

## **Gustaf Unonius' Homemade "Snoose"**

by Harry H. Anderson

The use of snuff (or "snoose" as it was known to many Scandinavians) was a form of chewing tobacco popular among many of the male immigrant generation. Gustaf Unonius, leader of the Pine Lake Swedish colony, was one of these who regularly used snuff when it was available from local sources. When not, during his early years in Wisconsin when winter snows isolated the remote Pine Lake settlement, or his purse lacked sufficient funds to purchase the article, he was forced to develop a formula for a homemade version of his favorite habit. The process he followed in manufacturing this substitute was as follows: obtaining a package of long-leaved black smoking tobacco which he dried on the stove and then ground up finely in the household coffee mill. Then he dampened the ground-up tobacco with a mixture of water and refined potash. This mixture was then placed in a closed container which was, in turn, put on the stove to ferment until suitable for use.

Unappealing as the finished product may sound, it apparently satisfied his needs until the weather and/or his pocketbook permitted Unonius to obtain a new supply of the real thing.

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