



Swedish Colonial News

Volume 3, Number 6

Spring/Summer 2007

Preserving the legacy of the Royal New Sweden Colony in America

Linné Tercentenary 'Prince of Flowers' Turns 300



This image by Gustaf Henrik Brusewitz depicts Carl Linné lecturing during a botanical outing in Sweden.

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Carl von Linné, (Carolus Linnaeus), was arguably the most accomplished Naturalist in history. His scientific contributions were of critical importance during the "Age of Enlightenment". Although his work was momentous as well as diverse, he may best be known for creating the Latin based Linnaean System of binomial nomenclature to classify all living things. That system is still in use today. This year marks the Tercentenary of

this renowned Småland Swede, the son of a parish priest born to humble beginnings in Råshult on May 23, 1707. Linné had links throughout the world, including colonial America. His accomplishments changed the course of history and they continue to have relevance today. For more information on the worldwide Linné Tercentenary celebrations visit www.linnaeus2007.se.

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Samuel Petersson of Christina and His Descendants

When the ship *Örnen* (the *Eagle*) arrived in New Sweden in 1654, it brought two new freemen to the country named Samuel Petersson, both of them Finns. They were distinguished by their place of origin and their marks. Both appeared at Tinicum Island on 9 June 1654 to sign the loyalty oath to the new Governor of New Sweden, Johan Risingh. One was recorded as Samuel Petersson of Fryksände Parish in Värmland, Sweden; the other as Samuel Petersson of Bogen, Gunnarskog Parish in Värmland. The latter purchased goods from the company store on 8 July 1654 and soon disappeared from history.

Samuel Petersson of Fryksände bought goods from the company store on 2 August 1654. He was residing in the Fort Trinity area (near present New Castle) when that fort was surrendered to the Dutch in September 1655. He then signed an oath of allegiance to the Dutch, signing by his mark, which was in the shape of a diamond with concave sides. In 1657, the Dutch paid Samuel and his co-worker Måns Larsson 18 guilders for services rendered.

The first English census of the Delaware, taken in May 1671, found Samuel Petersson and his family residing at Crane Hook on the Delaware River, south of the Christina River. He was among the Finns moving to this location in 1663 at the invitation of the Dutch Governor d'Hinoyossa. In 1669, after the English captured the Delaware from the Dutch, Samuel played a minor role in the "Long Finn Rebellion" for which he was fined 50 guilders. A ringleader in this rebellion was Johan Andersson Stalcop, who owned extensive lands north of the Christina River adjacent to old Fort Christina. To pay for his fine, Stalcop was forced to sell part of his lands. By deeds dated 2 September 1674 and 16 April 1675, Samuel Petersson purchased the lower quarter of the Stalcop plantation, fronting on Christina Creek. This land at Christina became Samuel Petersson's home until his death in 1689. He also added land to his holdings. This included a patent dated 30 July 1684 from William Penn for "Mill Point," 300 acres, bounded by land belonging to John & Andrew Stalcop, the "old land" of Samuel Petersson and land of Lucas Stedham.

Samuel Petersson was very active in the Swedish church. He gave a 30-foot strip of his former land at Crane Hook for the church at that location. Further, in the dispute between Pastor Lars Carlsson Lock and Pastor Jacobus Fabritius for the right to the pulpit, Samuel Peterson, a warden of the church, supported Lock and by a letter to the English government of 14 August 1675 he joined other leaders of his congregation to urge that Fabritius, who could not speak Swedish, be rejected as their pastor. Samuel signed the letter with the same mark used when signing the oaths of allegiance to Governor Risingh in 1654 and to Governor Stuyvesant in 1655.

Samuel Petersson's wife was Brita, daughter of Jöns Andersson the blacksmith at Christina. Jöns' will, proved 5 November 1678, left his entire estate to Samuel Petersson. Jöns Andersson and his wife Maria had also arrived on the *Eagle* in 1654. He lived near Fort Christina and made several purchases from the company store

from 17 June 1654 to 8 August 1655. After the surrender of New Sweden to the Dutch in September 1655, he informed Captain Sven Skute that he intended to remain at Fort Christina. He and his wife Maria submitted an affidavit on 7 March 1660 to the Dutch authorities regarding the illegal sale of liquor to the Indians by Hans Juriansen Becker, a Dutch soldier.

The will of Samuel Petersson, dated 20 November 1689, has been lost. However, we know from later deeds that the will included a bequest that "he of my sons whom is longest with my loving wife he shall have my now dwelling plantation." He was survived by his wife Brita and at least nine children, three sons and six daughters.

His widow Brita Petersson was listed on the 1693 census as head of a household that included seven others persons. Soon thereafter she married Joshua Jones, an Englishman. On 24 June 1697, she was granted administration of his estate. In August 1697, "Mrs. Brita" subscribed £ 2 towards construction of Holy Trinity Church; her daughter Brita added 12 shillings. During construction of the church, "Mistress Brita" boarded workmen at her house "on the old land" for five weeks. An audit of quitrents (property taxes) in 1701 reported that "Bridget Peterson alias Jones" was current on her taxes. She died in the following year.

The 1701 audit showed the existence of two plantations. The one occupied by widow Brita Jones was on the "old land," originally acquired from Stalcop. This would be inherited by Peter Peterson, the youngest son, who had lived the longest with his mother. The "new land" was then occupied by Matthias Peterson. It was north of Christina and supposed to contain 300 acres when granted by William Penn, but on resurvey was shown to contain 618 acres. Matthias was unwilling to pay the money required to keep the "overplus," so he kept only the 300 acres of his choosing. To fulfill his father's directions in his will, Matthias Peterson executed a deed in December 1702 confirming the "old land" to his brother Peter Peterson.

Within 40 years after the death of widow Brita, four of her grandchildren became famous, two as wives of the first two ministers of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church and two as founders of Wilmington and Newark, Delaware.

Samuel and Brita Peterson's known children are listed below in the apparent order of their birth:

1. **Margareta Petersson**, born c. 1663, was first married about 1686 to **Erasmus Stedham**, son of Dr. Timen Stiddem. He was father of all of her children. Erasmus, often called "Asmund," was born c. 1658. On 20 October 1686 he acquired from Adam and Benedict Stedham their 1/8th shares in the Timen Stiddem plantation, which he apparently shared with his brother Lulof. He served as a churchwarden of Holy Trinity, 1704-1707. The will of Asmund Stedham, husbandman, dated 26 August 1711 and probated 22 August 1712, directed his son Samuel to maintain the other children until they came of age. Erasmus' widow Margaret married Thomas Jones on 7 Sept. 1714 and was buried in 1739. Her known children were:

- > **Samuel Stedham**, born c. 1687, was named sexton of Holy Trinity Church 1713-1714 and 1716-1717. On 17 September 1719 he married Annika Tussey, the orphaned daughter of Olof

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Linné Överallt!



Governor Williams & Society friend Malin Eriksson at the estate of Funbo-Lövsta where Per Kalm resided.

Spring, 2007



Through the kind hospitality of Councilor Hans Ling and wife Meta, Society members Barbara Rosborg, Tommy Bergsköld and Per-Arne Bengtsson meet with other Society members in Uppsala.

Dear Friend of New Sweden,

Carl av Linné is everywhere. He was the subject of our Joint Colonial Forefathers Luncheon at Longwood Gardens in March with the inspired presentation of Uppsala-based Hans Odöo, who has been re-enacting Linné around the world. Linné is featured in the current exhibition in the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia and he and Pehr Kalm will be the centers of our investigations at the New Sweden History Conference in Swedesboro, NJ on October 13.

In this way we are reflecting just what is going on in Sweden where a few weeks ago I saw his name all over Uppsala and in an exhibition called *The Language of Flowers* at the National Museum in Stockholm. He is perhaps the world's best-known Swede and certainly its most prominent botanist.

One of the things that I was able to accomplish after my participation at Uppsala University on a Symposium on Swedish language in the 1600's in March was to be able to meet with some of our Swedish members. It used to be that the Swedish Colonial Society was a Philadelphia organization and identified itself as being Pennsylvania-based in distinction to our sister group, the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society. That is no longer the case. Fully 2/3 of our members do not even live in the Delaware Valley. We have members in Texas, California, Utah, Illinois, Canada and even in Sweden. We are currently growing at the rate of about 50 new members each year, and at this rate we are the largest and oldest group in the country devoted to

the history of Sweden.

With the gracious hospitality of Hans Ling and his wife Meta, fourteen of us met in Uppsala to see if we could more formally organize a Swedish partner organization or at least ease the access of Swedish members into our Society. Those living in the homeland have the advantage of archival resources that we know nothing about as well as the challenge to bring this era back into the consciousness of contemporary Swedes. Our last issue of the *Swedish Colonial News* contained an article in Swedish for the first time since publication began in 1990. These developments speak very well to the future of our organization as a transnational research and educational society.

This spring the Rambo Apple Project will be featured in a planting at the estate of Funbo-Lövsta, adjacent to Linné's Hammarby, outside of Uppsala. The Swedish Agricultural University (SLU) is restoring the estate where Pehr Kalm lived and where he planted many species collected from America. Our honorary Governor, Herbert Rambo will represent his ancestor and the Society at this and several other locations that will stress cooperation between the United States and Sweden.

Help us pass the word about the Swedish Colonial Society and its exciting programs.

Pro Suecia,

Governor Kim-Eric Williams

and Gertrude Tussey of Brandywine Hundred. They had one child: Jacob Stedham, born 19 September 1720, who died in childhood. Samuel Stedham of Christiana Hundred dictated his nuncupative will on 31 October 1721. His widow thereafter married Jonas Scoggin 1 November 1722 and, finally, James McCaslin.

> **Margareta Stedham**, born c. 1689, was married by 26 August 1711 when Asmund wrote his will. She was then the wife of William Howell. Known children by her first marriage were Patience and Elizabeth Howell. Margaret also had an illegitimate daughter named Rachel, described as the daughter of Johan Hayard and Margareta Howell, baptized 5 July 1722. The sole sponsor was Thomas Jones' wife Margareta. On 19 April 1726 Margeret Howell married Richard Jeffries at Holy Trinity Church. Not further traced.

> **Sarah Stedham**, born c. 1691, was married before 1713 to Edward Milsson. They had one child baptized at Holy Trinity after baptism records began in 1713: Maria Milsson, born 4 June 1714. Sarah Stedham Milsson was buried in April 1715.

> **Maria Stedham**, born 1693, was married on 6 November 1716 to William Forehead of Brandywine Hundred. His name later evolved into Forwood. He was born in Ireland in 1692, moved to England and thence to Delaware. He died in 1777 at the age of 85. His wife Mary died in 1783, 90 years old, the last of Samuel Peterson's grandchildren to die. William Forwood's will, dated 13 Aug. 1771, was proved 18 Jan. 1777. They had 11 known children.

> **Christina Stedham**, born c. 1699, is named in her father's will, but her name has not been found among the records of Holy Trinity. Presumably, she died shortly after her father.

> **Adam Stedham**, born c. 1703, was buried 9 January 1723.

> **Erasmus (Asmund) Stedham**, born c. 1705, married Christina Hendrickson, 14 May 1735. She was the daughter of Hendrick and Judith Hendrickson, born 27 February 1719. With the death of his two older brothers, Erasmus Stedham inherited the 3/8th share of the Timen Stiddem plantation which his father had owned, and on 26 April 1738 entered into an agreement with Timothy Lulofsson Stedham dividing the property. Thereafter, Erasmus Stedham moved to Penns Neck for about ten years. By 5 May 1748, he had returned to the Wilmington area, as he was then chosen to be sexton and gravedigger for the church. On 27 December 1759 he resigned as sexton. In the 1764 church census Erasmus and his wife Christina were living in the Brandywine rota with their 16-year-old son Cornelius. The family's fate after that is not known. Erasmus (Asmund) Stedham, Jr., and his wife Christina had seven children baptized at Holy Trinity.

2. **Catharina Peterson**, born c. 1665, was married by 1685 to **Peter Stalcop**, born c. 1664, the son of Johan Andersson Stalcop and Christina Carlsdotter. Peter Stalcop owned extensive lands on Red Clay Creek. He pledged £7 for construction of Holy Trinity Church, helped in its construction for 14 days, furnished horses for two days and lathe for the plastering. On 24 June 1699 he and his wife were assigned pews. Peter's will, dated 3 September 1709 and proved 16 May 1710, named his wife Catharina and his son-in-law pastor Ericus Björk co-executors, to be joined by his son John when he came of age. Soon after 26 September 1711,

his widow Catharina became the second wife of Lucas Stedham, Sr., who had eight children by his first wife. There were no children by her second marriage. Lucas Stedham, Sr., was buried 8 December 1726. Karin (Catharina) last took communion on 6 June 1731.

By her first marriage, Catharina had six children who grew to adulthood:

> **Christina Stalcop**, born 19 April 1686, married Ericus Björk, the first pastor of Holy Trinity Church, 6 October 1702. Initially, pending completion of a parsonage, they were provided with a house on her father's Red Clay Creek property. It would be several years before the parsonage was completed. In 1714, when Björk was recalled to assume the pastorate at Falun, Sweden, Christina left America with her husband and five young children (Tobias, Magdalena, Catharina, Christina and Maria). She died in Falun on 16 March 1720. Another son, Peter Björk, had died 10 September 1710 and was buried in Holy Trinity Church. More children were born in Sweden, including Sarah and Brita.

> **Brita Stalcop**, born c. 1686, married John Justis, son of Johan Giöstason of Kingsessing, 13 November 1704. As a wedding present, Peter Stalcop gave him 105 acres of his Red Clay Creek plantation. John and Brita Justis sold this land in 1728 to his cousin Jonas Walraven, and acquired 100 acres at "Cold Harbor," on the north side of Christina Creek. He then subdivided this property to create the town called Newport. Brita died in the spring of 1737. Brita and John Justis had four known children, all of whom died in childhood.

> **John Stalcop**, born c. 1692, married Maria Morton (daughter of Matthias Morton and Annika Justis of Ammansland, Ridley Township) by 1711. He inherited his father's plantation on Red Clay Creek, where he died of a heart attack, 24 June 1751. They had ten children born between 1712 and 1737.

> **Maria Stalcop**, born 15 March 1696, married John Corneliussan Van der Veer, 14 January 1714. She accompanied her sister Christina to Sweden, where, after Van der Veer's death, she married Hans Georgen Schmidt c. 1719. After her sister's death, the Schmidts returned to New Castle County. Maria's daughter Catharina Van der Veer, born in Sweden, returned to America and on 4 November 1738 married Simon Johnson in Cecil County, Maryland. Maria had eight more children by her second husband. Maria was buried 19 November 1750. She was then 54 years and 10 months old. Hans Georgen Schmidt (Smith) died of tuberculosis and was buried 27 December 1753.

> **Andrew Stalcop**, born c. 1699-1700, married Christina Peterson, 7 May 1725, at the Swedes' church in Penns Neck. They had a son John, born in Salem County on 15 Dec. 1730. In 1738, Andrew moved back to Newport, Delaware, but by 1750 he and his son John were residing in Cecil County, Maryland.

> **Margareta Stalcop**, born c. 1703, married John Morton (son of Matthias Morton of Ammansland, Ridley Township) on 11 November 1725. They lived on a large 436-acre tract south of Christina Creek which John Morton and his brother Matthias had purchased from Ebenezer Empson on 18 November 1724. They had five children. Margareta was buried 12 May 1741. Her husband John Morton wrote his will on 20 April 1742, devising

his land to his two surviving sons, Matthias and Peter Morton.

3. **Christina Peterson**, born c. 1667, married in the late 1680s Gisbert (Jesper) Walraven (son of Walraven Jansen DeVos and Christina Ollesdotter). She was buried 20 December 1725. Gisbert Walraven, also known as Jesper Walraven, was born about 1660. 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, proved 4 June 1708, 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 January 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 London's only surviving son, Ambrose London, Jr.

> **Catharina Walraven**, born 1690, married by 1709 Måns Justis (son of Johan Giöstasson of Kingsessing). They lived on the east side of Red Clay Creek. They had twelve children born between 1710 and 1732, all of whom grew to adulthood. The mother died of a heart attack 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 November 1723. He then married widow Anna Paulson (daughter of Bengt Pålsson and widow of John Garritson) in 1724. She died after 1743. On 15 November 1752, Gisbert married his third wife, Christina Morton, daughter of Matthias Morton and widow of Samuel Peterson. Gisbert Walraven lived his entire life on the Middle Borough plantation, which he inherited from his father. He died intestate before 21 July 1761, when his widow Christina Walraven filed her first accounting of his estate. By his first two wives he had eleven children.

> **Jonas Walraven** married in 1723 Catharina Archer, daughter of John and Gertrude (Bartleson) Archer of Ammansland. Jonas was buried 11 March 1727. His widow married Hans Peterson in 1731 and died before 1748. On 28 January 1723/4 Jonas acquired 110 acres at Christina in Christiana Hundred from his cousin Samuel Peterson. A weaver by trade, Jonas devised his land to his son John. 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. **Samuel Peterson, Jr.**, born in 1668, died intestate and unmarried before 10 March 1691/2, when an inventory was taken listing his property (six cattle, four pigs, a gun, axe, frying pan, iron pot, chest, anchor and his clothing) as worth £19.

5. **Matthias Peterson**, born c. 1671, was married c. 1695 to Elisabeth Justis, daughter of John Giöstason of Kingsessing. He pledged £11.0 in 1697 for the building of Holy Trinity Church, worked 9 days helping to build the church and provided lathe for the plastering. He and his wife were assigned pews in 1699. He became a warden of the church and served for several years on the church council. He also was named co-executor of the wills of his brothers-in-law Gisbert Walraven, 19 May 1708, Asmund Stedham, 22 Aug. 1712, and Christian Urinson, 16 October 1716. Matthias Peterson was buried 27 September 1719. His widow

Elisabeth married Edward Robinson 18 October 1720. His known children were:

> **Samuel Peterson**, a twin, born in November 1698, was married on 26 May 1720 to Christina Morton, born 23 October 1699 to Matthias Morton of Ammansland. She died after 1764. They had ten children baptized at Holy Trinity Church. On 15 August 1723, Samuel released 200 acres of the land inherited from his father to his younger brother Matthias Peterson. On 28 January 1723/4 Samuel released another 110 acres to his cousin Jonas Walraven. Samuel died of a heart attack 1 January 1751 at the age of 52. He had ten children.

> **Maria Peterson**, a twin, born November 1698, married Christiern Brynberg, a recent immigrant from Sweden, on 2 July 1719. She was buried 31 July 1750 at the age of 51 years and 7 months. Her husband died "of a pitchfork" and was buried 28 March 1752 at the age of 68. They had ten children, six of whom lived to adulthood and married.

> **Matthias Peterson**, born c. 1701, never married. By his will dated 6 January 1731/2 and proved 6 February 1731/2, he left 100 acres acquired from his brother Samuel in 1723 to his nephew Matthias Peterson, son of Samuel Peterson, and the other 100 acres to his nephew Peter Brynberg, son of his sister Maria.

6. **Sarah Peterson**, born c. 1673, married Jonas Walraven, youngest son of Walraven Jansen de Vos in 1693. She died c. 1708. Jonas Walraven married second, by 1713, Anna Justis, widow of Matthias Morton of Ammansland. He 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 to Sarah Peterson, Jonas had five children:

> **Brita Walraven**, born in 1693, married Morton Justis, son of Justa Giöstason of Kingsessing, on 1 October 1713. They made their home at Bread and Cheese Island, Mill Creek Hundred, and had ten children born between 1714 and 1739, of whom six grew to adulthood. 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. Their child Helena was born in 1750. Morton Justis died in 1765 at the age of 78.

> **Sarah Walraven**, born 3 February 1695, married Rev. Andreas Hesselius, pastor of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, 3 May 1713. She died in London, England, on 17 June 1724 en route to Sweden with her husband and children, Anders, Jonas, Maria Christina and Sarah, the last of whom was born in London eight weeks before her death.

> **Walraven Walraven**, born c. 1698, married Christina Colesberg (daughter of Sven Kålsberg and Elisabeth Anderson), 6 October 1725. 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. There were four other children. The father was buried 4 Aug. 1736, and his widow married John Justis, 30 July 1737.

> **Christina Walraven**, born in 1700, married Morton Morton (son of Matthias Morton of Ammansland) 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

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Linnaeus and America



Linnaeus in Lapland dress holding Linnaea borealis.



Pehr Kalm (1715-1779). This portrait by J.G. Geitel was painted in 1764, some 13 years after his journey to North America.

In October 1747, the great Swedish scientist Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) sent his top student, Pehr Kalm, off to explore the natural history of North America on his behalf. Kalm was probably the luckiest of Linnaeus's two dozen "Apostles." Kalm survived the trip—half of the others did not—and he came back to Sweden with a wife and a wealth of scientific specimens and observations he could mine the rest of his life. (Linnaeus himself never left Europe.)

It took Kalm nearly a year to reach his destination. First, he and his servant-gardener-companion, Lars Jungström, made an arduous overland journey from Uppsala through Sweden and Norway, then sailed to London. After several months learning English and meeting Linnaeus's scientific colleagues, Kalm and Jungström finally arrived in Philadelphia. On September 15, 1748, Pehr Kalm recorded his first impressions: "I found I was now come into a new world. Whenever I looked to the ground, I everywhere found such plants as I had never seen before...I was seized with terror at the thought of ranging so many new and unknown parts of natural history."

The main title for the American Swedish Historical Museum's

exhibition in honor of Carolus Linnaeus's 300th birthday was inspired by that moving passage. The museum's own name suggested the exhibition's focus on Linnaeus and America. Astonishingly, in the vast literature on Linnaeus, no historian had ever looked closely at Linnaeus's interest in our side of the Atlantic.

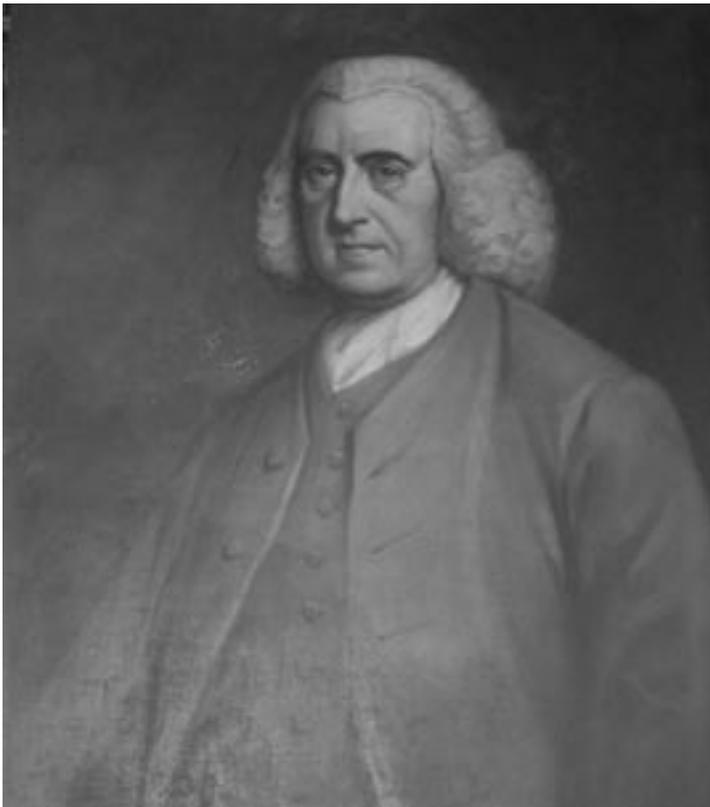
In putting the exhibition together, we wanted to touch on the full range of Linnaeus's American correspondents and their work in natural history from Florida to New York. The real fun, however, came in tracking down Linnaeus's local connections and getting better acquainted with Pehr Kalm. Indeed, we could easily have done a whole exhibition called Linnaeus, Kalm, and New Sweden!

Why did Kalm come to Philadelphia?

Pehr Kalm spent two and a half years in North America. Between September 1748 and February 1751, he managed to cover an extraordinary amount of territory, from Delaware to French Canada and west to Niagara Falls. However, he spent most of his time in the Delaware Valley.

Why did Kalm come to Philadelphia at all? Given his expedition's purpose, it would have made more sense for him to start much farther north. Linnaeus, the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, and Kalm himself all hoped that the young naturalist would find North American plants and animals that would thrive in Sweden's harsh climate and bolster the nation's faltering economy. So Kalm was expected to go to the parts of America that were most like Sweden--New England and Canada--rather than the temperate Mid-Atlantic seaboard.

Philadelphia and New York, however, already had a fledgling scientific community, and Linnaeus was much more than a name to its members. A decade earlier, when Linnaeus had spent a month in London, he had met Peter Collinson, a genial Quaker cloth merchant who shared his passion for exotic plants and animals. For years, Collinson served as Linnaeus's London mailbox for the exchange of letters, specimens, and ideas with Europe's leading naturalists, gardeners, and scientists. Collinson's networks stretched across the Atlantic, and he immediately sent Linnaeus's books to James Logan and John Bartram in Philadelphia and to Cadwallader Colden in New York, convinced that they'd share his excitement about Linnaeus's new methods for classifying everything in nature.



London Quaker merchant and naturalist Peter Collinson.

As Collinson had hoped, those books did inspire Logan and Colden to make their own botanical investigations and to join in the Linnaeus/Collinson correspondence. Colden and his daughter Jane collected and described the plants growing on their estate in the wilderness along the Hudson River. Linnaeus published Colden's Latin descriptions in the transactions of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences.

Even before James Logan received Linnaeus's books, his voracious reading had informed him of the amazing fact that plants, like animals, had male and female sexes. That recent discovery had so captured Linnaeus's imagination that he made it the foundation

of his path-breaking classification of plants. Logan carried out elegant experiments on pollination and sexual reproduction in Indian corn (planted in his Philadelphia backyard). He sent his results with Peter Collinson, who presented them before the Royal Society of London, and shared them immediately with Linnaeus. In responding to Linnaeus's congratulations in 1738, Logan noted that Philadelphia's real hero of botany was the Quaker farmer and gardener, John Bartram. He was unquestionably the finest naturalist and horticulturalist in the colonies even though he could only read Linnaeus's Latin with Logan's help.



The estate of America's first botanist Quaker John Bartram.

During Kalm's stay in England, Collinson equipped him with letters of introduction that made it easy for Kalm to call on Bartram, Colden, Logan, and Benjamin Franklin. Only Logan failed to welcome the Swedish visitor. Logan was then near the end of his life and in great pain from a broken hip and a stroke. He resented Kalm's failure to see him in Germantown right away and suspected Kalm might be a spy! Bartram, Franklin, and Colden, though, shared their knowledge generously, replied patiently to Kalm's endless questions, and smoothed his path in countless ways. Exploiting these intellectual friendships and credentials was invaluable to Kalm's success.

Kalm and the Colonial Swedes

I have, however, come to believe that Kalm's connections to the Colonial Swedes in the Delaware Valley were even more important to the success of his expedition. The trees and grasses might have seemed terrifyingly different from ones he had left behind in Europe, but the people felt like old friends. The community of New Sweden immediately enfolded Kalm and his servant-companion, Lars Jungström.

When Kalm and Jungström disembarked from the *Mary Gally* on September 15, 1748, the first two people to greet them were Jacob Bengtson, a warden of the Swedish church in Philadelphia, and Gustavus Hesselius, a portrait painter whose brothers, Andreas and Samuel Hesselius, had served as pastors to the Swedish church in Christina (Wilmington, Delaware). Within a week, Kalm had visited Peter Cock and Anders Rambo and attended the Swedish church in Philadelphia.

Officially, the colony of New Sweden had only lasted from 1638 to 1655. The Swedes in America had sworn allegiance first to the Dutch and then to the English. The settlers had changed their traditional Swedish and Finnish ways of life to meet the conditions of the New World. By the time Kalm arrived in the mid-18th century, the children and grandchildren of the original colonists increasingly thought of themselves as Americans. They were much more likely to speak English rather than Swedish. They intermarried with settlers from other lands, and they sometimes strayed from the Lutheran beliefs of their ancestors. Nonetheless, they kept a strong sense of identification with Sweden, and they provided Kalm and Jungström with abundant hospitality and the comfort of speaking their own language.

The Colonial Swedes often felt, with considerable justice, that the mother country had forgotten their existence. That was less true in Uppsala, however. Uppsala University, where Linnaeus taught medicine and natural history, was across the street from the cathedral of the Archbishop responsible for supplying ministers to the American congregations. Long before Kalm went to America, Linnaeus had taken advantage of Uppsala's links to New Sweden.

In 1734, very early in Linnaeus's career, he paid a visit to Reverend Andreas Sandel in Hedemora to see the material that Sandel had gathered during his seventeen years as the pastor in Philadelphia. Five years later, Linnaeus learned through the Uppsala academic grapevine that Reverend Samuel Hesselius had come back from Delaware with a collection of American artifacts that included a book of nature prints of American plants. (Benjamin Franklin and his print-shop partner, James Breintnall, were experimenting with nature-printing at the same time in Philadelphia, and Jane Colden used the technique to record New York plants.)

There were so many cross-connections between Linnaeus and the Hesselius family that it is hard to be sure exactly how Linnaeus learned about Samuel Hesselius's American plant prints. Samuel Hesselius's brother, Gustavus, was the artist who later met Pehr Kalm on the Philadelphia docks. Another Hesselius brother, Johan, became a physician, and, like Linnaeus, was a founding member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences. The oldest Hesselius brother, Andreas Hesselius, had also served as a Pastor in New Sweden. His son, Andreas Hesselius Americanus, was born in New Sweden, but became a colleague of Linnaeus's, teaching English at Uppsala, and joined him in taking an active interest in the development of the Celsius thermometer. Gustav Hesselius the Younger--the little brother of Andreas Hesselius Americanus--was, like his uncle and namesake, a talented artist; Linnaeus treasured Hesselius's portrait of his favorite monkey, Grinn (the monkey and the portrait were gifts to Linnaeus from King Adolph Frederick).

Both Linnaeus and Kalm expected that another of the missionaries to New Sweden would be of particular help to Kalm. Kalm's friend, Reverend Johan Sandin, was sent from Uppsala to take over the pulpit in Raccoon (now Swedesboro), New Jersey. After a difficult voyage, Sandin stopped first in New York and delivered letters from Linnaeus for Cadwallader Colden. Sadly, just a few weeks after Sandin's arrival in New Jersey in the summer of 1748, he died of a sudden illness. Kalm stepped in to serve the Raccoon congregation as a lay minister (he was later to be ordained in Finland) and to help the bereft widow, Anna Margaretha Siöman, and little daughter.

Kalm had originally intended to stay in America for one year. However, as he informed Linnaeus and the Royal Academy of



Gustav Hesselius portrait of Linnaeus's treasured monkey Grinn.

Sciences, the tensions between the British and French and their Indian allies hampered his travels to the northern parts of the continent and required him to spend an additional year in order to carry out his mission. The responsibilities he had taken on in Raccoon gave him an additional motive to spend as much time as possible on the New Jersey side of the Delaware. At the end of 1750, Pehr Kalm and Anna Margaretha were married.

The Pay-Off

During Kalm's absence, Linnaeus had been ill with a bad case of gout, unable to work on the book, *Species Plantarum* [Species of Plants], that for years he had been struggling to finish. Kalm's return in June 1751 and the crates full of wonderful new specimens were the tonic Linnaeus needed. He got out of bed, and within twelve months of intense effort, he had classified and definitively named nearly 6000 species of plants, arranged in 2000 genera. Many of them, including 90 species Linnaeus credited to Kalm, were being described for the very first time.

Species Plantarum, published in Stockholm in 1753, was, as his contemporaries immediately recognized, a prodigious intellectual feat. In it, Linnaeus brought order to the language of science. The book became the starting-point of the system of two-part scientific names for plants and animals that biologists continue to rely on. One of those names is the genus *Kalmia*, the beautiful mountain laurel--Linnaeus's way to honor his student and colleague. Both Kalm and Linnaeus would have been delighted that Pennsylvania adopted the wide-leaved mountain laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, as its state flower.

But Linnaeus and science were not the only beneficiaries of Kalm's stay in the Delaware Valley. Every colonial historian and especially every reader of the *Swedish Colonial News* has reason to be grateful for Kalm's keen-eyed observations. He took to heart Linnaeus's instructions to notice not only the tiniest details of plants, animals, and stones, but also the people and their ways of life. He reveals himself to have been a talented interviewer, willing to listen to everyone he met, but especially eager to hear the tales of New Sweden's oldest inhabitants.

Bell Bicentennial

by Kenneth S. Peterson

Kalm's book, *Travels into North America*, is an incomparable record of mid-18th century America generally, but it is particularly rich in details about the daily lives of the colonial Swedes over three generations. How else would we know--to pick a few examples at random--that the Delaware froze solid in 1697, or that the earliest colonists, lacking horses, would ride their cows to New York to trade with the Dutch, or that the Lenape would accept a slice of Swedish bread in trade for 30 feet of rope made from wild hemp? Kalm kept his travel expense report with equal diligence, and it too yields details that make the world of New Sweden come vividly alive: the price of a ferry-ride across the Delaware or Schuylkill, the rental of a horse, a snack of gingerbread, a drink of cider, or new pair of socks.

Kalm's plant collection gives us yet another window into New Sweden. He prepared one set of specimens for Linnaeus, one set for himself, and one set for Queen Lovisa Ulrika (herself a keen naturalist), who, as the patron of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, had made his trip possible. Of the 390 specimens in the herbarium for the Queen (preserved in the Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University), at least 164--more than one-third--grew around Nya Sverige and Philadelphia. Particularly interesting are Kalm's notes about the ways the Native Americans and the settlers used the plants: elm bark to make canoes, rattlesnake weed to cure snakebites and toothaches, cockspur hawthorn to make living hedges to pen animals, for example.

Kalm's contemporaries were apt to read his *Travels* as an adventure story, full of exotic creatures and people, but Kalm also meant his narrative to carry a moral. Like Linnaeus and Benjamin Franklin, he thought hard about the implications of what he saw. A quarter century before the American Revolution, he looked at the remarkable freedoms colonial Americans enjoyed and predicted that the colonies would seek their independence. Today, his observations about the prodigal use of America's natural resources and the heedless destruction of the landscape he observed in New Sweden seem equally prescient. Two and a half centuries after Kalm's visit, what he has to say remains well worth reading.

SIDEBAR

At the Wisconsin Historical Society's website:

<http://www.americanjourneys.org/aj-117/index.asp> you can read Kalm's *Travels into North America*, in the second edition of the English translation by a fellow naturalist, J. H. Forster, 1773. Because Kalm wrote the book in the form of a journal, you can see where he was and what he was doing on any given month and day. The first biography of Kalm in English, *The Travels of Pehr Kalm, Finnish-Swedish Naturalist, in Colonial America*, by Paula Ivaska Robbins will be published by Purple Mountain Press in 2007. The best biography of Linnaeus in English is Wilfrid Blunt's *Linnaeus, The Compleat Naturalist* (Princeton University Press, 2001); copies are available through the giftshop of the American Swedish Historical Museum.

Karen Reeds is the Guest Curator for "*Come into a New World: Linnaeus and America*", a Linnaeus Tercentenary exhibition at the American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, on view through July 1, 2007



Gloria Dei Church Bell.

The Gloria Dei Church bell turned 200 years old this past year and so it is appropriate to tell its story. Interestingly, cast within our historic bell is the much older Swedish one. Pehr Kalm interviewed Jacob Bengtson in 1748 and he talked about the bell. Kalm states:

“Jacob Bengtson was now a man of about sixty years of age. His father was Anders Bengtsson, who emigrated on the ship *Mercurius* that arrived in America right after the Dutch had taken possession of it. ... The bell which now hangs in the Wicaco Church belonged formerly to the church on Tinicum, and was brought hither from Sweden when the settlement belonged to the Swedish government. When the Tinicum Church was abandoned the Swedes of Wicaco had it brought hither; but when Mr. Rudman and Mr. Bjork came, and two separate congregations were formed, Wicaco and Christina, a dispute arose as to who should have it. The members of Christina felt it belonged to them as much as it did to Wicaco, and wanted to claim it, while those of Wicaco refused to give it up. The quarrel lasted until a Swedish captain by the name of Jacob Trent arrived and settled it. He pointed out that while the bell really belonged to both parties, it could not very well be cut in two, and that therefore, it had better remain where it was. He had on his vessel two ship-bells, he said, and was willing to present one of them to Christina Church. This he did, and the quarrel was settled....”

The following account comes from the *Journal and Biography of Nicholas Collin* by Amandus Johnson:

“One of Collin's many important concerns was the old church bell. This bell had been brought from Sweden in 1644 and used at the old church on Tinicum Island. Later it was hung in the steeple of the Wicaco Church (Gloria Dei) where it remained until 1777, when it was removed “to a place of safety” by the Revolutionary

Government.

It is said that it was taken to Lancaster by ox-team and buried in the ground until after the war to keep it from falling into the hands of the British when they occupied the city.”

Reverend Andreas Göranson was the pastor of Gloria Dei during the time of the war and he had this to say about the removal of the old bell:

“I was not in the least molested by the so called Continental Government... but on Sept. 18th a crowd of men came along to take down the bell, saying that they had orders to take down all the bells in the city. I refused this completely, adding that our little bell was of a great rarity and had come from Sweden with the colony, adding further that neither the English nor the Continental Government had anything to do with me or what might belong to the Church in one way or another. The men, however, referred to their orders by virtue of which they could not desist from taking down the bell; but on account of my reasons they would leave it in my care until they had further orders from Colonel Flower whereupon I requested a copy of their order.

Order: Philadelphia, September 14, 1777

That Col. Flower employ Mr. Worrel, Mr. Allison and Mr. Evans, or such other workmen, to take down the bells of all the public buildings in this city and convey them to a place of safety.
Signed, T. Matback, Sec’y.”

Reverend Göransson continues: “The 21st when I had gone to Pennypack to preach, they came again and when my wife offered some difficulty they made it known that they would have the bell even though they would have to go after a company to fetch it. Their receipt is as follows:

Received from Mr. Andrew Johnson (Göranson) one small bell, being the property of the Vestry of the Swedish Church, by order of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania to Colonel Benjamin Flower to have the bells of the city deposited in some safe place.”

Amandus Johnson continues: “The bell was replaced in 1786, apparently through the efforts of Dr. Collin, but it was cracked in the process. As a consequence, it issued sounds not only dull, but grating to the ears; not only sorrowful to feeling members, but surprising to persons of other denominations. The Rector seems to have made several efforts to have the damaged bell replaced by a new one, but nothing came of it. In 1802 a bequest of thirty dollars was made to the churchwardens of the Swedish Congregation at Wicaco toward the purchase of a new bell. But no one else was willing to sacrifice for this object and the old bell continued to issue its dull and grating sounds.”

In February of 1806 the Rector formed a subscription which read: “We, the subscribers, being descendants of those ancient Swedes who were members of Swedish Lutheran Evangelical Church in Southwark of Philadelphia, stiled Gloria Dei, and willing to support the worship of Almighty God, feel a sacred obligation to supply by cheerful aid any wants for which its revenue are not competent; and

consider the speedy procuring of a new bell highly necessary in lieu of the old one, which for twenty years past has been cracked.

This subscription was approved and it was resolved that Dr. Collin, Samuel Wheeler, Joseph Huddell Jr., and William J. Keen should collect with all practical speed. Several second hand bells were viewed, particularly one from St. Domingo, which, though cheap and had a good sound, was not thought advisable to purchase, as it was not certain whether it was unjustly obtained by the sellers of that place, during the dreadful civil wars in that island.

The Committee having previously informed themselves of the industry and skill of Mr. George Hedderly, Bellfounder of this city, made the following contract with him on the 19th of March, 1806:

It is agreed between the Rector and Vestry of the Swedish Church and George Hedderly that he will cast a bell of three hundred weight fit for church service to the best of his knowledge and insure for its use for twelve months, if the sound and other qualities be agreeable, but in other case to keep it without any obligation for them to take it. He shall receive from them at the rate of fifty cents a pound after the bell has been hung and tried; he being charged with the hanging of it. He will also take the old bell in part payment at twenty cents a pound and melt the same into the body of the new bell.”

The steeple was also in a dilapidated condition and feared that it would fall. And so it was rebuilt within two months. The new bell and steeple gave great satisfaction not only to the congregation but the whole neighborhood. Nicholas Collin concludes: “The bell was hung on the last day of May, 1806, and the next day being Sunday, June 1st, was rung for divine service. Although its weight is no more than 315 pounds, including the weight of the clapper, the sound is solemn and audible to a considerable distance. The old bell weighed 81 pounds, had 1643 engraved on it and came from Sweden,...and this inscription: “ I to the Church the living call and to the grave do summon all.”

The entire inscription on the bell is as follows:

**CAST FOR THE SWEDISH CHURCH PHILADELPHIA
STILED GLORIA DEI**

**G. HEDDERLY FECIT 1806 PARTLY FROM THE OLD
BELL DATED 1643**

**I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL, AND TO THE
GRAVE DO SUMMONS ALL**

Today, if you were to climb the narrow wooden ladder approaching the bell you would first see its mouth and clapper. And if small enough with some physical strength you could squeeze up through the access hole, brushing the bell rim, and finding yourself face to face with the dusty green-gray bell. It measures 2 feet in diameter at its mouth and is about 19 inches tall, 23 including the eyehook. And attesting to the bells antiquity are many old carved initials and dates in the wood paneling around it. Happy 200th birthday to Gloria Dei church bell with fond regards to the Swedish bell hidden within.

husband remarried and died by 1767.

> **Jonas Walraven**, born 31 May 1704, married Maria Justis (daughter of Justa Giöstason of Kingsessing), 1 December 1727. A weaver, he acquired land on the north side of Christina Creek at Newport from his cousin John Justis. He died there on 6 November 1751, survived by two children.

7. **Peter Peterson**, born c. 1675, married Helena Peterson (daughter of Hans Peterson of Brandywine Hundred) c. 1697. He subscribed £2 for the building of Holy Trinity Church and worked 35½ days on the actual construction of the church. He also served as a church warden and was a member of the church council when he was buried 6 February 1715. He was frequently called Peter Peterson Caupany to distinguish him from Peter Peterson Smith (son of Hans Peterson of Brandywine Hundred). Caupany was derived from the Swedish word “kåpa” meaning a short cloak. By his will of 29 January 1715, Peter bequeathed his 211 acres (the “old ground”), after his wife’s death, to his two surviving sons, Peter and Hans. His widow Helena married Erasmus Stedham 11 May 1716 and was buried 4 May 1724. Peter’s known children were:

> **Peter Peterson, Jr.**, born c. 1698, married Magdalena Stedham, daughter of Lucas Stedham, on 3 December 1724. On 8 May 1727, Peter and Magdalena conveyed 105 acres, the lower half of the “old ground,” along Christina Creek, to Anders Justis in exchange for 150 acres in Christina Hundred. On 13 November 1732, Peter confirmed to his brother Hans Peterson the upper half of the “old ground.” At the time of the 1752 church census, Peter was living north of the Brandywine. Church records confirm nine children born between 1725 and 1747. Peter died before 1764, when Magdalena was shown as head of household.

> **Hans Peterson**, born c. 1704, became the second husband of Catharine Archer (widow of Jonas Walraven) by 1731. He inherited the upper half of the “old ground,” which he conveyed to his eldest son, Jonas Peterson, on 15 October 1763. He had four other children, all of whom grew to adulthood and married. Hans died in 1766.

> **Anders Peterson** was buried as a child on 5 April 1713.

> **Anna Peterson** married John Littlejohn on 6 May 1729. Not further traced.

> **John Peterson**, born 3 June 1714, died young.

8. **Brita Peterson**, born c. 1680, married by 1704 Anders Justis, son of Johan Giöstason of Kingsessing. The couple lived on the land (300 acres) which Matthias Peterson had inherited from his father. After Matthias Peterson declined to buy the overplus for such land, Anders Justis made repeated requests to the Board of Property in Philadelphia to buy that overplus. He finally succeeded and on 8 May 1727 he traded the 150 acres thus acquired to his brother-in-law Peter Peterson Caupany for 105 acres of the “old ground” situated on the north side of Christina Creek. Soon thereafter, “Andrew and Bridget Justison” began subdividing the land, an endeavor in which their son-in-law Thomas Willing later joined. The result was the creation of “Willing Town,” now known as Wilmington. After the death of Brita, who was buried 27 June 1737, Anders Justis moved to Salem County to live with his youngest daughter Annika. The will of Andrew Justis, dated 15 July 1740 and proved 19 August 1740, named his two surviving daughters. The children of Andrew and Brita Justis were:

> **Catharina Justis**, born in 1705, first married Thomas Scott on 30 July 1723. After his death, she married Thomas Willing, 5 December 1728. She had five known daughters by her two marriages. She died after 1764.

> **Brita Justis**, born 1707, was buried 21 August 1720 at the age of 13½.

> **Anna (Annika) Justis**, born 1709, married Jacob Derickson 9 June 1728. He died 1 October 1728. She then married Charles Corneliuson of Penns Neck, 20 June 1730. His will of 26 December 1750 named Anna and four children.

> **John Justis**, born c. 1711, was buried 11 March 1715.

9. **Elisabeth Peterson**, born c. 1684, married **Christiern Jöranson** (generally called Christian Urinson) c. 1710. He was born in 1664, the eldest son of Anders Jöransson. On 13 April 1685, after reaching the age of 21, Christiern Jurianson was given 100 acres on White Clay Creek by his stepfather Broer Sinnickson. From 1694 to 1697, Christiern Urinson was also paying the quitrents (taxes) due on the land of John and Ann Stalcop at Christina which he was then renting. A carpenter by trade, Christiern pledged 1½ pounds in 1697 toward construction of Holy Trinity Church in Christina. He was employed in the fall of 1698 to work on the church roof. He worked at this task and other carpentry jobs at the church for 33½ days. He agreed to be the carpenter for the glebe house to be built next to the church. He was present when the land for the glebe was surveyed, 20 June 1701, and started work on the glebe house on 16 October 1701. He remained active in church affairs. On 24 June 1714 he was elected church warden. About 1712, at the age of 48, Christiern married Elisabeth Petersson. They had three children (Sophia, Christiern and Margareta), born between 1713 and 1716, all of whom died in childhood. The will of Christian Urinson, “formerly of Christina Creek but now of Fish Point,” was dated 16 October 1716 and proved 6 November 1716.

Christiern’s widow Elisabeth next married Valentine Cock of Boon’s Island, Kingsessing, on 23 April 1720. She then moved to Boon’s Island to live on her new husband’s own plantation and to help care for his four sons. Elisabeth had no more children of her own by this marriage. After the death of Valentine Cock in 1725, Elisabeth renounced her right to administer his estate and returned to New Castle County where she became housekeeper for the widower Conrad Constantine. On 14 May 1730 she married, as her third husband, John Garretson of Newport, son of Paul Garretson. At the time she was pregnant. Their son Thomas Garretson, “some weeks old,” was baptized at Holy Trinity Church on 13 December 1730. The last discovered reference to Elisabeth Peterson Jöransson Cock Garretson was on 18 May 1734, when John Garretson of White Clay Creek Hundred and Elisabeth his wife sold her 15 acres at Fish Point, New Castle Hundred. Elisabeth’s sole surviving child was:

> **Thomas Garretson**, born in 1730, was married on 17 April 1754 to Jane Ferris. In the 1764 Holy Trinity Church census he was listed as a Swedish farmer married to an English wife. By 1765 they had moved to Duplin County, North Carolina, in the Cape Fear area, where their surname became Garrison. The 1783 tax list for Duplin County lists Jane Garrison, his widow, with property valued at £10. Thomas and Jane Garrison had at least five children.

Queen Christina in Deep Water



Queen Christina 1626-1689; reigned 1644-1654

Svenska

“Och i det Hennes Majestät med Herman Fleming som henne vid handen för vill gå intill ett skepp att bese det uppå en elak liten bro, som var lagd av lösa bräden intill skeppet, springer det ena brädet i vädret som herr Fleming steg uppå, efter han ytterst på bräderna var, och så föll genast utför tillika med Hennes Majestät, som han vid handen hade, uti sådant djup som min käre farbror väl vet huru djupt där är som skeppen ligga. Och i det samma kom Wachtmeister till hjälp, som där ett litet stycke från stod, och fick uti ett litet stycke av kjorteln, som allena ovan vatten var, och arbetade så länge att han fick draga ut Hennes Majestät. Han hade väl strax kunnat draga ut drottningen, där icke Fleming hade hållit Hennes Majestät i kjorteln. Efter han under låg och djupare var än drottningen, såg han sig inga andra medel till att bärga sig, utan hängde vid Hennes Majestäts kjortel till dess de kommo honom tillika med hjälp. Han fick mycket vatten i sig men drottningen inte så mycket, efter hon snarare därur kom med huvudet.”

Below is the text from a letter written by Johan Ekeblad (courtier to Queen Christina) to his uncle Christopher Ekeblad on the 19th of May 1652, in its original Swedish, and in English translation. The text provides a glimpse of daily life around the monarchy during the time of the New Sweden colony. The individuals mentioned in the text have direct links to the colony and to Swedish involvement in America. Queen Christina reigned over the colony and her name is still widely associated with regional landmarks. Herman Fleming is the son of Admiral Clas Fleming who was one of the original financiers of the New Sweden Company. Herman also became an Admiral and was later integrally involved in the selection of Johan Rising as the third Governor of the colony. “Wachtmeister” can hardly be anyone other than Hans Wachtmeister, great-great-grandfather of the brothers Hans Fredrik and Claes Adam Wachtmeister, who both participated in the US Revolutionary War, but on opposite sides, Hans Fredrik in the English and Claes Adam in the French fleet. In his letters from America Axel von Fersen sends his regards to them. Hans Fredrik Wachmeister is an ancestor of Wilhelm Wachtmeister, Swedish Ambassador in Washington from 1974 to 1989.

Left: A portrait of Queen Christina in Stockholm as a young woman during the timeframe of the New Sweden colony. Pictured in the window behind her is the marine base at Skeppsholmen described in the text below. Right: Admiral Herman Fleming. Born into an ennobled family and son of New Sweden Company organizer Clas Fleming, for a time period he served the Swedish Crown as a General Governor in Finland.



Herman Classon Fleming 1619-1673

English

“And when Her Majesty together with Herman Fleming, who led her by her hand, should go onboard to see a ship over an unsteady small bridge, which was laid of loose planks over to the ship, one of the planks on which Mr. Fleming stepped flew into the air, because he stood at the end of the plank, and he immediately fell down together with Her Majesty, who he held by the hand, into such a depth as my dear uncle well knows how deep it is there where the ships are. And at the same moment Wachtmeister, who stood nearby, came to help and grabbed a small piece of the skirt, which was the only thing over the water, and worked so long that he could draw up Her Majesty. He had well been able to draw the Queen up rapidly, if not Fleming had hold of Her Majesty by the skirt. As he was below and deeper than the Queen, he saw no other way to save himself, but hanged to Her Majesty’s skirt until they came also to his help. He got much water in him, but the Queen not that much, because she came out of the water by her head first.”

Faces of the New Sweden Company



Gustav II Adolphus 1594-1632

During the reign of King Gustav II Adolphus pressing military matters usurped colonial economic expansion. In 1624, during a pause in the wars, the King gave audience to Dutch politico merchant Willem Usselinx, who came to Sweden to propose the formation of a company based upon the Dutch West India Company (WIC) which he had founded. A trading company was formed that eventually went out of business, but the stranded assets and the idea of this enterprise were the forerunners of the New Sweden Company. The King died at the battle of Lützen in 1632, bequeathing the Crown to his six-year-old daughter Christina.



Willem Usselinx 1567-1647



Axel Oxenstierna 1583-1654



Peter Minuit 1580-1638



Admiral Clas Fleming 1592-1644



Baron Pieter Spiering c.1594/7-1652

Count Axel Oxenstierna acted as Head of State while Queen Christina was a child. Oxenstierna shared the former King's pursuit of colonialism and conferred with another former WIC employee Dutch merchant Samuel Blommaert about revitalizing the effort. When Peter Minuit, another ex-WIC employee who established New Amsterdam, joined in the talks, the idea of Swedish colonialism to America took shape. Admiral Clas Fleming and Dutch art dealer Pieter Spiering were brought in to help finance the endeavor, and the New Sweden Company was formed. Council of State and General Governor to Finland Per Brahe was vital to the ongoing organizational support of the New Sweden Company.

See page 23 for a special offer on the book: "Faces of New Sweden".



Count Per Brahe 1602-1680



The oldest image of Swedish King Gustavus II Adolphus (1611-1632) found in America appears on this St. Mary's City artifact.

Swedes and Dutch in Early Maryland

The Middle Atlantic region of North America's eastern coast saw European settlement by people from many lands during the 17th century. Swedish, Finnish, and Dutch settlers along Delaware Bay came into repeated contact with Englishmen from the adjacent colony of Maryland. This article reviews some of these Swedish and Dutch interactions with early Maryland, discusses one Dutch immigrant who had key roles in the development of settlements along both the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, and reports upon the discovery of a remarkable Swedish artifact from 17th-century Maryland.

Maryland was founded in 1634 and owned by Cecil Calvert, the Lord Baltimore. A band of 140 settlers established the new colony at a place they named St. Mary's City and it became Maryland's 17th-century capital. King Charles I of England had granted the Calvert family a charter in 1632 to a huge tract of the northern Chesapeake Bay including all the land extending out to the Atlantic Ocean below the 40th degree of latitude. This grant overlapped Dutch and Swedish claims to lands along the Delaware. Territorial conflict was inevitable, but because of the small populations in the colonies, these claims initially caused little problem. During its first decade of settlement, Maryland was predominately English in population, and there were few if any Swedish, Finnish, or Dutch settlers. Due to its official policy of liberty of conscience and the economic opportunity tobacco provided, Maryland attracted a greater diversity of people over time.

A few runaway servants or disgruntled settlers from New Netherlands and New Sweden began making their way to Maryland in the 1640s, and more migrated to the colony in the early 1650s. With the Dutch reduction of New Sweden in 1655 and ill treatment of the Swedes, additional migration was stimulated. The lands along the Sassafras and Elk rivers at the top of the Chesapeake especially attracted these settlers, although others went as far as Kent Island and Baltimore County in Maryland. Lord Baltimore's government sought new settlers, including those from Sweden, as evidence by official documents that stated "...Knowe yee that wee willing to give due Encouragement to the Subjects of ...the Crowne of Sweeden" to come. The English capture of New Netherlands in 1664 prompted additional movement of people from Delaware Bay into Lord Baltimore's colony.

One way we know about this migration is from Maryland's policy regarding citizenship. Initially, only native-born English or Irish persons could legally own land or hold office in the colony. Land was patented to other immigrants but the questionable status of their claims caused non-English settlers to appeal to Lord Baltimore's government for redress. Beginning in 1660, a legal procedure called denization was granted by the Governor's Council so that an immigrant could legally hold land and pass it on to their native born children. Fortunately, the records of this procedure noted the person's country of origin, and from this, we know that sixteen Swedes (probably including Finns) filed for denization



The Inn of Maryland colonist and Dutch entrepreneur Garrett Van Sweringen in St. Mary's City, 1692.

in July of 1661. Each was described as “Swedish, late of New Amstel”, the Dutch colony on the Delaware River. These people are listed in Table 1. The fact that 15 of the Swedes filed on the same day is important because it indicates that they were acting as a group and maintaining a sense of their social identity.

Unfortunately, denization did not provide full legal status as a citizen, and to meet that need Maryland established a formal naturalization policy in 1666, the first such policy in English America. An additional 13 Swedes received citizenship as Marylanders between 1669 and 1674 (See Table 1). Unfortunately, government clerks became careless in recording the country of origin on naturalization documents in the late 1670s, making it difficult to determine where those later immigrants came from, but the names suggest that some were also Swedish or Finnish. There are 25 Swedish or Finnish individuals who filed for legal status in Maryland before 1675 and there were others who died before taking this action or whose origin was not specified in the legal documents. It is likely that all of those who filed for legal status were householders who needed to have solid land claims. The best estimate is that more than 30 families moved to Maryland. At the time the English captured New Amstel, there were about 600 people of Swedish or Finnish origin on the Delaware. At five persons per residence, there would have been about 120 households. Comparing these figures suggests that maybe as much as a quarter of the families in New Sweden migrated to Lord Baltimore's colony.

A man who interacted directly with the Swedes and had an active role in the settlement of both Delaware Bay and Chesapeake Bay was Garrett Van Sweringen. He arrived in North America 350 years ago, as a direct result of the competition between the Dutch and the Swedes along Delaware Bay. Although the Dutch had established settlements along what is now called the Delaware River as early as 1624, these were fragile and the West India Company (WIC) invested little in the region. Taking advantage of the weakness, New Sweden was founded in 1638 and successfully captured a portion of the lucrative fur trade. Hostilities increased and the Swedes drove out the Dutch for a brief period in 1654-55.

In response, the WIC assembled a fleet and took all of New Sweden in September 1655, harshly treating the Swedish residents. One of the principal vessels used in this military expedition was a 36 gun man of war named the *Wacgh*, owned by the City of Amsterdam. In payment for the use of this vessel, the WIC agreed to cede the lower Delaware River for a new colony that would be owned by the mayors of the city of Amsterdam. Naming it New Amstel, the mayors dispatched three ships from Amsterdam in late 1656 to establish the colony. Twenty one year old Garrett van Sweringen was supervisor of cargo on the main vessel that, after a difficult voyage, ran aground off Long Island in March 1657 and was lost. Fortunately, all the passengers and some of the cargo were saved and they finally reached their destination in April, founding New Amstel (now New Castle, Delaware).

Van Sweringen gained appointment as Commissary General for the colony and rapidly proved himself. By 1659 he was a councilor and made schout, the colony's chief legal officer. By 1660, Van Sweringen was serving as second councilor under New Amstel Director Alexandra d'Hinojossa, as well as schout and secretary. In these positions, he had much contact with Swedish settlers and sought to attract them to the city's colony. The West India Company finally ceded their entire South River holdings to the city in 1663, bringing all of the former New Sweden under control of New Amstel. By 1664, this colony was beginning to thrive and on the verge of being a profitable enterprise for the city of Amsterdam. However, the arrival of an English fleet under Sir Robert Carr in September ended these efforts. Carr captured the colony and English troops plundered the town, ill treating both the Dutch and Swedes. Soon afterward, Van Sweringen elected to move to Maryland, along with Alexandra d'Hinojossa and a number of other former Dutch and Swedish residents of New Amstel.

Van Sweringen moved his family to Maryland's growing capital of St. Mary's City, determined to make a new start. One of the key occupations available to a talented newcomer with limited resources at St. Mary's was innkeeping. Van Sweringen began operating a public inn, called an ordinary in the Chesapeake colonies. He succeeded and greatly expanded the operation. While innkeeping

was a good living, Van Sweringen possessed an entrepreneurial spirit that inspired him to seek new business ventures. He engaged in trade activities with merchants in New York and Boston, London and Bristol, England, Galway, Ireland and Port Royal, Jamaica. He undertook construction for the colony, receiving a payment from the government “for building the stocks and whipping post”. Van Sweringen also provided medical services and in the late 1670s, he opened a brewery to supply the city. At that time, he left ordinary keeping to open a private lodging house. Renovating an old government building called the Council Chamber, his lodging house became the finest hotel in the colony.

In the late 1680s or early 1690s, Van Sweringen started one more project of particular note. In his will, he bequeathed “...ye Councill Roomes and Coffee house and Land thereunto belonging...” This is the first reference to a coffee house in the Chesapeake region and one of the earliest in America. Bringing this fashionable concept to St. Mary’s is a good example of Van Sweringen’s innovative efforts to build a greater sense of urbanity in the colonial capital.

Van Sweringen took an action in 1684 that had significance for the history of New Sweden and New Amstel. At that time, Lord



Excavators uncovering brick flooring at the Council Chamber site.

Baltimore was defending his charter boundaries against claims by William Penn, and in preparation of the case, he asked Van Sweringen to relate the history of Swedish and Dutch settlement in Delaware Bay. Van Sweringen’s testimony about the events that occurred along Delaware Bay was carefully recorded. It is the only surviving personal account by a participant in the New Amstel colony and the events surrounding its capture in 1664. For information about Swedish activities, Van Sweringen named several Swedes and noted that they were “... persons I know very well and have several times a full relation of what was done in those days”. This account is found in the **Archives of Maryland** (5:411-417).

In 1694, the decision was made to move the capital from St. Mary’s City to Annapolis, thus eliminating the purpose of the city. Most people followed the government and St. Mary’s was largely abandoned. Garrett Van Sweringen wrote his will in March of 1698, describing himself as “of ye city of St. Mary’s” and died there shortly afterward. The city he strived to develop rapidly declined and by 1750, only a single building survived from Maryland’s first capital. The site remained rural for the next two centuries, preserving its unique archaeological record under fields and pastures. In the 1960s, the state established a museum at the site that would preserve, study and interpret the history and archaeology

of early Maryland. Since that time, several dozen sites have been investigated and over 5 million artifacts recovered.

Few of these artifacts are of Dutch or Swedish origin. Even from Van Sweringen’s own sites, only a tiny proportion of the artifacts are Dutch with the vast majority being of English origin. Most common of these Dutch artifacts are small red and yellow bricks. Archaeologists typically refer to these as Dutch bricks but an overlooked Maryland court case from 1672 prompts us to reconsider this identification.

In January of 1672, the Swedish ship *Burgh of Stade* arrived in Maryland. It had sailed from the port of Stade on the Elbe river in Germany. Sweden had acquired this territory in 1648 as part of the Treaty of Westphalia settlement. Aboard the ship were 50,000 bricks. Maryland confiscated the ship and confined her crew for violation of the English Navigation acts. The ship’s captain, Sander Sanders, testified in court that these “Swedish bricques” were made at Stade “in the kingdome of Sweadland” and loaded on his ship there. They had been offloaded at the plantation of Thomas Notley along the Wicomico River in Maryland in February 1672/73. Notley was a prominent Maryland resident who would later serve as governor. The vessel was not English registered, 3/4ths of its crew were not English, it had no license and had paid no port duties, as specified in the Navigation Acts. Its crew of thirteen were all Swedish citizens. The trial by the Maryland Admiralty Court was held at Notley’s Plantation and he served as the attorney for the Swedes. However, as a fascinating study of the case by A.D.M Forte, Edward Furgol and Steve Murdoch reveals, the legal judgment to confiscate the vessel and its cargo was heavily biased against the Swedes and in favor of the Maryland participants. Based on the English Navigation Act, the vessel was taken by Maryland officials. Its Swedish crew remained in the colony until May of 1673, when they boarded an English vessel and sailed for home. The Swedish vessel and its furnishings were a total loss for the ship’s owners and there is no record Notley ever paid for the bricks. Archaeological work related to the Notley plantation site has identified large quantities of yellow brick in association. While these are typically classified as Dutch brick, the *Burgh of Stade* case indicates that these should perhaps more properly be called Swedish bricks.

Aside from these bricks, archaeologists at St. Mary’s City have found no other definitive Swedish artifacts, with one striking exception. During investigations at Van Sweringen’s Council Chamber site, an excavator discovered a small silver medallion. Only 22.2 millimeters (0.9 inch) in height, it bears the unmistakable likeness of Swedish King Gustavus II Adolphus (1611-1632). The king’s image is raised and above it is a small hole indicating that the medallion was worn by someone. On the reverse side appears an inscription and the images of a crossed sword and scepter with what appears to be a snake extending across their crossing point. These are impressed into the silver. The inscription reads:

ENSEM GRADIVVS SCEPTRUM THEMIS IPSA GVBERNAT

Latin scholar Linda Hall at St. Mary’s College of Maryland has deciphered this and translates the motto as:

Gradivus Governs the Sword, Themis Herself Governs the Scepter

Gradivus is a term for he who walks in battle, indicating Mars, the god of war and Themis was the goddess of justice. Themis is also

defined as the law of nature, she of good counsel who represented law, custom and good order. The motto probably denotes the combination of remarkable military skills and just governance of the Swedish king known as Gustavus Adolphus the Great. The sword and scepter support the motto and the snake is a heraldic symbol of wisdom. Further research will likely yield more insights regarding this phrase and the symbols.

Eva Wiséhn, Senior Curator of the Myntkabinettet (the Royal Coin Cabinet), in Stockholm, notes that this is a medallion that was struck after the king's death in 1632 and probably made in Germany. There are about 100 different versions of the medallion, they are made in different types of metal and they are often found in Europe, especially Germany. She concludes that it was not a coin but intended as "a token of remembrance of the hero king".

This medallion is probably the oldest representation of the famous Swedish king yet found in North America. But how did it get to the Van Sweringen site? Several hypotheses have been proposed. Given the history of the site where it was discovered, the object cannot have been lost before 1664, when a records office was built there. One possibility is that Van Sweringen acquired it as payment from a Swede or Finn while he was in New Amstel. However, this means he would have kept it for over a decade, since Van Sweringen did not occupy the Council Chamber site until about 1677. It is very unlikely that Van Sweringen wore the medal. As a Dutch Catholic, an image of the hero of the Protestant faith would have had little appeal to him. Perhaps someone coming to his elegant hotel carried the object. The king's medallion was especially popular among Protestant Germans and Poles, but very few if any persons from those lands were in Maryland in the 17th century. It is also important to note that Van Sweringen's lodging business at the site did not flourish until after 1680. By the 1680s and 1690s, it seems less likely that someone would have still worn such a medallion because devotion to Gustavus Adolphus would have begun to wane five decades after his death. An earlier loss date seems more likely and better matches the site's history. The colony constructed the 1664 building as a meeting place and government records office. This function continued for 12 years until a new Statehouse was built. Government records were stored at the office and it is probably the place where settlers filed land claims and presented petitions. It is quite possible that one of the Swedes or Finns who moved to Maryland from New Sweden lost this medallion while coming to the office to record their land patent or file their petition to become a citizen of Maryland.

The stories of the Swedes, Finns and Dutch in Early Maryland are related and significant, although little known. Each contributed important cultural diversity to the colony and helped build a new society along the Chesapeake. Each group deserves greater recognition and renewed attention from both historians and archaeologists. Garrett Van Sweringen was one example of these immigrants. He was a talented, ambitious, and cultured man who also became a significant figure in the development of two colonial settlements – New Amstel and St. Mary's City. His is one of many compelling stories from early America and it is now told in a new exhibit that opened at St. Mary's City in 2007.

Today, the site of Maryland's founding and first capital is being revealed with new reconstructions and exhibits, guided by the ongoing archaeological discovery of this lost city. And on display is a small silver medallion that is America's oldest image of Sweden's greatest king. For more information about the museum and the exploration of the city, see www.stmaryscity.org.

References

Forte, A. D. M., Edward M. Farfol and Steve Murdoch 2004
The Burgh of Stade and the Maryland 'Court of Admiralty' of 1672.
Forum Navale Nr. 60: 94-113.

All images provided courtesy of Historic St. Mary's City.

Table 1:
Swedish/Finnish Immigrants in Maryland
Naturalization Records (1661-1675)

Denization Grants

Date	Name
22 July 1661	Peter Meyor
29 July 1661	Andrew Clementson
	Mathias Cornelison
	Gothofrid Harmer
	Batholomew Hendrickson
	Hendrick Hendrickson
	Paule Johnson
	Hendrick Mathiason
	Clement Micheelson
	Peter Montson
	Marcus Sipherson
	Axell Stille
	Andrew Toreson
	Cornelius Urinson
	John Urinson
	John Wheeler

Naturalization Grants

Date	Name
8 May 1669	Peter Johnson
19 April 1671	John Elexson, of Kent County
	Andrew Toulson, of Baltimore County
20 October 1671	Hans Hansun, born in Delaware Bay of Swedish parents
6 June 1674	Mounts Anderson
	Andrew Clements
	Oliver Colke
	Henry Freeman
	Henry Henderson
	Jeffrey Jacobson
	John Nomers
	Cornelius Peterson
	Axell Stille
	Marcus Syserson

Historic St. Mary's City Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10AM-5PM in the spring and fall, and Wednesday through Sunday in the summer. Call 1-800-SMC-1634 or visit www.stmaryscity.org for more information.

Bush Swedish Ancestry Disputed

President Bush's New Sweden Ancestry Disproved

by Dr. Peter S. Craig

The Spring 2006 issue of the *Swedish Colonial News* featured at pages 6 and 7 the claim that the 41st President George Herbert Walker Bush and the current President George Walker Bush had a “hereditary link back to the New Sweden colony.”

This claim proves to be erroneous. It was based in part on my research that New Sweden settler Måns Andersson had a son Christopher Mounts whose daughter Anna Mounts, born 9 January 1702/3, married Robert Mercer of Cecil County, Maryland, on 1 August 1727 and that Anna was the mother of Robert Mercer, Jr., born 22 December 1737. Others then tied these facts to the claim in Gary Boyd Roberts' book, *Ancestors of American Presidents* (1995), that the Robert Mercer who died in 1793 in New Castle County, Delaware, survived by a wife born Sarah Beeston, was the same person as Robert Mercer, Jr., and was the father of John Mercer who married Rebecca Davis in Cecil County, Maryland, in the same year.

There is no doubt that the Bushes are descended from John Mercer and Rebecca Davis of Cecil County. However, there is no hereditary link between that John Mercer and the Mounts family.

The facts are that the John Mercer who married Rebecca Davis was the son of Robert Mercer Sr.'s second wife, Ann Bolton (of British descent). This is proved by the 1769 will of Robert Mercer, Sr., of Cecil County, which left his home plantation (parts of “Harmans Mount” and “Indian Range”) to his second wife Ann for life and then to their son John Mercer, who was then still a minor. Both Ann and her son John were still living on that property in 1792, when Ann died, leaving everything except her wearing apparel to her son John Mercer. When John Mercer died in 1820, he left his father's home plantation to his daughter Ann. Another daughter Harriet was married in 1821 to George E. Walker, Bush's ancestor.

The real Robert Mercer, Jr., had died in 1767, survived by a wife Mary and a young son, also named John Mercer. The 1769 will of Robert Mercer, Sr., left the lands which had once belonged to the Mounts family (“Mountsfield”) to his grandson John Mercer and his son (by his first marriage) James Mercer. That John Mercer died unmarried and without issue in 1783 when all of “Mountsfield” devolved to his uncle James Mercer, who died in 1801.

The mistakes in Gary Boyd Roberts' book, *Ancestors of American Presidents*, were first brought to his attention in 2000 by Alice Davis Cates of Vista, California, now deceased, a respected genealogist with whom I corresponded. The mistakes published in 1995 are attributable to three Barnett brothers, descended from Robert Mercer (d. 1793 in New Castle County), who, in their submissions to the Cecil County Historical Society, compounded a number of errors:

1. They erroneously assumed there were only two contemporary men named Robert Mercer. In fact, there were three: Robert Mercer, Sr., his son Robert Mercer, Jr., and Robert Mercer (son of William Mercer), all three of whom were on the Cecil County tax list in 1766.

Interpretive Scholarship

By David W. Emmi

While researching early colonial American records for genealogical purposes, due to a lack of reliable source material, a genealogist may use a measure of interpretive speculation to fill in historical gaps to reach a predetermined conclusion. For instance, the state of Maryland did not start recording vital statistics until 1875, therefore, data regarding vital events such as births, marriages, deaths, etc., prior to that time has to be extracted from church records. If no church record is found then information from wills, newspaper obituaries, census reports, or other surviving documentation from that era are used. Since the primary purpose of these aforementioned sources are for objectives other than vital statistic recording, certain problems



Mount Harmon Plantation

arise when they are utilized with genealogical intent. For example, many people living in the same proximity and in the same extended family had identical names resulting in identification of unique individuals being problematic. In addition, women were not granted many legal rights and therefore were often excluded from these historical records. Out of wedlock births, common law marriages, unconfirmed deaths, (missing at sea, for example), and many other vital events also went undocumented. Records were also lost, damaged or burned in courthouse and church fires. Additionally, if recovered, these source documents were

often characteristically very sparse in content. A church marriage record typically contained no mention of any ancestry. Finally, some information was recorded inaccurately; sometimes unintentionally due to language or literacy problems, and sometimes intentionally to cover up adulterous affairs or other kinds of circumstances that could destabilize a family unit. Therefore, it is the author's opinion that a level of skepticism is healthy when investigating colonial records with genealogical intent. Within this context, the challenge to the Bush's Swedish ancestry should be more closely scrutinized. This scholarship utilizes various degrees of interpretive speculation to reach a conclusion that is possible, but not certain.

1. Speculation is first utilized when concluding that Ann Mounce, the wife of Robert Mercer Sr. and granddaughter of Måns Andersson, dies many years prior to her husband's death. No record exists of this vital event, no gravestone has been found, and no discovered document from this time period cites this death. Therefore any number of alternative theories can be put forth regarding the maternal paternity of her attributed descendants.

2. A second measure of speculation is utilized when concluding that an Ann Bolton from Philadelphia, married Robert Mercer Sr., after the death of his first wife, Ann Mounce. Again, no record of this marriage exists in any government archive, church listing, newspaper, or any other discovered source document from that time. Even if these two speculative events did occur, citing specific years for these incidents is conjecture and thereby largely invalidates any degree of certainty regarding ancestral progeny.

2. They erroneously assumed that Robert Mercer, Sr., had only one wife, Ann Mounts. In fact, he had two. His first wife died after the birth of James Mercer in 1742. His second wife, Ann Bolton, 20 years younger than his first wife, was the mother of John Mercer (d. 1820), who was born between 1755 and 1765 by census records.

3. They erroneously assumed that the Robert Mercer who died in New Castle County in 1793 with a wife named Sarah was Robert Mercer, Jr., born to Robert Mercer Sr., and Ann Mounts in 1737. In fact, however, this Robert Mercer was the son of William Mercer. The other two never left Cecil County.

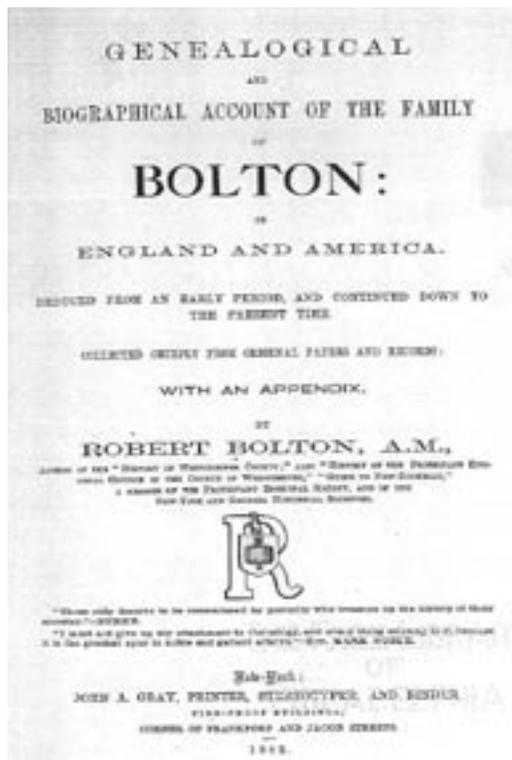
4. They erroneously assumed that the Robert Mercer who died in New Castle County in 1793 had a son named John Mercer. He did not. As shown by his will, he had only two sons, Simon and Jeremiah. (New Castle County wills, N:313)

5. They were unaware of the fact that Robert Mercer Jr. (born 22 December 1737) had died intestate in Cecil County by 19 February 1767, when the inventory of his estate was filed by his widow Mary. Named as next-of-kin on the inventory were his father Robert Mercer Sr. and his younger brother James Mercer (born 16 December 1742) (Maryland Inventories, 91:231A) His three surviving children were John, Ann and Sarah, identified in the will of his son John Mercer, who died without issue in 1783. (Will of John Mercer, Cecil County Will Book DD4:166-167)

6. They erroneously assumed that Robert Mercer, Jr., received no inheritance from his father because he was a “black sheep” of the family and in disfavor. He received nothing in the 1769 will of Robert Mercer, Sr., because he was then dead. The will of Robert Mercer, Sr., left all of the “Mountsfield” plantation and adjoining lands to the male heirs of his first wife, Ann Mounts; namely, his sons Thomas and James and his grandson John. (Will of Robert Mercer, Sr., Maryland Prerogative Wills, 37:343)



The shaded area in this typical map from 1777 indicates the Sassafras Neck region of Maryland between the Sassafras and Bohemia Rivers.



3. In 1862, Robert Bolton, A.M, a family historian and esteemed member of the New York and Georgia Historical Societies, published the “*Genealogical and Biographical Account of the Family Bolton in England and America.*” Mr. Bolton authored a number of other historical books such as “*History of Westchester County*” and “*History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Coventry of Westchester.*” This Bolton family genealogy book is over 500 pages in length, is very detailed, contains family letters, cites source documents, and was written and published on the eastern seaboard in America.

On page 86, Mr. Bolton cites the only nexus of an Ann Bolton from Philadelphia, to the Mercer family in Maryland. Verbatim, the book states, “ANN BOLTON, eldest daughter of Robert, born in Market street, Philadelphia, February, 1723, baptized 27th. Married first in 1739-40 Mr. Wood ; secondly, John Mercer, Esq., of Sassafras Neck, Cecil county, Maryland, by whom she had one son, John Mercer, of Chestertown. She was buried on Sassafras Neck. The time of her death is unknown.” This account from the Bolton family contains many inconsistencies with the account in the challenge to the Bush Swedish ancestry.

- The Bolton family genealogy states that Ann Bolton, from Philadelphia, married a John Mercer, and not a Robert Mercer Sr. as the challenge to the Bush Swedish ancestry claims.

- The Bolton family genealogy states that John Mercer, the son of Ann Bolton, resided in the city of Chestertown. The John Mercer who married Rebecca Davis, (and is the Bush ancestor), resided on a rural plantation in Sassafras Neck approximately twenty miles from Chestertown.

- A number of other ancillary matters in the Bolton family genealogy are not in synch with the challenge to the Bush Swedish ancestry. The Bolton genealogy states that Ann Bolton married an attorney (Esq.). Robert Mercer Sr. never had Esq. as a title. The Bolton family genealogy also states that the time of the death of Ann Bolton is unknown. The challenge to the Bush ancestry has the death of Ann Bolton in 1793 as a matter of public record.

4. Additional speculation is utilized when citing the birth of John Mercer, the alleged son of Robert Mercer Sr. and Ann Bolton. There is no record citing the time or Bolton maternity of this birth. However, John Mercer, a son of Robert Mercer Sr., does appear in the will of Robert Mercer Sr., but as per a will not being a vehicle for vital statistic reporting, no date of birth

7. They erroneously assumed the 1783 will was by Robert Mercer Sr.'s son John. He was then alive and well, living with his mother Ann on his father's home plantation, which, by the will of Robert Mercer Sr., did not become his until she died.

8. They also prematurely killed off Robert Mercer Sr.'s (second) wife Ann, alleging she died a short time after his death in 1769. They were ignorant of the 1790 census which listed her as head of household and her will dated 27 October 1789, proved 28 December 1792, by which she left everything except her wearing apparel to her son John Mercer. (Cecil County wills, EE5:267)

The Mercer family in Cecil County has an interesting history and several ties to the colonial Swedes. The progenitor was Thomas Mercer, born in 1663 (according to his reported age in several affidavits), whose first wife was Elizabeth, a daughter of Gotfried Harmer, assistant commissary of New Sweden and grand nephew of Peter Minuit, who later became an Indian trader in Maryland. It was through this first marriage that Thomas Mercer acquired land in "Harman's Mount" and "Indian Range." There were no surviving sons by this first marriage.

Thomas Mercer next married Elizabeth, the only child of Joseph Barents alias Joseph Barnes of New Castle County, who was naturalized by William Penn in 1683. By an affidavit submitted in the 1740 boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland, she said she was born about 1666 and came to this country when she was 12 years old. (Breviat, p. 106; William Penn Papers, 485A, Historical Society of Pennsylvania). In a 1724 affidavit she reported that she was first married to Hugh MacGregory. They had a son Joseph MacGregory and when he became 18 in 1704, Thomas Mercer and his wife gave him the land of Joseph Barnes on White Clay Creek, which he sold in 1707 to Thomas Wollaston. (New Castle County deeds, C1:26)

By his second marriage to Elizabeth Barnes, Thomas Mercer had four sons: Robert, born 17 October 1703; William, born 19 June 1705; Thomas, Jr., born 29 April 1709; and John, born 6 August 1711.

Robert Mercer first married Anna Mounts, daughter of Christopher Mounts and granddaughter of Måns Andersson, 1 August 1727. The date of his second marriage to Ann Bolton is unknown. William married Anna Mounts' sister Martha Mounts circa 1728 and died in Cecil County in 1785. Thomas Mercer, Jr., married Jane Oliver 13 December 1732 and died in Cecil County in 1774. John Mercer married twice, first to Elizabeth Savory by 1734 and then by 1750 to Sarah Cole. He died in New Castle County in 1773.

The Barnett brothers, by reason of their descent from William and Martha (Mounts) Mercer via his son Robert Mercer and the latter's son Simon Mercer could have properly claimed descent from Måns Andersson, but their confusion about the family has misled many on the ancestry of George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush.

or maternal heredity is cited in the document. The John Mercer that appears on the 1800, 1810 and 1820 censuses of Cecil County can not be traced back to the alleged son of Robert Mercer Sr. and Ann Bolton. The census reports from that time had only a single name for each household and contained no ancestral information. (Check www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/md/cecil/census/1800/ for these on-line census reports.) A number of "John Mercers" and "Ann Mercers" lived in Sassafras Neck at that time and these censuses, not being vital statistics, do not serve to delineate these individuals.

5. More speculation is introduced when attempting to utilize the transfer of land ownership via will bequeathment as a means to trace ancestral heredity. First, the primary function of a will is property transfer, not vital statistic recording or identifying ancestry and descent. The inclusion or exclusion of specific names does not necessarily indicate lineage fact. Second, a specific land plot diagram showing ownership of land tracts in Sassafras Neck at that time period does not exist. Third, tracing ancestry through the issue of land patents in this area at this time is troublesome. A whole series of fluid and changing processes were involved with land distribution which is too intricate to detail in this forum. Surveys, patents, deeds, libers, - and changing procedures involving each -, come into play. Furthermore, these records are incomplete. Many patents and surveys are missing from the historical record. For example, there is a patent titled "Mercerfield Addition" (MD cert #643), but there is no original Mercerfield patent. Missing sequence numbers indicate that many patents were lost. Finally, the fact that a number of "John Mercers," "Robert Mercers," "Ann Mercers" and "James Mercers" are living in the area at that time introduces yet another level of ambiguity.

Genealogy, like archeology, is a History related discipline immersed in the Arts. Hereditary DNA analysis and Carbon 14 dating are scientific tools that can be applied to these disciplines to produce conclusions that offer higher degrees of certainty. In the absence of these scientific methods, historical documents can be interpreted and reinterpreted, in a variety of ways. This contributes to the dynamic, progressive, evolving and exciting nature of historical study. There is no dispute that a portion of the Bush's American ancestry originates from the Sassafras Neck region of Maryland. A number of families in this rural area, including the Mercers, are associated with the Bush lineage. Colonial Swede families also settled into this sparsely populated area where neighboring families intermarried. Due to a lack of source documents containing vital statistics, combined with numerous individuals in the same family having the exact same name, uncertainty can arise when attempting to trace lineage back through a specific individual at this early time and place. Perhaps in the future new documents may surface, or scientific hereditary DNA analysis may be applied to help clarify these ancestries. Often times additional information helps to answer specific questions but at the same time creates new ones, and the dynamic nature of historical study recycles once again.



This well on the Mount Harmon plantation rejuvenated a seemingly endless supply of drinking water vital to peoples sustenance. Analogously, the dynamic and evolving nature of historical study provides the intellect with a rejuvenating wellspring of knowledge vital to the sustenance of progressive thought.

The Origin of American Jurisprudence

During Jamestown's 400th Anniversary, Justice Sandra Day O'Conner stated, "The establishment in the New World of the Rule of Law derived from Great Britain is the great and lasting achievement we celebrate today and that still offers the best hope of peace in the world." Our friends in the Plymouth Colony make similar claims regarding their "Book of Laws" created in 1636, and analogous statements have been made in regard to New Netherland. With all due respect to our 17th century colonial brethren, the New Sweden Colony, arguably, might be thought of as the origin of American jurisprudence.

With the arrival of Governor Printz in 1643, a State House (Printzhof) was established on Tinicum Island with judicial conduct derived from instruction by the Swedish Crown. "Tinicum therefore became the first seat of government in what is now the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Printzhof can be considered its first State House." (Törnqvist: SCN: Vol 1, No. 7). After the Dutch conquest of New Sweden in 1655 a court comprised

of Swedish Justices was established. "1656 - ...The Dutch are persuaded to grant the Swedes and Finns self government in the area north of Christina River." (Craig: SCN: Vol 2, No. 5). In 1662 the Swedish court moved to Upland (present day Chester) and in 1664 it continued autonomously but then under English rather than Dutch oversight. In 1680 English Justices were included in the Court and in 1682/83 the Upland Court was replaced by the Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks County courts. The Philadelphia Court eventually evolved into the Pennsylvania State House where our nation's Constitution and laws were first drafted. The Chester County court continued in the proximity of the Upland Court and in 1724 a new courthouse was constructed. This building still stands today near Chester City Hall and within a few hundred yards of where the Upland Court was once located. Consequently, a direct line can be drawn from our present system of justice back to New Sweden; and the area where the court affairs of New Sweden colonists were litigated remains a center of judicial activity today.



Some 350 years later it is difficult to precisely determine the location of the Upland Court. It is clear it was on the north east side of Chester Creek, near its mouth to the Delaware River. Clockwise Top Left: 1) Closed storefronts facing Edgemont Avenue (previously Front Street). Chester Creek runs directly behind these structures in the area thought to be where the Upland Court once stood. 2) Across Edgemont Avenue lies Chester City Hall. 3) One block east Chester Creek flows into the Delaware River. This city block is man-made shoreline landfill created subsequent to the time of the Upland Court. 4) Historic marker at the Colonial Courthouse in Chester. 5) Colonial Courthouse courtroom where Colonial Swede descendant John Morton was a Magistrate. 5) The front entrance to the Colonial Courthouse.

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 Samuel Van Culin, Washington, DC

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 or from Dr. Peter S. Craig, 3406 Macomb Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016

Martha Dupecher, McLean, VA, descended from Jonas Nilsson through his son, Måns Jonasson (Mouns Jones), and the latter's son, Peter Jones, of Amity Township in present Berks County.

James Jeffrey Hepler, Middletown, DE, descended from Peter Jochimsson through his son, Peter Petersson Yocom, and the latter's son, Jonas Yocom, of Amity Township in present Berks County.

Kevin C. Miller, Beaverton, OR, descended from Nils Larsson Frände through his son, John Friend, of Upper Penns Neck, Salem County, NJ and the latter's son, Nicholas Friend, of western Maryland.

Stephen Robeson Miller, Cambridge, MA, descended from Israel Åkesson Helm through his daughter, Maria Helm who married Andrew Robeson, Jr. and their son, Jonathan Robeson of Upper Dublin Township, Pennsylvania.

Lynn Turner Shea, Louisville, KY, descended from Dr. Timen Stiddem through his son, Erasmus (Asmund) Stedham, and the latter's daughter, Maria, who married William Forwood of Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware.

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. 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.

In Memoriam

The Swedish Colonial Society lost a long-time friend, researcher and supporter on March 20, 2007, with the death of **Dr. Nils William Olsson**, aged 98, of Winter Park, Florida. The founding Editor of *The Swedish American Genealogist*, Dr. Olsson made many important contributions in discovering the origins of New Sweden settlers, such as Peter Gunnarsson Rambo and Olof Stille. He was also an early contributor to the Gloria Dei Records Project. Nils was truly a central figure in researching and promoting Swedish American heritage, and his contributions will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife Dagmar, children Karna, Chris, and Greg, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Penelope Hartshorne Batcheler, died outside her home in Society Hill on March 23, 2007. She was 78 years old and was known for her work in restoring Independence Hall. She retired as Chief Architect of Independence National Park in 1993 and had a long history of preservation efforts to her credit in Philadelphia. She had lived for two years in Dalarna, Sweden, documenting old stone and timber buildings and was a consultant for Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church during its restoration. She was presenter at a New Sweden History Conference on the architecture of Gloria Dei. She is survived by her husband, George, a brother and sister.

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If you have an article for publication consideration in the *Swedish Colonial News* mail it to the newsletter address or email to www.colonialswedes.org.

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Each volume of the “Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania” is priced at \$25.
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Order  **Plus**  **and receive** 

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Upcoming Events

- to July 1** Come Into a New World: Linnaeus & America. Exhibit at American Swedish Historical Museum, 1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia. Information 215-389-1776.
- April 30** Valborgsmässoafton. Walpurgis Night. American Swedish Historical Museum, Info. 215-389-1776.
- May 20-27** Linné Week, Uppsala Sweden. telefon 018 727-00 00. www.uppsala.se.
- June 9-10** Nantikoke Lenne Lenape 27th Annual Pow Wow. Info. 856-455-8210.
- June 23** Midsommarfest. American Swedish Historical Museum. Information 215-389-1776.
- July 4** Opening of New Sweden Center. Kalmar Nyckel shipyard. 7th Street Landing, Wilmington, DE Info. 302-426-1638.
- Oct. 13** Saturday, 7th Annual New Sweden History Conference, Topic: Carl Linnaeus & Pehr Kalm. 208 King's Highway, Swedesboro, NJ. Info. 609-467-1227.

mark your calendars for the....

Seventh Annual New Sweden History Conference

Saturday October 13, 2007

Trinity (Old Swedes') Church

208 King's Highway

Swedesboro, New Jersey 08085

The conference celebrates

Linné Tercentenary & Pehr Kalm

and will feature...

Lectures from Colonial History Scholars.

A botanical walk with biologist Dr. Robert Savage

on the grounds where Pehr Kalm resided

reminiscent of Linné instruction.



Swedish Colonial News

The Swedish Colonial Society

916 South Swanson Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147-4332

www.ColonialSwedes.org

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