

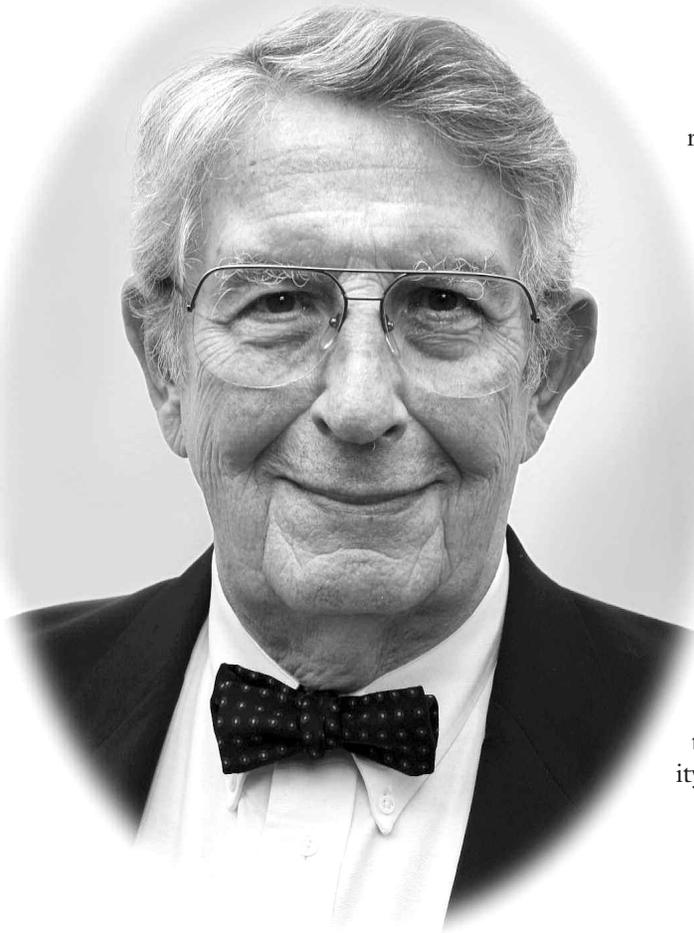
# Swedish Colonial News

Volume 4, Number 1

Winter 2010

Preserving the legacy of the New Sweden Colony in America

## Peter Stebbins Craig 1928-2009



Dr. Peter Stebbins Craig, the Swedish Colonial Society's world-renowned historian and genealogist who specialized in 17<sup>th</sup> century Swedish and Finnish immigrants to the Delaware River Valley, died Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2009 following a brief illness. Peter passed away peacefully surrounded by family. Memorial services were held at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church in Philadelphia and at the Friends Meeting in Washington, DC, where he was a member.

Dr. Craig's death came just four weeks after the Swedish Colonial Society recognized him with its Lifetime Achievement Award for his work researching the colonial experience of the settlers and their descendants into the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote over 100 articles and books on these settlers.

Dr. Craig first attracted attention among genealogists for his breakthrough article, "The Yocums of Aronameck," published in 1983. He was urged to expand his focus and look at all the New Sweden families. His book, *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware* (1993), is the definitive work presenting family histories of 195 households then belonging to the Swedish Lutheran churches on the Delaware. His subsequent book, *The 1671 Census of the Delaware* (1999), identifies and discusses each of the residents on both sides of the Delaware River in the first English census of the Delaware. A majority of the residents were still Swedes and Finns. Dr. Craig's eight-part

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## Swedish Colonial Society's Centennial Jubilee Philadelphia – October 23-25, 2009

Months and months of planning became realities the weekend of October 23-25, 2009. The Swedish Colonial Society convened at Philadelphia's Radisson Warwick Hotel for the opening events of this long-awaited Centennial Jubilee Friday, October 23rd.

SCS Governor Herbert R. Rambo gratefully acknowledged the many who were involved in creating such a successful weekend of events. To name but a few, Senior Deputy

Governor Sally Bridwell was the Jubilee Registrar, sending out invitations, keeping all the records, and generally being ahead of things that needed doing. Sally also coordinated the three-city tour of the Society's exhibit *Colony to Community: The Story of New Sweden*.

Sandra Pfaff managed all sorts of arrangements, particularly chairing the Wallenberg selection committee and coordinating the event with the American Swedish Historical

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## Dr. Peter Stebbins Craig – 1928-2009

series, “The Settlers of New Sweden, 1638-1664,” published by the *Swedish American Genealogist* (1996-1999), identified each of those colonists who today have many millions living descendants.

More recently, Dr. Craig concentrated his time as editor of the Gloria Dei Records Project, jointly sponsored by that church and The Swedish Colonial Society. This project involves the collection, translation and transcription of the records relating to the Swedish Lutheran churches of Pennsylvania, 1643-1786. Five volumes have been published since 2006 under the title of *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania*. Three more volumes are planned.

Dr. Craig was born in 1928. He obtained his B.A. from Oberlin College in 1950 and his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1953. After practicing law in Washington for 36 years, including more than 25 years with Southern Railway and two years as Assistant General Counsel for Litigation for the

U. S. Department of Transportation in the Johnson administration (1967-1969), he retired in 1989 to spend full time on history and genealogy. A resident of Washington, DC, he joined the Swedish Colonial Society in 1981 and was its Historian & Genealogist from 1991 until his death. As the genealogist for the Society he reviewed over 500 forefather applications.

Much in demand as a lecturer because of his expertise on the New Sweden colonists and their descendants, Dr. Craig spoke to historical and genealogical audiences in eight different states. In recognition of his writings, Dr. Craig was named a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists and a Fellow of the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. In recognition of his contributions to a better understanding of America’s New Sweden heritage, Dr. Craig was awarded Knighthood in the Order of the Polar Star by King Carl XVI Gustav in 2002. He was also a recipient of the Swedish Council of America’s Merit Award.

Survivors include his wife of nearly 40 years, Sally Banks Craig of Washington; four children, Stephen Tucker Craig of Chicago; Carolyn Alden Craig of Davis, CA; Jennifer Stebbins Craig of Woodland, CA; and

Katherine Craig Bocoock of Takoma Park, MD; a brother John; four grandchildren: Cory, Miles, Toby and Leo; and eight nephews and a niece.

Dr. Craig’s last Forefather’s Article, “The Toy and King Families of Senamensing, New Jersey,” is being edited and will appear in the Spring 2010 issue of *Swedish Colonial News*. The Society is deeply honored that Dr. Craig elected to leave his papers to us. We have decided that we need to establish the Craig Fund to assure that his unique collection of resource materials and genealogical information about the New Sweden settlers and their descendants is properly archived and made accessible for scholars, descendants and other researchers. Please help! You may send your check made payable to the Swedish Colonial Society with “Craig Fund” noted on the memo line and mailed to:

Swedish Colonial Society  
c/o Gloria Dei Episcopal Church  
916 South Swanson Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147



PHOTO: FRED PEAFF

Sally Craig stands with Dr. Peter Craig as he is presented the Society's Lifetime Achievement Award from Governor Herbert R. Rambo at the Centennial Jubilee Dinner.



## SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

916 SOUTH SWANSON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147

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HIS MAJESTY CARL XVI GUSTAF  
KING OF SWEDEN

DEPUTY HIGH PATRON  
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS  
CROWN PRINCESS VICTORIA

PATRON  
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Dear Friends of New Sweden:

The past year was a time of great celebration as our Society observed its Centennial with a year-long series of events that culminated with the Jubilee Weekend in Philadelphia, where we were joined by the Swedish Council of America.

Our Centennial inspired exhibit *Colony to Community: The Story of New Sweden* is in its final appearance at the Delaware History Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. Our traveling exhibit by the same name is currently at the Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, Washington, before heading on to the American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and then to the Swedish American Museum, Chicago, Illinois. It has been a great success, and we thank the members of the staff of our partner, the American Swedish Historical Museum, for their outstanding contribution.

I want to thank everyone who helped make the Centennial year such a memorable celebration.

Last year was also a time of sadness with the passing of several important contributing members. Especially shocking was the news on Thanksgiving Day afternoon that the Society's respected, long-time Historian Peter Stebbins Craig had just died. He had been ill for only a few weeks.

We saw that his health was slipping in late October when the Society recognized Peter with its Lifetime Achievement Award. We were fortunate to honor his good work and faithful service to our organization while he was still among us.

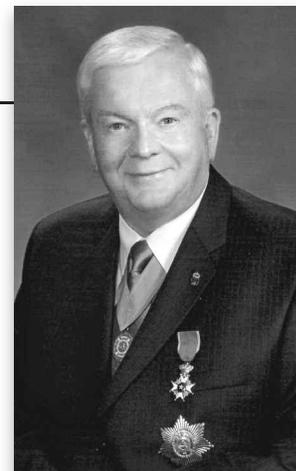
Although his health was failing, his keen intellect continued to burn bright as a beacon that drew admirers as it had throughout his lifetime and will continue to do so for generations to come.

Peter's contributions to the knowledge of New Sweden and the Colonists are immeasurable. His stature as a New Sweden Scholar is such that he had few, if any, peers. Peter will be mourned in many circles and certainly his passing creates a void that will not be filled anytime soon.

Peter Craig bequeathed his extensive New Sweden Library to The Swedish Colonial Society and plans are being made to move the collection from Washington, DC, to the Society's Archives in the Brossman Center at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. As we enter our second century, your Society has taken on an important role in conserving the Craig Collection and ultimately making it available to researchers.

In the next issue there will be a fuller explanation of the Society's plans for this important collection and suggestions as to what you can do to help.

Herbert R. Rambo  
Governor



# Ninety Years of Growth and Challenge: The Swedish Colonial Society, 1919-2009

A 1936 anonymous writer to the New York Swedish newspaper *Nordstjernan* asked: "Who are these people in the Swedish Colonial Society? They do not have Swedish surnames, and they [all] seem to be from the East." The next issue contained the answer: their Swedish immigration had occurred more than 200 years before, the names had changed, and they had managed to accomplish quite a lot.

Before the 1938 Tercentenary celebrations of the *Kalmar Nyckel's* landing in 1638 at "The Rocks" in present-day Wilmington, Delaware, the Society had only 193 members. Meetings were held in the librarian's office at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Average attendance was seven. Meetings generally lasted just over an hour and consisted mainly of receiving new members and accepting the resignation of anyone who moved out of state.

By the summer of 1909, six months after its organization, the barriers of an all-gentlemen's academic club broke down when the first woman Associate Member was admitted. The number of Associate Members was limited to 50 "lest they take control." By 1929, however, women were accorded regular membership and in 1946 began to be more active in the Society, when two women were elected to the Council: Sarah Logan Wister Starr and A. Florence Appleberg Ingle. That same year Miss Gladys Peterson became the Recording Secretary and served for 40 years. Two women have been elected as Senior Deputy Governor, Countess Waterman-Gherilli in 1982 and our current Senior Deputy Governor, Sally Bridwell. Mrs George C. MacFarland was Junior Deputy Governor from 1993 to 2001, and as Deputy Governor Emerita, she is continuing her many years as a dedicated supporter of the Society.

The Society's record as a publisher began early with Secretary Gregory Keen's revised edition of *The Descendants of Jöran Kyn of New Sweden* and several books by Amandus Johnson, including: *The Swedish Settlements on*

*the Delaware* (1911) with a later revised edition (1915), a biography of New Sweden's last Governor Johan Rising (1915), Per Lindeström's *Geographia Americana* (1925), and *The Instruction for Johan Printz* (1930).

In 1923, the Society erected a monolith on the grounds of the Corinthian Yacht Club at Tinicum honoring Johan Printz, New Sweden's first governor. In 1926, with the Colonial Dames of America, it built a replica Norse Grist Mill on Cobbs Creek, commemorating the first manufacturing site in the Delaware Valley. Sadly, it was swept away by a hurricane two years later. A Pennsylvania Commonwealth historical marker preserves its memory.

Beginning in 1926, Amandus Johnson solicited funds from across the country to build a national museum dedicated to the achievements of Swedish immigrants. The Society determined such a project was beyond its scope and agreed with Johnson to concentrate its research on the period before 1800 and let the museum concentrate on the later immigration. The American Swedish Historical Museum was to be located on the grounds of the Sesquicentennial Exhibition in South Philadelphia. By June 1926 the museum was ready for its cornerstone. Nearby, the Swedish Colonial Society had erected a wooden replica of the Wicaco blockhouse, the log church which preceded today's Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church built in 1700. Despite drenching rains that made the Sesquicentennial an economic disaster, the blockhouse attracted an average of 1,000 visitors a day during the six-month Exhibition.

After touring Independence Hall and Gloria Dei Church, Swedish Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf and his Crown Princess dedicated the blockhouse and presided at the museum's cornerstone laying ceremony. The Society held a gala luncheon for 400 guests at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. (At the time the museum had not yet organized its governing body.)

While the museum was under construction, the Society was presented with a new opportunity. The Society was given five acres on Tinicum Island by Commodore Charles Longstreth of California. Mr. Longstreth was a member of the Corinthian Yacht Club, as were some of the Society's Councillors, and he knew of their interests and the monolith. The Society had originally determined not to become involved with real estate but now suddenly found it was a property owner. Property own-

**Editor's Note:** In the Governor's Letter in the Fall '08 issue of "Swedish Colonial News," Kim-Eric Williams described the 1909 founding and very early years of The Swedish Colonial Society. The following article is adapted and edited by Ellen T. Rye from his talk presented at the Society's Centennial Jubilee Dinner 23 October 2009. In it he details the remaining ninety years of the Society's centennial. He stated at the conclusion of his Governor's Letter; "Who could have imagined that in one hundred years so much would have been accomplished."

ership mandated obtaining a charter and incorporating, which was accomplished in 1927. The property was in poor condition with a tumbled down inn and plenty of weeds. It soon was graded and seeded and the inn removed, but funds did not allow any further development for the next ten years.

The Society entered a new era when Colonel Frank W. Melvin, a prominent attorney, became Governor in 1936. He ramped up activities for the 1938 Tercentenary in his triple roles as Governor of the Society, Chair of the Board of the American Swedish Historical Museum, and Chair of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. Col. Melvin had been active in the creation of Brandywine Battlefield Park, the extension of Valley Forge, and the reconstruction of Pennsbury Manor, William Penn's home. He wrote eight separate pieces of legislation for the Pennsylvania General Assembly concerning the 1938 Jubilee, including one in which the Governor of the Commonwealth and a delegation from the Society went to Sweden. Six of Col. Melvin's legislative projects on Tinicum Island were accepted by the Federal Government's Works Progress Administration. Archeological investigations uncovered the footprint of Printzhof, Governor Printz's residence. (The Society today is in possession of a large stack of Dutch yellow ballast bricks found at the site, others were used to build the stuga fireplace at the museum.) New trees were planted and a seawall built. As part of the 1938 Tercentenary celebrations, the improved Tinicum property, known as Governor Printz Park, was deeded to the Commonwealth. Ironically, in an economy move in 2003, the Commonwealth deeded the property to Tinicum Township with the Society closely monitoring the conditions of the transfer.

The "Melvin Revolution" had more to accomplish. In 1942, working with The Reverend John C. Roak, Gloria Dei's rector, they managed to get the National Park Service to designate Gloria Dei Church a National Historical Site, six years before Independence Hall was so designated. It was the first religious structure in the country to receive such recognition and federal protection. In 1958 seven acres south of the church were added, and the site became part of the Independence National Historical Park.

Changes came with the considerably altered By-Laws Col. Melvin promulgated. The office of President was changed to Governor, who would usually serve for two years (although the Colonel served for ten!). The term Governor probably came from contemporary bar association practice and proved acceptable, recalling the original colony. However, Col. Melvin's suggestion that the Governor be addressed as "Your Excellency" was never adopted.

Another of the By-Law changes concerned the Society's relationship with Gloria Dei Church. The rector was designated Ex-Officio Chaplain of the Society (and regularly attends the monthly Society Council meetings, which are held at the Church's Roak House). Meetings began and ended with Christian prayer, and still do. A tradition of attending a service together each spring at Gloria Dei was established in remembrance of the New Sweden forefathers. Although in

itself non-religious, The Swedish Colonial Society is one of the few historical groups in this country which preserves a connection with a church. Gloria Dei has been the Society's legal address since 1994.

Also during Col. Melvin's term, the Council was increased to 25 members and officers. Beginning in 1938, the April Forefathers' Banquet replaced the Annual Meetings. Although the Insignia of the Society had been adopted in 1927, its use was emphasized and the Governor's Star introduced. Sometimes Col. Melvin's enthusiasm went a bit far, as when he made a list of all the 11 possible historical dates the Society could commemorate every year, mandated that the wine used for the three skåls (toasts) be port and that all Society dinners be called a *smörgåsbord*. He established a color guard and wanted to make the Society a patriotic organization. Trouble was, during World War II anyone who supported Swedish neutrality was suspect. Needless to say, this patriotic emphasis was controversial and faded away.

The Society's genealogical activities date from the beginning when Ormond Rambo, Jr. deposited lineage reports with the Society's Secretary, Amandus Johnson. In the early days membership fell into three categories:

- **Birthright** – Those who trace their families to New Sweden settlers before the Revolution
- **Pioneer** – More recent immigrants
- **Fellow** – Everyone else.

A distinguishing characteristic of the Society was that membership was not limited to Swedes or Finns. Anyone could join who had an interest in colonial history (and whose membership was sponsored by a Councillor, a requirement which has since been dropped). This was indeed fortunate since Col. Melvin and some of the other Governors have not had Scandinavian roots.

In 1938 the Society appointed Clarence F. Hand as its genealogist. After his death, his wife served in the same position. By 1988 only 67 current members could trace their lineage to New Sweden. The 350th Anniversary year of the New Sweden Colony gave new impetus to the forefather membership program: Dr. Peter Stebbins Craig was appointed Historian. His meticulous research resulted in an explosion of applicants, so that today more than 300 of our current members are recognized Forefather descendants. Dr. Craig's two books on the people of New Sweden are now standard reference works for New Sweden studies: *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware* (1993) and *The 1671 Census of the Delaware* (1999).

An idea for the Society that never materialized was establishment of state chapters. A lone exception was New Haven, Connecticut, where 29 members met regularly for a short time. Their legacy to the Society is a small endowment derived from the 1978 sale of a home that had belonged to the Apollo Singing Society. (Your Society is basically dues-dependent for funding its operating expenses.)

In 1963 New Sweden's 325th Anniversary was celebrat-

ed with Prince Bertil and delegations from Kalmar and Jönköping. A delegation from the Society repaid their visit with a trip to Sweden. During that trip a monument to Johan Printz was unveiled before 70,000 people in the Elmira Fair Grounds at Jönköping. Amandus Johnson dedicated a second Printz monument near Printz's grave at Bottnaryd Church in Småland.

In 1967 the Society presented a Swedish red granite cornerstone to St. James Church, Kingessing, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 200th anniversary, replacing the original one lost during a 19th century renovation.

During the first Julmiddag (Christmas midday dinner) in 1969, a monumental seven-foot statue of Johan Printz sculpted by member Carl Lindborg was erected in Governor Printz Park. It was unveiled by King Gustaf VI Adolf in 1972.

In 1988, his grandson King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia came to the U.S. for the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Swedes' landing. Celebrations were held in both Wilmington and Philadelphia. That same year an academic conference was held at the University of Delaware, during which 23 presentations showed that New Sweden studies were alive and well and developing in exciting new directions. Some of the presentations were subsequently published under the title *New Sweden in America* (Newark, University of Delaware Press, 1995).

One major event sponsored by the Society took place in June 1993 when over 500 people gathered in Governor Printz Park to commemorate Printz's 1643 landing and selection of Tinicum as capital of the colony. At the same time the Pennsylvania legislature commemorated the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Commonwealth government.

Publication of the *Swedish Colonial News* began in 1990 as an 8-page newsletter. It is now a 20-page journal serving the widely dispersed members in the U.S., in Sweden and elsewhere. By Governor Samuel B. Sturgis's tenure (1956-1958), membership had climbed to 529 with 9 in Sweden. However, only 65 members lived outside the Delaware Valley. It was possible in the 1950s, a time before television and employment by both spouses, to gather 177 members and 56 guests for a Forefathers' Banquet on a Monday evening at Philadelphia's Union League. Today three-quarters of our 700-plus members live outside

the local area and about 24 live in Sweden. We are no longer primarily a Delaware Valley society.

The Society's highly successful website, [www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org), began in 1999 under the expert leadership of Ronald Hendrickson and now has about 15,000 users each month. Leif Lundquist in Sweden maintains our sister site, [www.ColonialSwedes.se](http://www.ColonialSwedes.se), for our *Svenska Colonial Sällskapet* members in Scandinavia. It came on-line in 2008.

The New Sweden History Conference began in 2001 as a joint project between the American Swedish Historical Museum and the Society, in cooperation with the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. It brings together the latest research about New Sweden. The Delaware Swedish Colonial Society, the New Sweden Centre in Wilmington, and Trinity Church in Swedesboro, N.J., are now co-sponsors of this annual autumn event.

Although no longer an evening banquet, the 2001 Forefathers' Luncheon marked a return to the Union League. Chief Justice William Rehnquist was among the guests, and at that gathering Herbert Rambo, an expert publicist, was elected Governor, leading a new organizational surge of enthusiasm.

The long-overdue Archives program, now hosted at the Lutheran Archives Center in Philadelphia, began in 2000 with Kim-Eric Williams as archivist. At the end of 2009, the Archives consisted of more than 42 linear feet of materials, a map collection and framed paintings, including a fabulous large copy of the 17th century Bottnaryd Church portrait of Governor Printz. It is attributed to Daniel von Rohlen (1660) and was painted in the last years of Printz's life. King Gustaf V gave the portrait to the Society in 1910. It was an especially important gift since before its arrival no one in America had any idea of what Johan Printz looked like! [Editor's Note: With the addition of the Craig Collection in 2010, the Society's Archives will be substantially expanded.]

Of course in 90 years there were some missteps. A major one occurred in 1967, when the Society sponsored the placement of a monolith to John Hanson in Gloria Dei's churchyard. It sounded so good! Many claimed the first president of the country had not been George Washington, but John Hanson, president of Congress under the Articles of Confederation and believed to be a Swede! John Hanson was

## American Swedish Historical Museum Presents Wallenberg Humanitarian Award to Israeli Ambassador Asher Naim

Not even torrential rains could dampen the spirits of the 180 individuals who attended the American Swedish Historical Museum's Wallenberg Humanitarian Award Reception and Presentation Saturday evening, October 24th. In addition to the delicious, bountiful food and drink choices, guests wandered throughout the museum's beautiful rooms and displays. Especially popular was the Swedish Colonial Society's traveling exhibit, *Colony to Community: The Story of New Sweden*.

The main focus of the evening, however, was the presentation of the Spirit of Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award, named and dedicated to the memory of Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg. During the dark days of World War II, Wallenberg worked tirelessly to save thousands of Hungarian Jews from the clutches of the Nazi invaders. Tragically, he was arrested, imprisoned and believed executed by the Soviets in 1947.

The press release announcing the Wallenberg award states, "the American Swedish Historical Museum's Spirit of Wallenberg Humanitarian Award is presented to an individual, individuals or organization who has demonstrated a commitment to humanitarianism through acts which achieve a significant contribution to alleviate human suffering or injustice, involved sacrifices or risks and are performed without expectation of reward or recognition."

Chaired by SCS Councillor Sandra S. Pfaff, the Museum's Awards committee selected Israeli Ambassador Asher Naim as demonstrating all those qualities. As Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia in 1991, Ambassador Naim helped organize and implement Operation Solomon, "the daring rescue of thousands of Beta Israel (the indigenous Jews of Ethiopia)." During that country's civil war, the indigenous Jews were trapped between rebel and governmental forces. They were in danger of slaughter unless they could quickly be removed from the conflict. In face of seemingly impossible odds, Ambassador Naim negotiated the airlift of over 14,000 immigrants from Addis Ababa to Israel, utilizing 35 aircraft in the course of just 25 hours. For his efforts the President and Prime Minister of Israel presented him with "the most Distinguished Civil Servant Award." Ambassador Naim continues his humanitarian work with Ethiopian Jews through his educational scholarship fund to help their integration into Israeli society.

In his modest acceptance speech, Ambassador Naim shared his creed and challenged the packed audience, in Hebrew, "fix the world." Needless to say, he received a standing ovation.



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

The crystal Wallenberg Award bowl is presented to Ambassador Asher Naim by Amy Sosnov, Trustee of the Ellis Foundation



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

Pictured left to right: John McCann (ASHM Board Chairman), Sandra Pfaff (Raoul Wallenberg Committee Chair), Swedish Ambassador Jonas Hafström; Hilda Naim, Israeli Ambassador Asher Naim; and Robert Houdek, U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia in 1991.



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

Members of the Swedish Council of America arrived before the Jubilee's start to tour sites of New Sweden. Here SCS Forefather member Aleasa Hogate describes the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyards and New Sweden Centre activities.



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

Adjacent to the shipyard is Fort Christina State Park, dedicated during 1938's Tercentenary. "The Rocks" landing site and Carl Milles' black granite New Sweden memorial are located within the Park.



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

At Old Swedes Historical Site, the SCA visitors toured the 1690s Hendrickson House that was relocated from Ridley Park, PA to Wilmington, DE in the 1950s.



PHOTO: MAX DOOLEY

The last tour venue was Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, designed and built in 1698-99 by Swedish Lutheran Pastor Erik Björk. Shown is the original black walnut pulpit.



# THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY Centennial JUBILEE

Museum's staff, the Union League Luncheon and the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra's *Scandinavian Perspectives* concert. One could sense Sandra's special touch at each of these events.

The American Swedish Historical Museum's Tracey Beck and Carrie Hogan were responsible for the outstanding presentation of the Society's exhibit *Colony to Community: The Story of New Sweden* and the very moving Wallenberg Humanitarian Award presentation.

Joining in the Society's celebrations were the Swedish Council of America and their Executive Director Elise Peters. His Excellency Jonas Hafström, Ambassador of Sweden and Patron of the Swedish Colonial Society, was a special guest for the weekend.

Financial Secretary Peg Berich kept track of receipts and wrote many of the thank-you letters while Treasurer David B. Anderson wrote the checks, even being complimented by one vendor for prompt payment.

Assuring all the presentation awards were ready and in order was the responsibility of the awards committee whose members were Al Capotosto, Tina Lassen, Edie Rohrman and Doriney Seagers.



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

ASHM Director Tracey Beck, center, moderated the first session of the New Sweden History Conference. ASHM Curator Carrie Hogan, left, spoke about *Two Kings of Sweden: Gustav and Christina*. New Jersey State Museum Curator Lorraine Williams, right, spoke on *The Documentary Legacy of Swedish-Indian Friendship in the Delaware Valley*.



PHOTO: MAX DOOLEY

SCS Archivist Kim-Eric Williams moderated the second session of the History Conference that featured attorney David Furlow, Esq. whose topic was *Contributions of New Sweden to the American Legal System* and Assoc. Professor Cynthia Van Zandt who spoke on *New Sweden's Place in the Early Modern Atlantic World*.



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

SCA members receive sailing instructions from the *Kalmar Nyckel's* Captain Sharon Litcofsky.



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

At Friday's Centennial Jubilee Dinner Bruce R. Larson, Chair, Swedish Council of America (rear 3rd from left) and Willow Hagans, Vice Chair SCA, (2nd from right) presented the Council's Merit Awards to (left to right) Gunhild Ljung, Swedish School of New Jersey; Carl Holm, New Sweden Colonial Farmstead; Ruth A. Runkle, Kalmar Nyckel Foundation; Earl E. Seppala, New Sweden Centre; Frances O. Allmond, Delaware Swedish Colonial Society; Margaretha Talerman, American Swedish Historical Museum; and Esther Ann MacFarland, Swedish Colonial Society. Not pictured, Phoebe Hopkins, Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County.



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

SCS Senior Deputy Governor Margaret Sooy Bridwell, center, enjoys the night's festivities at the Jubilee Dinner with her son Mark (left) and her husband Nagle (right).



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

Pictured (L-R) at the Jubilee Dinner are SCS Honorary Governor and Archivist Kim-Eric Williams, Bruce Karstadt, President/CEO American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN; Willow Hagans, Vice Chair SCA; Bruce R. Larson, Chair SCA; and Swedish Ambassador Jonas Hafström



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

Governor of Värmland, the Honorable Eva Eriksson delivered her greetings and remarks during the Jubilee Dinner.



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

SCS Junior Deputy Governor Ken Peterson presents Carrie Hogan, ASHM Curator, the Society's Recognition Award for her efforts in preparing the Society's touring exhibit *Colony to Community: The Story of New Sweden*.



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

Dr. Peter Craig and Mrs. George MacFarland enjoy shared memories at the Jubilee Dinner.

# THE SWEDISH Centennial JULY



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

SCS Governor Herb Rambo accepts a model of the Swedish trading ship *Götheberg* from Emanuel Persson, Expedition Manager for the Tall Ship *Götheberg*. In 1745, after a two-year trading voyage to China, the *Götheberg* was in sight of its homeport, Gothenburg, when it struck a rock and sank.



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

Before the Jubilee Dinner, Swedish Ambassador Jonas Hafström poses with the Color Guard from the Philadelphia Continental Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.



PHOTOS: FRED PFAFF



Addressing the audience at Sunday's Gala Jubilee Luncheon, from left to right, are: Israeli Ambassador Asher Naim, recipient of the Wallenberg Humanitarian Award; Mats Widbom, Cultural Counselor at Washington's Swedish Embassy and Elise Peters, Executive Director of the Swedish Council of America.



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

Maestro Dirk Brossé conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia in *Scandinavian Perspectives*, a concert of works by Scandinavian composers. In November it was announced Mr. Brossé will succeed Ignat Solzhenitsyn as the orchestra's Music Director beginning with the 2010-2011 season.



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

Sunday's *Scandinavian Perspectives* concert by the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia received an added boost from the electronic billboard along Philadelphia's Interstate 95.



PHOTO: FRED PFAFF

# SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY Centennial BILEE



Shown here are the organizers of the *Scandinavian Perspectives* concert. Left to right from the Orchestra's Board of Directors' Executive Committee are William Roberts, Chairman and Kenneth Jarin, President. Maestro Dirk Brossé, center, with SCS Councillor Sandra S. Pfaff; and Peter H. Gistelink, the Orchestra's Executive Director.

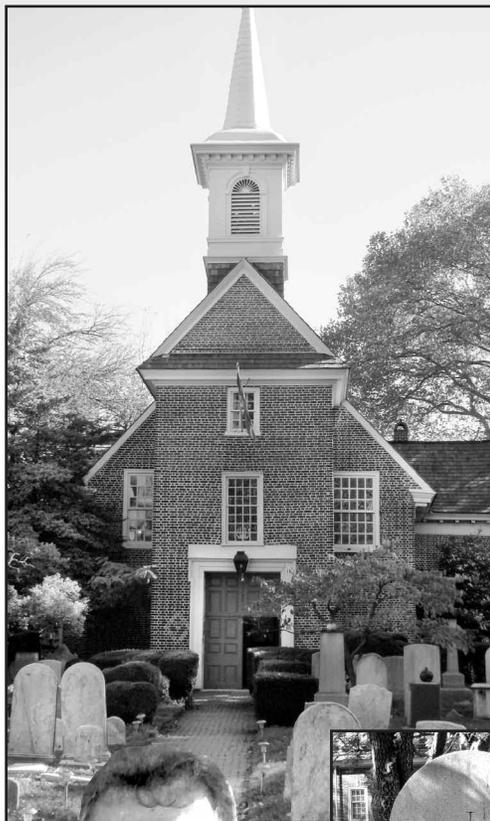


PHOTO: MAX DOOLEY

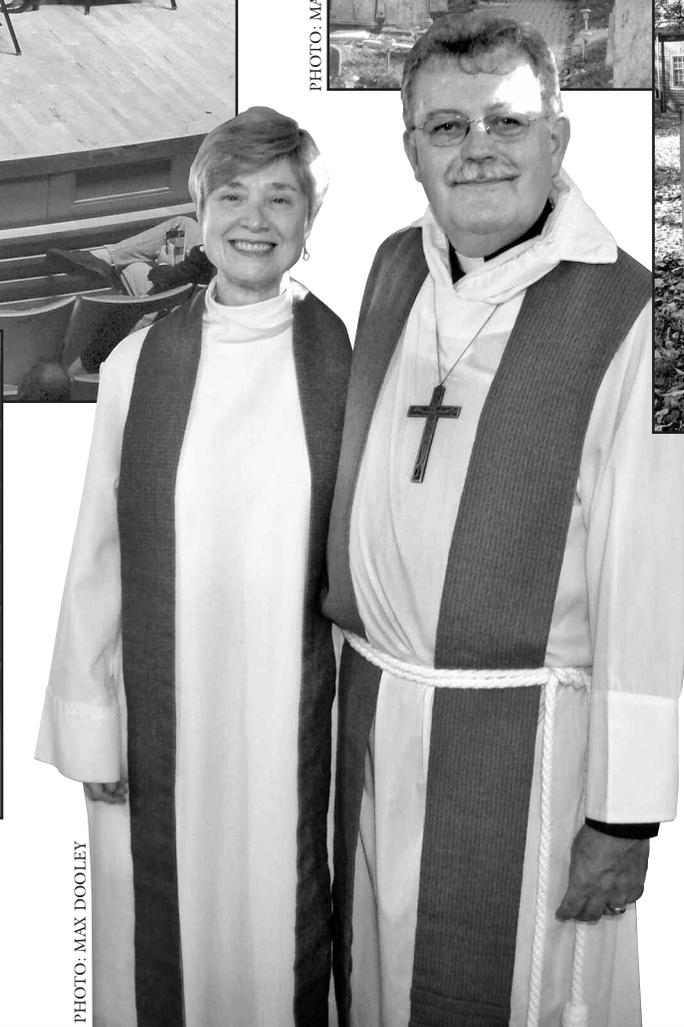


PHOTO: MAX DOOLEY



One could almost feel Amandus Johnson's approving spirit for the Swedish Colonial Society as guardian of New Sweden heritage and its accomplishments over the past 100 years.

Sunday's Jubelmässa was a joyous liturgical and musical collaboration by The Very Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector of Gloria Dei, and the Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, a retired Lutheran minister. They combined segments from the 1986 *Church of Sweden Handbook*, colonial Lutheran elements such as the 1708 gradual hymn text by Justus Falckner, and modern Episcopal liturgies. Rev. Williams delivered the sermon and Rev. Segal was the celebrant.

an outstanding patriot, but it was discovered he was not of Swedish descent. His ancestors had come from England by way of Barbados. Hanson's beautiful bust, sculpted by Carl Lindborg, and its monolith were recently moved to his birthplace in Port Tobacco, Maryland, where he still can be seen but without Swedish attribution.

In 1988 Society Governor Erik Tornqvist had to take a strong stand when the original planning committee for the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of New Sweden included no one from the New Sweden area.

A more recent Councillor was sure that President George W. Bush was descended from a New Sweden settler but in the final analysis could not prove it because of the complexity of similar names in colonial Maryland.

Still another Councillor took personal possession of Amandus Johnson's papers at his death but with the one positive result that Johnson's papers did get professional cataloging at Philadelphia's Balch Institute. Today the papers reside at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

And, yes, we do have to admit there have been times when there has been as much competition as cooperation among local Swedish groups.

The Society's members supported the formation of the American Swedish Historical Museum, the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society, the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, and the New Sweden Centre. The Society endowed the Amandus Johnson Prize, a travel grant to study in Sweden for a student who excels in language studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Among other New Sweden projects it has assisted are the New Jersey New Sweden Monument and the creation of a unit of the National Park Service in Wilmington, Delaware, which includes "The Rocks" at Fort Christina Park and Holy Trinity Church. During the Linnaean Year (2003) it sponsored the Rambo Apple Project, which was designed to return the Rambo apple variety to Sweden, where it had not been recorded since 1710. This became a two-nation project with the cooperation of the King's Fund and the hard work of Governor Herbert Rambo, Councillor James Seagers, and our Councillor in Sweden, Hans Ling. Rambo apple trees were planted in a number of significant locations in Sweden and America.

More recently (2004), the Society published *The Faces of New Sweden* by Hans Ling, a lawyer for the National Swedish Heritage Board, a New Sweden descendant and a SCS councillor. It is the story of the two portraits by Gustavus Hesselius which Hans Ling discovered stored at Nordiska Museet in Stockholm. Painted in America in 1712, they portray Pastor Erik Björk and his Swedish-American wife Christina Stalcop. The Society with gifts from three donors had the paintings restored and arranged for their extended loan to the Historical Society of Delaware. They are the oldest portraits in the Delaware Valley.

The Society participated in the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first ordination of a Lutheran pastor in America, Justus Falckner, in 1703 at Gloria Dei Church. To mark the event an Anglican-Lutheran Eucharist was held at Philadelphia Cathedral. The Society's archivist wrote a biography of the pastor entitled *The Journey of Justus Falckner* (2003).

Perhaps the most rousing event to take place on the banks of the Potomac River in 2006 was when the Society helped inaugurate Sweden's new Embassy in Washington, the House of Sweden. They staged a re-enactment of the 1638 landing of the Swedes from the *Kalmar Nyckel* ship's boat, *The Little Key*. Upon coming ashore, the Swedes were met by a party of Lenape, who performed a welcoming dance and smudging ceremony before the day's other events began.

We are honored that King Carl XVI Gustaf has awarded the Order of the Polar Star to 5 members of the Council, including Peter Stebbins Craig, who died in November. In turn, the Society presents its own awards. The "Fellow of the Swedish Colonial Society" award has been given since 2000 to 16 former or current Councillors who have made extraordinary contributions to the Society, and in October 2009 at the Centennial Banquet the first "Lifetime Achievement Award" was presented to Peter Stebbins Craig. Sadly, Dr. Craig passed away only a few weeks later.

What is going on now? Currently we are assisting in promoting the designation of Bartram's Gardens in Philadelphia as a World Heritage UNESCO Linnaean site and are spearheading the rescue of the deserted 1988 Swedish log farmstead in Bridgeton, N.J. Also, the long-term project begun in 1996 to publish the colonial records of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church continues. Five volumes, covering the period 1646 to 1759, have appeared and work on Volume 6 is under way. Published in cooperation with the parish and titled *The Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania*, the series will end after the Revolutionary War when the record-keeping was primarily in English.

Arrangements are underway for the transfer of Dr. Craig's library and research papers to the Society's archives. Cataloging and other preparations to make his records accessible for historians and genealogists will be a major task.

And with a By-Law change in 2009, the Society has joined the modern world! We now accept memberships *via* our website and members of the Council may vote by e-mail.

All these changes over the past 90 years aside, The Swedish Colonial Society may be continuing to develop as an international society, but its primary focus will always be on increasing knowledge of the history of New Sweden and its settlers, and on safekeeping the 24 local sites related to the colony.

## Steelman House Rescued

In the Spring 2008 issue of the *Swedish Colonial News* I reported that the John Hanson Steelman house was in dire need of restoration. Without an infusion of \$400,000 for stabilization, the house was in imminent danger of collapse.

The house belonged to John Hanson Steelman and his wife, Maria Stalcop. It is situated on Elk Landing at the Head of Chesapeake Bay. Steelman operated an Indian trading post on this strategic site and helped finance Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

I am pleased to report that the Historic Elk Landing board members were able to raise the requisite \$400,000 needed to rehabilitate the house. On Saturday, June 13, 2009, they held a ceremony to celebrate the “first phase”

restoration of the handsome stone house. The frightening bulge in the wall facing the Little Elk River was corrected and all sides of the house’s mortar was repointed. The full-grown trees and resident snakes were wrestled out of the interior and replaced by a plywood floor and temporary stairs. Still needed are windows and mechanical systems.

The house was bought by Henry Hollingsworth in 1735, and the property remained in the Hollingsworth family until purchased by the town of Elkton in 1999.

Elk Landing played a very important part in the Revolutionary War. To help preserve this historic site, contributions may be sent to Historic Elk Landing Foundation, Inc., P O Box 277, Elkton, Maryland 21922-0277 ([www.elklanding.org](http://www.elklanding.org)).

Tina Lassen resides in Delaware County, PA, and is a Councillor and Forefather member of Swedish Colonial Society. She is a descendant of Måns Andersson, Johan Gustafsson, Christina Ollesdotter and Charles Springer.

## Volume 5 of *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania* is Now Available

Volume 5 of the *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania* is now available. The subtitle of this volume is “The Parlin Years 1750-1759.”

The book is a translation of various documents from Acrelius's Dean's Book of 1750. Acrelius is well known because of his ministry at Wilmington's Holy Trinity and his authorship of the first major history of the Swedish Churches on the Delaware (*A History of New Sweden*, Stockholm, 1759, English translation, 1874 by William Reynolds). We hear him speak about conditions of the Swedish churches at mid-century, when the English language was becoming dominant. The inclusion of the 1753 Church Census tells if members could understand, speak, or read Swedish. We also hear from famed German pastor Henry Melchior Mühlberg, who tells us how very successful Olof Parlin (pronounced Par-leen) was in rebuilding Gloria Dei's congregation after a very difficult decade caused by Moravian competition and former pastor Gabriel Näsman's stubbornness. Parlin's early death prevented him from accomplishing even more, and the

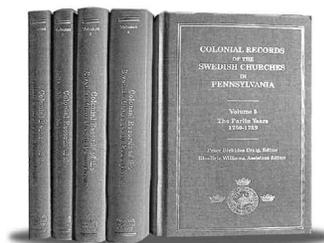
high regard in which he was held is shown in the placement of his grave marker in the center aisle of the church.

A gold mine for genealogists and New Sweden descendants are the last 71 pages, which list the marriages, baptisms, and burials from 1750-1759. A fine Index makes it easy to spot family members.

Translation of these early records of the Swedish Churches is a significant part of Gloria Dei's tercentennial project. The history of the early congregation also provides a parallel glimpse of the history of the United States.

Swedish Colonial Society members should send a check for \$20 plus \$5 shipping for each volume. All others: please sent \$25 plus \$5 shipping for each volume. Make check payable to “Gloria Dei” and mail to:

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church  
916 S. Swanson St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19147-4332  
P) 215-389-1513 • F) 215-389-7817



## New Beginnings for New Sweden Colonial Farmstead: Living History Museum at Bridgeton, N.J.

Under the direction of the Swedish Colonial Society's current Governor, Herbert Rambo, and Dr. Flavia Alaya of the Bridgeton Historic Commission, volunteers are spearheading a campaign to reopen the New Sweden Farmstead in southern New Jersey as a living history museum. The target date is 2013, the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1638 landing of the Swedes and Finns in the Delaware Valley.

Commissioned by the New Sweden Company, the seven log buildings of the New Sweden Farmstead were built by Swedish artisans, with Cumberland County workers' help. The farmstead represented a working, New World 17<sup>th</sup> century farm built by Swedes and Finns. It was during their visit in 1988 that the King and Queen of Sweden dedicated the farmstead as part of "The Year of New Sweden" celebration.

Staffed by trained docents and history enthusiasts, and furnished with rare artifacts loaned by individuals and museums in Sweden, the Farmstead attracted visitors from around the U.S. and abroad, including hundreds of students from local schools.

As economic conditions changed and many of the original volunteers moved or passed away, the Farmstead was forced to close in 2001. For the next eight years, the cabins, with their artifacts intact, maintained a mute, lonely vigil in Bridgeton's lovely city park.

Rescue efforts began early in 2008 when Swedish Colonial Society Governor Dr. Kim-Eric Williams appointed a committee of SCS councillors, led by Marianne Mackenzie and Alfred Nicolosi, to assess the condition of the buildings and secure the artifacts. To protect them from the elements and possible theft, Bridgeton Mayor Jim Begley directed city workers to move the objects to secure space in City Hall.

With assistance from American Swedish Historical Museum director Tracey Beck and curator Carrie Hogan, a plan was devised to inventory the hundreds of artifacts, comparing them to photographs and original invoices from 1988, maintained by Carl B. Holm (see Obituaries).

The reorganized New Sweden Company trustees met to reassess the group's mission and the future of the Farmstead. They changed the group's name to "New Sweden Colonial Farmstead: Living History Museum at Bridgeton" to better describe the project's purpose and location.

As a living history museum in the tradition of Plimouth Plantation and Colonial Williamsburg, the NSCF hopes to tell the story of the interactions among settlers from a variety of ethnic and national backgrounds, including the Swedes, Dutch, Finns, English, African-Americans and Lenni Lenape.

The NSCF trustees are developing grant proposals seeking funding for the living history center, which will serve as memorial to the early settlers and as an educational tool to capture the imagination of new generations of students and visitors. The NSCF is a 501(c) (3) organization, therefore financial contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed and can be mailed to:

New Sweden Colonial Farmstead  
Living History Center  
P.O. Box 191  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Volunteers are needed to catalog the artifacts and recondition the cabins. If you can help or need additional information, contact Alfred Nicolosi at 609-217-4867 or e-mail: [Alfred.nicolosi@gmail.com](mailto:Alfred.nicolosi@gmail.com)

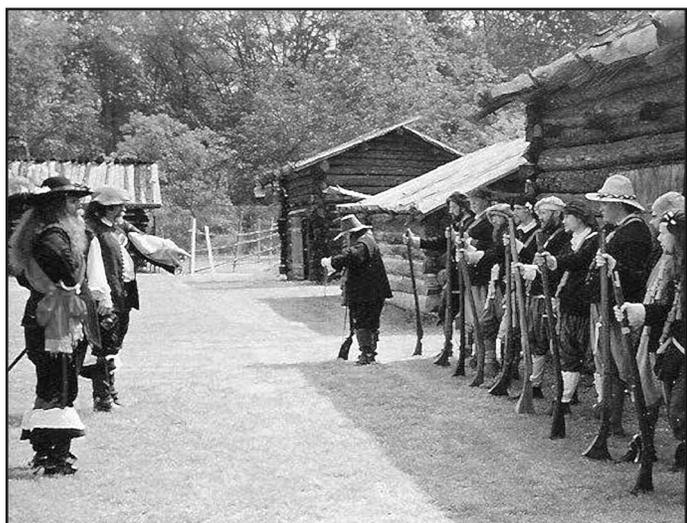


PHOTO: MAX DOOLEY

Pictured at the New Sweden Colonial Farmstead as it appeared in a 1999 encampment of the re-enactors of Sir Thomas Blackwell's Regiment of Foote, depicting a King's regiment of the English Civil War.



PHOTO: KENNETH PETERSON

At right, a recent photo showing the deterioration that has occurred to the buildings of the New Sweden Colonial Farmstead since being built in 1988.

# Festivals of Sankta Lucia

## in the Delaware Valley

Origins of the Lucia traditions were not originally Scandinavian, but trace back to 4th century Sicily. Lucia's mother was a wealthy lady and was cured of a severe illness. In thankfulness and as a Christian, during the last great persecution by Emperor Diocletian, Lucia persuaded her mother to give away her wealth to the poor. Together they did so, secretly and by candlelight. The young man to whom Lucia was engaged did not approve giving her dowry

crowns with burning candles to dispel the darkness. These "Lucias" enter their sleeping parents' rooms carrying trays of hot coffee and "Lussehatt" (St. Lucia Buns made with saffron). The procession includes sisters and brothers also dressed in white. They hold lighted candles, and sing of the light and joy of Christmas coming.

In the Delaware Valley venues that celebrate the Lucia fest traditions follow a similar pattern. The families and friends gather and visit until the lights are dimmed, and, as in early morning in Sweden, the young voices begin singing the Swedish lyrics to the internationally familiar Neapolitan Santa Lucia melody. All eyes turn to Lucia as she enters and leads the procession wearing a long white gown with a wide, bright red sash, symbolic of her martyrdom. On her head is a crown of lighted candles, and she carries a tray of Lucia Buns. The procession of Lucia's white robed attendants, carrying lighted candles, is led by the younger girls followed by the older ones. Near the end of the procession are the boys, also dressed in white robes, carrying lighted candles and wearing tall, cone-shaped hats decorated with silver or golden stars. These are the "Stjärngossar" or star boys. Smaller girls and boys dressed in red with red tassel hats, native costumes or as ginger bread creatures who care for families' possessions, particularly at night. They are the last to enter and participate in the singing. They may also have a song or two of their own and temporarily steal the spotlight from Lucia. The whole troop performs a series of Swedish songs to the delight of families and friends, many of whom are descendants of Swedish immigrants. A girl's progression from Tomte to Lucia takes many years, but carries a lifetime of memories and many accumulated friends. Of course Lucia fests would not be complete without refreshments and social time after the performances.



Erika Hoffman, ASHM's 2009 Lucia

away. He denounced her, had her arrested and imprisoned. She was tortured by boiling oil and burning pitch, but miraculously survived uninjured. But finally she was blinded and slain with a sword. She was made a martyr saint of the Church, with her feast day set for December 13, the longest night of the year.

Legend has it Lucia's story came to Värmland with the coming of Christianity shortly after 1000 A.D. Missionaries and priests may have used Lucia's story to inspire new converts. Yet, another possibility was Swedish sailors observed the festival in Italy and brought it back to Sweden. However it arrived, Sankta Lucia day (Luciadagen), December 13, is widely celebrated in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries.

Traditionally on the morning of December 13, the strains of "Santa Lucia" are heard everywhere in Sweden as white-robed maidens with red sashes come out of the night wearing



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

The Delaware Swedish Colonial Society's 2008 Lucia was Rebecca Draper, a descendent of Charles Christopher Springer.

Max Dooley considers himself Swedish by "adoption," having been a long time parishioner of Trinity Episcopal Parish, which includes Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church. Upon retirement, he developed an interest in Swedish colonial history. He is past president of the Old Swedes Foundation and continues as a board member. In addition to duties as *Swedish Colonial News* editor, he is a member of the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society and Councillor on the Swedish Colonial Society's board.

## American Swedish Historical Museum's Lucia

The earliest date for a Lucia celebration in the Delaware Valley area occurs at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia. Two performances, which include Swedish songs and folk dancing, are held on the first Saturday of December. In 2010 that first Saturday will be December 4<sup>th</sup>. The museum's rooms and central staircase are always beautifully decorated throughout in Christmas finery. At the conclusion of the fest delicious Swedish foods, desserts and gifts are available.



PHOTO: FRED PEAFF

ASHM's Lucia and attendants



PHOTO: FRED PEAFF

Whole Lucia cast on the Museum's grand staircase

## Patriot's Lucia at Christ Church, Upper Merion



PHOTO: JAMES SEAGERS

Pictured above, left to right, is Herb Rambo as his ancestor Ezekiel Rambo, Carol Landouski as Lucia, and James Gallagher a member of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter, SAR, as General Washington.

The oldest Lucia celebration, in what was part of New Sweden, is the Patriots' Lucia held annually at Christ Church Upper Merion. Legend has it that on the evening of December 13, 1777, General George Washington and his troops were crossing the Schuylkill River on their way to their winter encampment at Valley Forge when they observed lights coming from the windows of Christ Church. Washington sent one of his officers to inquire

of Ezekiel Rambo, a church leader, if his troops could be quartered on the church grounds overnight. Rambo asked, "What color is your army's uniforms?" With the answer, "Blue," permission was granted. Then the officer inquired as to what was happening in the church that evening, and so the Swedish Lucia tradition was explained. Attending the evening's Lucia Fest, in addition to the regular congregation, were General George Washington and General Anthony Wayne. John Paul Jones was rumored to have attended, but he had sailed to France in November 1777 to assist the American Commissioners, Franklin, Adams and Lee. Each year the Philadelphia Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution chooses major events in which they wish to participate, and the Patriots' Lucia at Christ Church has been a consistent first choice, keeping the tradition alive. The delicious smorgasbord following the fest is an added inducement.

## Lucia at St. James (Old Swedes) Episcopal Church of Kingsessing

The St. James Lucia Fest traces its origin back to 1954 when Katherine Rambo, a descendant of Swedish forefather Peter Rambo, wrote the original script based on her research in Stockholm. The Rev. Dr. James Gilbert, St. James' Rector from 1941-1966, credited her efforts to: "preserve this ancient Swedish Festival and her success is attested by the number of people who annually attend Lucia Fests in Old Swedes Churches." Miss Rambo died in 1955 after serving as librarian at Episcopal Academy, teacher at Lower Merion High School, Rosemont College and Women's

Medical College. She received an award from the Freedoms Foundation for her work in Revolutionary and Colonial History.

St. James' Lucia Fest is held annually on the Sunday nearest December 13<sup>th</sup>. The children of the parish dress in authentic Swedish costumes during a vespers service. The story of Santa Lucia is told together with Swedish music and song. The pageant serves as a youth ministry with different ages performing the parts of elves, star boys and attendants. And of course everyone enjoys the Swedish refreshments and fellowship afterwards.



PHOTO: PARISH PROFILE

St. James children's ensemble of Lucia, attendants, elves and in native dress costumes.

## Gloria Dei's Lucia Fest

The next oldest Lucia celebration in the Delaware Valley occurs at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church also in Philadelphia. Its beginning is traced back more than 70 years. To accommodate the growing crowds of families and friends, their celebration has expanded into eight performances over a three-day period. Not only does this accommodate the larger crowds for the fund-raising event, but also each performance features a different Lucia, creating lifetime memories for all the girls so honored. Lucia's Fest for 2010 will be 6:00 & 8:00 PM on Friday, December 10th; on Saturday and Sunday, December 11th and 12th, the presentations are 2:00, 3:30, & 5:00 PM. Before, during and after each of the presentations, St. Eric's Fair, a Christmas bazaar specializing in Scandinavian imports is held in the Parish Hall adjoining the Church. Food and drink are available.

PHOTO: PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER



Gloria Dei's 2008 Lucia chorus of angelic voices singing by candlelight.

PHOTO: PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER



The Tomtar's role involves lots of waiting so this Tomte invents his own entertainment.

PHOTO: JIM SEAGERS



Kirsten Seagers, one of the 2009 Lucias. Kirsten is the granddaughter of Doriney & Jim Seagers, SCS Registrar and Councillors.

## Delaware Swedish Colonial Society's Lucia at Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church

Robert Sandberg, past president of the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society, recalled the beginnings of the Delaware Society's Lucia celebration shortly before his death in December (see obits). He noted the Lucia ceremony had been held annually at Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church in Wilmington since 1978. He further recalled, the first ceremony held in 1976 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Harrington. The following year it was held at the Hotel duPont. Mary McCoy, also a past president of the DSCS, added, "the celebration at the Hotel duPont was very nice, [but] not enough

people could afford to attend." She stated further, "having it at Old Swedes Church has made it truly a family event and one which can be enjoyed by all ages." Like St. James, Kingessing, the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society's Lucia celebration is held the Sunday nearest December 13<sup>th</sup>. In 2010 that will be December 12<sup>th</sup>.

After the Lucia program in the church, the congregation is invited to purchase Swedish coffee and goodies in the adjacent Christina Community Center. Before and after the performance, Old Swedes Foundation's Hendrickson House gift shop is open for shopping among the many Swedish Christmas items.



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

DSCS's ensemble at Holy Trinity: Lucia, Attendants, Star Boys and Tomtar.



PHOTO: GENE MCCOY

Stjärngossar wait for their turn in the procession.

**Editor's Note:** Many thanks to my Lucia advisors: Tracey Beck, ASHM; Jim Seagers, Patriot's Lucia; Fred Davidson, St. James; The Very Rev. D. Joy Segal, Gloria Dei; Robert Sandberg (deceased), Mary McCoy and Fran Allmond, DSCS's Lucia at Holy Trinity.

## LIFE MEMBERS

Thomas A. Glowiak, Manhattan, KS  
Anne Pearson Lugg, Hillsborough, NJ

Pastor Larry M. Neff, New Oxford, PA

## FAMILY MEMBERS

Robert Edward Cooper and Family, Redding, CA  
Richard E. Rambo and Family, Kintnersville, PA

Ward C. Rambo and Family, Toledo, OH  
Donna M. Walker and Torben Jenk, Philadelphia, PA

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Ewert Arwidsson, Göteborg, Sweden  
Jerry Benson, Waco, TX  
Harry G. Enoch, Winchester, KY  
Cheryl Bilderback Evans, Robbinsville, NJ  
Jean M. Farnsworth, Philadelphia, PA  
Roberta M. Fox, Cleveland Heights, OH  
David A. Franklin, New York, NY

Sharon E. Garrison, Brentwood, CA  
George M. Keen, Virginia Beach, VA  
Cheryl Beadle Marple, Colledgeville, PA  
Allen I. Milman, New York, NY  
Robert D. Shapiro, Haddonfield, NJ  
Linda Harris Sittig, Purcellville, VA  
Michelle Emma Walton, Kahului, HI

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER

House of Sweden, Carl E. and Ingrid G. Englund, Julian, CA

## 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).

**Michael E. Barger**, Rio Rancho, NM, descended from Peter Gunnarsson Rambo through his son, Gunnar Rambo, and the latter’s son, John Rambo, of Montgomery County, PA.

**Roberta Caito**, Indianapolis, IN, descended from Peter Gunnarsson Rambo through his son, Gunnar Rambo, and the latter’s son, Peter Rambo, of Montgomery County, PA.

**Alfred B. Capotosto**, Aston, PA, descended from Elias Toy through his son, Frederick Toy, the latter’s son, Nicholas Toy, of Gloucester County, NJ.

**Jessica Lauren Duke**, Las Vegas, NV, descended from Anders Bengtsson through his son, Andrew Andersson Bankson, and his son, Lawrence Bankson, of Caswell County, NC.

**Roberta M. Fox**, Cleveland Heights, OH, descended from Israel Helm through his daughter, Elisabeth Helm, who married George Lawrence and their son, Richard Lawrence, of Lower Chichester, Chester County, PA.

**Thomas A. Glowiak**, Manhattan, KS, descended from Peter Larson Cock through his son, Lars (Lasse) Cock, and his daughter, Margaret, who married Jacob Bankson of Philadelphia, PA.

**Linda Sittig**, Purcellville, VA, descended from Peter Gunnarsson Rambo through his son, Gunnar Rambo, and the latter’s son, Peter Rambo, of Upper Providence, PA.

**David E. Shaw**, St. Louis, MO, descended from Matts Hansson through his son, John Mattson, and the latter’s daughter, Anna Mattson, wife of Stephen Jones of Gloucester County, NJ.

## ERRATA

In the Spring 2009 issue of the *Swedish Colonial News*, Patricia A. Richardson, Fullerton, CA, was inadvertently omitted as a Forefather Member, descended from Johan Hendricksson. We apologize for this omission.

## New Members Welcomed

Doriney Seagers resides in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and has received the designation of Fellow of the Swedish Colonial Society. She has been serving as Registrar for the Swedish Colonial Society. She is presently on the Board of Governors for the American Swedish Historical Museum, a member of VASA and other Swedish organizations.

The Swedish Colonial Society welcomes new members. No Swedish relative or ancestry is required – only an interest in colonial history. Contact our Registrar: Emily M. Berich, 916 South Swanson St., Philadelphia, PA 19147 or visit us online at: [www.ColonialSwedes.org](http://www.ColonialSwedes.org). The annual membership fee for an individual is \$30. An annual family membership, which includes two adults and minor children, is \$35. Life membership is available for \$400.

**Robert G. Sandberg,**

age 70, of Wilmington, DE, passed away Friday, December 4, 2009. Mr. Sandberg was a Director of Research Planning in the Diagnostic Systems Department for the Dupont Co. He received degrees from Hamline University and Ohio State University School of Medicine. He was a member of the Delaware Saengerbund, the Swedish Colonial Society and was past president of the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society. Mr. Sandberg sang in the choirs of the American Swedish Historical Museum, Delaware Saengerbund Singers and Grace Lutheran Church. He was an avid Ohio State University football fan and served as a volunteer medical driver for Lutheran Community Services. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Nancy R. Sandberg, his son, Kurt Sandberg, his daughter, Sarah Alexander and 6 grandchildren.

**Carl B. Holm Jr.,**

age 91, a 30-year resident of Roadstown, NJ, died at home Sunday, December 13, 2009. A native of New York, NY, he received his BS degree in agriculture from Rutgers in 1941. He was employed by the Cumberland County Planning Department from 1944 until retirement in 1980. He was a member of the Swedish Colonial Society and an original member of the New Sweden Company in 1983. He and his late wife helped develop Bridgeton's Swedish Farmstead Museum, and in 1988 hosted the King and Queen of Sweden. Mr. Holm was formerly active with the Cumberland County Historical Society and was a 25-year member of the VASA Order of America. He helped his wife with the Sankta Lucia celebration in Greenwich. At the Swedish Colonial Society's Centennial Jubilee Mr. Holm was presented the Swedish Council of America's Merit Award for his work with the New Sweden Colonial Farmstead.

**Patrons, Officers & Councillors**

<p><b>High Patron</b> His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf King of Sweden</p> <p><b>Deputy High Patron</b> Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria</p> <p><b>Patron</b> His Excellency Jonas Hafström Ambassador of Sweden</p> <p><b>Deputy Patron</b> His Excellency Ulf Hjertonsson Consul General of Sweden</p> <p><b>Associate Patron</b> Hon. Agneta Hägglund Bailey Consul of Sweden</p> <p><b>Honorary Governors</b> The Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams Ronald A. Hendrickson, Esq. Herbert R. Rambo William B. Neal John C. Cameron, Esq. Wallace F. Richter Dr. Erik G.M. Törnqvist</p>	<p><b>Governor</b> Herbert R. Rambo</p> <p><b>Senior Deputy Governor</b> Margaret Sooy Bridwell</p> <p><b>Junior Deputy Governor</b> Kenneth S. Peterson</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> The Rev. David B. Anderson</p> <p><b>Financial Secretary</b> Emily Peg Berich</p> <p><b>Registrar</b> A. Doriney Seagers</p> <p><b>Recording Secretary</b> Aleasa J. Hogate</p> <p><b>Corresponding Secretary</b> Frances O. Allmond</p> <p><b>Chaplain</b> The Very Rev. D. Joy Segal</p> <p><b>Marshal</b> Kenneth S. Peterson</p> <p><b>Deputy Governor Emerita</b> Mrs. George C. MacFarland</p>	<p><b>Councillors</b> Bret M. Apell Marie B. Boisvert Al Capotosto DeAnn Clancy Fred Davidson Max D. Dooley Tina Fragoso Christina W. Lassen Hans Ling Marianne E. Mackenzie Mary McCoy Alfred J. Nicolosi Sandra S. Pfaff Mark E. Roberts Edith A. Rohrman Ellen T. Rye James D. Seagers, II Earl E. Seppälä Sylvia Seppälä Katarina K. Sheronas Susan B. Spackman Richard L. Waldron Margaretha Talerman</p>
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## Swedish Colonial News

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147-4332  
www.ColonialSwedes.org

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Kim-Eric Williams

## Swedish Colonial Society Jubilee Fund Donations Sought

Members and friends of The Swedish Colonial Society can help replenish the Jubilee Fund by making contributions. As a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, contributions to the Society's Jubilee Fund are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Jubilee Fund is used for major educational initiatives. The recent celebration of the Society's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary resulted in substantial expenses, particularly those for the exhibit *Colony to Community: The Story of New Sweden*, commissioned for the centennial.

"It is important to our future work that the Society have funding available to undertake important projects. We have a major milestone coming up in 2013 when we will observe the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of New Sweden Colony," notes Governor Herbert Rambo.

We need your help to replenish the Society's Jubilee Fund. Checks should be made payable to the Swedish Colonial Society and "Jubilee Fund" noted on the memo line. Contributions should be mailed to:

The Swedish Colonial Society  
c/o Gloria Dei Church  
916 South Swanson Street  
Philadelphia, Pa 19147

## Dr. Craig's Census Books Available

From Dr. Peter Craig's collection, additional copies of his *1671 Census of The Delaware* and *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware* books are available for sale from Gloria Dei Church. The 1671 census book is \$25 and the 1693 census book is \$45, plus \$5 per book shipping and handling. On the memo line, please indicate 1671 or 1693. Make checks payable to Gloria Dei and mail to:

Gloria Dei Church  
916 South Swanson St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

