



# Swedish Colonial News

Volume 2, Number 10

Spring 2004

Preserving the legacy of the New Sweden Colony in America

## HSwMS CARLSKRONA Swedish Royal Navy Ship Visits New Sweden on the Delaware

*Alfred J. Nicolosi*

Asked for an impression of his visit to New Sweden, Commander Per Ståhl of *HSwMS Carlskrona* replied with an enthusiastic, "GREAT!"

Named for the city of Karlskrona, a World Heritage Site on Sweden's southeast coast and home to its naval academy, the *Carlskrona* is a minelayer and the Royal Navy's largest ship.

Wilmington, DE, where the *Carlskrona* docked from May 7 to 11, was one of a dozen ports of call visited during the ship's annual training cruise. Its 170 officers, midshipmen and conscripts discovered the warm hospitality of Delaware Valley residents, some of them descendants of the Swedish and Finnish settlers who founded the New Sweden Colony there in 1638.

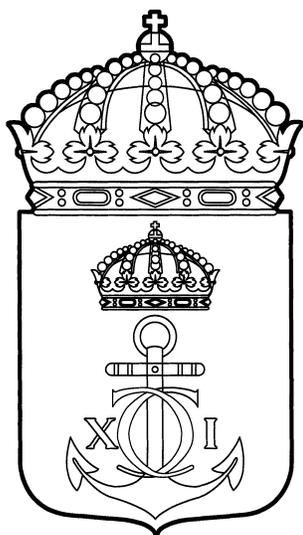
When asked how Wilmington was chosen as the East Coast port of call, Cmdr. Ståhl referred to his navigation officer, Lt. Cmdr.

Thomas Eden, a genial man with an uncanny resemblance to Prime Minister Göran Persson.

Eden enthusiastically told the story of his first visit to Delaware in 1988 when King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia were scheduled to arrive to mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Sweden:

"The *Carlskrona* carried two small barges from Sweden so the king and queen could be rowed up the Christina River to 'the Rocks.' There they would step ashore on the natural wharf where the first pioneers disembarked from the small ship *Kalmar Nyckel*. The event was being carried live on 'Good Morning America' and our arrival was timed precisely to fit between two commercials. As often happens in commemorations like this, we were running late, so we rowed feverishly to get their majesties to 'the Rocks' on time. And we made it too!" Eden added with a laugh.

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# Fort Christina

The first attempt to plant a Swedish colony on the South River ended when King Gustaf II Adolf lost his life in battle. The second attempt was successful.

Peter Minuit, who had been a commercial agent for the Dutch, was appointed as the Director-General of the Dutch West India Company and Governor of New Netherlands in 1626. Minuit was not Dutch. He probably was a Walloon and he was inclined to act domineeringly toward the Dutchmen serving under him. This caused lots of friction so finally, in 1631, he lost his job with the Dutch. Peter Minuit returned to Europe and eventually made an application to the Swedish Government. He laid out a plan for a settlement on the Delaware. Queen Christina apparently liked the idea and gave orders for it to proceed. A patent for such a company was granted and Peter Minuit was commissioned to command and direct the expedition.

It took about two years to actually mount the expedition. Two vessels - an armed ship named after a city in Sweden, the *Kalmar Nyckel* (Key of Kalmar) and the *Fogel Grip* (Bird Griffin), a transport ship - were fitted out with provisions for the colony, with arms and ammunition for defense, with merchandise for trade, and with gifts for the Indians. The vessels sailed from Gothenburg on the west coast of Sweden in November 1637 and, after a terrible trip through storms, arrived in Texel, the Netherlands, to make repairs and take on more cargo.

The two ships sailed from Texel on December 31, 1637 and arrived on the Delaware in the spring of 1638, probably about mid-March. The exact departure date from Sweden and the exact arrival date in the South River have been lost to history. This was an exceedingly quick trip across the Atlantic. Sailing time for trips to America normally was about five months. The route went from Sweden to England, down the coast of Spain to the Canary Islands, then west across the Atlantic to the West Indies, hence northward up the east coast of North America. After such a voyage it's not difficult to understand why the Swedes, upon making landfall near Cape Henlopen, named the place 'Paradise Point.'

The expedition did not linger long at Paradise Point and sailed on up the river, passing the spot where the town of New Castle now stands. Four miles above it they found the mouth of a small river called 'Minguas' by the Indians. They anchored for a while in the mouth of this river that they renamed 'Christina' in honor of their child queen. Facing west on their left was the point later to be called Cranehook. Directly ahead was a cove of meadow and marsh where the Christina River wound its way to the South River. The cove was covered with water at high tide but mostly exposed at low tide. This cove was about three miles long and varied in width from about 200 yards to well over a mile. The hills beyond were covered with tall virgin forest. To their right, or north, through the low marshes and meadows, the waters of Shellpot and Brandywine Creeks join the Christina. At that time there was a second channel joining the Christina to the South River to their north and this formed a small island. This second channel is no longer in existence, so the island is no more.

The ships followed the Christina channel upstream for about two miles to a spot known ever since simply as 'the Rocks.' This is a natural stone wharf located at the river's edge. The area adjoining the Rocks is a large, flat shelf of land protected on three sides by water and marsh and with a broad, high ridge of land on the fourth. It was an ideal place for them to land. It could be defended, yet offered easy access both to and from the water and to and from the land beyond. The land was level, easing their immediate building tasks. Timber was abundant and close at hand, yet there was plenty of meadow that did not have to be cleared of trees before crops could be planted.

Peter Minuit knew that Indians had destroyed the Dutch colony near present Lewes, Delaware, some years earlier. He also knew the Dutch West India Company would consider them as intruders. The officers of the expedition were military men; they had troops, arms and ammunition. The building of a fort for their defense then was their first order of business.

Fort Christina was built very close to the Rocks. Its southern side was parallel with the river and within a few feet of the water. On the easterly side there was a small cove called 'the Harbour' where vessels could lay out of the

## Part One

*This is the first article in a series that is intended to provide a brief physical description of the various buildings erected in New Sweden to provide security for the colony.*

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## SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

916 SOUTH SWANSON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147

Spring 2004



HIGH PATRON  
HIS MAJESTY CARL XVI GUSTAF  
KING OF SWEDEN

DEPUTY HIGH PATRON  
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS  
CROWN PRINCESS VICTORIA

PATRON  
HIS EXCELLENCY JAN ELIASSON  
AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN

DEPUTY PATRON  
HONORABLE OLLE WÄSTBERG  
CONSUL GENERAL OF SWEDEN

ASSOCIATE PATRON  
HON. AGNETA HÄGGLUND BAILEY  
CONSUL OF SWEDEN

GOVERNOR  
RONALD HENDRICKSON

SENIOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
CHAPLAIN-ARCHIVIST  
THE REV. DR. KIM-ERIC WILLIAMS

JUNIOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
MARGARET SOOY BRIDWELL

SECRETARY-TREASURER  
THE VERY REV. DAVID B. RIVERS

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Dear Friends of New Sweden,

When the idea of hosting a modern Swedish warship in colonial waters was first presented, I was not certain how enthusiastic our mostly 17th century history minded members might be. The answer, of course, was very enthusiastic! It mattered not the least that most of the warship's company had never heard of the New Sweden Colony, nor that the only Swedish ships we knew about were made of wood and propelled by canvas sails. Despite the 366-year time difference, the Swedish (and Finnish) connection was made. That connection was all that mattered. We had a chance to open our hearts and our homes to men and women serving the Royal Navy a long way from their homes. Hopefully, these sailors each left our waters with a deeper understanding of the historic events from so long ago and the knowledge that under our watch the legacy of New Sweden will never die.

Credit for orchestrating the five-day visit of HSwMS CARLSKRONA to the Port of Wilmington and the surrounding area goes to Committee Co-Chairs Earl Seppälä and Jim Seagers. These gentlemen proved their superb coordinating skills by managing safety and security during our Jubilee Celebrations last year and, if it is possible, completely outdid themselves this year. And heartfelt thanks goes, of course, to the men and women of the Carlskrona Committee who made sure the carefully made plans became a successful reality, and to all of the volunteers who worked silently and seamlessly behind the scenes.

And a public "thank you" goes to each of our sister groups in the Delaware Valley who share with us the goal of preserving the legacy of the New Sweden Colony in America. Regardless of size or financial strength, each group joined in welcoming our new friends and contributed what they could to make this visit a memorable success for host and guest alike.

Together we did a great thing!

Best wishes to all,

Ronald Hendrickson  
Governor

# HSwMS *Carlskrona* May 7-11, 2004



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Photos courtesy of  
Alfred Pfaff,  
Pfaff Photography,  
Bryn Mawr, PA.



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1. Naval Attaché Capt. Bo Wallander greets *HSwMS Carlskrona* at the Port of Wilmington.
2. Co-Chairs Earl Seppälä (l.) and Jim Seagers with Tony Bosworth and Lt. Alexander Clifford.
3. Embassy of Sweden Press Counselor Claes Thorson (l.), Ens. Johan Sjöstrand, Cmdr. Per Ståhl and Capt. Bo Wallander visit Wilmington Mayor James Baker.
4. Consul Agneta H. Bailey (l.), SCS Governor Ronald Hendrickson and Ambassador of Sweden Jan Eliasson visit *Carlskrona's* bridge.
5. Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley President Tarja Mather (r.) and her husband, Tim enjoy the reception aboard ship.
6. David Lewis as Governor Johan Printz, and his daughter Armegot Printz by Annette Reese.
7. SCS Councillor Sandra Pfaff enjoys the reception aboard ship.
8. Cmdr. Per Ståhl (r.) receives Proclamation from SCS Governor Ronald Hendrickson.
9. Ship's company at 'the Rocks' at Ft. Christina, Wilmington, DE.
10. Cmdr. Per Ståhl (l.) receives image of the *Kalmar Nyckel* from Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Executive Director Henry Hirschbiel.
11. Nanticoke Lenape Tribal Princess Tina Fragoso (c.) and committee member Bob Sandberg (r.) welcome guests to 'the Rocks.'
12. Ens. Johan Sjöstrand (l.), Lt. Cmdr. Görgen Pettersson, Governor Ronald Hendrickson and SCS Publicist Alfred Nicolosi admire the ship's gift to the Swedish Colonial Society.
13. Embassy of Sweden family and guests enjoy the ceremony at 'the Rocks' at Ft. Christina.
14. Ship's officers at ceremonies honoring the founders of New Sweden, 1638.
15. Re-enactors from the New Sweden Centre, Wilmington: Milt Draper (l.), as a freeman; Ken Peterson, as a soldier; David Lewis, as Gov. Johan Printz; Bill Oliver, as naval hero Adm. John Paul Jones; Jim Gallagher, as Gen. George Washington; and Herbert Rambo, as Peter Gunnarson Rambo.
16. Cmdr. Per Ståhl (l.), U.S. Senator Tom Carper, Exec. Officer Lt. Cmdr. Görgen Pettersson and Navigation Officer Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Edén on the bridge of *Carlskrona*.



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CLAES THORSON

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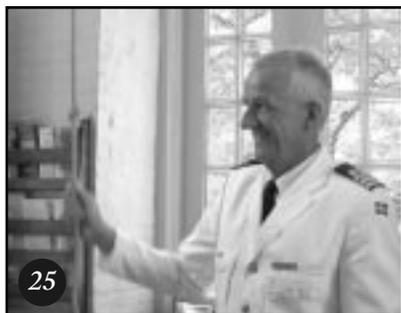
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Photos courtesy of Alfred Pfaff, Pfaff Photography, Bryn Mawr, PA.

- 17. Defense Attaché Rear Adm. Bertil Björkman (l.), Gov. Ronald Hendrickson and U.S. Senator Tom Carper share a light moment in the yard.
- 18. Herbert Rambo (l.), Claes and Eva Thorson.
- 19. Picnic lunch for ship's crew at the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard.
- 20. Picnic lunch at the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard.
- 21. SCS Registrar Doriney Seagers and Jim Seagers.
- 22. Committee members Gene and Mary McCoy (l.) join Charles and Fran Allmond.
- 23. SCS Color Guard Capt. Ken Peterson (c.) joins Kim-Eric Williams (r.) and others for lunch.
- 24. Ship's Chaplain Mats Normann (l.) and SCS Chaplain Kim-Eric Williams at Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church, Wilmington.
- 25. Cmdr. Per Ståhl follows the tradition of guest bell ringing at Holy Trinity Church.
- 26. Royal Navy Inspector General Rear Adm. Jörgen Ericsson (c.) and others are greeted at Holy Trinity by Doriney and Jim Seagers.
- 27. Al Ostrand (l.) and SACC member Paul Kiejzik oversee the "Adopt-a-Sailor" program.
- 28. Sailors waiting for their American hosts.
- 29. Group trip hosted by The Rev. Canon Kenneth Gunn-Walberg and Irénée du Pont.
- 30. Group trip to see the Amish in Lancaster, PA.
- 31. Visit to the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.



JAMES D. SEAGERS

“So when Cmdr. Ståhl asked me for an East Coast port where we could replenish our supplies, Wilmington immediately came to mind. The warm reception we’ve been given from members of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation and the Philadelphia-based Swedish Colonial Society, plus many other groups and individuals, proved we made the right choice. Of course, someone unfamiliar with U.S. geography almost routed us to Wilmington, NC - but that’s another story!”

The arrival of the *Carlskrona* in Wilmington came just five months after the visit of Crown Princess Victoria last November. Although the ship was closed to the public due to security concerns at the port, the high visibility of attractive Swedes in their immaculate white uniforms reinforced for many residents the special connection with Sweden enjoyed by the First State, whose official colors are the same as those of the Swedish flag.

On Friday afternoon, following a visit to Wilmington Mayor James Baker’s office, Cmdr. Ståhl and his senior staff hosted an elegant Commander’s Luncheon aboard the *Carlskrona*. Guests included: Ambassador of Sweden Jan Eliasson; Lenape Nation of Delaware Chief Dennis Coker; DE Dept. of Trans. Secty. Nathan Hayward; Wilmington City Council Pres. Theodore Blunt; Swedish Consul Agneta Bailey; Port of Wilmington Exec. Dir. Gene Bailey; Holmen Paper Co. Pres. Henry Olsson; SCS Gov. Ronald Hendrickson; DSCS Pres. & Co-Chair Earl Seppälä; SCS Councillor and Co-Chair James Seagers; Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala; Naval Attaché Capt. Bo Wallander; Cmdr. Marion Fedorshak; and Capt. Jonathan Sarubbi.

In praise of the luncheon, Carlskrona Committee Co-Chairs Earl Seppälä and James Seagers, whose efficient planning and dedication to detail assured the daily activities planned for the crew would be memorable and pleasant, observed that in presentation and content the meal was as excellent as one could find in the best restaurants ashore, thanks to the culinary skill of the trained master chefs aboard ship.

For many members of the hosting organizations, the highlight of the visit was an elaborate reception aboard *Carlskrona* on Friday evening, where 210 invited guests were treated to a superb Swedish smörgåsbord against the backdrop of the illuminated twin spans of the Delaware Memorial Bridges.

“Seeing those fine young officers and

crewmembers with their impeccable manners and brilliant blue eyes made me homesick for the Sweden of my youth,” said Katarina Sheronas, a long-time member of the Swedish Colonial Society, echoing the sentiments of many of her expatriate countrymen. “The 70 conscripts aboard were selected from more than 5,000 candidates,” she added, “so the *Carlskrona* crew definitely presents Sweden in a positive light in its many ports of call around the world.”

For the Swedish crew the “Adopt-a-Sailor” program, organized by Al Ostrand and Milt Draper, allowed many of them to visit local sights, such as Philadelphia’s historic district, Amish country, ‘Kahunaville’ or New York City, plus enjoy a home-cooked meal with their host family.

One fortunate group was invited by Irénée and Barbara du Pont to tour ‘Granogue,’ their hilltop estate with its breathtaking views of the rolling hills of the Brandywine Valley. Mr. du Pont then graciously treated the sailors to a tour of nearby ‘Winterthur,’ America’s premier museum of decorative arts.

“This is what you miss at sea,” said one midshipman standing on the terrace and admiring the panorama below. “The green trees, the smell of the flowers and, most of all, the sound of birds singing.” Kristin Andrae, of Norrköping and a member of the Coastal Auxiliary, summarized the lure of the *Carlskrona* cruise. “It’s the carrot for all the training we go through. When we are studying so hard, we think of this trip as the reward. Seeing this greenery and enjoying the hospitality of the people here in Delaware, I am so happy I was able to seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Officers, midshipmen and conscripts alike enjoyed the American-style picnics held on Saturday and Sunday at the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard. Organized by SCS Councilors Fran Allmond and Sandra Pfaff, with generous support from corporate donors like Astra-Zeneca, these informal get-togethers enabled the visiting Swedes to mingle informally with their hosts.

Asked what he had learned on his 21,000 nautical mile voyage, midshipman Petter Hökenström of Osterslöv in Skåne produced a gem gleaned from a fisherman in Kingston, Jamaica: “Every day is a fishing day, but not every day is a catching day.”

Ulrika Mohlin, of Stockholm, said, “I will stay in the Navy until I don’t laugh anymore

when I go to work.” Mohlin especially enjoyed her guided tour of Philadelphia with Gov. Johan Printz, portrayed by David Lewis.

Spurred by Mohlin’s comments, Hermine Jacobaeus, of Ystad, who plans to become a helicopter pilot, recalled her fondest memory: “We were in the middle of the Atlantic crossing the equator. There was an incredible sunset and then they set up a movie screen on the helicopter deck and we watched a movie in complete darkness under thousands and thousands of stars. I will never forget it!”

On Saturday, the Garrison at Ft. Christina, portrayed by re-enactors from the New Sweden Centre, welcomed Cmdr. Ståhl and SCS Gov. Ron Hendrickson for a wreath-laying ceremony at ‘the Rocks.’ Prayers by Lenape representatives Urie Ridgeway and Tina Fragoso of the New Jersey Nanticoke Lenape Center reinforced the solemnity of the occasion.

Two buses from Washington, DC, brought 76 Embassy of Sweden employees and their families to New Sweden for a tour of the Delaware History Museum and Holy Trinity (Old Swedes’) Church before joining the picnic at the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard and a private tour of *Carlskrona*.

On Sunday, Old Swedes’ Church was the site of a Swedish-language high Lutheran service, officiated jointly by SCS Chaplain Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams and the ship’s chaplain, Capt. Mats Norrman, with music by the Swedish Museum Singers. The offering, along with earlier offerings taken aboard ship, was sent to the churches of the Holy Land.

On Monday, 50 midshipmen in white uniforms toured the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, where they found their American counterparts in the midst of final exams.

U.S. Senator Tom Carper, a long-time supporter of New Sweden events in Delaware, met many of the ship’s crew at the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard and later toured the *Carlskrona*. Since Delaware is the only state without a national park, the Seventh Street Peninsula, including Ft. Christina, Old Swedes’ Church, and the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard, is being considered for that designation in the hope that more visitors will tour these historic sites to learn about the Lenape, African-American and European people whose travels up America’s widest river brought them to these shores.

To learn more about *HSwMS Carlskrona*, visit its web site: <[www.4minkriflj.mil.se](http://www.4minkriflj.mil.se)>.



*“The finale of the visit of the Carlskrona came on Tuesday, as the ship departed for the Azores. The entire crew, at attention and in their whites, lined the gangways. I stationed myself as Governor Printz at the end of the pier and, as the vessel slid by me, I lifted my black hat with its yellow ostrich plume in salute to the ship, the Swedish flag and its gallant crew.”*

*- David Lewis  
aka Governor Johan Printz*

main current of the river. This cove is filled in now but its outline was still visible 200 years after that first landing.

Early forts were much more than just a military position. In fact, Fort Christina had only about three men as a permanent garrison. Its garrison was expanded only when the need arose. The fort was the major public building in the community. It served as the seat of government and was the storehouse for the colony's supplies. Fort Christina even served as the Swedes' place of worship. A clergyman named Torkillus came with Minuit and conducted church services within the fort until his death in 1643.

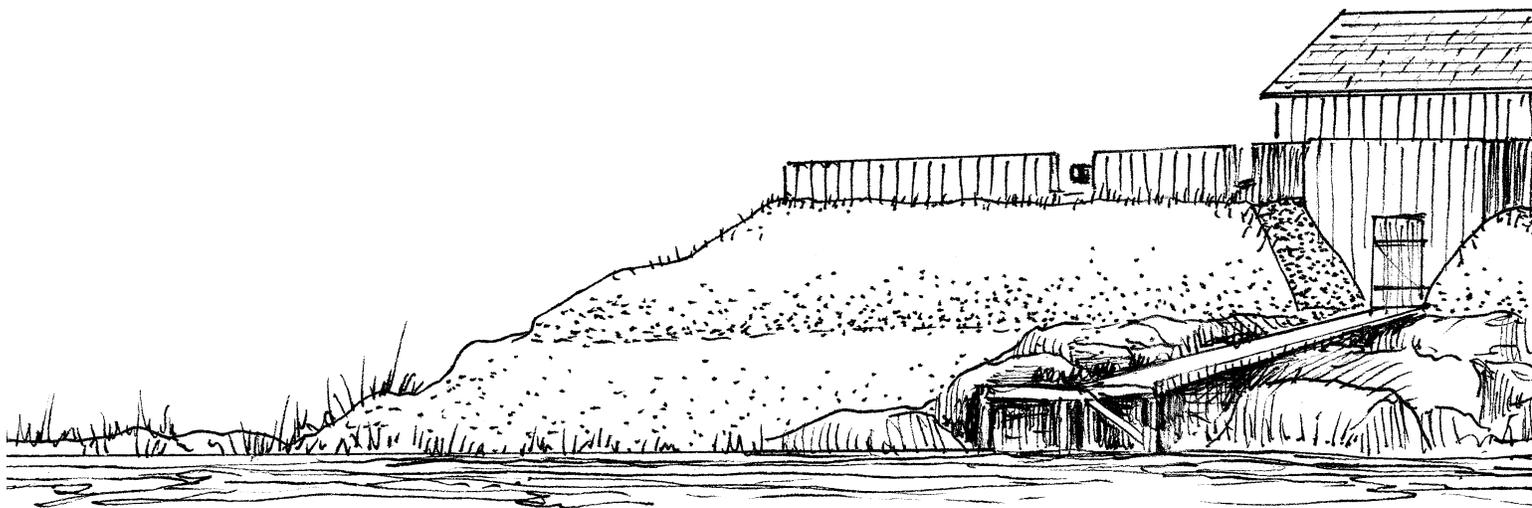
The Dutch soon became aware of the Swedish activities. A difficult situation now arose for them. They claimed, by right of discovery, that they alone had the right to occupy the land. But New Netherlands in America was a commercial venture by a private company, not a project of the Dutch Government. Military operations were conducted at the expense of the company, not the Dutch Government. The Director-General of New Netherlands, William Kieft, sent Peter Minuit a

note of protest on May 6, 1638 declaring that the Dutch would protect their rights. Minuit ignored this paper protest.

By June the fort was complete, or at least complete enough so that Peter Minuit could leave and attempt to make a trade for his cargo of wine, distilled spirits and shoes in exchange for tobacco. He set sail for the Virginia Colony in the *Kalmar Nyckel*.

There is only one drawing that can be used in reference to the actual fort. This is the 1654 drawing made by Governor Risingh's military engineer, Peter Lindeström. This drawing shows both the fort and the intended town that was being laid out in 1654. The fort appears laid out in a square with very large, arrowhead-shaped ramparts constructed in each corner.

There is a second drawing made by Lindeström about 35 years later for his book, *Geographia Americae*. This drawing was intended to illustrate the 1655 Dutch siege lines around the fort. Both drawings show the fort as being unsymmetrical - that is, with every side a different length. The two drawings do not agree with each other except for general appearance. The *Geographia Americae* drawing



Fort Christina is projected directly from Peter Lindeström's 1654 map, so it has the same scale and proportions. All features are located in the same positions. It depicts the fort from southeast across the river.

As originally constructed, the earthen mounds extended to the top of the wall. The weather over 16 years had eroded and shifted the earth down and away

from the walls, enlarging the area covered and exposing the top of the walls. The pier and doorway through the south wall were recent additions and not part of the original design. This greatly altered the appearance of the fort.

One recent addition is not shown. This is the water feature usually interpreted as a windmill. This feature is not described in contemporary writings.

shows the fort about 40% smaller than the 1654 drawing. Interestingly, however, the two drawings have good agreement as to location and orientation of the fort in relation to the river's edge and the Rocks.

It is probable that the 1654 drawing is the more accurate. It was made while Lindeström was living in the fort. It is also probable that the fort was more nearly symmetrical than what is indicated. Based upon the scale included on the 1654 map, from rampart point to rampart point, Fort Christina measured approximately:

- 188 feet on the east side;
- 192 feet on the west side;
- 180 feet on the south (river) side; and
- 166 feet on the north side.

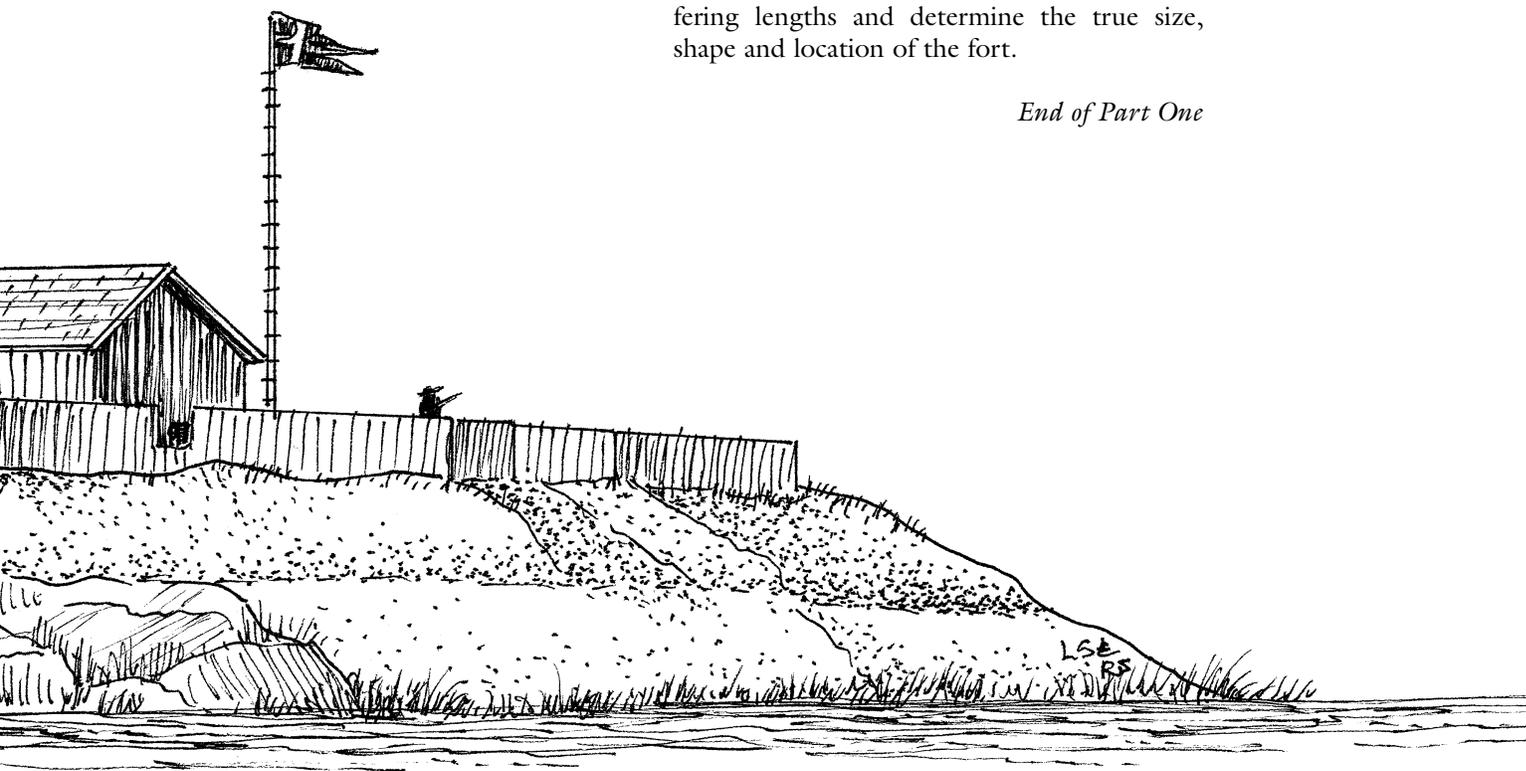
The east and west side lengths are within the tolerance to be expected if Lindeström paced off the lengths. Pacing was a common

method of measuring distances in the mid-17th century. The differences between the south and north lengths cannot be so explained. If Lindeström, however, paced off the distances on either side of the main gate and then forgot to add in the width of the gate itself to his measurements, then the measurements agree. When the gate width is added, the north side measurement probably would be about 181 feet and well within the expected accuracy of pacing measurements.

The current Fort Christina Park is delimited by tall brick walls aligned 90° to the course of Seventh Street. The actual fort, however, was oriented at about a 45° angle to the course of Seventh Street. This indicates that a goodly portion of the original fort footprint probably is outside of bounds of Fort Christina Park.

Only an archeological examination of the actual remains can solve the mystery of the differing lengths and determine the true size, shape and location of the fort.

*End of Part One*



*Drawing made by Larry and Roslyn Stallcup. May 2004*

Not enough is known about this feature to adequately illustrate it. Lindeström depicts what appears to be a circular construct with eight arms surrounding a shroud. Contemporary windmills had four blades or wings and no shroud. This construct appears to be mounted on the top of a straight tower without housings for millstones or turning gears. The tower appears to be mounted in the center of a flat, square platform.

No pier or walkway extends to the platform. The depiction casts doubt on its use as a windmill. It appears more like a floating swimming or fishing platform, covered by a sunshade, a sort of large, fixed, umbrella-like roof. If so, its purpose was probably recreational.

# The Eagle and the Shark

The year 2004 marks the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the largest expedition to New Sweden on the *Örn* (Eagle) and the confiscation by the Dutch of its sister ship, *Gyllene Haj* (Golden Shark). Together, these two ships were to be a response to the persistent pleas of Governor Johan Printz for more colonists and supplies.

Sven Skute, who had returned to Sweden to make a personal plea for the colony, was requested to enlist people for the voyage. He assembled 50 soldiers and 250 colonists, including among others the famous barber-surgeon Timen Stiddem (who was making his second attempt to reach New Sweden), Mårten Mårtensson, Olle Rosse, Samuel Petersson, Eric Pålsson Mullica, Johan Hendricksson, Hendrick Jacobsson (whose daughter Maria would marry Carl Springer), and two new Lutheran priests, Matthias Nertunius and Peter Hjort. In addition on board were the talented economist Johan Risingh and the engineer Pehr Lindeström, whose description of the journey, the capture of the colony by the

Dutch, the habits of the Indians and the river system of the Delaware was published as *Geographica America* in 1691.

Yet while the Eagle had arrived from Stockholm and the people waited by the Gothenburg docks, the Shark failed to appear. It left Stockholm with supplies and 41 passengers on November 23, 1653 but, with contrary winds and a contrary crew, it did not reach Gothenburg until January 17, 1654. It was “leaky and in bad condition” so that it could not immediately continue across the Atlantic. Since news of Governor Printz’s departure had now reached Gothenburg, it was deemed expedient to leave as soon as possible. Johan Risingh was made the new Governor instead of being a deputy to Printz.

Supplies and people were offloaded from the Shark and the Eagle left Gothenburg on February 2. Of the 350 passengers, 100 would die before they reached New Sweden.

The trip was marred by overcrowding, dysentery and poor food. The route went south through the English Channel to the Canary Islands, where they took on food and water and were well treated, then to the English island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean. This was the general route for sailing ships following the prevailing winds across the Atlantic and then up the Gulf Stream. Since maps were considered state secrets, it was not easy to navigate to North America even with an experienced Dutch captain such as Jens Bockhorn. A week was lost sailing around the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay before finding out that they were too far south for the “Swedish Bay,” which they entered on St. Erik’s Day, May 18.

Seeing that Ft. Elfsborg on the Jersey side was deserted, they continued on to New Castle and, after some deliberation, decided to capture the Dutch Ft. Casimir if it could be done without bloodshed. This happened rather quickly since the fort did not even have enough ammunition to answer the initial cannon salute from the Eagle, and not all of its nine soldiers had weapons.

When the Eagle arrived at Ft. Christina there were only 70 settlers left in the colony. The arrival of this ship increased their numbers five-fold. Governor Risingh began at once to strengthen the colony, care for the sick and find housing for the new arrivals, while all waited for the Shark.

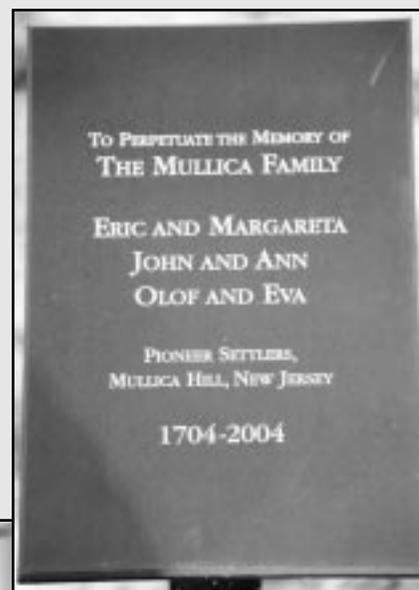
It took time to properly repair and refit the vessel, but at last the Shark left Gothenburg on April 15, 1654. It was crammed with some of



### Finnish Immigrants Honored at Mullica Tricentennial

On Saturday, March 6, 2004, more than 100 people gathered in Mullica Hill, New Jersey to pay tribute to the early Finnish settlers who founded the small community that bears their name. Introduced by Harrison Township Historical Society member James Turk and moderated by American Swedish Historical Museum Director Richard Waldron, the celebration began with a symposium at the Mullica Hill Friends Meeting entitled "Finns in the New World," presented by author and historian Dr. Peter Craig and Dr. Lorraine Williams, Curator of Archaeology and Ethnology at the N. J. State Museum, Trenton.

Participants enjoyed a Scandinavian lunch prepared by ASHM staff at the Mullica Hill Grange Hall and then set off to explore the surrounding countryside with a "Raccoon Valley Village Tour." The celebration concluded at Trinity Episcopal (Old Swedes') Church in Swedesboro, where The Rev. Dr. Raewynne Whiteley, Vicar, presided over the dedication of a plaque marking the gravesite of the three Mullica brothers. A passing cold front followed by a brilliant rainbow was a fitting end to the memorial service.



RONALD HENDRICKSON

the 100 families left behind when the *Eagle* set sail. It reached St. Kitts on June 17 and, after being reprovisioned, set sail for Puerto Rico. It had a special mission to demand reparations for the loss of the earlier vessel, *Kattan*, that floundered off that coast in 1649 with most of its passengers either dying or being enslaved. The Governor of Puerto Rico, Jacobus de Aquilera, knew of their coming and welcomed them on June 30. They seemed to have enjoyed the island since they stayed for six weeks and left with provisions but no reparations. The mate tried to desert, but was put in irons until the ship left. But he had his revenge by steering the ship into New Amsterdam "by mistake" on September 12. Governor Peter Stuyvesant immediately confiscated the ship and its contents and persuaded most of the passengers to remain in New Netherlands. Only the commander, Henrick von Elswick and some nine others made it to New Sweden. They joined

Rising in the daunting task of rebuilding the colony under the threat of an incensed Peter Stuyvesant.

When the last official expedition of the *Mercurius* was sent out in November 1655, the Royal New Sweden colony had already surrendered to the overwhelming force of the Dutch.

More details about the *Eagle* and the *Shark* are found in Amandus Johnson's *The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, 1638-1664*, Volume II (1911), and more recently in Stellan Dahlgren's and Hans Norman's *The Rise and Fall of New Sweden* (1988). Peter Lindström's *Geographica America* was translated into English by Amandus Johnson and published by the Swedish Colonial Society in 1925.

# Swedes, Finns Recognized for Pioneering Roles

Aleasa Hogate has been campaigning for years for Salem County to recognize the role that the Swedes and Finns played in the development of the Delaware Valley and Salem County in particular.

Sunday Hogate saw her dream come true. Admittedly tired she was jubilant. And why shouldn't she be. There she was surrounded by not only the Ambassador of Sweden and the Consul General of Finland but also the Royal Governor of New Sweden and William Penn himself.

They were all at Riverview Park in Pennsville Township for a recognition event and to dedicate a monument commemorating the pioneering role of the Swedes and Finns.

Ambassador Jan Eliasson spoke with pride about the Swedes and Finns that settled in the area. They came, he said, and made peace with the Lenapes who were the native people. He said it was good to look out at the crowd and know that many of them are relatives of those settlers. He believes it is important to remember how early they settled here. Too often Americans think the Swedes settled in Minnesota in the 19th century. New Sweden here in the Delaware Valley was founded in 1638 and was very much a part of what made

the area successful.

"The Swedes made peace in the neighborhood," he said, which is why the English and the Dutch asked them to stay.

According to the ambassador, there are 3.9 million Swedish Americans. When you add their extended families the number tops ten million, a fact he often points out to the Swedish Prime Minister. Sweden only has a population of nine million, giving the ambassador a larger constituency outside his country.

We need, the ambassador stressed, to strengthen the link between the United State and Europe. Plural in our identities we share values that a stronger relationship would only strengthen. The monument is a way to reflect on the history which he described as our common roots.

It is also a way to help develop wings to lead us to the future. The balance of history and dreams of the future will serve both countries well.

He hoped that this day would be celebrated each year, promising his office will continue to be a participant, but he said the monument will serve as a reminder all year educating the youngest citizens and helping them build their wings.

*This article first appeared on June 7, 2004, in Today's Sunbeam. It is reprinted here with permission.*



Consul General of Finland Jukka Leino (l.), Ambassador of Sweden Jan Eliasson, Nanticoke Lenape Tribal Co-Chair Lewis Pierce, New Sweden Monument Chair Aleasa Hogate (with grandson Jesse Brendon Hogate), Pennsville Township Mayor Richard Barnhart & Salem County Freeholder Director Charles Sullivan.

JOHN ULISS

### Forefather's Luncheon

On a warm and damp Sunday morning, April 25, 2004 the annual Forefather's Luncheon was held at City Tavern in the Old City of Philadelphia. More than 100 members of the Society gathered to feast on colonial fare in an 18th century atmosphere only a few blocks from Independence Hall.

The Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, Senior Deputy Governor presided in the absence of Governor Ron Hendrickson. Elected as Councillors following the meal were: Jayne S. Huntington, Christina W. Lassen, Mary L. McCoy, Edith A. Rohrman, Ellen T. Rye, Katerina K. Sheronas and Bradford P. Woods.

Earl Seppälä, Chair of the Fellows Committee, spoke generally about the Fellows Awards and announced those who would be honored this year for outstanding service to the Society: Frances O. Allmond, Sandra S. Pfaff, Hans Ling and Herbert R. Rambo. Both Frances Allmond and Sandra Pfaff were honored for their leadership and inspired dedication in leading the celebration of the 365th Anniversary of New Sweden and the visit of Crown Princess Victoria. Hans Ling will receive his medal at a festive dinner at the Stockholm City Hall on June 23 for his extensive historical services to many members of the Society. Herbert Rambo will receive his medal in the fall for his leadership of the Society.



EUGENE V. MCCOY

Joining him in welcoming the new relationship was Jukka Leino, Consul General of Finland. June 6th is Flag Day in Sweden. When the settlers first came to the Valley, Sweden and Finland were under the same flag. Leino said that although they are no longer under one flag they are closer than ever.

The day was celebrated through proclamations from the Governor, the Assembly, the county and the Township of Pennsville. Freeholder Director Charles Sullivan presented pins featuring the Salem County seal asking the ambassador and consul general to wear them at home to show people in their country our relationship.

Surrounding the dedication were exhibits and an encampment of both settlers and Lenape Indians to help visitors get a better understanding of the history. There were musi-

cians and dancers both Swedish and Lenape. There was a 40 foot Viking ship replica brought in by the Leif Erickson Viking Ship group. Special guests were treated to a Smorgasbord at the Riverview Inn that had meatballs the ambassador said that were just like his mothers.

Each speaker, each volunteer spoke of the honor and courage of the early settlers and how they lived in peace with the native peoples. William Penn spoke of how their fortitude made the "Holy Experiment" that was this country possible. They all resonated to what the ambassador called the message of peace.

They all left with the hope that it is only the beginning and that each year people will come together at the monument, honoring their roots and hopefully spreading their wings a bit wider.

# Two Swedish Pastors' Observations About the 17-Year Locusts in 1715

Two hundred and eighty-nine years ago (or 17 generations in the life cycle of the cicada population), the Swedish pastors of Gloria Dei in Wicaco (now Philadelphia) and Holy Trinity in Christina (now Wilmington) were astonished by the invasion of the 17-year locusts. Their observations, recorded in their diaries, are of continuing interest today.

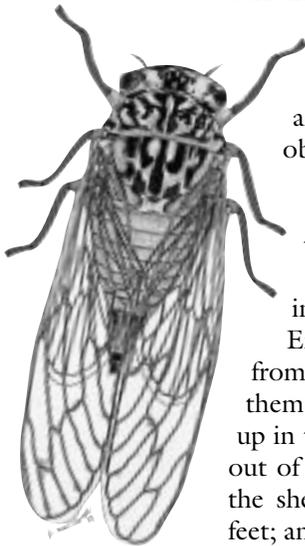
The first is by Rev. Andreas Sandel, who was then the veteran pastor of Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia. His diary, written in Swedish, has been translated by Dr. Richard H. Hulan as part of the *Gloria Dei Records Project*. The second account is by Rev. Andreas Hesselius, who had recently succeeded Eric Björk as pastor of Holy Trinity Church in present Wilmington. The Hesselius diary was translated by Dr. Amandus Johnson and was printed in the September 1947 issue of *Delaware History*, published by the Historical Society of Delaware.

Both Sandel and Hesselius used the "old style" calendar, so that 11 days must be added to synchronize their dates with dates on the current calendar. Although we can be sure that the "17-year locust" (periodical cicada, brood X) was also present in the Delaware Valley in 1647, 1664, 1681 and 1698, these are the first two written observations on record.

## Andreas Sandel's account

Sandel wrote the following, under the caption May 1715:

Locust: During this month peculiar insects emerged from the soil, which the English called locusts. When they came from the earth (as one could see holes after them everywhere on the roads, and especially up in the woods), they had shells about them, out of which shells they then crept. They had the shell over the mouth, the trunk and the feet; and it seemed strange how, with this shell, they were able to make a hole in the hard earth. When they had crept out of the shell they flew, and sat in the trees everywhere, and made a



peculiar sound continuously, morning and evening; and as they were in a great multitude all over the whole country, they made such a noise that one could not hear the cowbells in the woods. They were also harmful, because they dug up the bark on the trees and deposited their larvae in them, from which cause the boughs were somewhat dry the following spring. Swine, chickens etc. fed on them, but what is more, the savages also ate them, especially when they first came out; they roasted them a little and so ate them, it is thus understood that they were the same as John the Baptist is said to have eaten. These locusts lasted no longer than until the 10th of June [21 June]; they seem to have died in the woods, for many of them lay there, some also in the water.

## Andreas Hesselius' account

Anno 1715, May 13 [May 24] I made my first observations about the most curious insects which I believe exist in the world, which have not been seen in 17 years in this country, before this year and this month. They are indeed called Locusts or Locustae by the English, but have entirely no similarity to grasshoppers.

They first come crawling out of the earth where it is hardest as on highways and in yards, where most tramping is done, and leave after them a little round hole, just as after an auger, the thickness of a small finger, so deep that I with a long and narrow rod could not reach the bottom, yes indeed not fill up with water which I let hastily run into it before it could be absorbed into the ground.

When a locust first comes out of [its] hole, it looks like a larger timber-worm, but smaller and rounder as to its body and covered all over with a thin shell, both head and feet, and then it is brown and has six feet with which it walks slowly to the nearest tree or wall, where it crawls up and waits for its transformation.

The most accurate experiment I could make was this: I took a locust from my orchard and carried it into my room, so that I, so much more comfortably, could observe its transformation. I let it loose on the window, where it had freedom to walk around, but after five minutes time, which I observed by my watch, it set itself quiet on the window plumbing and began to be attacked by a strong and constant panting, which continued for four minutes. Then I observed that a small sudden opening appeared on the back close to the head, like a fine slit of a sharp pen knife, to the length of a

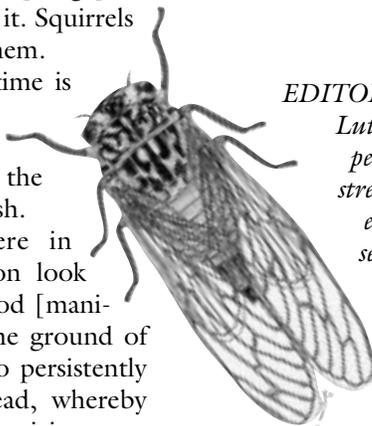
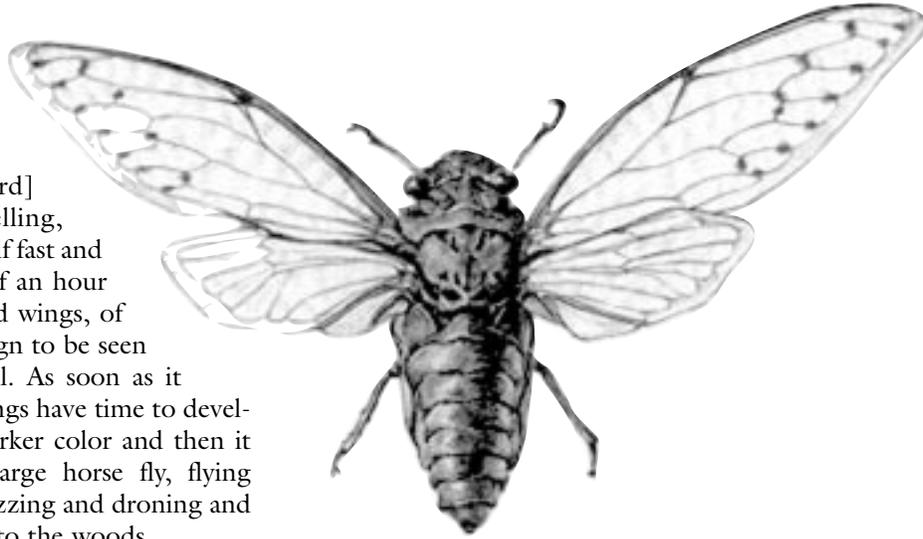
finger nail. From this the body began to work itself out with much toil, as though it had been very ill. And then after twenty minutes it finally succeeded in getting completely out of its brown shell, which it left after itself with its feet on the window lead. The entire shell, with head and feet, is transparent and stands in its former size and shape as life-like as before, but the worm itself which now has assumed a whiter color and is entirely wet crawls a quarter [of a yard] from its former dwelling, where it again places itself fast and within the period of half an hour spreads out its entangled wings, of which there was not a sign to be seen when it was in the shell. As soon as it becomes dry and the wings have time to develop, it changes into a darker color and then it becomes quite like a large horse fly, flying around in the house, buzzing and droning and seemed to long [to go] to the woods.

This was my observation in my room, but out in the woods I found thousands upon thousands flying in the trees and with their long stingers like gadfly-stingers suck out the sap from the young and tender branches, which later completely dry up. When it is hottest in the day they sit in innumerable quantities in each tree and sing a cricket song so shrilly and loud that two persons can hardly hear each other speak who stand near there, on account of the noise and clamor.

The Indians consider these their most delicious food, when they in quantities throw them into the hot embers and roast them and eat them without any preparation. [Hogs] eat them gladly and become fat from it. Squirrels also have their good food from them.

In the month of July their time is out and then they collect in large armies and crawl on the ground to the nearest river and go into the water and become food for the fish.

If the Quaker fanatics here in Pennsylvania could with devotion look upon the wonderful power of God [manifest] by the coming up out of the ground of these insects they would never so persistently deny the resurrection of the dead, whereby they make themselves the most pernicious vermin in America.



*EDITOR'S NOTE. The last paragraph shows how defensive a Swedish Lutheran pastor could be in the face of overwhelming numbers of people who disagreed with his view of a sacramental church that stressed traditional theology, music and cooperation with the government. In today's ecumenical atmosphere, Quakers are often seen as champions of peace, international solidarity, democracy and quiet meditation - emphases which have been lacking in other denominations. The old Swedish pastors who struggled to make known their message in an indifferent environment would be surprised to see among the lesser festivals and commemorations of the Lutheran Church since 1978, not only Pope John XXIII, and Martin Luther King, Jr., but also George Fox. (KEW)*

# Membership

## NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

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

**Darryl Stroup**, Great Mills, MD, descended from Peter Jochimsson through his son, Peter Petersson Yocum, and the latter's son, Andrew Yocum, of Aronomick, Philadelphia County, PA.

**Eugene Bocelli**, Mt. Laurel, NJ, descended from Hans Månsson through his son, James Hansson Steelman, and the latter's son, Andrew Steelman, of Absecon Beach, Gloucester County, NJ.

**Theodore J. Hazlett, Jr.**, Wilmington, DE, descended from Märten Mårtensson through his son, Matthias Morton, and the latter's son, Andrew Morton, all of whom lived at the Morton Homestead in Ammansland, Ridley Township.

**Helene Yocum Basile**, Berwick, PA, descended from Peter Jochimsson through his son, Peter Petersson Yocum, and the latter's son, Jonas Yocum, of Douglassville, Berks County, PA.

**Margaretha Bengtsson**, Kungälv, Sweden descended from Johan Printz through his daughter, Armegot, who married Johan Papegoja, and their son, Bernt Papegoja, of New Sweden and Järpås, Sweden.

**Joseph J. Pepe**, Kinston, NC, descended from Jöran Keen through his daughter, Anna, who married James Sandelands and their daughter, Catherine, who married James Yeates of New Castle County, DE.

**Martha Bankston Shershin**, Laurel, MS, descended from Anders Bengtsson, through his son, Andrew Bankson, and the latter's son, Lawrence Bankston, of Orange County, NC.

**John B. Tepe, Jr.**, Greenville, DE, descended from Peter Larsson Cock through his son, Eric Cock, and the latter's son, Peter Cox, of Gloucester County, NJ.

**Barbara Jean Poulson Hines**, Uhrichsville, OH, descended from Pål Jönsson Mullica through his son, Andrew Poulson, of Cecil County, MD.

**Leigh David Abraham**, Gaithersburg, MD, descended from Måns Svensson Lom through his daughter, Margaret Lom, who married Peter Larsson Cock and their son, Lars Petersson Cock ("Lasse" Cock).

**Jill M. Abraham**, Olney, MD, descended from Anders Bengtsson through his son, Jacob Bankson, and the latter's daughter, Deborah Bankson, who married John Palmer of Philadelphia.

**Katie L. Pryor**, Laurel, MS, descended from Anders Bengtsson through his son, Andrew Bankson, and the latter's son, Lawrence Bankston, of Orange County, NC.

**Kerstin Nordenham**, Kungälv, Sweden, descended from Johan Printz through his daughter, Armegot Printz, and the latter's son Berndt Papegoja, of Järpås, Sweden.

**Karin Nordenham**, Kungälv, Sweden, descended from Johan Printz through his daughter, Armegot Printz, and the latter's son Berndt Papegoja, of Järpås, Sweden, through Kerstin Nordenham, Kungälv, Sweden.

**Sophie Nordenham**, Kungälv, Sweden, descended from Johan Printz through his daughter, Armegot Printz, and the latter's son Berndt Papegoja, of Järpås, Sweden, through Kerstin Nordenham, Kungälv, Sweden.

**Louise Powell Dobbs**, Calhoun, GA, descended from Clement Jöransson through his son, Anders Clementson, and the latter's son, Clement, of Cecil County, MD.

## New Members Welcomed

The Swedish Colonial Society welcomes new members. No Swedish relative or ancestry is required - only an interest in colonial history. Contact our Registrar: Doriney Seagers, 371 Devon Way, West Chester, PA 19380 or visit us online at: <[www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org)>. The annual membership fee for an individual is \$25. An annual family membership, which includes two adults and minor children, is \$30. Lifetime membership is available for \$300.

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# Upcoming Events

- 
- SEPTEMBER 5** Sunday, Scanfest, this year in Edison, NJ, at the Raritan Center of the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center. Information: [www.ScanFest.org](http://www.ScanFest.org).
- 
- SEPTEMBER 25-26** Saturday and Sunday, Mouns Jones Country Fair, Douglassville, PA, at Old Morlatton Village. Information: 610-385-3431.
- 
- SEPTEMBER 26** Delaware Swedish Colonial Society Kallbord at Greenbank Mill, Wilmington. 4:00-6:00 p.m. Program: "The Churches of New Sweden." Information: 302-239-0641.
- 
- NOVEMBER 20** Saturday, Fourth Annual New Sweden History Conference: "New Sweden and Native America" at the Delaware History Museum, Wilmington. 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Swedish Colonial Society, American Swedish Historical Museum, New Sweden Centre, McNeil Center for Early American Studies - University of Pennsylvania, Delaware Humanities Forum and local Lenape groups. More information: ASHM at 215-389-1776.
- 
- NOVEMBER 20** Saturday, New Sweden Heritage Dinner, 5:00 p.m. at Brandywine Country Club, Shipley Rd., Wilmington. Sponsored by the Swedish Colonial Society.

## Swedish Colonial News

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[www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org)

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