

# Swedish Colonial News

Volume 1, Number 20

Fall 1999

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The summer has ended, and I hope it was full of enjoyable travel and enriching activity for all of you. Since our Forefathers' Day luncheon, I have represented the Society at the gala celebrating John Bartram's 300th birthday, attended the Millennium Anniversary of Leif Erikson's discovery of America and spoken to the DE Society Daughters of Colonial Wars on our Society's contributions past and present, and contributions of the Swedes and their descendants to our nation.

My summer included travelling to the National Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution in San Diego where I was elected a National Trustee, to the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Indianapolis where I received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as National Historian and to the meeting of the National Congress of Patriotic Organizations where I was elected Vice President.

Now the Society's work year begins and it has appropriately started with our annual Thanksgiving Service at Gloria Dei followed by a luncheon at the Corinthian Yacht Club. My congratulations to Ron Hendrickson for creating our web site, to our Historian Peter Craig for publishing another book on a Swedish census and to our Secretary Rev. David Rivers for his leadership in the restoration of Gloria Dei.

With your continued loyalty, we can all look forward to an outstanding millennium year.

 William B. Neal

*Welcome*  
to the Swedish Colonial Society



*About the Society*

*Publications*



*History of New Sweden  
in America*

*Forefathers*



*Membership Churches of New Sweden  
in America*



*Colonial Swede  
Calendar*

*Historic Sights*



## Society Enters Millennium with New Web Site

The Swedish Colonial Society recently released for world-wide view its new world-wide web site on the internet at <http://www.ColonialSwedes.org>. Designed and programmed by Councillor Ronald Hendrickson, the Society's new webmaster, the site is targeted at internet viewers interested in the history of the New Sweden Colony in America and is designed to showcase the Society's role as guardian of the legacy of the first permanent settlers to the Delaware River valley. Divided into nine major sections, visitors to [www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org) will discover:

**Colonial Swede Calendar:** Maintained for the Society by Senior Deputy Governor Herbert Rambo, this calendar lists all events of interest to Society members throughout the New Sweden area of

Delaware, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Northern Maryland. To make sure your event is included, call (856) 768-5325 or email: [HerbertRambo@ColonialSwedes.org](mailto:HerbertRambo@ColonialSwedes.org).

**Forefathers:** The Forefathers section lists qualifying early settlers and all current Society Forefather Members. Complete membership instructions are included and a full Forefather Membership Application is available for download. Also included are Forefather profiles by Historian Peter Craig from prior issues of the *Swedish Colonial News*.

**Churches of New Sweden:** This section profiles the eight original "Old Swedes" churches with photos by Councillor Tina Lassen and descriptions

*Continued on page 3*

## FOREFATHERS

### Anders Bengtsson and his Bankson & Bankston Descendants

The dedication of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church in 1700 marked the realization of a lifetime dream for many of the members of the Swedes' church at Wicaco, but especially so for one of its old-timers, Anders Bengtsson, known to the English as Andrew Bankson.

Anders Bengtsson, born in 1640 near Gothenburg, was a lad of 16 when he arrived in former New Sweden on the *Mercurius* in 1656. On 22 November 1668, he married Gertrude Rambo, the 18-year-old daughter of Peter Gunnarsson Rambo and Brita Matsdotter. The new couple established their home and farm at Moyamensing along the Delaware River in present South Philadelphia.

An industrious farmer, Bengtsson later expanded his holdings by periodic purchase of lands in adjoining Passyunk, fronting on the Schuylkill River, so that he owned well over 400 acres in South Philadelphia by 1694.

Anders Bengtsson quickly rose to positions of prominence in the Swedish community. In 1681, he became a justice on the Upland Court and continued to serve on that court until it was abolished by the new Province of Pennsylvania in 1683. In that year, he served as a member of the first Assembly of Pennsylvania and witnessed the adoption of its Charter on 2 April 1683. He was elected to the Assembly in 1686.

Meanwhile, Anders Bengtsson also served faithfully as a member of the Swedish log church at Wicaco, dedicated in 1677. He was a vestryman of that church by 1684 and continued in this capacity until 1702. His duties for that church increased when the minister, Jacobus Fabritius, became blind in 1682 and the sexton, Jacob Jungh, died in April 1686. To fill the void until replacements could be secured, Anders Bengtsson volunteered his services as lay reader for the congregation.

On 30 August 1694, being "gravely sick and weak of body," Andrew Bankson wrote his final will and testament, bequeathing his property to his wife and

children. But, he recovered his health. On 1 October 1695, perhaps in gratitude for his recovery, he sold 84 acres of his land at Passyunk to the church wardens at Wicaco for the use of the minister Jacobus Fabritius, "now superannuated," and such successors who might come thereafter.

And come they did. Fabritius died in 1696, but as he was being buried, three new ministers were being dispatched by the King of Sweden to serve the Swedes on the Delaware. The senior pastor among them, Andreas Rudman, became the new minister at Wicaco. And Anders Bengtsson became one of his most stalwart supporters. When the new church, Gloria Dei, was dedicated in 1700, church warden Anders Bengtsson had one of the choicest pews.

After recovering his health, Andrew Bankson also resumed an active role in civil affairs, being elected again to the Pennsylvania Assembly on 11 May 1698. He also served as a justice on the Philadelphia County court, 1701-1704.

Pastor Andreas Sandel replaced Andreas Rudman as minister of Gloria Dei Church in 1702. He, like his predecessor, relied on Anders Bengtsson's advice. On 14 September 1705, Sandel presented the final word covering his friend's life: "I buried Anders Bengtsson, born in Sweden near Göteborg in the parish of Fåxarn [Fuxerna] and Hanström farm. He drowned in the Delaware, 65 years old."

Andrew Bankson was survived by his wife Gertrude. They had nine known children, generally known by the surname of Bengtson in church records, but usually Bankson in English records. Among descendants in the south, the surname evolved into Bankston.

1. **Bengt (Benjamin) Bankson**, born in 1669, married c. 1692 Catharina, daughter of Peter Larsson Cock and Margaret Lom. They lived in Moyamensing, where both of them died by 1748. They had four known children (Daniel, Peter, Jacob and Mary).

2. **Andrew Bankson, Jr.**, born c. 1672, married c. 1694 Gertrude, daughter of Lars Larsson Boore and Elisabeth. They made their home on Poquessing Creek in Byberry Township, Philadelphia, where he was still living in 1744. They had at least seven children (Andrew, Elisabeth, Lawrence, John, Rebecca, Peter and Daniel). The son Lawrence Bankson moved first to present York County, Pa.,

and then to North Carolina, leaving many descendants who used the surname of Bankston.

3. **Peter Bankson**, born 6 March 1677, married in 1698 Catharina, daughter of Swan Swansson and Catharina. They lived at Wicaco, where Peter died in 1707 and his wife died in 1711. They had two children (Gertrude and Swan).

4. **Catharine Bankson**, born 29 January 1679, married Peter Mattson, Jr., of Gloucester County NJ. They had five children (Andrew, Peter, Maria, John and Matts) before Mattson's death in 1722. She then married Johan van Culen on 26 May 1726. He died in January 1729. She was buried 27 Sept. 1735. She had no children by her second marriage.


5. **John Bankson**, born 31 March 1681, married c. 1705 Helena, daughter of Peter Cock, Jr., and Helena Helm. They lived at Passyunk, where John died on 12 June 1739. His widow was still living in 1757. They had five children (Andrew, Peter, Deborah, John and Jacob).

6. **Jacob Bankson**, born 19 October 1684, married after 1707 Margaret, daughter of Lasse Cock and Martha Ashman. They lived in Passyunk, where Margaret died before 1752. Jacob died in August 1766, survived by three children (Deborah, Martha and Andrew).

7. **Brigitta Bankson**, born 10 April 1687, was still living when her father wrote his will in 1694. Not further traced.

8. **Daniel Bankson**, born 22 January 1691, became a shipwright, first in Philadelphia, then in Bucks County, where he died in 1727, leaving a wife named Elizabeth. They had no children.

9. **Joseph Bankson**, born 2 May 1696, became a carpenter in Philadelphia. After 1721, he moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where he died in 1732, survived by a wife named Hannah and four children (Joseph, Rebecca, Ariana and Susanna).

 Dr. Peter S. Craig

Web Site - from page 1

excerpted from *The Eight Old Swedes' Churches of New Sweden*, by Councillor Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams.

**About the Society:** Here viewers will learn the Society's history and purposes, discover the story of the creation of the Society's seal and see a listing of all of the Patrons, Officers & Councillors of the Swedish Colonial Society.

**History of New Sweden:** Web visitors here receive a brief introduction to Sweden as a great power in the 17th century and an overview of the tenure of the Colony's period of self-rule. We plan to soon post a time-line of historical events to amplify the facts for those seeking an in-depth overview.

**Membership:** The different types of membership (Active, Life & Forefather) are here explained, and visitors seeking to join the Society can print, complete and mail a full Membership Application. Existing members will discover descriptions of the Society's Medal, Insignia and Rosette together with purchase instructions.

**Publications:** One of the Society's foremost functions is to preserve the New Sweden legacy. Publications featured in this section are the *Swedish Colonial News* and the *Gloria Dei Records Project*. Recommendations for further study include Historian Peter Craig's *1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware*, and the New Sweden Centre's *The Eight Old Swedes' Churches of New Sweden*, by Councillor Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams.

**Historic Sites:** A most ambitious undertaking, this section will list in one spot all of the places of significance to the New Sweden Colony in the four-state area. Councillor Ellen Rye has provided some excellent photos, but more are needed and reader's contributions are welcome. Eventually, a map of the area will showcase the many historic sites worth visiting on both sides of the Delaware River.

**Links to Related Sites:** Finally, visitors are directed to the web sites of fellow organizations, including the American Swedish Historical Museum, Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church and the Timen Stiddem Society (the association of that Forefather's descendants), among others.

☞ Ronald A. Hendrickson



*Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church and Rectory, Philadelphia, PA.*

PHOTO: CHRISTINALASSEN

## Gloria Dei is Glorious Once Again

The restoration of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church in Philadelphia has recently been completed in preparation for the upcoming 300th anniversary of the church building. On the exterior of the edifice, the only surfaces not treated were the brick faces. From repointing the brick walls to regilding the steeple spire, the church was renovated from bottom to top. The interior efforts were even more extensive: the brick faces were treated, painted surfaces were restored to original colonial colors, the stained glass window was cleaned and repaired and the replicas of the *Kalmar Nyckel* and the *Fogel Grip* were repaired and reconstructed. The accumulative effect of all this work is breathtaking and is an appropriate gesture for the oldest church edifice in the Commonwealth.

The costs of this effort are high. The work was underwritten by the congregation as well as the William Penn Foundation and various Gloria Dei Endowment Funds. Several members of the Swedish Colonial Society also contributed to the restoration and an especial-

ly generous donation was received from one of the Councillors. Those who care about this historic and important building wish to thank all who contributed or those who plan to contribute in the future. We also invite any interested person or group to come and enjoy our beautiful church with us. Services are held on Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. (single 10:00 a.m. service in summer) and special events will occur frequently during the upcoming 2000 tricentennial year.

Planned events include an old style Swedish smörgåsbord, a sanctuary rededication ceremony (May 25th) and the 300th anniversary celebration. You may also want to watch for an exhibit of Gloria Dei's colonial artifacts at the American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, the building of the "Century Walkway" (commemorative bricks are available) and an Old Swedes' presence on the internet.

Gloria Dei is located at Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard in Philadelphia. The church office phone number is (215) 389-1513.

☞ Laura L. Snyder

The Society's internet web site at [www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org) is an ongoing enterprise designed to meet the information needs of a changing world. Reader's comments or suggestions are welcome

and should be sent to Ronald Hendrickson at: [webmaster@ColonialSwedes.org](mailto:webmaster@ColonialSwedes.org). Photos may be sent to 715 East Main Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

**RETROSPECTIVE****Ten Years of *Swedish Colonial News***

The *Swedish Colonial News* was established in January, 1990, as a biannual newsletter (Spring-Fall issues) focused on activities and concerns of the membership. This issue, Number 20, completes a decade of effort from the Publication Committee. We felt it appropriate to revisit some of the important stories of the past 10 years. The complete stories can be found in back issues noted in parenthesis. (#...)

Our organization is nearly a century old and is known as the oldest Swedish historical organization in the country. It was started in 1908 by Amandus Johnson and several of his colleagues. The mission as stated in the original charter was three-fold:

- I) to collect, preserve and publish records and documents;
- II) to establish monuments, memorials and historical tablets in locating, fixing and determining historical sites, events and accomplishments; and
- III) to commemorate events relative to the history of Swedes in America.

Ninety-one years later we are still honoring those commitments.



Volume 1, Number 1 - Spring 1990

**I. Records and Documents****Past**

Amandus Johnson was a highly regarded scholar. He published numerous books, articles and pamphlets through the Swedish Colonial Society. His first book is still considered a classic in Swedish-American colonial history. The two-volume set, *The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, 1638-1664*, was published in 1911.

Other books translated by Amandus Johnson were *Geographia Americae* by Peter Lindstrom; *Instruction for Johan Printz*; *The Journal and Biography of Nicholas Collin, 1746-1831*; *Records of the Swedish Lutheran Churches at Raccoon and Penns Neck, 1713-1786*; *The Journal of Andreas Hesselius*; and *John Hanson, First President of the United States under the Articles of Confederation*. (#11)



Kalmar Nyckel

PHOTO: CHRISTINALASSEN

**Last Decade**

Dr. Peter S. Craig, the current Swedish Colonial Society Historian, has taken up the task of researching New Sweden history from a genealogical perspective, focusing on individual settlers and thereby adding an important dimension to any work done previously. As important as Amandus Johnson was to the early years of our organization, so is Peter Craig to our recent development. It was through his initiative that this newsletter was started. His contributions to each issue of the newsletter provide important factual information to the general membership and background of particular interest to Forefather Members.

Over the past 10 years he has written 20 biographical sketches on Forefathers/Mothers and their immediate descendants (#1-20), provided comprehensive ship passenger lists of each new voyage 350 years later (#3, #6, #7, #9, #17), census lists (#9, #15), and a church list from 300 years ago. (#19) In addition, he has located and written book reviews of material of special interest to the membership. In 1992, he published his important basic genealogical research on the early Swedes and Finns entitled *1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware* (#6), and a second volume has just been released entitled *1671 Census of the Delaware*. (#20)

The *Gloria Dei Records Project* is an appropriate effort for our organization to undertake and is timed for first publication during the 300th anniversary year of the oldest church in Pennsylvania. Initiated by Rev. David Rivers and Dr. Craig, the records have been translated by Rev. Dr. Kim-Erik Williams in America and Dr. Gunlög Fur, and others, of Uppsala University in Sweden.

Ronald Hendrickson, Forefather Member, has taken on a substantial service to our organization by creating a web site for the Society. It was released for world-wide view on the internet in September, 1999. (#20)

## II. Historic Sites

### Past

In the early years of the Swedish Colonial Society considerable focus was placed on Governor Printz Park. A monument was erected in 1923. In 1928 the park was acquired and 10 years later it was presented to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (#11) In 1937, one year before turning it over to outside officials, excavations were made to determine the site of Printzhoff. Hundreds of artifacts were found. (#2) In 1972, the imposing statue of Governor Printz was executed by Carl Lindborg. (#4)

In 1929, the American Swedish Historical Museum was founded by Amandus Johnson and members of the Society in preparation for the 300th anniversary celebrations. (#11)

### Last Decade

In the past 10 years, through this newsletter, we have:

- helped dedicate the newly restored Lower Swedish Cabin in Upper Darby; (#1)
- visited the Måns Jones House and St. Gabriel's Church in the Douglasville Tour; (#2)
- mourned the loss of the Cannonball House in Philadelphia; (#2)
- wept to find the Swedish connection virtually eliminated from the handsome new interpretive panels at the Morton Homestead; (#3)
- chafed at the historical inaccuracies in the new Johan Printz Park panels; (#3, #5)
- warned of the need for action against the structural dangers at Trinity "Old Swedes" in Swedesboro, NJ; (#6)
- joined Gloria Dei in preparations for their 300th anniversary; (#8)
- pleaded the cause of preserving John Hans Steelman House in Elkton, MD; (#10)
- applauded the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, Wilmington, DE for completing the historic ship—a gigantic undertaking! (#10, #11)
- learned of the Swedish historical background of St. Mary Anne's Church in North East, MD; (#14)
- been alerted to the neglect at the Old Swedes' Burial Grounds in Chester, PA; (#17)
- discovered the unusual Patriot's Lucia at Christ Church in Upper Merion; (#17)
- been dismayed over the fire damage to the Stallcup cabin in Wilmington, DE; (#18)
- learned new details and background on the Hendrickson House in Wilmington, DE; (#19)
- celebrated with Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') in Wilmington, DE over their 300th Anniversary. (#19)



Ambassador Henrik Liljgren (left) greets Governor John Cameron at the Johan Printz monument at the Corinthian Yacht Club.



Lower Swedish Cabin dedication.



Norse Viking



Stallcup log cabin at Ft. Christina Park damaged by fire.

Continued on page 6

### III. Commemorative Events

Historical Events are of two kinds: Traditional Annual Events, part of the activities of the organization since 1908, and Special Commemorative Events, usually marking historical dates in New Sweden history.

#### *Traditional Annual Events include:*

- The Forefather's Day celebration near April 8th commemorating the arrival in 1638 of the *Kalmar Nyckel* and *Fogel Grip*.
- A Thanksgiving Service at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church in Philadelphia in early summer in grateful memory of the Swedish Forefathers of America and their first church and school.
- A Julmiddag luncheon in December commemorating the first 17th century Christmas celebrated by the Swedes at Tinicum, PA in 1643.

#### *Special Commemorative Events:*

##### *Highlights from the Past*

- Initiative for the Tercentenary Celebration in 1938 with most of the planning and work done by members of the Society.
- To encourage Scandinavian studies by young students, the Dr. Amandus Johnson Endowment Fund was established in 1980 to provide an annual scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania.
- In 1981, and again in 1988, commemorative U.S. postage stamps were proposed, accepted and issued accompanied by official ceremonies.
- The Royal Visit in 1988 marked the 350th anniversary of the

founding of the New Sweden Colony. Councillors and members were deeply involved in planning and preparations for this event. A scroll with names of Forefather Members was presented to the King of Sweden during festivities.



*Lucia Linda Rutenius*

#### *Last Decade*

- Children commemorated Governor Printz's arrival in 1993. Prior to this event, a three year e-mail exchange was set up between six schools in the New Sweden boundaries and Jönköping, Sweden including an elementary school in Tinicum, PA and one in Bottnaryd, Sweden—Printz's final resting place. The reenactment ceremony was attended by 500 American school children, Swedish teachers and their students. 235

Forefather descendants across the country under the age of 18 were registered and recognized in the program and video coverage.

- In 1998 we joined Delaware in celebrating the 360th anniversary of the founding of the Colony in a gala commemorative ceremony in Wilmington, DE hosted by the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation and the Swedish Colonial Society. Over 2,500 people in the audience watched the reenactment of the original settlers arriving at

the "Rocks" to be met by Lenni-Lenapi and filmed for a television documentary. (#7, #8)

- We applauded and joined neighboring celebrations: the Rambo Reunion in 1990 (#2), the Founding Father's Celebration in Swedesboro in 1996 (#15), the Kalmar Nyckel Launching in 1997 (#16), and the Viking Commemorative in 1999. (#18)

- We created a handsome SCS Banner in 1990 which we carried proudly in several parades. In 1993, Jean Roll sewed a stunning banner bearing Johan Printz's Coat of Arms. In 1995, we had a medal struck for a Swedish Colonial medal of honor. We recognized members who have performed exceptional service and mourned those who have gone on to their glory.



*Children celebrate Governor Printz's arrival.*



*The Swedish Colonial Society on parade.*

*Continued on page 7*





Governors (from left) John Widtfeldt, Wallace Richter, Benkt Wennberg, Erik Törnqvist and John Cameron.

**In Conclusion**

This issue will be my last as editor. As a committee we have worked together for 10 years on the *Swedish Colonial News*. I wish to thank the 22 members who have worked with me on the newsletter over the years. A few worked on every issue, others for a shorter duration. All were strategic and provided an important service to our organization.

Each Society Governor contributed a message during his time in office:

Wallace Richter, John Cameron, John Widtfeldt and William Neal and past Governor Benkt Wennberg and his wife, Dorothy contributed special expertise over the years. Alice and Carl Lindborg, Peter Craig, Barbara Almquist and Herb Rambo contributed articles and background information. Lillie Anderson and Jean Roll served as proofreaders. Lisa Schultheis, Rev. David Rivers and Ron Hendrickson designed the layout, while John Ramee, Robert Mahan, David Anderson, Ann Widtfeldt and Brian Daly handled the distribution. We have learned from each other and been blessed by this productive team effort.



Volume 2 of the *Swedish Colonial News* begins the next 10 years under new leadership. It seems fitting to ring out the old and bring in the new.

*Beth Linnerson-Daly*

**PUBLICATIONS**

***1671 Census of the Delaware* Now Available in Book Form**

Although the colony of New Sweden had been part of the Province of New York since 1664, few of the residents had taken the trouble to pay two beavers for a New York patent, and the collection of quitrents (taxes) was far less than it should have been.

To correct this situation, in 1671 Governor Lovelace commissioned the Englishman Walter Wharton to take a census of former New Sweden and the Dutchman Helmanus Wiltbanck to take a similar census at the Whorekill (Lewes, DE). The resulting censuses, each on a single piece of paper, have rested in the New York Archives ever since, largely overlooked by historians.

Dr. Peter Stebbins Craig devoted 15 years analyzing this 1671 census and, in 1998, published two articles in the *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* identifying each of the households in this census and giving family histories for each person known to be residing on the Delaware at that time.

These articles are now reprinted, with a foreword and every-name index, in hard-back form. This 108-page book is destined to become a standard reference for historians and genealogists. Copies may be purchased for \$22.50 (plus \$2.50 postage and handling) from the author, Peter S. Craig, 3406 Macomb St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

**OFFICERS & COUNCILLORS**

*Governor*  
William B. Neal

*Senior Deputy Governor*  
Herbert R. Rambo

*Junior Deputy Governor*  
Mrs. George C. McFarland

*Secretary*  
Rev. David B. Rivers

*Recording Secretaries*  
Barbara A. Almquist  
Martha Bates Striedieck

*Treasurer*  
Clifford J. Holgren

*Registrar*  
Wallace F. Richter

*Captain of the Color Guard*  
Peter Mats Sheronas

*Chaplain*  
Rev. David B. Rivers

*Counselor*  
Gordon L. Keen, Esq.

*Historian*  
Dr. Peter S. Craig

*Councillors*  
David R. Anderson  
Mrs. Robert Jensen Bryan  
Mrs. Maurice Clancy  
Beth Linnerson-Daly  
Brian Daly  
Ulf Hammarskjöld  
Ronald A. Hendrickson, Esq.  
Marie Bates Hiscock  
Mrs. Park Huntington  
Christina W. Lassen  
Malcolm L. Mackenzie  
Ellen T. Rye  
Mrs. Victor Sheronas  
Linda R. Smith  
Susan B. Spackman  
Richard L. Steadham  
Richard L. Waldron  
Mrs. John W. Widtfeldt  
Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams

## OBITUARIES

### Alice Whitten Lindborg

Last spring in March, Alice Whitten Lindborg died at the age of 87, five years after her husband, Carl Lindborg—artist and sculptor—passed away.

Alice was a Councillor of the Swedish Colonial Society for over 15 years and served as Secretary from 1987 through 1992, when she and her husband retired from the Council. She also served on the board of the Newtown Square Historical Society (PA), was a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Swedish Historical Museum, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames. Alice authored a children's book, *My Trip to Europe*, based on personal experiences and with her husband she co-edited, *Historic Newtown Township*, a local history book.

Already by her teens, Alice was accomplished in the arts both as a musician and painter. She graduated from the Tower Hill School in Wilmington, DE, from Smith College in Northampton, MA, and the Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. She exhibited her paintings frequently at the Wilmington Art Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. In 1976, she and her husband were invited by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to present a joint showing of their works at the Memorial Museum in Harrisburg. Her most recent exhibit was held six years ago when Alice—at 81—had a one-woman show of 24 paintings presented at the Bixler Gallery of Art in



Alice Whitten Lindborg

Stroudsburg, PA, a retrospective of a lifetime of work as an artist.

Alice grew up in Wilmington, DE, and was introduced to the New Sweden story early on in elementary school. Her interest was peaked again in 1938 during the celebrations for the 300th anniversary year of the New Sweden Colony. That same year she was further drawn into the Swedish connection when at 26 she met Carl Lindborg—her future husband—at a summer art school.

They married one year later. Their partnership brought forth more than 50 years of creativity, dedicated service and cooperative projects. A culminating moment in their lives together came in 1993 when they both received the prestigious Swedish Charlotta Medal presented by the Emigrant Institute of Växjö, Sweden, for

"dedicated and long-standing services to cultural relations between Sweden and Swedish-Americans in the United States."

One of the services to Swedish-Americans was the program they planned and presented for the King of Sweden in Printz Park in 1976 as members of the Bicentennial Commission of Delaware County, PA. In 1988, Alice and Carl were once again involved in preparations for the program for the Royal Visit. They arranged frequent tours of Swedish historical sites and hosted Swedish groups that came to learn about Swedish-American history.

Alice was a woman of conviction. She was graced with many gifts and talents and gave of them freely. She was passionate about several things: her art, her family and local history. She also was passionate about the Swedish Colonial Society. As Secretary, she established a campaign to discover Forefather candidates and make them members. Due to her concerted efforts to locate and activate their involvement the Forefather membership has increased and become a major force within the organization. We on the board were blessed by her presence. Her sincerity and willing spirit were hallmarks of that presence. Our organization owes much to Alice's years of dedication and loyal service.

Alice is survived by three children, Carl S. Lindborg, Linnea Törnqvist and Karen Lindborg Mejia, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild, all of whom are Life Members of our Society.

*Beth Linnerson-Daly*

### Robert Arthur Nelson

Robert Arthur Nelson of Springfield, PA, died last spring on March 24th at 72 years of age. He is survived by his wife Marion, his three children, Arthur of Newark, DE, Holly of Drexel Hill, PA, and Philip of Haverford, PA, and four grandchildren.

He was a long-standing member of the Swedish Colonial Society and for 14 years served as a Councillor and Captain of the Color Guard. In this capacity he not only officiated at Swedish Colonial Society events through the years but also responded to every request for Color Guard participation from civic, religious

and historical events in the Greater Delaware Valley.

He was born in Manistique, Michigan in 1927, and early on began a career of service when, as a teenager, he joined the armed forces during the height of World War II as a flight navigator. He flew for five years.

After the war he returned to civilian life and college at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) where he trained as an Industrial Engineer and moved to the Philadelphia region.

Since all four of his grandparents had emigrated from Sweden in the Lake Vänern region, Robert celebrated his Swedish roots by joining and fully partici-

pating in three local Swedish organizations. In addition to his role with the SCS, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Swedish Historical Foundation for 14 years and one of the founders of the Midsommarklubben at the museum, where he remained a consultant until 1986.

Another long-standing involvement developed with the Leif Ericson Society as one of the original builders of the Viking Ship *Rävnen*, completed in 1976. He was one of the primary crew members until 1990.



## NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

**Jeffrey B. Steelman**, Aston, PA, descended from **Hans Månsson** via his son **James Steelman** of Great Egg Harbor, NJ.

**Howard C. Yocum**, Aston, PA, descended from **Peter Jochimsson** via his son **Charles Yocum** of Kingsessing.

**Robert F. Marvin**, Wynnewood, PA, descended from **Lars Thomasson Bjur** via his son **Lars Larsson Boore** of Philadelphia County.

**Jan W. Hawkes**, Orem, UT, descended from **Johan Gustafsson** via his son **Swan Justis** of Kingsessing.

**John J. Hagan**, Lawrenceville, NJ, descended from **Captain Sven Skute** via his son **Johan Skute** of Philadelphia County.

**Howard Raymond Longacre, Jr.**, Ephrata, PA, descended from **Peter Andersson** via his son **Anders Petersson Longacre** of Kingsessing.

**Barbara Hays Clayton**, Raymond, IL, descended from **Sven Gunnarsson** via his daughter **Gertrude** who married **Jonas Nilsson** of Kingsessing.

**Carla Virginia Gallop Chamberlain**, Schellsburg, PA, descended from **Marcus Laurensen** via his son **Marcus Hulings** of Berks County.

**Noria L. Gerig**, San Francisco, CA, descended from **Dr. Timen Stiddem** via his son **Adam Stiddem** of New Castle County.



## Forefather Luncheon April 25, 1999

*Renni Winberg (photo at left) was the 1999 recipient of the Dr. Amandus Johnson Scholarship presented at the Forefather's Luncheon by Professor Anne Jenner. Miss Winberg is a student at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.*

*Three of our members are nearing their own century mark. (Photo below - left to right) Mrs. and Mr. James Marvin, Sr., 93 and 94 years of age, enjoyed a conversation after lunch with a spirited 96-year-old member Mary Bullock.*

PHOTOS: BETH LINNERSON-DALY



## WELCOME

### Richard L. Waldron

Richard Waldron, former Executive Director of the NJ Historical Commission in Trenton, has recently been named the Executive Director of the American Swedish Historical Museum. He began his responsibilities on August 2nd.

Waldron has been actively involved in Swedish projects for over 15 years. In

preparation for the 1988 celebration, he participated in the early planning and development stages of the New Jersey state-wide program, including the development of the Farmstead Museum in Bridgeton, NJ. Officiating at the NJ Historical Commission, he organized and hosted an international conference of 10 Nordic and American scholars who presented papers at the NJ State Museum as part of the year-long commemoration.

He is currently working on a doctoral dissertation on Early Modern European History, which deals with aspects of the Swedish Church in America, 1669-1789. He is knowledgeable of the Swedish language and brings much solid experience at the regional, national and international levels. Welcome to Pennsylvania. *Gratulationer och Vålgångsönskningar!*

**CONGRATULATIONS****Dr. Esther C. Meixner  
Celebrates 95th Birthday**

Dr. Esther Chilstrom Meixner, former Deputy Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society, celebrated her 95th birthday on August 21 at her home in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Meixner joined the Swedish Colonial Society in 1953 and is a Life Member. A graduate of Temple University, she secured her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. As author, historian and lecturer, she has devoted almost half a century to the preservation of New Sweden landmarks and its heritage. Among her publications are *Swedish Landmarks in the Delaware Valley* (1960, 1976), *The Governor's Daughter*, a biography of Armegott Printz (1965) and *Red Ribbons*, a fiction based on the life of Armegott Printz (1982).

During her years as a Councillor, Dr. Meixner provided help for the aging Dr. Amandus Johnson, founder of the Swedish Colonial Society. After Dr. Johnson's death at the Swedish Home for the Aged in 1975, she was asked to select an appropriate repository for all of Dr. Johnson's papers. Her selection of the Balch Institute in Philadelphia for this purpose has assured scholars of continued access to Amandus Johnson's papers dealing with the colonial history of New Sweden as well as the early activities of both the American Swedish Historical Museum and the Swedish Colonial Society.

**New Members**

Carla Chamberlain  
*Bedford, PA (Forefather)*

Barbara Hays Clayton  
*Raymond, IL (Forefather)*

Kenneth A. Fegley  
*West Brandywine, PA*

John W. Gareis  
*Lancaster, PA*

Noria Gerig  
*San Francisco, CA (Forefather)*

John J. Hagan  
*Lawrenceville, NJ (Forefather)*

Lennart Hagegard  
*Wayne, PA*

Jan W. Hawkes  
*Orem, UT (Forefather)*

John S. Johnson  
*Prescott, AZ*

Howard Raymond Longacre, Jr.  
*Ephrata, PA (Forefather)*

Donald M. Lyman  
*Daytona Beach, FL*

Richard Warren Sage  
*New York, NY*

Richard L. Waldron  
*Hamilton, NJ*

**Membership Procedure**

*An application card for new membership must be signed by an active member-sponsor and mailed to the Registrar with a check payable to the Swedish Colonial Society for the class of membership desired. Action will be taken at the next meeting of the Council.*

**Annual Dues:**

*Individual \$25; Family (two adults, minor children) \$30; Life \$300.*

**Mail to:** Mr. Wallace Richter, 336 So. Devon Ave., Wayne, PA 19087-2927.

**Information:** (610) 688-1766.

**Life Members**

Robert F. Marvin  
*Wynnewood, PA (Forefather)*

William F. Marvin  
*Wayne, PA (Forefather)*

Lawrence Matson  
*Macedon, NY (Forefather)*

**Swedish Colonial News****Newsletter Committee**

Beth Linnerson-Daly, Editor  
David R. Anderson      Peter S. Craig  
Brian Daly      Ron Hendrickson  
William Neal      Herbert Rambo  
Wallace Richter      Jean Roll  
Dorothy & Benkt Wennberg

**Swedish Colonial News**

*The Swedish Colonial Society  
916 South Swanson Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147*