairfield, with a salute of cannon, with flags and flowers and with a sumptuous banquet in the town hall.

Refreshed, we continued our way up the river valley of the Aroostook and were most hospitably received and provided with entertainment and lodging the night by the people of Carleton Place.

Next morning the Swedish immigrant train was early in motion. We soon passed beyond the last clearing of the American pioneer and penetrated a forest, which now for the first time was opened for the abode of man.

At 12 o'clock, noon, of Saturday, July 25, 1875, just four months from the passage of the act authorizing this enterprise, the first Swedish colony of our state arrived at its new home, where it was stopped in the woods, a little south of where the Swedish capten now stands. The Swedes instinctively drew together in a little group around me, and here in the shadow of the forest, I read the devoutly thanked God, who had led us safely on our long journey, and fervently prayed for His blessing and guidance in the great work that lay before us. Here, too, I baptized the town.

New Sweden. A name at once commemorative of the past and auspicious of the future. Here in behalf of the state of Maine I bade a welcome and God-speed to these far travelers, our future citizens, and here at the southwest corner of the cross roads, under a camp of bark and by the side of a little pure spring water, Swedes and Americans broke bread together, and the colonists ate their first meal on the town's property, where they were to live themselves homes out of the forest. And so, night came on, and we camped for the first time in the heart of the wilderness.

The next day was the Sabbath. The first religious service on the township was a sad one—the funeral of Hilma C. Chase, a little Swedish girl who had died on the passage up the St. John river, the only one who had perished by the way.

Monday the Swedes drew lots for their forest farms. Each man received a lot of 100 acres. Tuesday morning, July 26, the Swedes commenced the great work of converting a forest into a home, and that work has gone happily on without haste and without rest to this day.

All through summer and fall there was busy work in this wilderness. The principal American forest ranger from north to south with the blows of the Swedish axe. The prattle of Swedish children and the song of Swedish mothers made unwelcome music in the wilds of Maine. One cloudless day succeeded another. The heats of summer were tempered by the woodland shade in which we labored. New clearings opened out, and new log-houses were rolled up on every hand. Old logs of board and the happily twisted branches of trees were quickly converted into needed articles of furniture. Rustic beds, tables, chairs and the omnipresent cradle made their appearance in every house, and Swedish industry and ingenuity soon transformed every log cabin into a home.

For myself it was a pleasure to share the toils and privations of our new settlers. Every day I was among them from morning till eve. On foot or on horseback, I visited them all, except on horse-

remote, and cheered all at their labors; and every night I lay down in my log-house tired but happy, for every day had beheld something done, something tangible accomplished for the progress of our state of Maine.

First Child Born. On August 12th a new immigrant arrived in the colony. He was a native American, a good-sized boy, born to Koron, wife of Nils Persson, the first child born in New Sweden. He is alive and well today, a man and a voter. He rejoices in the name of William Widger Thomas Persson, and is happy in contemplation of the constitutional fact that he is eligible to the office of president of the United States.

Sunday afternoon, August 21st, occurred the first wedding. I then united in marriage Jons Persson to Hannah Persdotter. The marriage ceremony was conducted in the Swedish language, but according to American form. In the evening was a wedding dinner at the Persson's. All the spoons were of solid silver, heirlooms from Old Sweden. Thus within the first month of the colony's existence it was possible to give great events in the life of man—birth, marriage, death.

Between August 10th and 20th, nearly all the choppings were felled. On some, good barns were obtained, and nothing but the trunks and larger branches of the trees were left on the ground; the fire merely fished over others, leaving behind the whole tangled mass of branches, trunks and twigs to fret the settler. From this time forward till snow fell, every Swede that passed around the public works was busily engaged from sunrise to sunset with his clearing, junking, axing and branding of his clearing, and burning the logs—clearing the land for a crop. New Sweden became a land-mark in the twenty miles around. From her hills arose "a pillar of cloud by day" and "a pillar of fire by night."

Every Sabbath, divine service was held by Nils Olson, the Swedish lay minister, and a Sunday school was soon started, which still continues its good ministrations.

Meanwhile, the colony steadily increased. Swedes who had promised to join the Maine colony, but who were unable to get ready to sail in the same ship with me, came following after, and dropped into New Sweden from time to time throughout the winter of 1875, and October 21, twenty more followed direct from Sweden. Each man received an axe and went to work.

At the close of 1875, it was found that every Swede who sailed from Sweden with me or promised to follow after, had arrived in New Sweden. No Swede had left to make him a home elsewhere.

Not a Day's Illness. The colony then numbered thirty-eight men, twenty women and thirty-eight children—104 souls in all. A number larger than the Plymouth colony that passed its first winter on the new England coast. While so healthy was the climate of our Maine woods, and so vigorous were our Swedish settlers, that for the first time in the history of man, woman or child in New Sweden.

Brisk, hard work continued throughout every day of the colony's life in 1875 its second year. All the land was milled, potatoes and seed for the other crops were hauled into the ground around the hatched stumps in its way. The opening of navigation, new immigrants from Sweden came pouring in on the steamer, and a large part of our stock was returned, located and cared for. New lots were run out by the surveyors for the first time. The land surveyed and cut out through the woods from the center to all parts of the township, bridges built, and a large part of our main highway toward Caribou was unimpeded to render possible the increasing travel. New clearings were begun, old choppings enlarged, and good crops harvested on the clearings of the year before. The first public school was opened.

Throughout the third and fourth year of the colony life active work progressed and it was the joy of my life to remain with my children in the woods, plan for them, work for them, and superintend the development of the settlement.

Settlement Successfully Established. In the fall of 1877 the collection of the colony was excellent. The little settlement of fifty had grown to 600 and outside of New Sweden there were many more Swedes located in our state. This Swedish enterprise has there-fore added to Maine 5,000 worthy citizens of Swedish birth or descent.

In addition, New Sweden has drawn to Maine more than 8,000 other Swedes, who are located in all sections of our state. This Swedish enterprise has there-fore added to Maine 5,000 worthy citizens of Swedish birth or descent.

Today New Sweden township contains in round numbers 1,000 inhabitants (965 to be exact), of Swedish birth or descent, and her daughter colonies adjacent to it, in one hundred more. So that the entire Swedish settlement—the greater New Sweden—contains in round numbers today fully 2,000 Swedish settlers.

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I then felt that all the conditions of the plan on which this experiment was drawn to us by our Swedish colony, were fulfilled. The colony had been recruited in Sweden, transplanted to Maine, fast rooted in our soil and was self-sustaining. The experiment was an experiment no longer. New Sweden was now strong enough to go alone.

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PONZI'S MILLION DOLLAR SUIT IS SETTLED

Arrangement Made and Case Withdrawn - No Report on Investigation.

Boston, Mass., Aug. 7.—Attorney-General Allen, who is conducting an investigation of the business methods of Charles Ponzi, communicated through an assistant to the chief clerk of the Secretary of State Robert Lansing.

Assistant Attorney-General Abbott, Jr., went to Ponzi's home in Watertown, N. Y., and conferred for several hours with the former chief officer.

The attorney-general refused last night to discuss the report on the conference given him by Mr. Abbott by telephone from New York.

Ponzi announced last yesterday that he had accepted Ponzi financially against him by Jos. Daniels had been withdrawn and a settlement effected between him and Daniels.

Daniels had claimed a share of the profits in Ponzi's operations, asserting that he had assisted Ponzi financially in getting started.

WILL AWAIT THE PERMISSION OF U. S. GOVERNMENT

Miami, Fla., Aug. 7.—Declaration that the Western Union Telegraph Company will await the permission of the U. S. government, was made by officials of the company yesterday upon the arrival here of the British cable ship Colonia.

CHASE AUTO THIEVES WITH SHOT GUNS

Webster, Mass., Aug. 7.—Two hundred citizens, armed with shotguns and rifles, surrounded the Chace automobile on the Webster road last night after two men in an auto chased by twenty taxi cabs and with police driven them to corner and exchanged several volleys. The men are said to have been doing wholesale auto stealing.

LOCAL NEWS

PUNERAL TOMORROW. The body of Miss Nellie Ward from Hillsboro, Alberta, coming from the residence of her uncle, Josh Ward, 19 Dunchester street.

STILL UNBURIED. The body of Andrew Smith, who was found on the banks of the Dominion Coal Company's sheds on Tuesday morning, is still lying in Chamberlain's undertaking parlors awaiting the authority of some official body to give his burial.

TO PURCHASE WAREHOUSE. Word of appraising a brick warehouse in Water street, near McLeod's, is being given by the proposed extension of the trucking company in the near future.

THE NEW PILOT BOAT. Several of the local pilots left today for LaHave, N.S., to assist Pilot McKelvey in outfitting the new pilot boat which is being calked, but it is expected that the work will require some time next week.

HARBOR DREDGING. R. E. Armstrong, secretary of the Board of Harbor Dredging, is now on a tour of inspection of the harbor, saying that dredging in this harbor will be completed by the end of the month. He also said that he was leaving there today for this city.

SPRUCE LAKE EXTENSION. A committee of the Water and Sewerage department, said this morning that he intends to bring in his report on the proposed extension of Spruce Lake at the regular meeting of the common council Monday morning.

JOHN E. COLLINS DEAD. The death of John E. Collins, a former lighthouse keeper, who was found in a place in this city this morning. He leaves one brother, Thomas J. Collins, and a nephew, Francis X. Collins, both of this city. A large circle of friends extend sympathy to the bereaved ones. The funeral will take place on Monday from the residence of his brother, 270 Prince William street.

DIED THIS MORNING. Many will regret to hear of the death of Peter Kneeland, who died this morning at his late residence, 265 Chesley street, after a short illness, at the age of sixty-one years. Besides his wife he leaves three sons, Bernard, John and William, of this city, and one daughter, Mrs. J. E. Cameron of Roxbury, Mass. Two sisters, Mrs. John Tighe and Mrs. John Logue, both of Roxbury, also survive. The funeral will take place on Monday morning from his late residence at 8:30.

VITAL STATISTICS. There were nine deaths recorded in the city during the week ending August 1, from the following causes: Bronchopneumonia, two; septicæmia, gangrene, mania, convulsions, heart disease, cancer of stomach, pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 each.

There were seven marriages in the city during the week, and thirty-nine births, 21 boys and 18 girls.

Roughly Handled. Winnipeg, Aug. 7.—Following a hot debate between international and O. B. U. leaders last night, W. H. Hoop, one of the international speakers, was surrounded on the speaker's platform and roughly handled by some of the O. B. U. party.

At the United Baptist parsonage, South Deron, on Thursday, Rev. H. H. Goulet, at his parents' residence, Pleasant Point, on 6th inst., John D. aged two days, infant child of Howard and Gladys Goulet. Burial today.

LOCAL NEWS

Special sale of men's pants tonight. Corbet, 194 Union street.

CROCKERY SALE. E. E. Parsons 5-25 cent store, Main street, big crockery and earthenware sale today and Saturday; door open Friday until 10 p. m.

Egg hard coal landing—Gibson & Co., Ltd. Telephone Main 2088 and 204. 5-9.

Special sale of men's shirts tonight. Corbet, 194 Union street.

NOTICE. The undersigned has purchased from the owner the Cafe No. 44 Mill street, of which J. P. McGuire was the manager, and will, after thorough renovation, conduct the same under the name of "Vimy Cafe."

HUM JACK OAK. Dated August 4, 1920. 877-8-11

Band concerts, Seaside, afternoon and evening.

POSTMEN'S PICNIC TODAY. For a real good time you should go to the Postmen's Picnic. Games and prizes for every one. Today at The Ferns.

THE BIBLE CONFERENCE. We would remind you of the Bible Conference to be held on Aug. 9, 10 and 11, at the residence of Mrs. J. P. McGuire, "The Rectory" at Woodman's Point. Rev. W. B. Williston of the China Inland Mission will speak at the morning, afternoon and evening sessions. In addition Revs. R. P. McKim, W. H. Sampson and C. W. Nichols will address the conference. Consult local time tables for convenient train and boat service.

PERSONALS. The condition of Mother Patrick, who is ill at the Infirmary, is about the same. Mrs. Charles Bailie and Miss Carrie Bailie have returned home from Boston, where they were visiting friends.

Miss Florence Maber has returned home after visiting friends in Halifax. Miss Blanche Robertson arrived home last evening after spending her vacation visiting relatives and friends in Prince Edward Island.

Miss Kathryn A. Robertson of Brookline, Mass., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Robertson, 555 Main street.

Miss Anne Wilson of this city is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wilson, Lorneville.

Frederick Glenier, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Sullivan and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Irving, of Oronocho, Me., are visiting their friends, Mr. and Mrs. John Irving, of St. John, where she will spend her vacation with Mrs. J. MacIntyre.

Halifax Mail: Miss Phyllis Richardson, daughter of the Bishop of Fredericton, and Miss Alice Tilley, a grand-daughter of Lady Tilley of St. John, are guests of Mrs. W. K. McKean at her camp at Tuft's Cove.

Accidentally Shot. While Ernest Davis was handling gun powder in his home on Board road, St. Stephen, the gun was discharged by accident. Several shots were passed through his left hand, taking off the forefinger and badly lacerating the hand. The young man is active service overseas for nearly four years and returned without a scratch only to meet with this severe accident in his own doorway.

WATCHING WRANGLER. (Bangor Commercial) A London despatch states that the Soviet government of Russia has agreed to the British peace suggestions and promises immunity to General Wrangel if he stays down his arms. But Wrangel, according to his statements, will demand more than this, for he says that there must be a line of demarcation drawn and that the territory now held by him must be allowed to stay under self-government.

In press despatches regarding Russia the name of General Wrangel is coming into more and more prominence and in some quarters the belief is expressed that he is the man who may bring order from chaos in Russia. Wrangel is the leader of the national troops in South Russia, more specifically in the Crimea, the head of the only Russian force now remaining in arms against the Bolshevik government.

He is the successor of Denikin, being appointed by the latter when he retired from leadership. Wrangel certainly succeeded to a forlorn hope. When he took command, Denikin's army had been pretty nearly annihilated in the northern Caucasus. The troops, such as were left, were scattered and discouraged. Realizing that he could not withstand the Soviet forces, Wrangel transported the remainder of his men by water to the Crimea and has succeeded in standing off the attacks of his opponents, possibly because they have been too busy with the Poles to send a large force against him.

General Wrangel must have confidence in the situation, for he has refused the British suggestion that he make peace with the Soviet government, unless a line of demarcation be drawn that will include the Lauridian plains to Dnieper, territory that Wrangel has brought under his jurisdiction since his withdrawal to the Crimea.

The Soviet government has recently offered to make peace with Wrangel with a promise of immunity for the latter and his followers, so both factions are standing pat. Close observers believe that Wrangel is more likely to succeed against the Soviet administration than was Kolchak or Denikin, because he has undertaken his task in a different manner. Kolchak and Denikin both sought to overthrow the Russian government by military methods and paid little attention to the peoples and conditions that they held with the result that these peoples turned against them, voluntarily recruiting stopped and their forces dwindled.

Wrangel is striving to establish a real state that can withstand attack from without. He recognizes local authority and is extending great freedom to the residents. It is his belief that with South Russia prosperous under liberal government the remainder of the country may demand similar self-government and Soviet rule thus be eventually overthrown. And close observers think that is by no means impossible.

Rome, Aug. 7.—Authorization to occupy Constantinople has been given the Greeks by the Allied nations, according to a despatch received here.

GOOD THINGS COMING TO THEATRES OF ST. JOHN

"THE SILENT AVENGER" COMING. William Duncan, star of the Vitagraph's great serial, "The Silent Avenger" will be shown at the Opera House commencing next Tuesday.

Thunderbolt. The most unusual screen. His formidable record of attainments entitles him probably to the greatest range of distinctions ever borne by one man. He is the greatest all-round athlete and one of the greatest dramatic players in films.

HE TOLD HER SHE NEVER WOULD BECOME A MOTHER. The most bizarre of the strangest marriage on record will be the feature at the Lyric next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

LAST TIME TO SEE JIMMIE EVANS CO. Lyric Cigarettes. Jimmie Evans Co. will say au revoir at the Lyric today. Concluded to be the best musical comedy ever staged in St. John.

MARSTERS DEAD IN FREDERICTON. (Special to Times) Fredericton, Aug. 7.—Mrs. Jose S. Marsters Creed, widow of Dr. H. C. Creed of Fredericton and daughter of the late John P. Marsters of St. John, died here this morning at the residence of her son, Clifford Creed. She had an attack of heart failure in Halifax a year ago and since that time has been an invalid. The funeral will take place Sunday afternoon.

CAPT. AMUNDSEN POSTPONES HIS ARCTIC TRIP. Rome, Aug. 7.—Captain Amundsen, Norwegian explorer, who planned to sail yesterday on a five year expedition into the Arctic region in an effort to reach the North Pole, was forced to postpone his departure on account of delay in having supplies on board the Maud. He announced he would sail today. A gold medal was presented to the captain by the city council at a public reception.

REFUSE TO COME DOWN. A romance in bird life requires some explanation to those who witnessed it in Imperial Theatre yesterday afternoon and evening. It is still going strong. The company playing the house with a road show at present have two trapeze artists which are supposed to "mate" during a song in the programme. The female bird is continually kept on the stage in a miniature house and the feathered swain is supposed to be released from the house, fly to the trapeze and there they were still billing and cooing this forenoon, refusing to be coaxed to earth until a great deal of reach of the tallest extension ladders.

MARINE NOTES. The R. M. S. P. Chalmers sailed at Halifax for the West Indies via Antwerp. Wm. Thomson & Co. are the local agents.

AGRICULTURE A LA MOTOR. The Belgian government has hit upon a novel scheme of teaching the farmers of the country better methods of farming. The idea of a school for farmers is not new, but the idea of taking the motor car to the farmer by means of a motor caravan is certainly novel.

BERRY SHIPMENTS. Sackville Post.—It is said Sackville has exported so far this year about \$28,000 worth of strawberries. There will be a few thousand dollars more worth of berries and blueberries, so that it is safe to say the total shipments of berries from Sackville this year will be upwards of \$30,000.

Engagement Announced. Mr. and Mrs. H. E. McLean of Chatham announce the engagement of their daughter, Greta M. Colpitts of Fredericton to Gordon H. Stilly of Southampton. The wedding will take place on Aug. 25.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hoyt of Letele announce the engagement of their daughter, Eola Annie, to Herbert Raymond Gresson of St. George, the marriage to take place at an early date.

Mr. and Mrs. Angus W. Grant of Oak Bay announce the engagement of their daughter, Bessie Marie, to John M. Pomeroy of Woodland, Maine. The wedding will take place in the early autumn.

Bay Steamer Service. St. Croix Courier.—At a meeting of the board of trade held last week Lewis Connor of the firm of Connors Bros., was present and made a proposition to place the steamer Harbinger on the route between St. Stephen, Deer Island, Back Bay, Little and Campobello provided sufficient subsidy could be secured from the provincial and Dominion governments, or to sell the steamer to a local company. The matter was referred to a committee composed of Mr. N. Cookburn, A. D. Ganong and V. V. Vanstone, the board reviewing every assistance to the project.

NO HOTELS NEEDED. Digby Courier.—A party of Americans have arrived here who are entirely independent of hotels and hotel restrictions. They have brought a complete camping outfit with them and are occupying a field on St. Mary's street. Two large tents and a number of smaller ones, with two autos enable them to live the simple life and they are apparently enjoying themselves to the utmost.

Life's Little Trials

WHEN you've sunk the bottle of "liquid cheer" over the side of the boat to keep it cool and having drawn it up at lunch time find that the cork has come out..... Well! ain't it disconcertin'!

That's When A Fellow Needs A Smoke. Every smoke will tell you! PHILIP MORRIS NAVY CUT CIGARETTES 10 for 15 cents

The High Rent Problem. And the importance of making smaller homes attractive as well as comfortable. Everywhere people are confronted by the necessity of either renting a room or two or moving into smaller apartments. These conditions exist everywhere.

We have on our floors a beautiful stock of Davenport, Couches, Iron and Brass Beds and Mattresses for that spare room at old prices. Prepare for the BIG RUSH to the Exhibition. Are you ready to receive your guests? Come in and select your wants now.

Amland Bros., Ltd., 19 Waterloo Street

LATE SHIPPING PORT OF ST. JOHN. Arrived Aug. 7. Coastwise—Sch. Levuka, 50, Tupper, from Port Wadsworth, N. S.; str. Stadium, 49, Pils, from Alima, N. B.

CANADIAN PORTS. Quebec, Aug. 6.—Cld, str. Pretorian for Montreal; steam barge J. A. Mackee for Sydney.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS. In the police court yesterday afternoon Henry Morris was charged with non-support. He did not plead guilty, but after hearing the evidence of Mrs. Morris it was decided that the wife live with her husband provided that he does not ill-treat her. The case was postponed for a week pending the conduct of the husband, Daniel Mullin, K. C., acting for the defence, and J. A. Barry for the complainant.

In the W. C. Spelght liquor case the accused was found guilty but judgment was reserved. The Hurwitz case was again postponed.

Halifax Shipyards. Halifax Echo.—Things are going strong at the shipyards once more and the hum of the hammer and riving machinery is heard in great volume over the land in Richmond. Yesterday there were about one thousand men on the payroll of the yards and there was hustle and bustle throughout the plant.

There was a big gang of men at work on the S.S. Parima, in the dry dock, and it is expected she will be ready for floating out of the dock in four or five days and ready for sea by the end of the month. Gangs are at work also on the new steamer hulls under construction. The centing of the interior walls of the dry dock continues.

The schooner Annabel Cameron arrived on Aug. 2 at Havana from Antwerp with a cargo of tiles and will load a cargo of mahogany in Cuba for Havre. E. L. Knicker and Co. are the local agents. The steamer Lake Akkra has finished discharging a cargo of sugar at the refinery and will probably sail today for a United States port. J. T. Knight & Co. are the local agents.

Has Studio in Halifax. Halifax Echo.—Mrs. McAvity, well known portrait painter, has returned to the city and taken a suite at 37 Tobin street. She had spent the previous six months of the year in Bermuda, where she was commissioned to paint a portrait of the governor of the island. Mrs. McAvity's art will be recalled by those who have seen her portrait of the Hon. M. H. Goude, which hangs in the Provincial Buildings. She has several commissions from Halifax citizens.

McPHERSON BROS. 181 Union Street. Phones Main 506 and 507

FOR SANDWICHES Chicken Ham and Tongue, 20c. Bloater Paste, 20c. Potted Meat, 10c. Genuine Deviled Ham 35c. Olive Butter, 30c. Lobster Paste, 20c.

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