



# Swedish Colonial News

Volume 3, Number 4

Spring/Summer 2006

Preserving the legacy of the Royal New Sweden Colony in America

## Franklin and the Swedes

Swedes Inextricably Linked To Franklin and America



*Death of Benjamin Franklin with Swedish Pastor Nicholas Collin present (tall figure in the center).*

### *In this issue...*

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| FOREFATHERS  | 2  |
| ECONOMY      | 5  |
| DESCENDANTS  | 6  |
| MILESTONES   | 12 |
| CELEBRATIONS | 16 |

The Tercentennial celebration of the life of Benjamin Franklin during 2006 is of prominent worldwide historical significance. His contributions to the arts and sciences literally changed the course of history. What may be lesser known, however, is the significant role that the Colonial Swedes played not only in impacting Franklin's life, but in the forming the United States of America. John

Morton, Adof Ulrich Wertmüller, Nicholas Collin, and the numerous Colonial Swedes who joined Washington's Army, are but a few examples of these people whose contributions helped to forge this new nation. Internationally, Sweden was the first neutral European nation to negotiate a treaty of trade and amity with the United States. *(More on pages 10 & 11)*

## Christina Ollesdotter and Her Walraven Descendents

Among the passengers arriving at Fort Christina on the *Kalmar Nyckel* and *Charitas* in November 1641 were three small orphans, Jöns (Jonas) Olleson, Helena Ollesdotter and Christina Ollesdotter. The voyage from Gothenburg had been a stormy one and their parents had died at sea. Of these three orphans, only one has been accounted for in subsequent records – Christina Ollesdotter, who married the Dutch soldier Walraven Jansen deVos and became the ancestor of the Walraven families of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

A 1951 article appearing in the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* by George V. Massey, claimed that Christina Ollesdotter was the daughter of Olof Thorsson. This now proves to be incorrect. There was never any association between Olof Thorsson or his Tussey family and the family of Walraven Jansen deVos. Massey was unaware of Hendrick Huygen's New Sweden accounts identifying the three orphans arriving in 1641.

### *Walraven Jansen de Vos*

Christina Ollesdotter was married by 1659 to a Dutch soldier stationed at Fort Altena (former Fort Christina) by the name of Walraven Jansen de Vos ("the fox"). He had been a soldier for the Dutch West India Company since 1656. At the time of her marriage, Christina was probably living with the family of Måns Andersson, whose eldest daughter Brita (wife of Johan Gustafsson) lived with the Jonas Walraven family in her old age.

In the summer of 1659, Walraven Jansen's commander Willem Beeckman granted Måns Andersson and Walraven Jansen a tract of land west of Fort Altena straddling the Brandywine. Måns' tract, later sold to Dr. Timen Stiddem, was on the south side; Walraven's was on the north side. Here Walraven built a house for himself and his bride. Walraven asked for his discharge, which initially was opposed. In January 1660, Stuyvesant's Council in New Amsterdam approved a salary increase for him, but Walraven was persistent and before the month ended, Beeckman granted the requested discharge.

After a few years of farming, Walraven sold his farm on the north side of Brandywine Creek to another former Dutch soldier, Jacob van der Veer, and moved up Christina Creek to settle on a 900-acre tract of land in partnership with Anders Andersson the Finn and Sinnick Broer the Finn. An English patent confirming their joint ownership of this tract, called "Deer

Point" (later called Middle Borough, now Richardson Park in Wilmington) was granted on 25 March 1676.

The will of Walraven Jansen DeVos was proved on 1 March 1680/1. The will left one-half of his lands to the eldest son living at home – Gisbert Walraven – with the other half going to his youngest son Jonas Walraven after Christina's death. The will mentioned but did not name other children, some married and some not.

Within a few years, Walraven Jansen's wife Christina Ollesdotter was remarried, this time to the widower Dr. Timen Stiddem, whose plantation lay across the Brandywine on the south bank. The will of Christina Ollesdotter Stedham, proved 13 March 1698/9, named sons Gisbert and Jonas and daughters Christina, Anna and Maria.

The apparent children of Walraven Jansen de Vos, who adopted their patronymic (Walraven) as their surname, were as follows:

1. **Hendrick Walraven**, although not named in either will, appears to be the eldest son of Walraven Jansen, perhaps by a prior marriage. By 1677 he was taxed at Appoquinimink Creek, where 225 acres were surveyed for him in 1678. Later, in 1689, he acquired 600 acres at Dragon Swamp. He died there c. 1715. By his wife (name unknown) he had three known children:

- > Peter Walraven, born by 1677, married by 1707 Tanne Van Horen (Dutch). He died in 1713 in St. Georges Hundred. They had three children: Jacob, born c. 1708, died young; John, born 1710, married Susannah Margaret, died 1764 in Appoquinimink Hundred; and Isaac, born c. 1712, died young.

- > Anna Walraven married Robert Hartop (English), a large landowner on Blackbird Creek. She had sons named John, Henry and Robert Hartop and died in St. Georges Hundred in 1710.

- > Cornelius Walraven married Walborg Evertson [Swedish] by 1713. Initially he lived in Penns Neck, but took over his father's farm at Dragon Swamp by 1715. The last reference to him alive was on 1 May 1733 when, after being convicted by the Lancaster County court for counterfeiting seven silver dollars, he was sentenced to receive 31 lashes, stand in the pillory for one hour and have both of his ears cut off. He was survived by his wife, who remained at Dragon Swamp, and four children: John, Susannah, Elias and Elizabeth.

2. **Aeltie Walraven**, eldest daughter, married Matthys van Limborgh (Dutch) of New Castle, who died soon after the birth of their sons, Sybrant and Jan

(continued page 4)



**SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY**  
316 SOUTH SWANSON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147

Spring 2006



HIGH PATRON  
HIS MAJESTY CARL XVI GUSTAF  
KING OF SWEDEN

Dear Friend of New Sweden,

DEPUTY HIGH PATRON  
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS  
CROWN PRINCESS VICTORIA

We are blessed at this time in the Swedish Colonial Society to have a plethora of talented leaders. It is one of the reasons why it is a pleasure to serve as your Governor.

PATRON  
HIS EXCELLENCY GUNNAR LUND  
AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN

We have just learned that two more of our Councillors have received the *Polar Star* designation from His Majesty, King Carl XVI Gustaf. Our Honorary Governor Ronald Hendrickson, who along with talented wife Nancy, has provided us with so much first class publicity materials and web site design, together with hours of extensive work in launching the Society back into its publishing role with the production of *The Faces of New Sweden*, is certainly a worthy recipient. Our long-time Councillor, former Secretary of the Society and Chair of the American Swedish Historical Museum, Sandra Pfaff, has provided countless hours of professional work to advance the cause of Swedish culture in the Delaware Valley. And the record of so much that has happened in the last decades has been professionally recorded and beautifully framed by her husband, Fred. Both of these nominees are a credit to our Society and their families. They join Honorary Governor Herb Rambo and Historian Peter S. Craig as members of the "Polar Club". I think few other organizations can boast of four members with such significant achievements and who have been recognized officially by the King.

DEPUTY PATRON  
HONORABLE ULF HENRIKSSON  
CONSUL GENERAL OF SWEDEN

ASSOCIATE PATRON  
COUNSELLOR  
HON. AGNETA HÄSSLUND BAILEY  
CONSUL OF SWEDEN AT  
PHILADELPHIA

GOVERNOR  
ARCHVIST  
THE REV. DR. KIM-ERIC WILLIAMS

SENIOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
DAVID EMMI

In addition we think of Aleasa Hogate and her success in establishing a monument to the Swedes and Finns of New Jersey and her continuing work on recreating church boats on the Delaware. Dave Emmi, has rescued several 16 mm films from the literal "dust bin of history" to make a DVD of the 1938 Tercentenary. Ken Peterson has created a stunning visual history of New Sweden historical sites and contributed a map collection to the Archives that is the best to be found anywhere. Marianne Mackenzie continues to advocate for a Swedish historical presence on the 7<sup>th</sup> Street peninsula with the New Sweden Centre and its corps of re-enactors. Jim Seagers is planning a trip for us and our friends to Sweden in June, 2008.

JUNIOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
MARGARET SOOY BROWELL

REGISTRAR  
DORNEY SEAGERS  
371 DEVON WAY  
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380  
610.693.0543

RECORDING SECRETARY  
ALEASA J. HOGATE

Lest we think that Polar Stars relax, we can recall that this year Peter Craig will begin to publish the Gloria Dei Records Project with the first two volumes due out by the New Sweden History Conference on October 14. Working with Cornell University, Herb Rambo has succeeded in sending grafts of the Rambo apple tree to Sweden so that this historic tree, so associated with New Sweden, can be re-introduced to its origin. This was front page news in a recent issue of *Nordstjernen*.

COLOR GUARD CAPTAIN  
ASSOCIATE ARCHVIST  
KENNETH S. PETERSON

CHAPLAIN  
THE REV. D. JOY SEGAL

HISTORIAN  
DR. PETER S. CRAIG, F.A.S.S.

Lastly, during the last five years I have been able to organize and professionally preserve the Archives of our Society. Our collection now crowds a 23 page electronic Finding Guide and is housed in proper temperature and humidity conditions at the Brossman Center of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT:  
[WWW.COLONIALSWEDEN.ORG](http://WWW.COLONIALSWEDEN.ORG)

The Swedish Colonial Society is a very busy organization with excellent leaders and even more exciting projects are before us.

PLEASE CONTACT US AT:  
[INFO@COLONIALSWEDEN.ORG](mailto:INFO@COLONIALSWEDEN.ORG)

Pro Suecia,

Kim-Eric Williams  
Governor



Matthysen Valk ("hawk" in Dutch). She then married by 1676 **Justa Andersson**, eldest son of Anders Andersson the Finn. Aeltie was described as the daughter of Walraven Jansen when she and her second husband sued the Stalcop family for slander in 1680. She had no children by her second marriage. Both Aeltie and her sons disappear from records after 1684 when Justa Anderson sold land which had been patented to his stepson Sybrant Matthysen Valk.

3. **Gisbert Walraven**, also known as **Jesper Walraven**, was born about 1660. In the late 1680s he married Christina (Kerstin) Peterson, daughter of Samuel Petersson and Brita Jönsdotter Anderson of Christina (now Wilmington). She was buried 20 Dec. 1725 at Holy Trinity Church. They lived at Middle Borough, Christiana Hundred, where he divided his father's plantation with his younger brother Jonas Walraven, 19 April 1708. His will of the same date was proved 4 June 1708 and named Mathias Peterson [his wife's brother] and Edward Robinson [his sister's husband] as executors. His will named five children:

> Brita Walraven married John Stalcop, son of Andrew Stalcop, by 1706. They had one son who survived childhood, Andrew Håkan Stalcop. After the death of her first husband, Brita married Ambrose London, 6 Jan. 1715, by whom she had four additional children. Brita was buried at Holy Trinity on 16 March 1721 and Ambrose London was buried there on 4 December 1721. Edward Robinson served as executor of his estate and became guardian of his only surviving son, Ambrose London, Jr.

> Catharina Walraven, born 1690, married by 1709 Måns Justis, son of Justa Justisson and Anna Morton of Kingsessing. They lived on the east side of Red Clay Creek in Christiana Hundred. They had ten children born between 1710 and 1732, all of whom grew to adulthood. Catharina died of apoplexy on 2 January 1754 at the age of 63. Her husband survived her by about two decades.

> Gisbert (Jesper) Walraven married Maria Snicker (daughter of Hendrick Jöransson Orrhan, snickare [carpenter in Swedish], 24 May 1716. She was buried 12 Nov. 1723. He then married widow Anna Paulson (daughter of Bengt Pålsson and widow of John Garritson) in 1724. She died after 1743. On 15 Nov. 1752, Gisbert married his third wife, Christina Morton, daughter of Matthias and Anna (Justis) Morton and widow of Samuel Peterson. Gisbert Walraven lived his entire life on the Middle Borough plantation, which he inherited from his father. By his first two wives he had

ten children. He died intestate before 21 July 1761 when his widow Christina Walraven filed her first accounting of his estate. On 27 March 1762 his heirs sold all 113 acres of his plantation to Richard Richardson.

> Jonas Walraven married in 1723 Catharina Archer, daughter of John and Gertrude (Bartleson) Archer of Ridley Township., Chester County. Jonas was buried 11 March 1727. His widow married Hans Peterson in 1731 and died before 1748. On 28 January 1723/4 Jonas had acquired 110 acres at Christina in Christiana Hundred from Samuel Peterson. A weaver by trade, Jonas devised his land to his son John by his will of 7 March 1726/7. He was also survived by a daughter Maria.

> Sarah Walraven married John Seeds, 22 August 1720, but died in childbirth and was buried at Holy Trinity Church on 4 April 1721. Her son Edward Seeds survived. John Seeds remarried Brita Lynam by 1722.

4. **Jonas Walraven**, born by 1672, was married in 1693 to Sarah Peterson, a younger sister of Jesper Walraven's wife. Sarah was the mother of all of his children. Jonas married second, by 1713, Anna Justis, widow of Matthias Morton of Ridley Township, Chester County. He also lived at Middle Borough in Christiana Hundred. Jonas was buried 31 Aug. 1724. His widow married, as her third husband, Charles Springer, in 1727. By his first marriage, Jonas had five children:

> Brita Walraven, born in 1693, married Morton Justis, son of Justa Justisson and Anna Morton, on 1 Oct. 1713. They made their home at Bread and Cheese Island, Mill Creek Hundred, and had ten children born between 1714 and 1739. After Brita's death at the age of 54 on 14 July 1747, Morton Justis married Magdalena Springer, then twice a widow, on 5 December 1747.

> Sarah Walraven, born c. 1695, married Rev. Andreas Hesselius, pastor of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, 3 May 1713, and died in London in 1724 en route to Sweden with her husband and children.

> Christina Walraven, born c. 1698, married Morton Morton (son of Matthias Morton and Anna Justis) 8 May 1718. They made their home on the south side of Christina River in New Castle Hundred. They had ten children born between 1719 and 1741, of whom four lived to adulthood. Christina died of pleurisy at the age of 53 and was buried 3 May 1754. Her husband remarried and died by 1767.

> Walraven Walraven, born c. 1700, married Christina Colesberry (daughter of Sven Kålsberg and Elisabeth Anderson), 6 Oct. 1725. He was buried

# Swedish Coin Found in Jamestown

Archaeologists Excavation Unearths Swedish Currency *by Kenneth S. Peterson*

What a surprise it was to us when told that an early Swedish coin was unearthed on the historic grounds of Jamestown, Virginia. According to Inger Hammarberg, Senior Curator of the "Coin Cabinet" in Stockholm, it is probably the oldest Swedish coin found in America. Ellen Rye and I had been invited to study Dutch bricks that had been excavated on the actual site of James Fort by archaeologists of the APVA, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. How fortunate we were to be shown by Bly Straube, Curator of the APVA, the recently discovered 16th century Swedish coin on this revered site. She told us that it was found in an early pit within the triangular palisade walls of the fort. It may represent one of the pit house structures the men recorded using as shelter in 1607.

This 430 year old, one öre silver coin was hand hammered in 1576. It is 26 millimeters in diameter, about the size of a U.S. quarter, yet thinner. It was issued by Sweden's King, Johan III, son of Gustav Vasa. Pictured on the obverse is an engraving of

himself standing in his suit of armor with sword in hand. I could read most of the wording around the edge of the coin: IOHANNES... SVECI REX. In its entirety it reads in Latin: IOHANNES 3D(ei) G(ratia) SVECI(e) REX which means: Johan III, by the grace of God, King of Sweden. *(continued page 8)*



*A 16th century Swedish öre silver coin*

## FOREFATHERS from page 4

4 Aug. 1736, and his widow married John Justis, 30 July 1737. On 29 April 1735, as son and heir of Jonas Walraven, Walraven Walraven divided the Middle Borough plantation with Gisbert Walraven, son and heir of Gisbert Walraven. The will of Walraven Walraven, dated 1 August 1736, left his plantation to his two eldest sons, Sven (Swithin) and Jonas. He was buried 4 August 1736.

> Jonas Walraven, born 31 May 1704, married Maria Justis (daughter of Justa Justisxon and Anna Morton), 1 Dec. 1727. A weaver, he lived on the north side of Christina Creek at Newport, west of Middle Borough, in Christiana Hundred on land purchased from Conrad Constantine in 1735. He died there on 6 Nov. 1751, survived by two children, Justa and Sara.

5. **Anna Walraven** married before 1700 Edward Robinson, born in England in 1676, who had arrived in America at the age of 8 and became the first Englishman to serve as a trustee of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church. They had seven children who grew to adulthood and married:

> Joshua Robinson, who married by 1720 a woman named Maria.

> Catharina Robinson, who married Henry Snicker (son of Hendrick Jöransson) on 1 November 1720; 2nd, Måns Justis, 8 August 1756.

> Israel Robinson, who married Elizabeth Hendrickson (daughter of John Hendrickson and Brita Mattson) by 1723.

> Margareta Robinson, who married Charles Springer, Jr. (son of Charles Springer and Maria Hendrickson) by 1723.

> Jesper Robinson, who married Magdalena Springer (daughter of Charles Springer and Maria Hendrickson) on 11 November 1725.

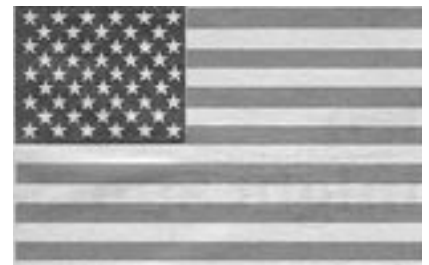
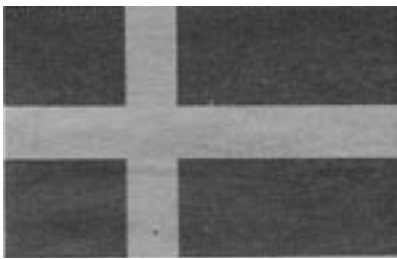
> Robert Robinson, who married Catharina Derickson (daughter of Zacharias Derickson and Helena Van der Veer) by 1730.

> Jonas Robinson, who married Rebecca Cleneay (daughter of William Cleneay and Maria Springer) on 19 May 1736.

After the death of Anna before 1714, Edward Robinson remarried several times: first to Margaret Claesson, daughter of Jacob and Greta Claesson (by whom he had three additional children); second to Elizabeth, widow of Matthias Peterson; third to Sarah Empson Bird, widow of Thomas Bird; fourth to Ingeborg Tussey Sinnex, widow of John Sinnex. Edward Robinson died 31 May 1761.

6. **Maria Walraven** was named in her mother's will and appeared frequently in the records of Holy Trinity Church as a communicant and baptismal sponsor from 1714 until her death on 3 February 1734, under the name of Maria Brown, widow of Robert Brown. No evidence has been found indicating that she had any children.

7. **Christina Walraven** was named in her mother's will. Not thereafter traced.



## *New Sweden's Presidential Descendants*



*President Franklin Delano Roosevelt greets Sweden's Prince Bertil on June 27th, 1938 at the dedication of Fort Christina Park in Wilmington, Delaware. This event commenced the American portion of Swedish American Tercenteny celebrations that were observed throughout Sweden and America.*

*President George Walker Bush recently greets the new Swedish Ambassador Gunnar Lund at the White House in Washington, DC.*

While citing his hereditary link back to the New Sweden colony, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proclaimed in 1938 that “Swedish blood runs through my veins!” A number of Presidents have also had a hereditary link back to the New Sweden colony, including the 41st President, George Herbert Walker Bush, and the current President George Walker Bush. The Bushes are descendants of New Sweden colonist Måns Andersson who arrived in New Sweden in April 1640 on board the *Kalmar Nyckel*. These Presidential ancestral ties transcend any type of political ideology for both Democratic and Republican Presidents have been descendants of New Sweden colonists. The colony of New Sweden has been a vital component in the fabric of America whose descendants range from fine common citizenry to holders of the highest elected office.



# President Bush's New Sweden Ancestry Makes International Headlines

"Il Presidente Usa ha Origini Svedesi" - Affari Italiani, Italy  
 "Bush á ettir að rekja til Súa" - Frettit, Iceland

16 | KEMANGKUP

UTUSET MAAILMA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2005

## Sukujuuret Suomessa!

► Presidentti George W. Bushin esi-isäksi nimetty Måns Andersson oli tutkijoiden mukaan todennäköisesti suomalainen siirtolainen.

**Bush ei ole vielä reagoinut tietoon**




**Hetkinen..!**

**ESLI-ISÄN LAIVA**

**George W. Bush tiene antepasados en Suecia** - El Pais, Uruguay

**"Bush tros ha svenska förfäder"** - Svenska Dagbladet, Sweden

"Bush má švédské korene" - Aktualne, Slovakia "Bush'un Soyu İsveç'e Dayaniyor" - Haber Vetrini, Turkey

## Bushs anfäder kom från Sverige

**WASHINGTON.** Världens mäktigaste man, George W Bush, har svenska förfäder.

Den anrika svensk-amerikanska föreningen The Swedish Colonial Society i Philadelphia har funnit en oväntad släkting till politikerfamiljen i Texas: den upproriske bonden Måns Andersson.

Andersson var en tobaksodlare, revoltör och möjligen före detta brottsling, som kom till svenskkolonin vid Delawarefloden 1640 på skeppet Kalmar Nyckel. Han steg ombord i Göteborg i oktober 1639, men härstammade eventuellt från Sillerud i Värmland:

Måns Anderssons första hustru dog, han gifte om sig 1646 och anlade lantbruket Sillaryd i Delaware County. Paret fick sex barn och flyttade - efter att han svårt skuldsatt 1653 gjort uppror mot kolonins stränge guvernör och hans själviska handelspolitik gentemot indianerna - till en holländsk koloni i dagens New Castle där de lärde sig språket.

Familjen Andersson reste 1661 söderut till Maryland där de bosatte sig på Mountfieldplantagen vid Elk River intill Baltimore. Han dog 1680. Ett av sonen Christopher Månssons - också känd som Christopher Mounts - åtta barn, dottern Ann Mounts eller Mounce, blev 1727 Robert Mercers hustru. Herr och fru Mercers barnbarnsbarn Harriet Mercer äktade George E Walker i maj 1821.

**DERAS SON DAVID** fick i äktenskapet med hustrun Martha sonen George Herbert Walker vars dotter Dorothy Walker i augusti 1921 gifte sig med Prescott Sheldon Bush: USA:s nuvarande presidents farfar.

**Vad vet ni om denne Andersson?** - Han var en jordbrukare och inte bemärkt, säger föreningens vice ordförande David Emmi till DN. Vi vet inte exakt var han kom ifrån i Sverige, men åtskilliga av utvandrarerna hade bott i Värmland. I den grupp som han anlände med var många misstänkta för brott eller hade agerat kriminellt och erbjuds därför att



En replik av "Kalmar Nyckel", skeppet som förde Bushs förfäder över Atlanten.



Tre generationer Bush: från vänster tidigare presidenten George Bush Sr, nuvarande presidenten George W Bush och hans döttrar Barbara och Jenna.

lämna Sverige för att undgå fängelsestraff. Det var en lång sjöresa, mellan fem och sex månader, på fartyg som bara rymde mellan 80 och 120 personer.

- Jag tvivlar på att Måns Andersson

var kriminell, men vi vet inte säkert. Det enda sättet att klargöra detta är att söka i svenska rättshandlingar, säger föreningens ansedde släktforskare doktor Peter Craig till DN.

- I Sverige borde det gå att finna

hans födelseort. Det finns ett Sillerud också i Skåne, men merparten av kolonisterna kom från Värmland så det är mer troligt att han var därifrån - om det inte finns en annan förklaring till varför han valde det namnet till sitt lantbruk.

**DAVID EMMI** betraktar släktkopplingen mellan Andersson och Bush som hundraprocentigt belagt. De första åtta släktleden av de tio är sedan tidigare officiella och har bekräftats av presidenthistoriker. Den svensk-amerikanska föreningen fyller hundra år 2009 och hoppas nu att någon i familjen Bush kommer att delta i firandet.

**Hur tror du att president Bush kommer att hantera denna nyhet?**

- Det har ju varit mycket protester mot honom i Sverige, men jag tror att han kommer att glädjas över sina svenska rötter, precis som Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**GEORG CEDERSKOG**  
DN:s korrespondent  
georg.cederskog@dn.se

On the reverse of the coin I could see the image of a large crown atop a shield. Within the shield are three smaller crowns, two above and one below the Vasa family coat of arms. To the sides of this is the 1 OR (löre) denomination. Around the edge of the coin is the inscription: MON NOVA STOK HOL, which in the Latin means New coin from Stockholm.

The coin is partly made of silver, and the remainder of copper. According to the book, SWEDISH COINS, 1521-1968, by Bertel Tingstrom, this coin is "250 parts pro mille," meaning 25% silver. He says that Johan III issued a very large number of coins and that economic difficulties of the state can be seen during the first part of the 1570's to 1590 in that coins from that period have a high copper content and low silver content. The "Moneyer" responsible for producing this coin was Gillis Coyet, Senior. Having lain in moist dirt for centuries, it was of course, not very attractive and quite tarnished. As of this writing, it has been restored and will be on display in the "Archaearium," the exhibition building for the APVA archaeological excavations when it opens in May of 2006.

The question arises as to how this Swedish coin found its way to English Jamestown. Naturally we wonder if one of our ancestors while on his way to or from New Sweden exchanged it there or lost it. Romantic, yes, but not likely the way it really happened. Bly Straube agrees that it came over in someone's pocket but not necessarily in a Swede's. She says, "We have to remember what a cosmopolitan world it was then. The countries of Northern Europe were closely linked in a web of trade. The Hanseatic League played a big part in this. Sweden was especially known to England for its copper, iron and wood. We have found other exotic coins here from all over the world, including ones from Riga, Gdansk, and Lübeck. And I believe the Swedish coin was in that flow of coinage connected with the trade networks throughout northern Europe." Larry Stallcup, Swedish descendant, says, "The 1 öre silver coin most likely belonged to one of the officers in the colony. That would have been a lot of money for an ordinary colonist to carry around." Bly agrees that the coin was once in the hands of the elite in the colony. Hans Ling, retired Chief of Staff to Sweden's National Heritage Board, has also commented on the ancient Swedish coin. He says, "Johan III was an uncle of Gustav II Adolf, the initiator of the New Sweden Colony. Yes, indeed, there was much trade between the European countries, so the coin may have been brought to America by an Englishman, Dutch or Frenchman. In those days it was the value of the metal in the coin that was important. It did not matter in which country a coin was produced. All coins could be used anywhere in the world." Hans continues: "Coins were rare in those days. They were used mainly by merchants to bring payment along when they traveled somewhere to buy goods. Ordinary people hardly had any coins. Salaries were generally paid by free living, clothing, etc. In Sweden most civil servants were paid by right of living and taking some of the income from a farm owned by the king. When a person wanted something they would barter for it with another object or exchange by working for it. The priests were paid in useful, household goods. Changing money was more complex. A big coin usually couldn't be changed against smaller coins because there was no number of smaller coins corresponding exactly with the bigger one, especially with coins of different metals. The value of copper, silver and gold was constantly going up and down at different rates. But sometimes change would be made by cutting the coins into pieces."

## Wages and Barter

by Larry Stallcup

An appreciation of the New Sweden monetary system is helpful in understanding the economic environment a colonist lived in while first under Swedish rule, and then later under the Dutch authority. We will use Johan Andersson von Strängnäs, later known as Stålkofa, as a typical example.

When Stålkofa was hired in 1640 to go to New Sweden he agreed to a starting salary of 10 RD (Riksdalers per year). He was advanced 10 dalers copper money just prior to sailing. This advance of pay, (probably in hard currency), was not typical. He was one of the few colonists to receive such a salary advancement. Most received nothing at all. At the time one Riksdaler was worth about two and a half dalers; meaning that his annual starting salary was 25 dalers. His hefty 40 percent advancement on his salary was paid so that he could buy supplies and items for his journey that were not likely available in New Sweden.

It is nearly impossible to determine the equivalent value of what he was paid in terms of today's money. Suffice it to say that as a very young, (about age 13), farm laborer it probably was equal to a minimum wage. For comparison, the pay of the priest serving the colony was set at 10 dalers per month.

Johan Andersson probably received the 10 dalers copper money advancement in the form of copper coins called an Öre [see footnote]. In general at the time thirty-two of the smaller öre coins made up one daler. These 10 dalers, or 320 Öre, paid and likely spent in Sweden, was the only Swedish money Stålkofa was ever paid. This strange fact became highly significant years later when New Sweden was surrendered to the Dutch.

The operating premise of the New Sweden Colony was the classic Company Store model. Everyone who went to the colony was expected to deal only with the West India Company. The company owned all assets. The use of everything; land, tools, farm animals, etc., was on a rental basis and could only be rented from the company. No money was sent over from Sweden to pay wages and salaries. To receive pay each person had first to return to Sweden and then to petition the company for his back pay. Of course, anything purchased from the company store, either aboard ship coming or going, or in New Sweden, was carefully recorded and deducted from any pay due. Settlement often was a long delayed process as the company waited until the books were returned from New Sweden. Therefore, coins were rare in the colony.

*(Footnote - Öre is a Viking pronunciation of the Latin word "or". It was a measure of gold. Until the meter system was introduced it was often used to tell the size of land. A farm could consist of, for instance, an amount of land valued at 10 Öre. In the 1500s the value of an Öre had decreased so that it was possible to make coins with the value of one Öre. As the devaluation continued bigger coins were introduced such as the mark and daler. In the 1700s it was decided that the Swedish coins only should be the riksdaler (national daler) and the skilling (change). One riksdaler was 48 skilling. In the beginning of the 1800s the riksdaler was renamed to krona (crown) and the skilling replaced by a new öre. One krona is 100 Öre. Today (mid-2004) one Öre is of so little value that the smallest coin is 50 Öre. c/f: Private correspondence: Hans Ling, Uppsala, Sweden, July 2004.)*





*This 1655 map by New Sweden Engineer Peter Lindeström illustrates the northeast coastline of America at that time. The colonies of “Virginia” (Virginia), Nova Suecia (New Sweden), Nova Battavia (New Netherland) and Nova Anglia (New England) are clearly identified. Trade among these colonies was common and often vital for the survival of European settlers in this new unfamiliar land.*

The lack of coins in New Sweden was due not only to their shortage in Sweden but also due to the barter system which prevailed in the colony. Payment in coins was not made unless, upon returning to Sweden, an officer, soldier or paid worker had accrued wages exceeding his purchases from the company store.

Hendrick Huygen, the bookkeeper, kept the company books in terms of Dutch guilders. Guilders were the primary hard currency in circulation in the New Sweden area. For barter there seems to have been at least three prevalent mediums of exchange; guilders, sewant and beaver pelts. Some years later tobacco and grain were added to the list. Sewant is more widely known as wampum or Indian money. It was strings of small, white cylindrical beads. Huygen translated everything into terms of Dutch guilders. Later, back in Sweden, the accounts were retranslated back into Swedish currency. This ensured that the company, not the colonist, would get the benefit from any inflation in the currency.

By the Dutch invasion, Stålkoftha had long since left the farm and had become a soldier. He had advanced to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant with a salary of 144 dalers per year.

As Johan Andersson Stålkoftha, like most, elected to remain in America under Dutch rule and never returned to Sweden, it follows that he never received any hard currency pay for his fourteen years of service. The only exception was the 10 dalers he was advanced in Sweden, and surely spent there just before he went aboard ship to begin his journey to the New World. Being a young boy in an apparent poor financial condition this advanced money may have been the only Swedish money he ever held in his hands.

It follows that when he returned to Fort Christina at the surrender he was again in a very poor financial condition. His assigned house and garden, actually owned by the Company, had been badly damaged if not completely destroyed. His employment as a Swedish soldier had just come to an abrupt end. The entire Company Store purchase/charge system no longer existed. Governor Risingh’s threats to hold all the officers serving at Fort Trinity responsible for the loss of the entire colony made it unsafe for him to return to Sweden to petition for his pay. He must have realized that he would never receive any of his back wages.

Stålkoftha, and everyone else, were suddenly flat broke and faced with having to do business on a cash basis in the Dutch

currency system. What was he to do? Well, from the wreckage of his house he managed to salvage several pieces of furniture, a table and wardrobe. He quickly sold these items to a Dutch sergeant to raise immediate cash. Maybe some of the others facing the same dilemma did the same. We know of Stålkoftha’s sale only because of a later court case.

Governor Risingh also had a money problem. He had no money to pay the expenses of the thirty-six people, (about ten percent of the colony), returning to Sweden with him. He also did not have a company owned Swedish ship to use, therefore the return voyage would be on a Dutch owned ship. Neither could he take with him any of the company property, the supplies on hand or any of the goods he had available for trading with the Indians.

Governor Risingh held a “Going Out of Business” sale to get rid of the goods and stores of the colony. Johan Andersson Stålkoftha was one of the largest purchasers of these goods and stores. Stålkoftha surely realized that if he could never receive his back pay then he would never actually have to pay for any of the items he purchased. They were simply being charged to his pay account that would never be settled. Others must have realized this fact as well. One could speculate Stålkoftha probably resold most of these goods to Dutch soldiers to raise money. The Going Out of Business Sale idea did not work out so well for Risingh for it did not produce any cash for him. Risingh was then forced to make other fiscal arrangements with the Dutch authority concerning his outstanding expenses.

Among noteworthy items seized by the Dutch during the invasion and later taken to New Amsterdam included nine cannons from Fort Christina. This Swedish built weaponry became English property when they defeated the Dutch in 1664. The Reverend Björk last reported seeing these cannons during his visit to New York about a half-century after Risingh’s surrender.

# Nicholas Collin: Colonial American Hero

by David Emmi

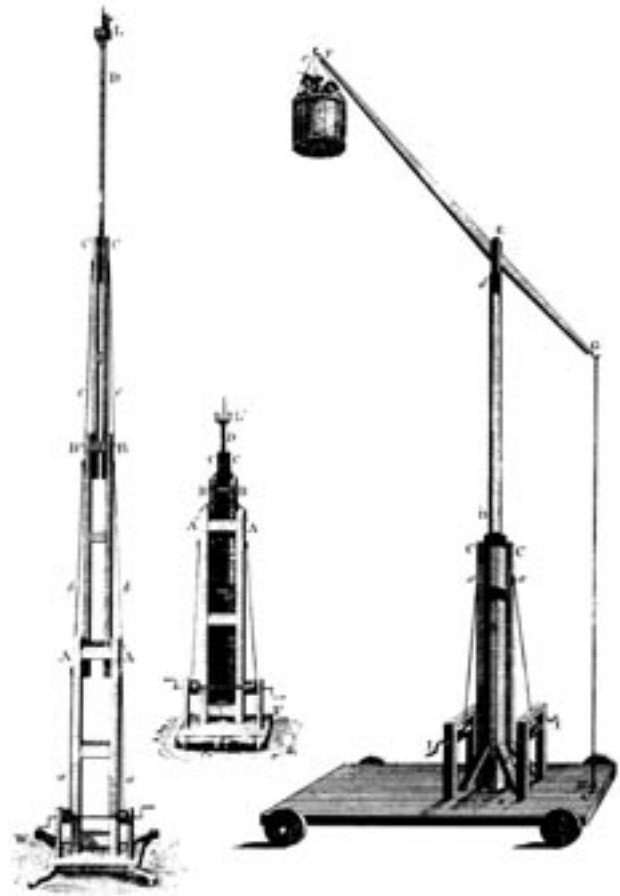
When writing a brief biographical article on the extraordinary lives of individuals like Benjamin Franklin or Nicholas Collin, an author is confronted with the insurmountable task of attempting to encapsulate the remarkable accomplishments of these personalities whose depth and breadth of achievement are both vastly deep and enormously wide. Ultimately the writer resigns to hopefully sketching a rough caricature of the individual, while encouraging readers to further research the lives of these complex, gifted and diverse people.

Dr. Nicholas (Nils) Collin was every bit the scholarly intellectual as any person of his time. He also had an impact on Colonial America comparable to Jefferson, Franklin, Washington and other famous American founding fathers. Yet, for a variety of reasons, his name is often excluded or overlooked when historians recount the Revolutionary period in American history. The reasons for this oversight are many. First, Collin was born in Sweden and never became an American citizen. His political loyalties always laid with his fatherland, so like Lafayette or Von Steuben, his important role in Colonial America has traditionally been marginalized somewhat by American historians. Secondly, Collin was a Lutheran Minister first and foremost, which is a bit unsettling to Americans who pride themselves on the formation of a government based upon the separation of church and state. Thirdly, due in large part to his pastoral duties and obligations, Collin was a “man of the people.” He was intrinsically bonded to the general populace of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. He cared for the sick, buried the dead, performed baptisms and marriages, and was engaged in the vital civic duties that the general populace depended upon. While Franklin was busy in popularized efforts like negotiating international treaties or inventing musical instruments; Collin was involved in humbler (but no less important) pursuits like consoling prisoners prior to their executions or helping the region survive the scourge of Yellow Fever. Although some of Collin’s contributions would have an impact upon America and the world at large, much of his efforts may have helped solely an individual or a family at a time of critical need.

Like Franklin, Collin’s interests and accomplishments were vast. Theology, mathematics, botany, linguistics, medicine, literature, political science and music were just some of the areas in which he delved. Whereas Franklin might be best known for “discovering electricity” with a kite and key experiment, Collin may best be known for establishing and stabilizing many of the Swedish churches in the Delaware Valley. He not only supervised the construction of Holy Trinity church in Swedesboro, (whose tower carpenter and designer may have also built the tower of Independence Hall ), he also tended to the congregations at Gloria Dei in Wicaco, St. James in Kingsessing, and Christ Church in Upper Merion. At face value, these activities may not have the salacious appeal of “discovering electricity,” but upon deeper examination these efforts were essential to the stabilization of the area that would become the hearth of the American political movement. Collin helped the populace endure great hardship during the long war torn Revolutionary period. Parishioners not only died in battle, but many were imprisoned or executed for offenses like trading with the enemy. His churches were at times

commandeered by both British and Rebel forces. These armies frequently ransacked and looted communities thereby putting its citizens in dire straits. Collin was often the force that salvaged, unified, and saved these communities from further hardships of the war. He was arrested by both the English and the Rebels on the suspicion of being a spy, (although his activities at the time were neutral and apolitical), and was nearly killed on a number of occasions.

Politically, Collin was in a precarious position during the Revolutionary period. He was a conservative Federalist, with good friends and political investment on both sides of the dispute. He was a good friend of Franklin and Jefferson, and empathized with their plight. Alternatively, the Church of Sweden (Lutheran) and the Church of England (Episcopal) had close bonds, and Collin frequently interacted with friends in London. He also was the recipient of injustices inflicted by both the English and Colonial armies. While Franklin joined the abolitionist movement late in life, and Jefferson advocated abolition while still owning hundreds of slaves; Collin was not a slave owner and was always an unwavering abolitionist. He married numerous black couples and welcomed them into his congregations.

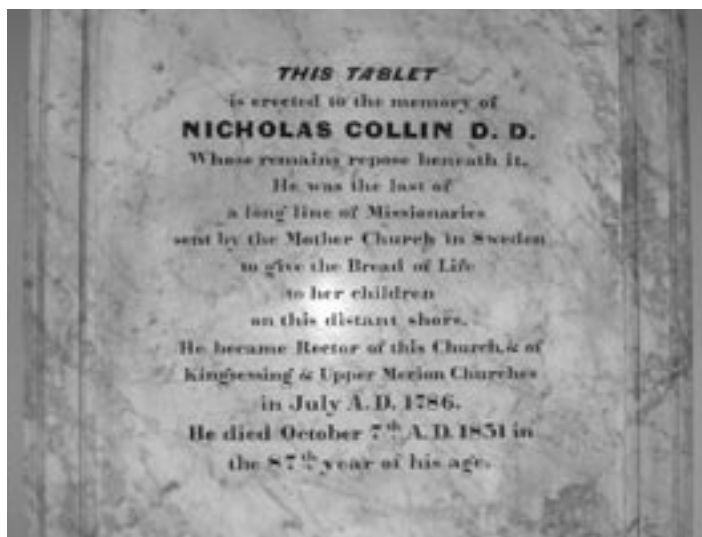


*Collin had a dynamic intellect that also delved in invention. Above is a diagram of his “speedy elevator.” This invention provided for a fast approach to heights with a “speedy ascent and descent.” It was portable, folded easily, and could be used for purposes such as an upper story fire escape or surveying enemy positions in battle.*

This author believes that Collin also had a very influential role during the activities of the Continental Congress in 1787 while the Constitution was being ratified in Philadelphia. At this time many of the original thirteen colonies were wary of ceding power to a centralized Federal authority. The Puritans of Massachusetts, for example, had many dissimilarities with the plantation owners in Virginia, and unifying under a single Federal power was certainly not a given inevitability at that juncture. Collin felt compelled to help this new nation unite and wrote a series of articles in favor of the Constitution that appeared in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. The treatise was called, “*An Essay on the Means of Promoting Federal Sentiment in the United States, by a Foreign Spectator.*” The various installments were printed boldly on the front page of every issue in which they appeared. The articles contained arguments that were passionate, patriotic, and this author believes very influential to the Congressional delegates who read the daily newspaper.

Although Collin was an active member of the Anti-Slavery Society, the Society for the Amelioration of Prisoners, the Society for the Promotion of Manufacture and Commerce, the Society for Political Inquiries, and many others, he is most well known as a prominent member of the American Philosophical Society. Ben Franklin was its founding President, and remained in that capacity until his death in 1790. Collin served as a Council Member, Secretary and Vice-President to the Society, and contributed greatly to its knowledge base. Other Society members included Thomas Jefferson, Dr. Benjamin Rush, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton.

When Colonial American heroes are cited, names like Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Paine and Adams are typically mentioned. But if a Colonial American hero is defined as a leader of people who repeatedly risked his own life and welfare so the current and future American populace could enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness under the premise of political and religious freedom and tolerance, then Nicholas Collin must also be categorized as such.



*The burial plaque of Reverend Nicholas Collin in Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia. Collin was the last Swedish pastor assigned by the Church of Sweden to serve congregations in the colony once known as New Sweden.*

## EXHIBITS

# Becoming Americans: Swedes at the Time of Franklin

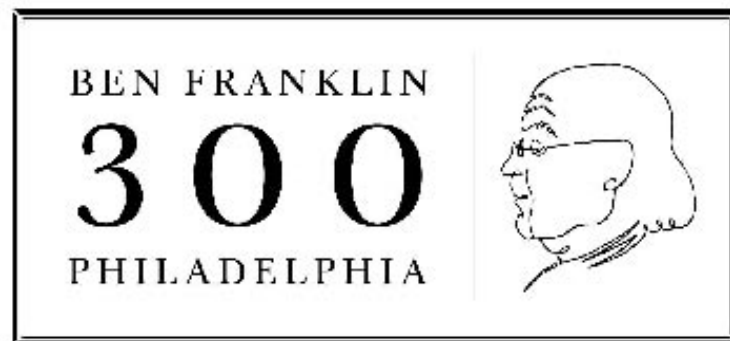


*John Morton (1724-1777), the great-grandson of New Sweden colonist Mårten Mårtensson, was the delegate from the Pennsylvania Assembly who cast the deciding vote in favor of independence from the British in 1776.*

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was a leader. He helped define the new American nation, even as he gathered his ideas from the cultural landscape that surrounded him, a landscape characterized by fruitful farms, prosperous businesses, and a variety of inquisitive peoples with a broad range of ethnic and religious backgrounds. The Swedish settlers of the region contributed to and benefited from this stimulating mix. Their experience was the emerging American experience, and how they survived the many social, political, and religious changes of the eighteenth century continues to provide lessons for all who choose to become Americans.

Swedish colonists in the New World were confounded by foreigners – first Dutch and then English. Yet, this small group stayed with their land and their churches, holding on to traditions, but embracing the changing scene. They were not happy with English rule, but were encouraged by the idea of becoming Americans. When revolution gripped the land, Swedes joined their neighbors to help create a new nation.

This exhibition explores the many ways that Swedish settlers in the Delaware Valley adapted to their new environment, the rapidly changing governments, and the evolving social expectations of the new American society taking shape around them. “*Becoming American: Swedes at the Time of Franklin*” will be on exhibit at the American Swedish Historical Museum from March 10th through August 27th, 2006.





## The Arrival of the *Mercurius* and the Creation of the Upland Court

The year 2006 marks two important 350th anniversaries relating to the colonial Swedes on the Delaware – the arrival of the last authorized voyage of the New Sweden Company, the *Mercurius*, and the creation of the Upland Court, which was to serve the Swedes and Finns for the next quarter century.

Spurred by a report from Governor Risingh that the ship *Golden Shark* had not reached its New Sweden destination, the Swedish government wasted no time to outfit a new voyage to its American colony. The ship *Mercurius* was purchased at Zaardam in the Netherlands, completely rebuilt and then sent to Göteborg, loaded with cargo for the new world. After the arrival of the *Mercurius* in Göteborg in July 1655, it was prepared for a trans-Atlantic voyage and new colonists were recruited.

No accurate passenger list survives for the *Mercurius*. Martin Thijsen Anckarhjelm in Göteborg, who was in charge of preparing the *Mercurius* for departure, kept a registry of Finnish emigrants who had enrolled to go to New Sweden. His list reached 110 persons by 17 October 1655, but he was soon ordered to limit the number of new colonists to 85. An on-board count by Hendrick Huygen showed a total of 92 Finns (33 men, young and old, 16 women, 11 maidens and 32 children under 12) plus 9 officers and old servants, 2 Swedish women and 2 Swedish maidens, a total of 105 passengers. Including the crew there were 130 souls on board. According to Papegoja, a hundred or more persons were left behind, who had sold all of their possessions, hoping to travel to New Sweden.

The *Mercurius* departed Göteborg and drifted to Älvsborg by 10 November. Here the ship waited fifteen days for favorable winds and headed out to sea on 25 November. After three and a half months at sea, the *Mercurius* arrived before former Fort Trinity (present New Castle) on 13 March 1656. But, contrary to expectations, a Dutch flag was flying over the fort. Going ashore, Hendrick Huygen, Commissary of the voyage, learned of the surrender of New Sweden to the Dutch the preceding September. The Dutch also renamed the fort as Fort Casimir, its original name when built by the Dutch in 1651.

The local Dutch commander at Fort Casimir, Jean Paul Jacquet, had written to Stuyvesant on 7 March, complaining of the “mutinous” behavior of Sven Skute and Jacob Svensson. Now he hastily wrote to Stuyvesant again, reporting the arrival of the *Mercurius* with 130 souls on board and asking for instructions. His letters, as well as a letter from Papegoja asking for permission to unload passengers and cargo, were carried to New Amsterdam by Isaac Allerton’s trading ketch. The letters arrived on 18 March and led to an emergency meeting of Stuyvesant’s Council, which lasted well past midnight. The Council sent orders that the *Mercurius* should be sent back to Sweden, without leaving any passengers or cargo on the South River. In addition, Sven Skute and Jacob Svensson should be arrested and sent to New Amsterdam.

Traveling overland to New Amsterdam, Hendrick Huygen made a last-ditch effort to change the Council’s mind. Arriving on 1 April 1656, he urged Stuyvesant to allow the colonists to join their countrymen, but the Council was adamant. The ship and all

of its passengers and cargo must leave the South River promptly. Huygen thereupon agreed that he would personally order the *Mercurius* to sail to New Amsterdam with all of its passengers and cargo and gave his personal bond to remain in Manhattan until the ship arrived.

Not consulted in these negotiations were the Swedes and Finns living on the Delaware and their friends, the native Indians. In accordance with Stuyvesant’s order, Papegoja wrote, “we decided to set sail for Manhattan. But as soon as the savages or Indians observed this they collected speedily in great numbers, came down to us and reminded us of the former friendship and love, which they had for us Swedes, above all other nations, and said that they would destroy and exterminate both Swedes and Hollanders, unless we remained with them and traded as in the past. Then all our Swedes, who feared the savages, came to us also and protested strongly against us in writing, . . . saying that we would be the cause of their destruction if we departed.” Papegoja was unable to decide what to do, but, seeing the danger of refusing the Indians’ demands, he ordered the skipper to turn upriver and the passengers were put ashore with their belongings at Tinicum Island.

According to a later report by one of the passengers, Anders Bengtsson, “the Dutch forbade the ship to travel up the river, would have ignominiously sent it back, if the heathens (who loved the Swedes) had not gathered together, went on board, and defiantly brought it up past the fort.”

Reports of “some mishap” between the Dutch and the Swedes or Indians reached New Amsterdam by 18 April 1656 (28 April, new style), when Stuyvesant dispatched soldiers overland to the South River to determine what had happened to the *Mercurius*. Five days later Andreas Hudden returned to Manhattan from Fort Casimir carrying a report from Jacquet regarding the behavior of the Swedes and Indians on the South River, including the fact that the *Mercurius*, contrary to orders, had sailed up above Fort Casimir to Tinicum Island and had landed goods there. The Council absolved the captain and crew of the *Mercurius* from any responsibility for this disobedience, as well as Hendrick Huygen. From the accounts of witnesses, the Council found that the incident was “caused by the obstruction of some Swedes and Finns, joined by some savages, coming on board with Papegoja and remaining on board in a large number until the said ship had passed Fort Casimir,” and that “some of the principal men of the Swedes were at the bottom of it and that also most of the other Swedes, who had taken the oath of loyalty [to Stuyvesant], had been stirred up or misled.” It was decided that Hendrick Huygen and Stuyvesant’s own representatives should promptly go to the South River and negotiate a peaceful settlement.

The settlement agreement is not of record, but it may be inferred from subsequent developments. The *Mercurius* passengers were permitted to remain. Huygen was permitted to trade the ship’s cargoes for a return load of tobacco; the *Mercurius* would have safe passage to return to Sweden. In

addition, the Huygen-Stuyvesant agreement called for a quasi-independent Swedish and Finnish Nation, subject to oversight by the Dutch, having its own court, its own militia and its own churches, with jurisdiction over the area north of the Christina River. On 1 July 1656, Huygen agreed to pay 750 guilders as duty for the cargo on the *Mercurius*, then anchored at New Amsterdam. On 4 August 1656, the officials of the new “Swedish nation” appeared at Fort Casimir to be sworn in. The initial appointments were Gregorius van Dyck as sheriff; Olof Petersson Stille, Mats Hansson (from Borgå, Finland), Peter Larsson Cock and Peter Gunnarsson Rambo as magistrates; Sven Skute as captain of the militia; Anders Larsson Dalbo as lieutenant; and Jacob Svensson as ensign.

Meanwhile, the *Mercurius* was sailing back to Sweden with its cargo of tobacco, arriving in Göteborg on 6 September 1656.

The agreement reached between Hendrick Huygen, representing the Swedish nation, and Peter Stuyvesant would not have been possible without the arrival of the *Mercurius* passengers, which swelled the Swedish and Finnish population to about 400 persons, far outnumbering the Dutch residents of the South River. In his official report to the Dutch West India Company, Stuyvesant explained his actions in these words:

“We have thought the most suitable would be a lenient method of governing them and proceeding with them, to win their hearts and direct their thoughts from a hard and tyrannical form of government and considering this we granted to the Swedish nation, at their request, some officers, that in time of necessity, against the savages and other enemies, in case of defense, they might keep order, but we gave them no written document or commission, much less were any arms distributed among them. If Your Honorable Worships should not consider this advisable, we shall according to your Honorable Worships’ orders correct and abolish it as far as possible agreeable to circumstances and occasion.” Stuyvesant’s superiors found his actions acceptable.

#### **Confirmed Passengers on the *Mercurius* Veterans and Swedes**

1. **Hendrick Huygen**, Commissary for the voyage, was making his third trip to New Sweden. He remained among the Swedes on the Delaware until December 1664, when he returned to his native city, Cleves, in Germany.

2. **Johan Papegoja**, who had returned to Sweden on the *Eagle* in 1654, was also making his third trip to New Sweden. He did not stay. Returning with the *Mercurius* to Manhattan, he had a falling-out with Huygen and left on a Dutch vessel on 13 June 1656, landing in Amsterdam about the first of August. His wife Armegard Printz and children remained at Printzhof, Tinicum Island.

3. **Johan Rising, Jr.**, younger brother of Governor Johan Claesson Risingh, was aboard the *Mercurius*, accompanying some goods consigned to his brother. He resided for a time in Manhattan and returned to Sweden.

4. **Peter Meyer**, who had served as a soldier in New Sweden from 1643 to 1653, accompanied by his new wife, was aboard the *Mercurius* as assistant commissary. He moved to Maryland in 1661 and then returned to Sweden with his family in 1663.

5. **Israel Åkesson Helm**, a soldier, had returned to Sweden on the *Eagle* in 1654. This was his second of three voyages to America. He later became a justice on the Upland Court. He lived the final years of his life on Clonmell Creek in Gloucester County,

where he died in the winter of 1701/2, survived by sons Hermanus and Åkemus and daughters Maria, Helena, Ingeborg and Helena.

6. **Jonas Nilsson**, a soldier, had also returned to Sweden on the *Eagle* in 1654. On his return, he rejoined his wife Gertrude, daughter of Sven Gunnarsson. They made their home in Kingsessing (West Philadelphia), where Jonas died in 1693, survived by six sons who used the patronymic Jonasson (later Jones) – Nils, Måns, Anders, John, Jonas and Jonathan – and four daughters, Judith, Gunilla, Christina and Brigitta.

7. **Pål Jönsson**, a soldier from Jämtland, had returned to Sweden with Governor Printz in 1653. He did not rejoin the Swedish community, but instead obtained employment as a sergeant and gunner in the Dutch service.

8. **Hendrick Olsson**, a Finn, had served as a soldier in New Sweden from 1646 until he returned on the *Eagle* in 1654. He was engaged as an interpreter by Papegoja, who did not understand the Finnish language.

9. **Anders Svensson Bonde**, had served in New Sweden from 1640 until he returned to Sweden on the *Eagle* in 1654. This was his second trip to America. Soon after he returned he married the sister of magistrate Matts Hansson from Borgå. The two families were the first settlers on Minquas Island, near Kingsessing, an island which became known as Boon’s Island after Hansson’s death. Anders Bonde died there in 1696, survived by sons Swan, Peter, Hans, Nils, Olof and Anders Boon and daughters Catharina, Margaret, Brigitta and Ambora.

10. **Peter Andersson**, classified by Anckarhjelm as a tobacco worker, had been in New Sweden from 1640 to 1653. This was also his second trip. He was accompanied by his new bride and later settled in Kingsessing, where he died c. 1678, survived by his widow Gunilla and a son Anders Petersson who took the surname of Longacre.

The above accounts for the “9 officers and old servants” enumerated by Huygen (who apparently did not count himself) and probably the “2 Swedish women.” The “2 Swedish maidens” mentioned by Huygen have not been identified. They may have been servants for the officers on board.

Two other Swedes, not on Anckarhjelm’s list or shown in the accounts of the New Sweden Company, were also on board. (Huygen may have classified them as Finns.)

11. **Jöns Gustafsson**, a watchman, had entered the game preserve at Omberg, where he shot a doe and her fawn. After being arrested and convicted, he was sentenced by the Swedish Privy Council to be transported on the *Mercurius* to New Sweden for punishment. Soon after his arrival, he married a daughter of Knut Mårtensson and shared his father-in-law’s land at Marcus Hook. In 1673 he moved with his family to Raccoon Creek, where he died after 1698, survived by two sons who sometimes used the surname of Quist (twig in Swedish), but later adopted Justison, Justice or Justis as their surname.

12. **Anders Bengtsson** from Hanström farm in Fuxerna Parish, northeast of Göteborg, was born in 1640 and was a lad with some education. In 1668, he married Brita Rambo, daughter of Peter Rambo, and established residence at Moyamensing. From 1681 until 1703, he served as a justice on the Philadelphia County court. He also was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1683, 1686 and 1698, and served as lay reader and church warden for the Swedes’ church at Wicaco. He suffered an accidental death, drowning in the Delaware River, and was buried 14 September

1705. He was survived by seven sons (Bengt, Anders, Peter, John, Jacob, Daniel and John Bengtson) and two daughters (Catharine and Brigitta). Male descendants used the surname of Bankson or Bankston.

#### **Confirmed Passengers on the *Mercurius* - Finns**

Anckarhjelm's list included a group of forty Finns from Fryksdalen, the valley of the Fryken lakes in Värmland, Sweden. Those persons on his list who were later found in Delaware Valley records are set forth below in the same order as their names appeared on the list.

13. **Johan Grelsson**, who left Göteborg with his wife and three children, settled in Ammansland (later part of Ridley Township, Pennsylvania) with two other Finnish families, that of Mårten Mårtensson and Matthias Mattsson by 1663. The Dutch scribe on the Upland Court called him Jan Cornelissen and the English usually called him John Cornelius. He died at Ammansland c. 1684, after which his widow Helena married the widower Mårten Mårtensson. Johan Grelsson and Helena had four known children—Anders Johansson Grelsson alias Mink, who died without issue; Arian Johansson, who ultimately became known as John Archer and left many descendants; Eric, who was insane; and Anna, who married Johan van Culen.

14. **Mårten Pålsson** was accompanied by his wife when he left Sweden. In 1663 he was a resident of Calcon Hook (later known as Lower Darby Township) when the Dutch granted a patent for that land to Moorty Paulson and his three associates, Eric Mickelsson, Hendrick Jacobsson and Anders Jönsson from Salungen. He died before 1671. No evidence has been found that he left any children.

15. **Nils Nilsson**, alias Repat, left Sweden with his wife and four children. They settled by 1663 at Verdrietige Hook or Bochten (later part of Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County), which was patented to Nils Nilsson, his three sons (Matthias, Hendrick and Nils Nilsson) and his son-in-law Johan Hendricksson. Nils Nilsson, the father, died c. 1670.

16. **Matthias Mattsson** sailed from Göteborg with his wife and one child. By 1663 he was residing at Ammansland with Johan Grelsson (#13) and Mårten Mårtensson. In 1671, his family moved to Boughttown in Penn's Neck, where Matthias died by 1678, survived by his wife Catharine and six daughters—Anna, Margaret, Elisabeth, Walborg, Brita and Ingeborg.

17. **Olof Olofsson**, later sometimes known as Olof Olofsson Kucko, came as a servant. By 1678 he was married to Walborg, daughter of Matthias Mattsson (#16). Later, in 1683, his wife was identified as Catharine. Olof moved his residence quite frequently, residing at various times at Calcon Hook, Bochten, Pennypack Creek, and finally Penn's Neck, where he died by 1697. He had several children.

18. **Marcus Sigfridsson**, a servant in 1656, soon left the Delaware Valley in favor of establishing a farm on the north side of the Sassafras River in present Cecil County, Maryland. That province granted him head rights for 50 acres on 14 July 1658. The tract, called "Marksfield," was surveyed for him on 3 August 1658 as 100 acres. He married Anna, daughter of Peter Jacobsson. Maryland granted denization to Marcus Sipherson, described as Swedish, in 1661, and he was naturalized in 1674 as Marcus Siferson. He died in Cecil County by 1677, survived by his widow Anna (who remarried Henry Rigg, English) and three sons (Thomas, Peter and Marcus), who were known by the surname of Severson.

19. **Jöran Jöransson**, a servant in 1656, remained in the Delaware Valley. On 12 June 1657, the Dutch approved the appointment of Jurgen the Finn as court messenger for the Upland court. In 1658 Jöran Jöransson was actively employed cutting wood for export by the Dutch. In 1669, when finally issued a patent, he shared 200 acres on the south side of the Christina River at Long Hook with Olof Clementsson (#22). Jöran Jöransson adopted the surname Båtsman [sailor], which was usually Anglicized to Boatsman. He died at Long Hook in 1690, survived by his widow Brita, two sons (Jöran and Hendrick) and at least two daughters (Anna and Elisabeth).

20. **Hendrick Jacobsson**, accompanied by four almost grown-up sons, was also on the *Mercurius* passenger list. No confirmation has been found of his arrival. However, it is probable that two of his sons were Peter Hendricksson and Bårtil Hendricksson, both of whom used the alias of Parker: **Peter Hendricksson** alias Parker first shared a tract of land at Swanwyck with Anders Mattsson and Måns Pålsson. This land was sold in 1666 after Peter had moved to Crane Hook. By 1675 he had moved with his wife Christina to Skilpot Kill. He died there in 1684, survived by eight children, including sons Hendrick Petersson Parker and Matthias Parker. His widow married Conrad Constantine, son of Constantine Gröenberg. **Bårtil Hendricksson** alias Parker moved by 1661 to the Sassafras River in Cecil County, Maryland, where he patented a tract called "None So Good in Finland." He married, by 1664, Margaret, the daughter of Pål Jönsson Mullica. On 4 March 1668/9, Bårtil sold his Cecil County land and joined his brother Peter at Crane Hook. As Bartle Parker, he was fined 100 guilders in the Long Finn Rebellion of 1669. He returned to Cecil County in 1674, acquiring the tract "Indian Range," where he died in September 1682, survived by his wife Margaret and sons Matthias, Hendrick and Bartholomew Hendrickson.

21. **Eric Mattsson**, a servant in 1656, first resided on a branch of Skilpot Creek, which became known as Matson's Run. He moved to Crane Hook in 1663 and remained there until his death after 1671. His widow Anna later married Hendrick Lemmens. Eric was survived by two sons, Matthias Ericksson and Eric Ericksson, both of whom sometimes used the surname of Hammalin.

22. **Olof Clementsson**, a servant in 1656, became a shoemaker and in 1669 was sharing a tract of land at Long Hook with Jöran Jöransson Båtsman (#19). In 1677 he was living with his brother Jacob Clementsson at Verdrietige Hook. Olof Clementsson was still living on 21 February 1682/3, when naturalized by William Penn, but his name disappears from records thereafter. He had no known children.

Anckarhjelm's list also included fifty-five Finns from an area he described as Letstigen, the road from Örebro in Närke to Kristinehamn in Värmland. Confirmation is found that the following were on board the *Mercurius*.

23. **Thomas Jacobsson** left Sweden with his wife, three children and a maid. By 1668 he had settled at Bread and Cheese Island on the north side of Christina River with the sons of Pål Persson (#24). Thomas died there about 1679, survived by four sons—Olle, Peter and Christiern Thomasson plus his eldest son (Jacob) who was kidnapped by Indians as a child and later became an Indian chief.

24. **Pål Persson** was accompanied on the *Mercurius* by his wife, three children and a maid. In 1663 he testified before the Upland Court. He was dead, however, by 1668, when his eldest





Many Finns aboard the *Mercurius* came from the Fryksdal and Letstigen regions in Värmland.

son (Olof Pålsson) and Thomas Jacobsson (#23) were designated as the first owners of Bread and Cheese Island. Pål Persson was also survived by sons Gustaf, Benkt and Peter Pålsson.

25. **Olof Philipsson** was listed as a passenger on the *Mercurius* with his wife and three children. Neither Olof Philipsson nor his wife have been found in subsequent records. However, a 1677 lawsuit and a 1681 passport identify his three children as the son Nils Olsson, who died unmarried before 1677, and two daughters, Ingeris (who married Eric Pålsson Mullica) and Elisabeth (who married Eric Petersson Cock).

26. **Olof Nilsson** left Sweden with his wife only. In America he adopted the surname Gästenberg. When issued a patent by the Dutch in 1662, he was a resident of Marcus Hook. In 1675 he moved with his family to Tacony. He died there in 1692, survived by two sons (Nils and Eric) and three daughters (Christina, Maria and Brita). His widow Cecelia, born in Örebro, Sweden, was buried in 1703.

27. **Jöns Jönsson** left Sweden with his wife and six children. In the winter and spring of 1658, Jöns Jönsson was among those paid for cutting and loading wood for export by the Dutch. He appears to have been the father of three Jönsson brothers of West New Jersey who later were known by the surname of Halton—Olle, Peter and Måns Halton.

28. **Carl Jönsson** left Sweden with his wife, three children and a maid. He made his residence at Marcus Hook, where he lived from 1663 to at least 1683. The last discovered record of him was on 1 February 1694/5 when he witnessed the will of Timen Stiddem. His children included Christina Carlsdotter, who married Johan Andersson Stalcop.

#### Other Finns on the *Mercurius*

The following persons, not appearing on Anckarhjelm's list, were probably also aboard the *Mercurius*. Each was present on the Delaware before 1663, and none of them were known to be present before the fall of New Sweden in 1655.

29. **Sinnick Broer**, with his wife, two sons (Broer and Anders Sinnicksson) and at least one daughter appear to be among the unnamed 1656 arrivals. In the 1693 church census, his sons Broer and Anders Sinnicksson were listed as born in Sweden, but his youngest son, Johan Sinnicksson (aged sixteen by 1677) was not. Sinnick was residing at Deer Point on 1 September 1669, when a patent was issued for this tract to Anders Andersson the Finn, Sinnick Broer and Walraven Jansen de Vos. Another patent was issued to Sinnick Broer on 1 May 1671 for 200 acres at Appoquinimink Creek, purchased from Daniel Andersson (#30), who owned the land under a Dutch patent. Sinnick Broer apparently died before any move was made. On 12 October 1672, his adult heirs (Broer and Anders Sinnicksson and Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg, who had married his daughter) sold the land. Broer Sinnicksson remained at Deer Point. His brothers Anders and Johan Sinnicksson later moved to Salem County, New Jersey.

30. **Broer Sinnicksson** from Lekvattnet farm, Fryksdal parish, secured a Dutch patent on 200 acres on Appoquinimink Creek, which he sold to Broer Sinnicksson (#29) by 1671. He apparently died soon thereafter. His widow Annika Hendricksdotter and her son Hendrick Danielsson, born in America, moved to Penn's Neck in Salem County by 1679.

31. **Hans Olofsson** was from Stockholm, according to a letter from Jacob Alrichs, the Dutch governor of New Amstel, to Maryland authorities. In this letter, Alrichs complained that Hans "Roelofsson," a soldier, and others had deserted to Maryland. Alrichs asked that they be captured and returned. Although Maryland had granted Hans Olofsson head rights, it apparently honored Alrichs's request, as the soldier Hans Olofsson was back on the New Amstel payroll on 20 January 1660. In 1663, Hans Olleson was recognized by the Dutch as one of the owners of land at Marcus Hook. In 1681 he acquired land at the Bought, but, with his wife Helena, sold this land in 1682 and moved to Oldmans Creek in Gloucester County, New Jersey. Hans and his sons William and Charles Oulson sold this land in 1702. His descendants in New Jersey became known by the surname of Woolson.

32. **Hendrick Evertsson**, a young lad, and his mother, wife of Evert Hendricksson (who already was in the colony), were probably on this voyage. As the father had remarried in America, the arrival of his son and his first wife presented a problem. This was resolved by obtaining approval from the Dutch authorities for having two wives, an arrangement that was also later approved by the English. In 1683, Hendrick Evertsson acquired his father's land at Crane Hook. He moved about 1700 to St. Georges Creek in New Castle County, where he died by 1714, survived by his wife Elisabeth (daughter of Matthias Mattsson, #16), sons Evert, John and William Evertson, and daughters Walborg (Barbara), Catharina and Elisabeth.

33. **Eskil Andersson**, born in Sweden, was employed by the Dutch in assembling wood for export in 1658. As Eskil the Finn, he was one of the residents of Crane Hook in 1671 and was still residing at Crane Hook as late as 1683. He apparently never married and died after 1693.

34. **Olle Larsson** was employed by the Dutch in securing wood for export in 1658. No later reference to him has been found.

35. **Måns Larsson** had commercial dealings with the Dutch on 9 December 1658. No later reference to him has been found.

36. **Anders Hoffman** was one of the Swedish workers cutting wood for export in the winter and spring of 1658. No later reference to him has been found.

## Rambo Apple Tree Sent to Sweden as Living Memorial Honoring Swedish American Immigration

A variety of apple tree grown from Swedish seeds brought to America in 1640 by New Sweden colonist Peter Gunnarson Rambo, and extinct in Sweden for nearly 300 years, has been sent to Sweden as a living memorial honoring all Swedish American Immigration. The project is being undertaken with the support of the King of Sweden and several cultural, education and historic institutions as part of celebrations being planned for 2008, the next Swedish-American Jubilee year.

The original specimen became extinct in Sweden because of a severe winter in 1709-10. Its "offspring" will return to Sweden as a gift in the name of friendship from Swedish-America and to encourage academic research and scholarly discussion in Sweden and America.

The various organizations are expected to sponsor plantings of Rambo apple trees at important cultural and historic locations when the Swedish American Friendship Delegation visits Sweden in 2008," according to Chairman Herbert R. Rambo. Plantings are also planned for locations in America. "This living memorial to our ancestors symbolizes the millions of Swedish Americans who crossed the Atlantic for a new life in America, bringing with them reminders of what had been left behind," Rambo noted.

The Ramboäpplena Project is working in cooperation with the Swedish Project "Linnaean Landscapes", Swedish Agricultural University, the Nordic Museum, the American Swedish Historical Museum and is supported by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden through the King Gustaf VI Adolf Fund for Swedish Culture. Plantings are planned for sites identified with Carl Linnaeus, whose system for classifying nature is still in use.

The Rambo trees will also be planted at cultural and historic locations in Sweden, including Stockholm, Uppsala, Kalmar, Gothenburg and at the Emigrant Registry in Värmland. "This is a unique opportunity to introduce a historic variety to Sweden and it has created public interest in both Sweden and the United States. In addition to its merits on that basis, the Rambo Apple Project is a wonderful opportunity for increased awareness of Swedish culture and to promote friendship between nations," according to the Committee's American Coordinator James D. Seagers, II.

The Rambo tree scions sent to Sweden were provided courtesy of the United States Department of Agriculture's Plant Genetic Resources Unit at Cornell University, Geneva, NY through the efforts of Professor Phillip L. Forsline.

Because of European Union requirements, the Rambo trees are in quarantine at ScanGene AB in Alnarp, north of Malmö, for testing and if necessary treatment for any diseases before being released to other locations. The King of Sweden's contribution will defray those expenses.

The King Gustaf VI Adolf Fund for Swedish Culture was established in 1962 when the people of Sweden collected money to present The King with a cash gift on the occasion his 80th birthday. The King contributed to the amount and the fund was created for future monarchs to support Swedish culture. King Gustaf VI Adolf was well known for his interest in history and he participated in archaeological expeditions in Sweden, Greece, and China, and founded the Swedish Institute in Rome. An avid gardener and botanist, his work in that field gained him admission to the British Royal Academy. His grandson, H. M. King Carl XVI Gustaf



Technician at the United States Dept. Of Agricultural Gene Bank at Cornell University, Geneva, NY harvests Rambo scions for shipment to Sweden (USDA Photo)

succeeded him to the throne in 1973.

At the request of the Johnny Appleseed Society at Urbana University in Ohio, Rambo began researching the Swedish heritage of the apple and contacted Hans Ling of Uppsala, Sweden, author of "The Faces of New Sweden." Ling learned from the Sveriges Pomologiska Sällskap that most old varieties are extinct in Sweden because of a severe winter in 1709-1710. Ling has since become the Project Coordinator in Sweden.

Twenty-eight year old Peter Gunnarson Rambo (1611-1698) arrived as a laborer for the New Sweden Company at Sweden's Colony on the Delaware River, which during its brief existence encompassed Delaware, Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. As a freeman Rambo began a rise to prominence as a member of colony Governor Johan Rising's Council and he went on to serve 27 years in important positions during Swedish, Dutch and English governments. The distinctive Rambo surname is derived from Ramberget a small mountain overlooking Gothenburg harbor, the historic Swedish gateway to America.

Noted naturalist Per Kalm, a student of Linnaeus, tells the origin of the Rambo Apple in his diary from his stay in America and in a supplement to his book "Travels in North America 1747-1751." Apple varieties of that age are very rare in the world and the Rambo apple is of special interest because it has origin in Sweden and is so closely connected both to Swedish and American history.

Through contacts with scientist Dr. Mariette Manktelow at Uppsala University, who is an expert on Linnaeus and his students, it became known that Kalm spent his student years at a farm named Funbo-Lövsta neighboring Linnaeus' homestead Hammarby. The Rambo apple will be planted at Funbo-Lövsta to strengthen this Swedish-American Linnaean connection.

The Rambo is the first apple of the season and was once widely grown. It is an excellent apple for cooking and making cider. More recently, the Rambo apple entered pop culture as the source of the hero's name in the "RAMBO" book and movie series starring Sylvester Stallone. The author David Morrell wanted a "strong sounding name" and selected "John Rambo," after his wife brought home a bag of Rambo apples.

Herbert Rambo's success in fostering Swedish-American friendship was officially recognized in 2002 when H.M. King Carl XVI Gustav awarded him knighthood in Sweden's prestigious Order of the Polar Star. Rambo is a member of the Swedish Council of America's Board of Director's and previously served as Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society. He is also a member of the New Sweden Centre's Board of Directors.

American Coordinator James D. Seagers, II and Swedish Coordinator Hans Ling lead the Rambo Apple Friendship Project. Americans on Committee are Loren W. Anderson, Professor Robert M. Crassweller, Dr. John Gardner, Willow Hagans, Jeanne Eriksson Widman, Aleasa J. Hogate, Doriney Seagers, Earl E. Seppala, J. H. T. Rambo, M.D., Sandra S. Pfaff and Dr. Kim-Eric Williams. In Sweden the committee includes Gunilla Åhman, Professor Stellan Dahlgren, Erik Gustavson, Professor Hans Norman, and Dr. Mariette Manktelow.

#### FOR INFORMATION

USA-HERBERT RAMBO [HerbertRambo@Comcast.net](mailto:HerbertRambo@Comcast.net)

Tel (856) 768-5325

SWEDEN-HANS LING [lidman.ling@privat.utfors.se](mailto:lidman.ling@privat.utfors.se)

Tel 018-13 80 87.

## Items of Interest.....

- The ever growing archives of the Swedish Colonial Society has been moved to the new state-of-the-art archival facility at the Brossman Center at the Lutheran Seminary in Mt. Airy. This facility is ideal in terms of archival functionality as well as being the repository for archived Lutheran church records in the region that once was the New Sweden Colony. Our founding Secretary, and well known New Sweden historian Amandus Johnson, would be pleased to know that our records have found a safe, permanent, and accessible home. It is a perfect fit!
- Audio and video footage of the 1938 Swedish-American Tercentenary has been restored to a DVD format. This was the largest Swedish American heritage celebration to date, and included stops in Wilmington, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., New York City, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis and other locations. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please contact our webmaster at our web site.
- The first two volumes of the Gloria Dei Church records will be published in 2006. This will be an important historical record pertaining to Colonial America and a "must have" for all those interested in the New Sweden colony. These volumes will first be made available to the public at our annual New Sweden History Conference, held at Gloria Dei Church on October 14, 2006.
- Our friends at the New Netherland Institute will be sponsoring a conference titled, "From *De Halve Maen* to KLM: 100 Years of Dutch American Exchange" in Albany, NY from June 8-10. Artifacts from the New Netherland Colony will be on display and David Emmi will speak on "The New Sweden Nation Under Dutch Rule".



Photo: Gene McCoy

*Our Annual Forefathers Day Luncheon on April 2, 2006 at the Overbrook Country Club featured a recognition of Governors. (LtoR): Ronald A. Hendrickson, Esq., Herbert R. Rambo, Wallace F. Richter, Dr. Eric G.W. Törnqvist, Dr. Kim-Eric Williams and John C. Cameron, Esq.*



# Membership

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## NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

Active members of the Swedish Colonial Society may apply for recognition as "Forefather Members" if they can prove descent from Swedish colonists arriving in the United States prior to the Treaty of Paris, marking the close of the Revolutionary War, in 1783. Application forms may be obtained from the SCS website [www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org) or from Dr. Peter S. Craig, 3406 Macomb Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016

**Lewis Stetson Allen**, Prides Crossing, MA, descended from Peter Gunnarsson Rambo through his son, Gunnar Rambo, and his daughter, Brita Rambo, who married Matthia Holstein, Jr., of Upper Merion Township, Philadelphia (now Montgomery) County.

**Alexander G. Carson**, Newark, DE, descended from Peter Gunnarsson Rambo through his son, John Rambo, and the latter's son, Peter Rambo, of Gloucester County, New Jersey.

**James Edwards Garrett, Jr.**, Pegram, TN, descended from Måns Svensson Lom, through his daughter, Christina, who married Mårten Gerritsen, and their son, Garret Garretson, of Blockley Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

**Robert M. George**, Willow Grove, PA, descended from Sven Gunnarsson, through his daughter, Gertrude Svensdotter, who married Jonas Nilsson and their daughter, Christina Jonasdatter, who married Niclas Lindemeyer.

**Jan LeMoyne Hedges**, Castle Rock, WA, descended from Olof Stille through his son, Anders Stille, and his son, Jacob Stille, of New Castle County, Delaware.

**Florence Oletta Hodge**, Sherman, TX, descended from Timen Stiddem, through his son, Adam Stedham, and his son, Christopher Stedham, of York County, Pennsylvania.

**Joann Klontz**, Swedesboro, NJ, descended from Hans Månsson through his son, James Hansson Steelman, and the latter's son, Andrew Steelman, of Great Egg Harbor.

**Nicki F. Haas-Kovalcik**, Penn, PA, descended from Anders Jöransson through, his son, Eric Andersson, and the latter's son, Peter Anderson, of Orange County, Virginia.

**Keli A. Kovalcik-Spiegel**, Jeannette, PA, descended from Anders Jöransson through his son, Eric Andersson, and the latter's son, Peter Anderson, of Orange County, Virginia.

**Barbara Locke Powers**, Conowingo, MD, descended from Pastor Lars Carlsson Lock through his son, Peter Lock, and the Latter's son, Peter Lock, of Gloucester County, New Jersey.

**Kirsten A. Seagers**, West Chester, PA, descended from Sven Gunnarsson through his daughter, Gertrude, who married, Jonas Nilsson, and their son, Måns Jonasson, alias Mounce Jones, of Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**Shelly L. Seagers**, West Chester, PA, descended from Sven Gunnarsson, through his daughter, Gertrude, who married, Jonas Nilsson, and their son, Måns Jonasson, alias Mounce Jones, of Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**Peggy Carney Troxel**, Hillsborough, NC descended from Anders Bengtsson through his son, Andrew Bankson, and his son, Lawrence Bankston, of Orange County, North Carolina.

**J. Marc Wheat**, Arlington, VA, descended from Peter Nilsson Lykins, through his son, Anders Lykins, and the latter's daughter, Susannah, who married Benjamin Boone of Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**Laura Elizabeth Wheat**, Arlington, VA, descended from Peter Nilsson Lykins, through his son, Anders Lykins, and the latter's daughter, Susannah, who married Benjamin Boone of Berks County, Pennsylvania.

## New Members Welcomed

The Swedish Colonial Society welcomes new members. No Swedish relative or ancestry is required - only an interest in colonial history. Contact our Registrar: Doriney Seagers, 371 Devon Way, West Chester, PA 19380 or visit us online at: [www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org). The annual membership for an individual is \$30. An annual family membership, which includes two adults and minor children, is \$35. Lifetime membership is available for \$400.

## Members on the Move

- Honorary Governor **Ronald A. Hendrickson** and Council Member **Sandra S. Pfaff** have been recipients of the prestigious *Order of the Polar Star*. This honor is in recognition of their outstanding continued support of Swedish American heritage and was bestowed upon them by *His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden*.
- Council Member **Earl E. Seppälä** was awarded the Chairman's Award by the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation of Wilmington, Delaware. A special plaque was presented to Earl which will be mounted upon the Kalmar Nyckel ensuring Earl's aura presence on each voyage. Earl and his wife Sylvia are longtime volunteers and crew members of the ship.
- Governor **Kim-Eric Williams** was awarded The Biglerville Prize in Church History for his novel "The Journey of Justice Falckner".
- Reverend **D. Joy Segal** was appointed the new Pastor of Gloria Dei Church, the oldest church in Pennsylvania. Välkommen.
- **Ken** and **Barb Peterson** welcomed our own "Queen Christina" to the New Sweden Colony on February 10, 2006. Christina Alexandra Peterson is a descendant of Måns Petersson Stake. Father, mother and daughter are all doing well and New Sweden ancestry is assured for another generation.



Christina Alexandra Peterson



Earl E. Seppälä

## Membership Benefits

The Swedish Colonial Society is an educational non-profit organization. In addition to our biannual *Swedish Colonial News*, membership dues help to support our web site, our growing archival collection, our annual *New Sweden History Conference* and a number of special publication and social activities related to Swedish immigrant history. Members are also offered discounts on Swedish Colonial Society publications and are invited to functions such as our annual Forefather's Luncheon. We invite you to become a part of our growing society and are appreciative of your support.

### High Patron

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King of Sweden

### Deputy High Patron

Her Royal Highness  
Crown Princess Victoria

### Patron

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Ambassador of Sweden

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# Upcoming Events

- May 18** Thursday, American Swedish Historical Museum First Annual Golf Classic, Roosevelt Golf Club, FDR Park. Information 215-389-1776.
- June 11** Commemoration of Finnish Pioneers. Chester Finns Monument and New Sweden Heritage Monument in Pennsville, NJ; followed by dinner at Riverview Inn.
- June 24** Saturday, Midsommer at the American Swedish Historical Museum. Information 215-389-1776
- Sept. 14-17** Augustana Heritage Conference at Lake Chautauqua Institution, NY. Governor Williams leads talks on New Sweden and presentation on Uppsala College. Info call AHA 1-800-638-1116 ext. 712
- Sept. 23-24** Mouns Jones County Fair, Old Morlatton Village, Douglasville, PA. Info call 610-385-4762
- October 14** Saturday, Sixth Annual *New Sweden History Conference*. Gloria Dei Church. Info 215-389-1513
- October 22** Dedication of the House of Sweden, Washington, DC. info@houseofsweden.com
- 

*mark your calendars for the...*

## **Sixth Annual New Sweden History Conference**

Saturday October 14, 2006

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

Christopher Columbus Blvd. & Christian Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147

*This year's conference examines Swedish Colonial Church Records  
and will feature...*

Lectures from Colonial History Scholars

First two volumes of Swedish Colonial Church Records

The Swedish Museum Singers performing  
the first American published Church Hymns within the oldest  
Church in Pennsylvania; Gloria Dei



## **Swedish Colonial News**

The Swedish Colonial Society  
916 South Swanson Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147-4332  
www.ColonialSwedes.org

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David Emmi

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