



# Swedish Colonial News

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Fall 2002

Preserving the legacy of the New Sweden Colony in America

300 YEARS AGO

## The Swedish Church at Swedesboro

Palm Sunday (29 March) 1702 proved to be an historic day for the Swedes on the Delaware. In that day, Andreas Sandel was installed as the new minister at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church at Wicaco (Philadelphia) and presented his first sermon in America.

It also, however, marked the day of Lars Tolstadius' first sermon to the Swedes of West Jersey, the beginning of an ecclesiastical battle that culminated later in the year with the estab-

*Dr. Peter S. Craig*

lishment of a third Swedish church, Trinity, on Raccoon Creek in Gloucester County, New Jersey.

Tolstadius had applied in Sweden to the Archbishop and Consistory for permission to come to America to replace Andreas Rudman. Rudman, pastor at Gloria Dei at Wicaco since 1697, had been promised a recall and promotion in Sweden. However, the authorities decided that Tolstadius was not qualified and sent Andreas Sandel instead.

Undaunted, Tolstadius came to America at his own expense. After arriving in Philadelphia in late 1701, he informed Rudman that he had been appointed to succeed him, Sandel having allegedly changed his mind. Rudman was suspicious, but consented and gave the newcomer his salary (£25) for the next six months, pending arrival of the papers confirming Tolstadius' appointment.

Those papers never came. Instead, Andreas Sandel arrived in mid-March 1702, bearing papers that confirmed his appointment as Rudman's successor. Rudman immediately fired Tolstadius who, with support of friends in the Wicaco congregation, moved to live on the north side of Raccoon Creek, where he began preaching to members of the Wicaco congrega-

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# Sinnick Broer the Finn and his Sinex, Sinnickson & Falkenberg Descendants

Among the 92 Finns aboard the *Mercurius* when the ship arrived on the Delaware in March 1656 was the family of Sinnick Broer, a group of five which included his wife, a daughter and two sons, Broer and Anders Sinnicks-son.

Sinnick considered himself lucky. When the ship left Göteborg in November 1655, less than half of the Finns wanting to come to New Sweden could be accommodated. Over half of them who, like Sinnick, had sold all of their possessions and counted on being given space on the *Mercurius*, were left behind.

But, on arrival in the Delaware, a new shock arose. Unknown to anyone on board, from Lieutenant Johan Papegoja and Commissary Hendrick Huygen down to the passengers and crew, New Sweden did not exist any more. The colony had been surrendered to the Dutch the preceding September. Even worse, Jean Paul Jacquet, the Dutch commander at Fort Casimir (New Castle) forbid the ship to dock and unload its cargoes and passengers. Under directions from Governor Peter Stuyvesant, Jacquet was ordered to send the *Mercurius* back to Sweden immediately.

But the impasse was soon broken – by the local Swedish leaders and their Indian friends. Secretly during the night, Indians “in great numbers” boarded the *Mercurius* and defiantly ordered Papegoja to take the ship past the fort to Tinicum Island, where both passengers and cargo were unloaded. The Dutch did not dare to fire upon the ship with so many Indians aboard.

The arrival of 92 Finns and 13 Swedes (several of whom were returning to New Sweden) also tipped the political scales on the Delaware. Huygen traveled to New Amsterdam and negotiated a new agreement with Stuyvesant, which granted the Swedes and Finns living north of the Christina River the right of self-government, including the right to have their own court (the Upland Court), their own militia and their own religion, provided that they remain loyal to New Netherlands.

Sinnick’s name appeared briefly in the

records of Fort Casimir (New Castle) when, on 10 January 1657, he was named as a party to an agreement fixing the prices that would be paid to Indians for beaver and other animal furs. The Dutch scribe entered his name as “Zenok.” Also, under Dutch rule, Sinnick Broer and two partners – Anders Andersson the Finn and Walraven Jansen DeVos (a former Dutch soldier married to Christina Ollesdotter) were granted 450 morgens (900 acres) of land on the north side of Christina River.

After the Dutch surrender to the English in 1664, this tract of land was patented to Sinnick Broer and his partners by Governor Francis Lovelace on 1 September 1669. A month later, Lovelace also issued a patent to Anders the Finn and 19 others living in the neighborhood to construct a mill on this site.

This large tract of land was called “Deer Point” in May 1671 when Walter Wharton made the first English census of the Delaware. Later, after the Dutchman Arnoldus de la Grange bought out the share owned by Anders the Finn, it became known as “Middleburgh.” Still later, it became known as Richardson Park, after the family which succeeded de la Grange. It is now part of Wilmington, Delaware.

During Wharton’s visit to Deer Point in 1671, Sinnick Broer informed Wharton that he also had purchased 100 morgens (200 acres) of land at Appoquinimink Creek (present Odessa, Delaware) from Daniel Andersson. Wharton dutifully made out a patent for Sinnick Broer for this second piece of land. Daniel Andersson, a Finn from Lekvattnet, Fryksände parish, in Värmland, had also been a passenger on the *Mercurius* and had received a Dutch patent for this land in 1663.

It would appear that Sinnick Broer was then planning a move to his new land at Appoquinimink Creek, for he sold his third of Deer Point to Justa Andersson, eldest son of Anders the Finn. However, within a year, Sinnick Broer was dead and the planned move came to naught. On 12 October 1672, Sinnick’s three adult children signed a statement saying, “We the heirs of Seneca Brewer have, for 930 guilders, sold to Justa Anderson his plantation at Appoquinimink.”

### The Falkenberg Line

The first name listed on this sale was written as “Henry Jackson,” a poor translation of Sinnick Broer’s daughter’s husband, who was generally known as Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg. He was a Holsteiner who immi-

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# Rambo and Craig honored by King

King Carl XIV Gustaf of Sweden has honored both **Dr. Peter S. Craig** and **Governor Herbert R. Rambo** with the distinguished Royal Order of the North Star. This award is given only for especially meritorious service and is rare for anyone in the United States.

Governor Rambo's award was presented at the City Hall in Stockholm on 16 June 2002 in connection with an affinity group tour to Sweden this past June. Dr. Craig will receive his award at a ceremony in Washington, DC later this year.

In both cases the exceptional service rendered to the Swedish Colonial Society and to the relationship between Sweden and the United States was evidenced. Governor Rambo has succeeded in extending the membership and visibility of the Society beyond any previous level. Dr. Craig has become the foremost genealogist and historian of the New Sweden Colony on the Delaware.



VINCIGUERRA STUDIO

Herbert R. Rambo  
Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society



BETH LINNERSON DALY

Dr. Peter S. Craig  
Historian of the Swedish Colonial Society



tion living in Gloucester County north of Raccoon Creek. A week later, on Easter Sunday, Tolstadius extended his ministry to Swedes living on Raccoon Creek and southward as far as Upper Penns Neck.

Soon the West Jersey Swedes between Mantua Creek on the north and Upper Penns Neck on the south united to establish their own congregation, inviting Tolstadius to be their minister. For the proposed church, 100 acres was secured for £15 on the south side of Raccoon Creek (at present Swedesboro). The survey, made 28 May 1702 suggests that the log church was then already under construction. Half of the church's 100 acres was provided to Tolstadius for his use.

But the battle for survival of the new church had only begun. The legally-appointed pastors, particularly Erik Björk, pastor of Holy Trinity Church at Christina (Wilmington), protested that it was improper and illegal to start a new church without the approval of the Swedish Lutheran hierarchy in Uppsala.

Björk, claiming support from both Rudman and Sandel, fired frequent letters to Sweden protesting Tolstadius' folly. Previously, the Swedes from Raccoon Creek down to Upper Penns Neck had pledged money to help build Holy Trinity Church and also to help pay his salary. The loss of this money, he claimed, would cripple his ministry and his church.

The adverse effects on Gloria Dei were less evident. The congregation lost eight families to the new church, but one of these (the family of Peter Mattson, then deceased) had provided the wife of Andreas Rudman and would provide the wife of Andreas Sandel. Their opposition was much more muted than that of Björk.

In an effort to secure the approval of the Swedish Archbishop for their new church, its six church wardens (William Slubey, Olof Dalbo, Mikel Laikan, Fredrick Hopman, Olof Petersson and Anders Lock- all of them sons of New Sweden settlers) wrote a letter on 18 June 1702 asking that Tolstadius be confirmed as their minister. He drafted the letter in Swedish himself, to make certain that it was understood in Sweden.

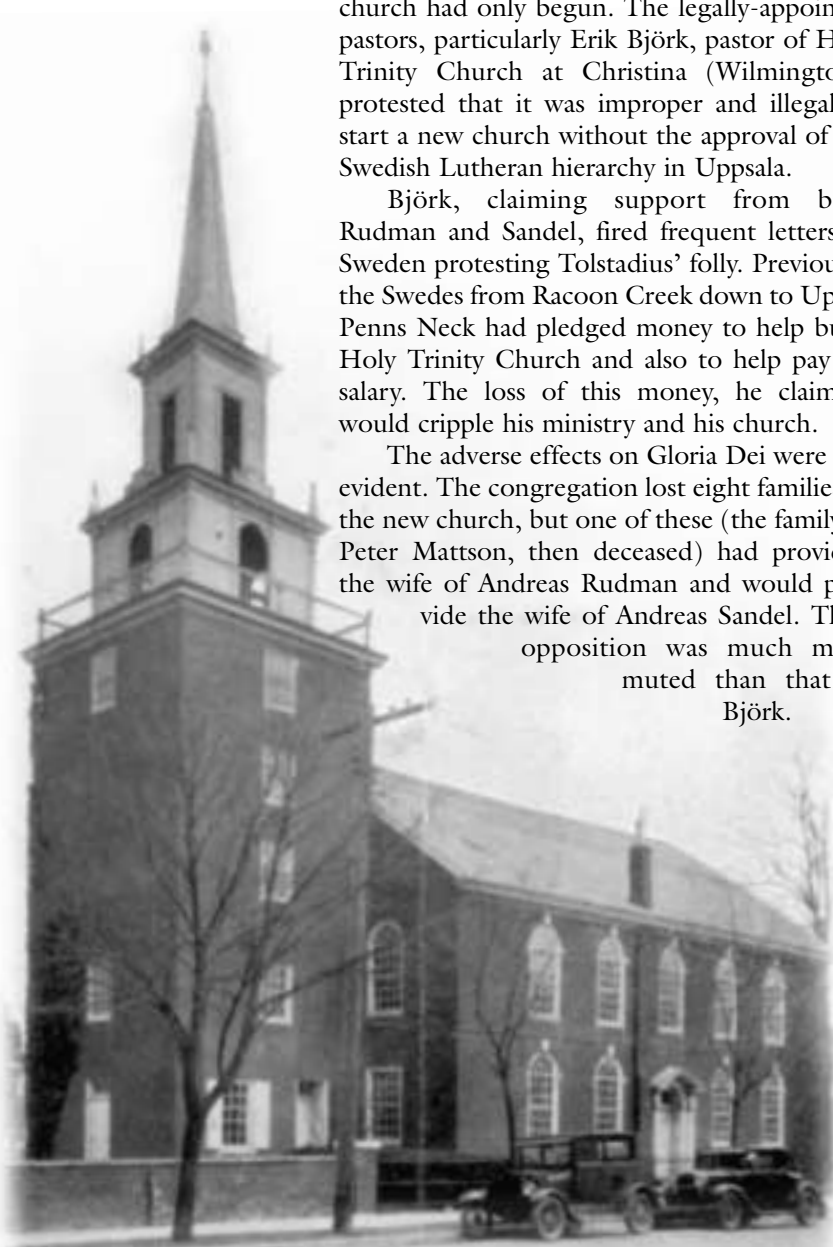
The letter, as translated by Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, emphasized the difficulty of crossing the Delaware River to attend church services at Christina or Wicaco, especially in wintertime and in bad weather. "We must all be aware of the danger to life from the strong storms which arise, and many examples can be cited. Not so long ago, when we carried a corpse to the grave, three persons drowned, and a fourth, still among us, wonders how he was driven to land and was revived."

Approval from Sweden never came while Tolstadius still lived. The Swedish Consistory in Uppsala would not condone his behavior regardless of the sentiments of his congregation. When the new log church was consecrated in 1705, the three officially-designated Swedish ministers on the Delaware refused to attend.

Tolstadius drowned in the Delaware River on 29 May 1706 while crossing the river with a new plow-share he had probably bought in Philadelphia. His empty canoe, carrying only the plow-share and his traveling cloak, was found that day. Nine days later his body washed ashore at Upland. Some assumed it was a suicide. Tolstadius was then under indictment for fathering an illegitimate child by Catharina, a daughter of Raccoon church warden Olof Petersson. Björk, who by then had accepted the loss of his former parishioners in Gloucester County and Upper Penns Neck, asked that God grant that Tolstadius "with a truly penitent sigh be enabled to give up his soul."

Catharina, Olof Petersson's daughter, fared much better. She married Jöns Halton, lived to the age of 84, and was buried at Trinity Church in Swedesboro in January 1766. Among her children was Maria Halton who married Märten Stille. They were great grandparents of Charles Janeway Stille (1819-1899), Provost and history professor at the University of Pennsylvania, whose research in Sweden provided the inspiration for the creation of the Swedish Colonial Society.

Trinity Episcopal (Old Swedes') Church, as it appeared in 1938 in this rare photo by Dr. Amandus Johnson, preparing for the visit of Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, Princess Louise and a delegation from Finland.



DR. AMANDUS JOHNSON

# New Sweden 365th Jubilee Celebration

The 365th anniversary of the founding of New Sweden and the coming of the first Swedes to America will be celebrated April 4th and 5th, 2003, with events in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A very distinguished visitor from Sweden will travel with the Society's Patron, Ambassador Jan Eliasson and Kirsten Eliasson. Details will be announced at a later date.

The two-day celebration will culminate with the Swedish Colonial Society's Colonial Forefather's Luncheon on April 5, 2003. Seating will be limited and members of the Society should respond promptly to the invitation when mailed in early 2003. All interested parties are invited to donate to the request for sponsors, etc., whose names will appear in the Special Commemorative Booklet that will be published.

The Society will establish a contact person to assist in making travel arrangements and hotel accommodations. Several deluxe hotels are located in Philadelphia and Wilmington. For the present, send email inquiries to

*Herbert R. Rambo*

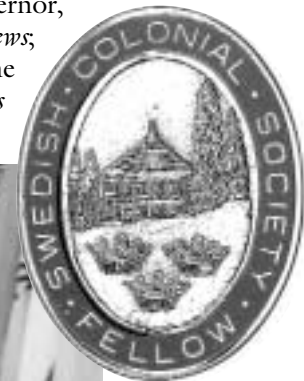
HerbertRambo@ColonialSwedes.org, or call (856) 768-5325.

Members of the Swedish Colonial Society who wish to purchase the Society's membership medal with neck ribbon (\$90) or identification pin (\$40) may do so by contacting Dina Smith of J.E. Caldwell's of Philadelphia at (215) 864-7800.



## Three Named Fellows

At the annual Gloria Dei Anniversary Sunday on May 5, 2002, Governor Rambo presented awards to three new "Fellows of the Swedish Colonial Society." Cited for distinguished service by the Councillors and Officers were: **Ronald A. Hendrickson, Esq.**, Senior Deputy Governor, Webmaster and creator of the Society's web site, and Publisher of the *Swedish Colonial News*; the **Very Rev. David B. Rivers**, Rector of Gloria Dei and Secretary-Treasurer of the Society; and the **Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams**, Translator for the *Gloria Dei Records Project*, Editor of the *Swedish Colonial News*, Archivist and Chaplain.



Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams (left), Ronald A. Hendrickson, Esq., Governor Johan Printz (a.k.a. David E. Lewis) and the Very Rev. David B. Rivers.

JAMES D. SEAGERS

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# Steelman House Site Unearthed

*Kim-Eric Williams*

The ongoing archeological excavations at Elk Landing near Elkton, Maryland have at last discovered the remains of the original log house of John Hanson Steelman.

The site is north of, and adjacent to, the ancient stone house near the water. John Hanson Steelman (1655-1749) was the oldest son of Hans Månsson and Ella Stille. He was



born in Aronamack (West Philadelphia) and by 1693 had moved to “Sahakito” in Cecil County, Maryland. “Sahakito” was located at the “Head of the Elk” on Little Elk River. He was the foremost Indian trader of the day, living at Elk Landing until the 1720’s when he moved west and died at age 94 in Adams County, Pennsylvania, in 1749.

His personal generosity made possible the construction of Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington, 1698-1699, when he provided over one-half of the capital necessary for the construction of the stone edifice on the Christina River.

In addition to the many Native American implements that archeologists discovered, a framed watercolor signed by “Evans” turned up from 1905 showing the log house attached to the stone house. A survey in 1917 also mentions the log house.

The Historic Elk Landing Foundation was created in 1998 by the town of Elkton which purchased the site. It includes both the old stone house and the larger 19th century Hollingsworth mansion. The site is also well known as the place of a heroic defeat of British invaders on April 29, 1813.

## Forefathers Project

*Kim-Eric Williams*

In the original documents organizing the Swedish Colonial Society there is no mention of “Forefather Members,” although many of the founders had ancestors from the New Sweden Colony. Unlike the “Welcome Society” which only accepts members who have ancestors who came on William Penn’s ship “Welcome,” the Swedish Colonial Society wanted to include anyone with an interest in New Sweden. In the long run this has been fortunate since many leaders in the Society have not had colonial Swedish ancestors.

The real impetus for the Forefather program seems to be related to the two major anniversaries in the 20th century, the 300th (in 1938) and the 350th (in 1988).

On April 8, 1938 the first Forefathers Day was celebrated in Philadelphia. In 1939, **Mr. Charles Hand** of Wynnewood, PA, was appointed and paid as the first Historian charged with authenticating “Forefather Members.” Lineage papers were sent out to all

members and **President Frank Melville** instructed that a list be maintained of all those who “can be designated as birthright members.” By 1944, the By-Laws made the project official with the use of the anglicized Swedish word, “Forefather” members. From the beginning of the Society in 1909 until 1965, only 62 members had provided proof of such status.

Then in 1988 with the 350th anniversary of the Colony being celebrated, **Governor Erik Törnqvist** encouraged the program with the collaborative work of **Alice and Carl Lindborg** as Historians. It was Governor Törnqvist’s feeling that this was a program that set the Swedish Colonial Society apart from other Swedish societies. By 1990, there were 88 active Forefather Members.

By 1991, there were 131 with the professional guidance of **Dr. Peter Craig**. The website, created by **Ronald Hendrickson** for the Society in 1999, led to a massive increase in activity with many new members coming from outside of the Delaware Valley and even some from abroad. At the present time, 178 people are counted in this category.

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# New Jersey Julmiddag

For the first time, the Society's annual Christmas Luncheon will be held in New Jersey in recognition of the 300th anniversary of Trinity Episcopal (Old Swedes') Church, Swedesboro. The Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, December 15 on the Delaware River at the Riverview Inn, Pennsville, NJ. Invitations will be mailed shortly.

## Second Annual New Sweden Conference

On Saturday November 16, the Second Annual New Sweden Conference will be held at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia. This year's theme is: "Man, Medicine and Material Culture, New Sweden 1638-1790."

Head-lining the conference this year will be **Professors Stellan Dahlgren** and **Hans Norman** of Uppsala University, authors of *The Rise and Fall of New Sweden: Governor Johan Risingh's Journal 1654-1655 in its Historical Context* (1988).

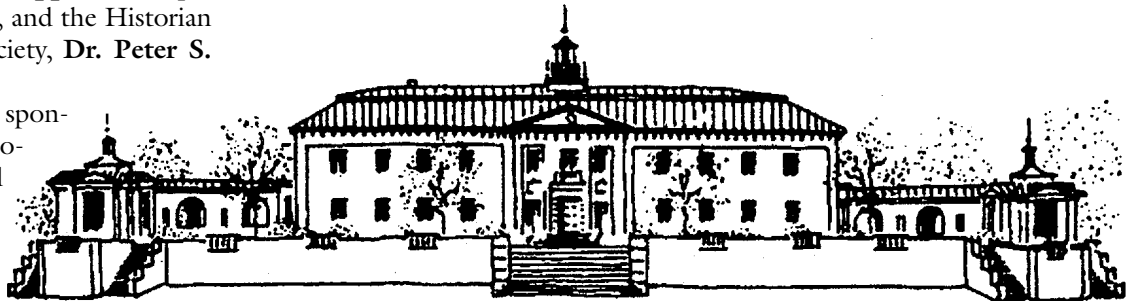
Other scholars include **Peter O. Wacker** of Rutgers University, speaking on Fennoscandian influences; **Karen M. Reeds** who will discuss health issues; **Susan E. Klepp** of Temple University on demographics, and the Historian of the Swedish Colonial Society, **Dr. Peter S. Craig**.

The Conference is again sponsored by the Society in cooperation with the McNeil Center for Early American

Studies of the University of Pennsylvania and the American Swedish Historical Museum.

The all-day program will last from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration, which includes morning coffee and a box lunch, costs \$25 per person; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Registration should be sent directly to: ASHM, 1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19145-5901 by November 12. Checks may be made payable to ASHM.

Further information is available from the Museum at (215) 389-1776. Directions to the site in South Philadelphia, west of the sports center, can be found at the website: <[www.americanswedish.org](http://www.americanswedish.org)>.



## Falckner Tercentenary

The Ordination of the first episcopal candidate for ministry in the Thirteen Colonies and the first Lutheran pastor in the western hemisphere by Superintendent (Suffragan Bishop) Andreas Rudman will be celebrated in the Philadelphia Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania in a joint liturgy with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America next year on Sunday afternoon, November 23, 2003. Both bishops have planned to participate.

Next year will be exactly 300 years since this first-of-its-kind Ordination in this country took place at Gloria Dei Church. The candidate, Justus Falckner, was a German theological student who had come to America but was undecided about his future. Pastor Andreas

*Kim-Eric Williams*

Rudman had left Gloria Dei church and was the Interim at the Dutch Lutheran Church in New York City and Albany. His health was frail and he was looking for a successor in New York. He convinced Falckner that he should be ordained and upon being approved as a Superintendent by King Karl XII, Rudman, Erik Björk and Jonas Auren ordained Falckner in a ceremony held mostly in Latin.

It is hoped that the service, with the help of the Swedish Colonial Society, could gather the old Swedish Ministerium (*Kontrakt*) for the first time since 8 July 1784, including rectors of all eight Old Swedes churches.

# 1699

## CHURCH FERRY

Swedes and Finns settled the Delaware Valley in 1638. In 1641, Governor Peter Ridder purchased land from the Lenape Indians where, some 30 years later, Swedish and Finnish farmers and fishermen settled. Named Penns Neck, this area is now known as the Township of Pennsville, New Jersey.

In 1667, a log church was built at Crane Hook, south of the Christina River. Settlers from Penns Neck, Finn's Point, Boughtown (Penns Grove) and Lucas Point (Carney's Point) were part of this congregation, since there was no church on the east side of the river. They traveled across the Delaware River in shallops and skiffs to attend Crane Hook Church and court at New Castle. When a new church was built north of the Christina River, the people of Penns Neck traveled across the river to help build the new Holy Trinity Church in 1699.

Holy Trinity congregation also purchased a small craft for the use of those who needed transportation to church who lived across the Delaware and below the Christina River, in 1699. Rev. Eric Björk's journal refers to this church boat as a new "canoe" or "ferry" purchased from Hendrick Tussey for 20 shillings. Hendrick was a Swedish member of Holy Trinity who lived on the Delaware River just north of the church. It was delivered to the church warden, Steffan Jöransson, who lived at Finn's Point. Research on the subject has not revealed a description or how many people it carried. Historians and maritime experts are not sure if it was a "dug out" or "plank built" canoe, modeled after the church boats used in Sweden. But all agree the settlers at Penns Neck traveled across the Delaware for over 60 years, before they built their own church in Penns Neck, in 1717 at Church Landing Road.

The foot of Church Landing Road, in Pennsville, is the historical site where Penn's Neck residents launched their boats to go to church, hence its name. The journey was often hazardous. For example, church records indicate four adults and a child drowned, 4 November 1718, on their way to church. Church boats played a significant role in the life of the community in Sweden. The 1699 church





boat was an important part of the Delaware Valley's maritime history and was the first ferry across the Delaware River, long before the Pennsville-New Castle Ferry. Yet, there is no monument to mark this important site, and no commemoration has celebrated this vignette of early history.

A scale model of a single log dug out canoe was made by Lewis Everline, of Mohnton, PA, as a visual aid to help tell the story of this forgotten little piece of local history. It is currently on display in the Museum at Fort Mott State Park, in Pennsville, NJ. As soon as schematic plans for a traditional plank built Swedish church boat can be obtained, model builder Ray Hoffman, of Gibbstown, NJ, will build a model of a plank constructed canoe.

Plans for establishing a memorial park and a monument in Pennsville, NJ, as a tribute to these early Swedish and Finnish settlers are being made in conjunction with the 365th anniversary of the New Sweden Colony. A Swedish Heritage Day is also planned. Long-range plans include the building of a full-size replica of the 1699 boat.

I am investing my time and energy in this project, because I believe future generations need to be made aware of the overlooked piece of maritime history of Pennsville, Salem

County, New Jersey and the United States of America. The State of New Jersey celebrates the Crossing of the Delaware by George Washington every year, in a replica of a boat that some historians believe was of Swedish design. Reproductions have been made of the Durham boats, also believed by some to have evolved from a Swedish built boat of similar design. Many replicas of the James River Batteau have been reproduced, and relive the moments in history of the James River Canal, as those replicas traverse 120 miles of the canal in Festival every June. Fortunately, excellent models of these vessels have been discovered by marine archeologists to use as patterns for building these replicas. Archeologists, researchers and historians have not been able to produce factual documentation on the design of this "canoe/ferry." Until then, we must begin to recapture this unique chapter of history.

The tentative church boat web site is: [www.myprivate.com/aleasa](http://www.myprivate.com/aleasa).

For additional information or to make a pledge of support for this project, write: Aleasa Hogate, 94 Sparks Ave., Pennsville, NJ 08070; phone: (856) 678-5511; or email her at: [goaleasa@juno.com](mailto:goaleasa@juno.com).



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# SCENES FROM *Sweden* 2 0 0 2





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Photos by Jim, Doriney & Shelly Seagers



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1. Nellie, the Ling's granddaughter and Kirsten Seagers.
2. Hans Ling, Kirsten Seagers & Meta Ling.
3. The Swedish tour group in the Nordic Museum with Ulf Hamilton.
4. U.S. Ambassador Charles Heimbold, Swedish National Heritage Board Acting Chief of Staff Hans Ling, Governor Herbert Rambo, Lord Mayor Axel Wennerholm and Councillor James Seagers at the Stockholm City Hall dinner party where Rambo was named knight of the Royal North Star Order, First Class.
5. Herbert Rambo, Hans Norman, Stellan Dahlgren and Gary Jordan.
6. Stockholm Lord Mayor Axel Wennerholm holding the Nobel scepter.
7. The formal gardens at Drottningholm.
8. A Royal Swedish Guard with Kirsten Seagers.
9. Sylvia and Earl Seppala, Jim and Doriney Seagers, Lois Eckstrom, Zofia Rambo, Sally Bridwell, U.S. Ambassador Charles Heimbold, Marie Boisuert, Lord Mayor Axel Wennerholm and DeAnn Clancy.
10. Champagne reception at Kalmar Castle courtyard.
11. Midsommar dancers in Linköping on June 21.

grated to Delaware in 1663 or 1664 when the Dutch colony was recruiting farmers from northern European nations. It is unknown when he married Sinnick's daughter or what her name was. In 1675, however, he was residing at Deer Point with Broer Sinnicksson. He then formed a partnership with Pierre Jegou, a French Huguenot, and moved to "Lazy Point," north of present Burlington, New Jersey, where he operated an inn for travelers and native Indians. Becoming well versed in the language of the Lenape Indians, Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg soon became the foremost Indian interpreter in New Jersey and was a party to many treaties with the Indians. In 1682 he acquired 200 acres on the south side of Rancocas Creek in Burlington County. As late as 1689 he was still listed as a member of the Swedish Church at Wicaco.

In 1679, Hendrick Jacobs and his wife were visited by a Dutch traveler, who gave this description of their house in his diary:

"The house was made according to the Swedish mode, and as they usually build their houses here, which are block-houses, being nothing else than entire trees, split through the middle, or squared out in the rough, and placed in the form of a square, upon each other, as high as they wish to have the house. The ends of these timbers are let into each other, about a foot from the ends, half of one into half of the other. The whole structure is thus made, without a nail or a spike. The ceiling and roof do not exhibit much finer work, except among the most careful people, who have the ceiling planked and a glass window. The doors are wide enough, but very low, so that you have to stoop in entering. These houses are quite tight and warm, but the chimney is placed in a corner."

In 1697 Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg obtained a confirmation of an earlier Indian deed for land at Little Egg Harbor on the Atlantic Coast. He moved to this location where he married a second time. He died about 1712, survived by his second wife Mary (a Quaker) and their son, Jacob Hendricks Falkenberg.

By his first marriage to Sinnick's daughter, Hendrick had at least one son, Henry Falkenberg, who was living in Cecil County, Maryland, by 1710. He later moved with his several sons to Orange (now Frederick) County, Virginia, and then moved to Bladen

County, North Carolina, by 1746. His descendants use the surnames of Faulkenberry and Fortenberry.

#### **Broer Sinnicksson and his Sinex Descendants**

Broer Sinnicksson, born in Sweden c. 1650, stayed on Sinnick Broer's former farm at Deer Point following his father's death and later re-acquired all of his father's land. The chain of succession was a bit complex. After acquiring the plantation from Sinnick Broer, Justa Andersson had sold the entire property to Hans Peterson, the miller of Skilpot Creek. Peterson, in turn, sold half of the land (including the house) to Anders Jöransson, a Finn, on 27 Sept. 1672. Peterson sold the other half (undeveloped) to Matthias Matthiasson, a Swedish blacksmith.

Anders Jöransson died in late 1675, survived by his widow Sophia and five small sons. By early 1678 Sophia had married Broer Sinnicksson. On 8 May 1678, "Broer Sinnexe, husband of Sophia, relict of Andrew Jurianson, deceased," was granted the land of her former husband on condition that he pay his five sons 500 guilders apiece when they reached the age of 21. Meanwhile, the other half of Sinnick Broer's plantation was reconveyed by Matthias Matthiasson to Hans Peterson, who conveyed it to Anders Sinnicksson, who conveyed it to his brother Broer.

Upon resurvey in 1684 by the new government of William Penn, Broer's land was found to be 460 acres, for which he was granted a patent on 7 June 1686. He remained on his plantation until his death in 1708, specializing in the raising of sheep and horses as well as grain crops. With the arrival of Ericus Björk as pastor of the Swedish church, Broer was named to the Church Council and served as a faithful lay leader of the church until his death.

In 1703, Broer Sinnicksson made a deed of gift to his only son James of half of his plantation. In his will of 25 November 1708, Broer left the other half (including his house) to his wife Sophia for life, and after her death, to their son James for life, then to James' eldest son Broer. The will directed that £10 be given to the church and that his young mare be given to Pastor Björk "for the funeral service which I desire him to make." On 2 December 1708, Pastor Björk held the funeral and Broer was buried in the church under his own pew.

Sophia, Broer's widow, died in 1717 at the

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home of her daughter-in-law Mary Anderson, widow of her son Jöran Andersson.

Broer and Sophia Sinnicksson had one child: James Sinnexon, who was born c. 1678. Shortly after 1700, he married Dorcas Harmensen (Dutch), daughter of Jan Harmensen of New Castle, Delaware. In 1703, they sold her father's house in New Castle and made their home on the other half of his father's plantation at "Middleburgh." Shortly after the death of his father, James Sinnexon also became ill. His will, dated 29 January 1708/9 and proved 8 March 1708/9, left his half of his father's land to his two youngest sons, John and James, after his wife Dorcas's demise.

Through subsequent generations, the descendants of James Sinnexon gradually shortened their surname to Sinex. The three sons were:

1. **Broer Sinnexon**, born c. 1703, was married in 1724 to Brita, daughter of John Hendrickson and Brita Mattson. They had five children baptized at Holy Trinity Church between 1725 and 1735. On 13 December, 1726, he and the guardian for his younger brothers sold their 50 acre mill tract at "Middleburgh" to John Richardson. On 29 January 1736/7 Broer and his two brothers formally divided the remainder of their grandfather's "Middleburgh" estate, each obtaining 138 acres. Over the next several years, Broer sold all of his share and acquired a lot in Newport in 1744.

Deeply in debt to his brother John, Broer sold his pews in the church to his brother James in September 1744 and announced he was moving to another province. He next appeared in Bladen County, North Carolina, where he was granted land in 1746 on the south side of the Pee Dee River. In the meantime, his brother John sued Broer for a debt of £100, causing the sheriff to confiscate and sell Broer's remaining property in New Castle County. On 19 August 1746, on the petition of his abandoned wife Brita, his eldest son, also named Broer, was bound out to Andrew Morton for four and one-half years.

Meanwhile, on 27 February 1746/7, Brewer Sinnixon married the widow Ann Dewit in Winyaw, South Carolina. She owned 300 acres on the north side of the Wateree River in Craven County, S.C., which had been originally laid out 21 November 1746, and

which she sold on 26 March 1756 under the name of Ann Sinnixon. Broer was clearly dead by this time. His property on the Pee Dee River was later claimed by his Falkenberg cousins, who claimed that Broer Sinnexon had died without heirs, except for a son who drowned in Virginia.

This was not entirely true. Broer's first wife, Brita, died of pleurisy on 27 March 1755 in New Castle County at the age of 50 and was buried at Old Swedes Church in Wilmington. Her meager estate was administered by George Patton, who had married her daughter Maria, born in 1733.

2. **John Sinnexon**, born c. 1705, was married on 9 December 1726 to Ingeborg, the daughter of Matthias Tussey and Anna Stidham. During their 20 years of marriage they had eight children born between 1727 and 1744: Dorcas, John, Sara, Anna, Catharine, Ingeborg, Susanna and Maria. John Sinnex died in 1746 at his "Middleburgh" farm. His widow, Ingeborg Tussey, married Edward Robinson on 17 December 1752. She died 7 June 1768 at the age of 64.

3. **James Sinnexon**, born c. 1707, was married on 20 January 1730 to Margaret, daughter of John and Margaret Vardeman of Appoquinimink Hundred. James became a tailor and seems to have prospered. He and Margaret had 11 children born between 1731 and 1752, of whom four are known to have lived to adulthood and married – Henry, John, James and Margaret. Both parents were still living on their "Middleburgh" farm in 1767.

#### **Anders Sinnicksson**

##### **and his Sinnickson Descendants**

Anders Sinnicksson, born in Sweden c. 1651, did not return to his father's farm after his father's death. In 1677 he was residing at Feren Hook on the south side of Christina River and by 1678 he had married Margaret Poulson. On 7 January 1678/9 he was sued for medicines supplied to his wife and child. Later in the same year he moved to Chestnut Neck in Salem County, where he was granted 260 acres north of Parting Creek. This would remain his home for the rest of his life.

After giving birth to two children (Ingrid and John), Anders' wife Margaret died. His second wife, Sarah, was the mother of his other five children. Anders Sinnicksson wrote his will on 17 June 1696, but it was not proved until 4 April 1700. He had given two and one-half

continued on page 14

pounds for Holy Trinity Church but had probably died before 24 June 1699, when only his wife was assigned a pew in the new church. His widow, Sarah Sinnicksson, was buried at the Penn's Neck church on 27 February 1719.

All seven of his children married:

1. **Ingrid Sinnickson**, born c. 1678, married by 1696 Peter Bilderback and, after his death, John Hendrickson, Jr. She died in Penn's Neck on 26 March 1725.

2. **John Sinnickson**, born c. 1682, married Ann Philpot Gilljohnson, 28 January 1725, and had three children (John, Sarah and Sinnick) before his death in Penn's Neck in November 1739.

3. **Andrew Sinnickson**, born c. 1691, married Maria Weinam c. 1712. Both parents and their infant son Andrew died in 1713.

4. **Sinnick Sinnickson**, born c. 1693, married Maria Philpot 31 October 1717. He died in Penns Neck in 1750, survived by a son Andrew Sinnickson, who was later described by pastor Nicholas Colin as the wealthiest Finn in West New Jersey.

5. **Margaret Sinnickson**, born c. 1695, married [1] Thomas Vickery, [2] Albert Bilderback, and [3] William Mecum. She died of palsy in Penn's Neck on 12 March 1770.

6. **Catharina Sinnickson**, born c. 1697, married Christiern Peterson on 10 May 1716. She was buried 17 April 1721 at Penns Neck.

7. **Dorothea Sinnickson**, born c. 1699, married Oney Stanley, 27 November 1718. She died in Penn's Neck after 1727.

### **John Sinnicksson, the youngest son**

John Sinnickson, the youngest son of Sinnick Broer, was born in America c. 1660 and first appeared in public records in 1677 when he was first listed as taxable (age 16 or more) in New Castle County. He later moved across the Delaware to Upper Penn's Neck where he purchased 200 acres of land in Piles Grove on 23 July 1698. Shortly before this, he had married Gertrude, the daughter of Isaac Savoy and Brigitta Hendrickson.

John Sinnickson wrote his will on 18 December 1729, but he did not die until 1735. He actively supported construction of Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington in 1698-1699 and later attended the Swedish church in Swedesboro, New Jersey. He and his wife had eight known children, of whom two are known to have married:

1. **Andrew Sinnickson**, born c. 1698, married [1] Helena Friend by 1721. She died the same year and he married [2] Elizabeth Greenway in 1730. Andrew died in Piles Grove in 1764, survived by two daughters, Elizabeth (wife of William Tuft) and Ebajah (wife of Jonathan Beasley).

2. **Brigitta Sinnickson**, born c. 1710, married Ephraim Friend in 1731.

John was also survived by two other children, **Stephen** and **Susannah**, whose fate has not been determined.

## Wertmueller House in Danger

The home of Swedish artist Adolph Wertmueller in Claymont, Delaware is in urgent need of restoration according to officials of the Claymont Historical Society. The house now sits surrounded by a steel mill, CitisteelUSA, at the confluence of Naaman's Creek and the Delaware River.

Wertmueller, who was born in Stockholm in 1751, spent many years in France and was

painter to the Royal Court of Sweden. He executed a famous picture of George Washington that is now in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. When he came to America he married a granddaughter of painter Gustavus Hesselius, became an American citizen and lived in Claymont until his death in 1811.

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# Freedom Rocks

“The Rocks” at Ft. Christina State Park in Wilmington, Delaware has been designated a National Historical Landmark through the efforts of the City of Wilmington Mayor's Office of Economic Development. Its listing by the National Park Service was a result of the role “the Rocks” played as a station on the Underground Railroad. Research, led by **Margaret J. Owens**, uncovered the fact that “the Rocks” were used as a station to land slaves from the South to freedom north of the Mason-Dixon line. A letter from Quaker Thomas Garrett of Wilmington, dated March 23, 1856, to William Still states:

“Captain [Alfred] Fountain has arrived all safe, with the human cargo thee was inquiring

for a few days since. I had men waiting till 12 o'clock till the Captain arrived at his berth, ready to receive them; last night they then learned that he had landed them at the Rocks, near the Swedes church...”

Interestingly enough, “the Rocks” were also a sign of freedom for many of the settlers in New Sweden in the 17th century. Many of the first immigrants had committed minor offenses in Sweden and were indentured laborers for the New Sweden Company when they first arrived. Often their choice was death, imprisonment or New Sweden. The fact that many became “freedmen” was as a result of setting foot on the same Rocks that welcomed fugitive slaves in the 19th century.

# Parade Float



MARY ANN MECUM BRYANT

Prize winning New Sweden float at Septemberfest, Pennsville, New Jersey, September 7, 2002.

## Dorothy Paley named by Museum

A member of the Society, **Mrs. Dorothy Paley** has been given the Amandus Johnson Service Award by the American Swedish Historical Museum. Mrs. Paley is a resident of Cinnaminson, NJ and has worked tirelessly with the Auxiliary for 20 years.

## David E. Lewis receives SAR Award

As a retired teacher and Councillor of the Society, **David Lewis** regularly portrays the 400 pound Royal Governor of New Sweden, Johan Printz. The Philadelphia-Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution cited David as an Outstanding History Teacher. He has made more than 100 classroom visits in Pennsylvania, Delaware and South Jersey.

## Printz Painting Restored

**Jayne S. Huntington**, Junior Deputy Governor, appears with the Johan Printz oil painting at the Forefathers Luncheon on April 7, 2002, in Wilmington. This painting was given to the Swedish Colonial Society by King Gustaf V in 1909 and is a copy of the original at Botnaryd, Sweden. The Society's painting hung for many years at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania but, after the conversion of HSP into a library, our painting was returned to our Society. A copy of our copy by Van Helden hangs in the Governor's Mansion in Harrisburg and was given in connection with the Tercentenary.

The Society's Printz painting recently received a more appropriate frame and was expertly restored by **Roy Blankenship** of Wilmington.



RONALD A. HENDRICKSON



## 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 fee for an individual is \$25. An annual family membership, which includes two adults and minor children, is \$30. Lifetime membership is available for \$300.

## Missing Minutes

The vast majority of the records of the Swedish Colonial Society have now been professionally organized and placed in acid-free folders and Hollinger boxes for storage at Gloria Dei Church.

However, the Council minutes from 1927-1957 are missing. If you have copies of any of these minutes (or any other official records), kindly send them to the Swedish Colonial Society Archives, Gloria Dei Church, 916 South Swanson St., Philadelphia, PA 19147-4332



# Festival Exhibit



ALEASA HOGATE

## Swedish Colonial Wedding



ALEASA HOGATE

Top: New Swedish Colonial Society exhibit pavilion with decorative valance designed by Aleasa Hogate at the Mouns Jones Fest, Douglassville, PA, Sept. 28 & 29, 2002

Left: A re-enactment of a colonial Swedish wedding at the Mouns Jones Fest, September 28, 2002. Pastor Gabriel Falk (Kim-Eric Williams) unites Maria Magdalena Sophia Robeson (Noelle Rohrbach) and Anders Göran Erik Jonasson (Ken Peterson).

# Swedish Delegation at “the Rocks”



RONALD A. HENDRICKSON

Consul Agneta H. Bailey (left), Deputy Mayor Jan-Olof Wernersson, Wilmington Mayor James M. Baker and Mayor Kjell Henriksson (center), join the Kalmar, Sweden delegation placing a wreath at “the Rocks” before the joint Annual Meeting, April 7, 2002.

## Patrons, Officers & Councillors

### **High Patron**

His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf,  
King of Sweden

### **Patron**

His Excellency Jan Eliasson,  
Ambassador of Sweden

### **Deputy Patron**

The Honorable Olle Wästberg,  
Consul General of Sweden

### **Associate Patron**

The Honorable  
Agneta Hägglund Bailey,  
Consul of Sweden

### **Honorary Governors**

William B. Neal  
John C. Cameron, Esq.  
Wallace F. Richter  
Dr. Erik G.M. Törnqvist  
Herbert Gullberg  
Conrad Wilson

### **Deputy Governor - Emeritus**

Mrs. George C. McFarland

### **Governor**

Herbert R. Rambo

### **Senior Deputy Governor**

Ronald A. Hendrickson, Esq.

### **Junior Deputy Governor**

Jayne S. Huntington

### **Secretary - Treasurer**

Very Rev. David B. Rivers

### **Recording Secretary**

Aleasa J. Hogate

### **Registrar**

Doriney Seagers

### **Captain of the Color Guard**

Kenneth S. Peterson

### **Chaplain - Archivist**

Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams

### **Counselor**

Gordon S. Keen, Esq.

### **Historian**

Dr. Peter S. Craig

### **Councillors**

Frances O. Allmond  
David R. Anderson  
Britt M. Apell  
Marie B. Boisuert  
Sally Bridwell  
Julie Jensen Bryan  
DeAnn Clancy  
Beth Linnerson Daly  
Brian Daly  
Lennart Hagegård  
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David E. Lewis  
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Sandra S. Pfaff  
Ellen T. Rye  
James D. Seagers  
Earl E. Seppälä  
Katarina Sheronas  
Gunnil Sjöberg  
Linda R. Smith  
Susan B. Spackman  
Richard L. Steadham  
Richard L. Waldron

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# Membership

## NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

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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 St., NW, Washington, DC 20016.

The following new Forefather Members have been approved during the six months ending 15 October 2002:

**Nina J. Strahm**, Terre Haute IN, descended from Måns Anderson via his daughter Brita Månsdotter who married Johan Gustafsson and their daughter Elizabeth Justis who married Matthias Petersson of New Castle County.

**Dolores E. Shade**, Frederick MD, descended from Nils Larsson Frände via his son Johan Nilsson Friend and Johan’s son Nicholas Friend.

**Mary E. Casseday**, Lewes DE, descended from Dr. Timen Stiddem via his son Adam Stidham and Adam’s daughter Maria Stidham who married Jacob Van der Veer of New Castle County.

**Michael W. Rambo**, Overland Park KS, descended from Peter Gunnarsson Rambo via his son Peter Rambo and the latter’s son Swan Rambo of Lancaster County, PA.

**Carolyn Rambo Cooper**, Edison GA, descended from the same line.

**John Michael Baxter**, Newton Square PA, descended from Peter Gunnarsson Rambo via his son Gunnar Rambo and Gunnar’s son Peter Rambo of Montgomery County, PA.

**William Allen Baxter**, Center Strafford NH, descended from the same line.

**Trissa Haefling**, Chagrin Falls OH, descended from Nils Larsson Frände via his son Anders Nilsson Friend and Israel Friend of Frederick County, VA.

**Bonnie Ray Reeves**, Independence VA, descended from Peter Nilsson Lycan via his son Hans Lycan and Peter Lycan of Frederick County, VA.

**Patricia Richardson**, Fullerton CA, descended from John Hendricksson via his son Hendrick Johansson and Hendrick’s son John Hendrickson of Ridley Township, Chester (now Delaware) County, PA.

**Richard S. Baskas**, Tampa FL, descended from Johan Andersson Stalcop via his son Peter Stalcop and Peter’s daughter Maria Stalcop who married Hans Geörgen Smith of Wilmington.

**Harold A. Yocum**, Edmond OK, descended from Peter Jochimsson via his son Peter Petersson Yocum and the latter’s son Jonas Yocum of Berks County, PA.

**James S. Yocum**, Mapleton PA, **David H. Yocum**, Boalsburg PA, & **John F. Yocum, Jr.**, Henderson NV, descended from the same line.

## FAMILY MEMBERS

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John W. & Marjorie H. Brant, Bordentown NJ

Carolyn R. & James M. Cooper, Edison GA

Msg. Gary H.G. Utter, Frederick MD

Richard & Susan Waring, San Antonio TX

David H. Yocum, Boalsburg PA

James S. Yocum, Mapleton PA

Michael & Elizabeth Mulshine, Queensbury NY

Robert & Shirley Schmidt, Bordentown NJ

Msg. Gary H.G. Utter, Frederick MD

Arthur & Lois Ekstrom, Arcadia CA

David & Alicia Helgeson, Asheville NC

Gary A. Justis, Bloomington IL

William D. Morton, Encinitas CA

John F. Yocum, Henderson NV

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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Brian Keith Anderson, Manchester TN

Richard S. Baskas, Tampa FL

Olga Sinexon Brigham, Wilton NH

Janet Ray Perts, Napa CA

Robert G. Sandberg, Wilmington DE

Stephen J. Stalcop, Farmers Branch TX

Louise Benedikte Wennberg, Paoli PA

Robert S. Mattson, Vallejo CA

## HONORARY MEMBERS

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Ambassador Charles A. and Monica Heimbald, Stockholm, Sweden

Mayor Kjell Henriksson, Kalmar, Sweden

Deputy Mayor Jan-Olof Wernersson, Kalmar, Sweden

# Upcoming Events

- November 16** Saturday, New Sweden Conference at the American Swedish Historical Museum,  
Philadelphia, PA, (215) 389-1776
- December 6** Friday, 6 p.m., Julbord at the American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, PA, (215) 389-1776  
Friday, 6 p.m. & 8 p.m., Lucia at Gloria Dei Church, (215) 389-1513
- December 7** Saturday, 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. & 5 p.m., Lucia at Gloria Dei Church, (215) 389-1513  
Saturday, 12 Noon - 4 p.m., Lucia and Julmarknad at the American Swedish Historical Museum
- December 8** Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Lucia at Holy Trinity Lutheran, 927 South Providence Rd.,  
Wallingford, PA, (610) 874-8652  
Sunday, 1-3 p.m., "Trim-a-Swedish-Christmas-Tree" at the Lower Swedish Log Cabin,  
Drexel Hill, PA, (610) 623-1650  
Sunday, 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. & 5 p.m., Lucia at Gloria Dei Church, (215) 389-1513  
Sunday, 3 p.m., Lucia at Holy Trinity, Wilmington, DE, (302) 475-3736,  
in co-operation with the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society
- December 13** Friday, 7 p.m., Patriots' Lucia at Christ Church, Upper Merion, PA, (610) 265-1257  
Friday, 7 p.m., Lucia at St. Gabriel's, Douglassville, PA, (610) 385-3431
- December 15** Sunday, 11:30 a.m., Swedish Colonial Society Julmiddag at the Riverview Inn, Pennsville, NJ  
Sunday, 4 pm., Lucia with Friends of the Swedish Log Cabin at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,  
50 E. Plumstead Ave., Landsdowne, PA  
Sunday, 6 p.m., Lucia at Trinity Episcopal, Swedesboro, NJ, (856) 467-1227
- February 16** Sunday, 12:30 p.m., New Sweden Centre 5th Annual George Washington Party at Arsenal-on-the Green,  
New Castle, DE, (302) 764-6662
- April 6** Sunday, Colonial Forefathers Luncheon, 365th Anniversary of New Sweden, Philadelphia, PA  
with the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society
- May 4** Sunday, 11 a.m., Anniversary Service & Luncheon at Gloria Dei Church

## Swedish Colonial News

The Swedish Colonial Society  
916 South Swanson Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147-4332  
[www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org)

## Return Service Requested

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Brian Daly  
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