

# SWEDISH COLONIAL NEWS



*Retracing the Path  
of Our Swedish and  
Finnish Ancestors  
on Darby Creek* Page 4

*Ken Peterson's kayak pulled up at the Morton Homestead*



*Sally Bridwell, now  
Honorary Governor,  
right, hands over the  
Governorship of SCS  
to the 34th Governor,  
Michael R. D'Andrea.  
(Photo by Britt Apell)*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 8 New Sweden—A Family Enterprise
- 13 Claes Johansson, The Original Forefather
- 17 Book Review: *The Barbarous Years*  
by Bernard Bailyn



## THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

916 SOUTH SWANSON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147

### To Friends of New Sweden,

The last four years of being the Governor of The Swedish Colonial Society have been extremely rewarding! I wish to express my appreciation for the honor and privilege of holding this position during these exciting times.

The following endeavors have been initiated by the Officers and Councillors of this Society during my Governorship and our members have done a mammoth job in executing these tasks:

- Organizing the 375th Jubilee Events, Reception and Dinner for the King and Queen of Sweden
- Acquiring and processing the Craig Collection for genealogical and historical research using the archives and the website
- Digitizing and redacting the genealogical records for the computer
- Establishing and maintaining an updated website
- Developing the Mission and Purpose Statements
- Updating The Swedish Colonial Society's New Operations Manual
- Welcoming Prince Daniel at a formal reception, Fall 2011, during his official visit to the U.S.
- Publishing the new book covering the legacy of the New Sweden Colony, *New Sweden on the Delaware, a Photographic Tour of the Historic Sites of America's First Swedes and Finns*
- Maintaining the publishing of the new volumes of *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania. Volume 6, The Wrangel Years*, is in press
- Sponsoring the first-time Retreat on Strategic Planning held at the Brossman Center, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Continuing the Julmiddag and Forefathers' Day Luncheons
- Acknowledging the new and forefather members
- Enhancing friendly relations with past and present Swedish Ambassadors in Washington, DC



I am very proud of the accomplishments of this group of hard-working dedicated individuals without whom the Society would not be where it is today. How can I ever thank them enough for all the remarkable achievements made during this time period.

Under the leadership of our new Governor Michael R. D'Andrea, the future of The Swedish Colonial Society looks very bright! With the continued strong support of all the Officers, Councillors and members, as evidenced during the past four years, Mr. D'Andrea will certainly achieve success as our new Governor.

As I leave my Governorship, I extend to all the members my heartfelt best wishes for blessings in the future. Thank you all for the kindness and thoughtfulness shown to me during my tenure. It has been a wonderful, enriching experience for which I am very grateful.

My very best regards,

*Sally Bridwell*

Margaret Sooy Bridwell  
Honorary Governor



# THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

916 SOUTH SWANSON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147

## Warm Greetings,

You may call me a Swedophile. In 2008 I accompanied my wife-to-be Jill Abraham, now my wife of 6 years Jill D'Andrea, to my first Swedish Colonial Society (SCS) event. She is a forefather and lifetime member of the SCS. My first contact was at an annual SCS conference. I was very impressed with the knowledge of all the speakers, most notably Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams. At this conference I quickly learned that early Swedish settlers founded the New Sweden Colony in 1638 in Wilmington, Delaware. I swiftly became knowledgeable of how the Swedish flag flew overhead in the Colonies from 1638 to 1655.

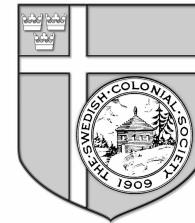


At the same time I was in a state of cognitive dissonance not being of Swedish ancestry. This feeling of being somewhat isolated quickly vanished when much to my surprise and delight I discovered one could be a member and an officer of the SCS even if one was not of Swedish ancestry. I was delighted to find the SCS members warm-hearted and friendly to me. I later became an SCS Councillor, and afterwards advanced to the Deputy Governor-Administration. I subsequently learned that Marcel Viti was the first Governor of the SCS and like me of Italian ancestry. On my first official visit to the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC, SCS Honorary Governor Herbert Rambo said to me, "Because you are married to Jill I consider you a Swedish relative." Herb Rambo was previously Governor twice and holds the medal Knight of the North Star Order RNO (in Swedish: *Riddare, Nordstjärne Orden*)

I plan to be an enthusiastic Governor and be extensively involved with the Committees (Historical, Financial, Web Site, Membership, and Archives) as we implement plans and outcomes consistent with SCS's mission and purposes. Also, I will ensure that SCS resources are managed effectively.

I would like to express my gratitude to the SCS Officers and Councillors who served as mentors to me. I consider it both an honor and a privilege to be elected to serve as the 34th Governor of The Swedish Colonial Society.

Michael R. D'Andrea  
Governor, The Swedish Colonial Society



## THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

**Our Mission is to preserve and promote the history, genealogy and culture of the New Sweden Colony in America**

### Our Purposes are:

1. To collect, archive and publish materials
2. To make colonial genealogical records broadly available
3. To acknowledge members' proven descent from colonial forefathers
4. To encourage awareness and preservation of monuments at historic sites
5. To celebrate historic and cultural events and accomplishments relating to the colonial Swedes and Finns in America

Visit our website

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

The Swedish Colonial Society | ABOUT | FOREFATHERS | EVENTS | CULTURE | NEWS | CONTACT | LOG IN

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### Reasons to Join Now!

**NEW WEBSITE**  
1. As we prepared to celebrate our 37th anniversary in 2018, we asked you to spend some time on our exciting new website. The new website is designed for the member profiles available in the cataloging areas. It is simple and fun, and we look forward to attracting new members with the historical art, by utilizing features that will be fun and educational for all ages.

**WEB STANDARDS**  
2. You are now a member of our society, by creating a profile section and joining with membership to the Society. We also have many member profiles available in the cataloging areas.

**2. DIFFERENT ARCHIVES**  
3. The Swedish Colonial Society has two archives to choose from: The Year 8, Camp Library and the Swedish Book Collections. **Make a donation today!** or **Join Today!** or **Donate Today!**

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DUES**  
4. Join a Membership Dues. **Single \$45.00 USD** **Pay Now** **2018-2020**

\*\*See below

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# *Retracing the Path of Our Swedish and Finnish Ancestors on Darby Creek*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Kenneth S. Peterson is a Fellow and Forefather member of The Swedish Colonial Society and is an 11th generation descendant of Måns Petersson Stake. He has three daughters, Erika, Katherine and Christina Peterson. His wife Barbara Bettler descends from Dutch Vice Director Niccassius DeSille who wrested control of Swedish Fort Trinity from Kenneth's ancestor Måns, above. Ken is an Industrial Specialist at Navy Lakehurst in the Carrier Launch and Recovery programs and lives in Ocean County NJ.**

**Ken wishes to thank Mr. Lloyd Shaw of Laurel Springs NJ for assistance in wildlife identification.**



Above: The brick "MM" House, built by Morton Mortonson. Facing page: Darby Creek at kayak level (photos by the author)

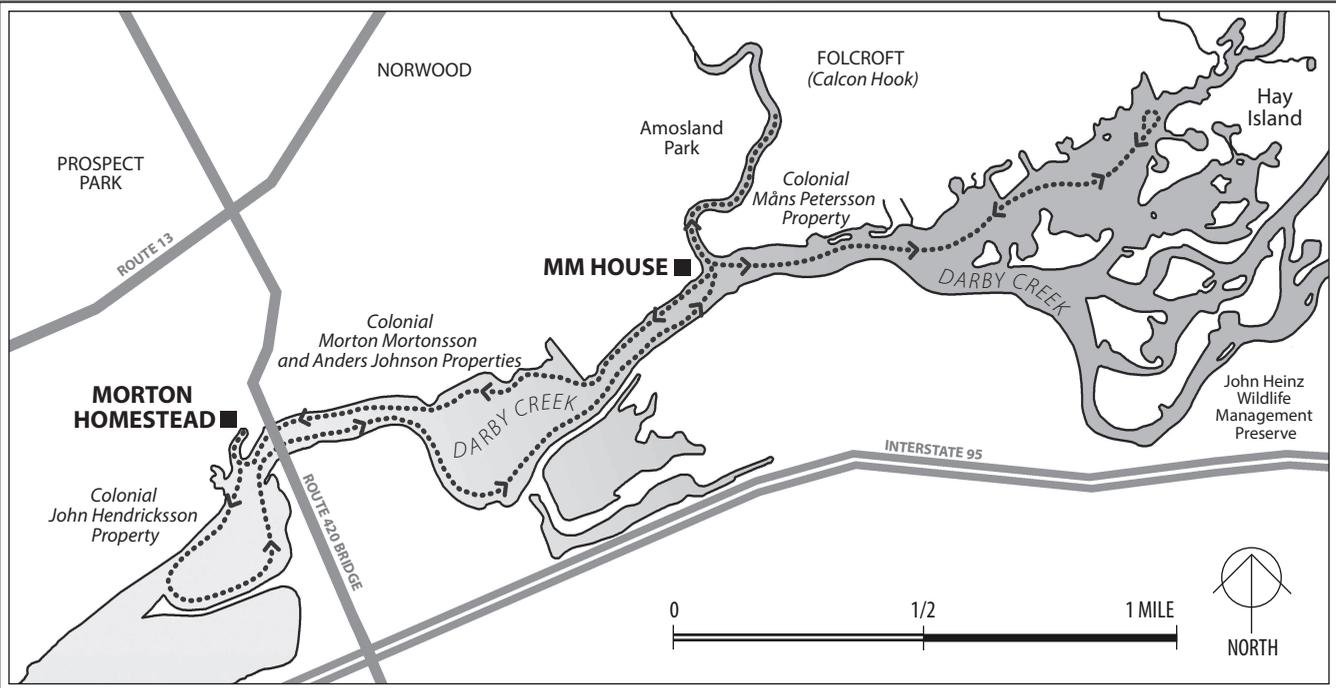
HAVING VISITED THE HISTORIC SITES OF THE EARLY SWEDES AND FINNS, I wondered what these places had looked like as they saw and lived them, from the waterside, their first highways. So I bought a kayak and put it in Darby Creek, known during the 17th century as "Amosland Creek" and "Mill Creek"<sup>1</sup>. This water flows past the Delaware County Pennsylvania boroughs of Prospect Park, Norwood and Folcroft or known then as the Swedish settlements of Amosland and Calcon Hook.<sup>2</sup>

As I set out I decided to do a trial run on a creek where no Swede had gone. On Timber Creek in New Jersey just 4 miles behind the site of the Dutch Fort Nassau<sup>3</sup> is the site of a large Lenape settlement known as the "Arwames." Here at the foot of Clement's Bridge I floated amongst remains of old bridge pilings built in 1770. I imagined Hessian soldiers crossing over this bridge and throwing their small arms into the water on a retreat back to Philadelphia after their defeat at Fort Mercer. And I imagined my father as a boy and his brothers diving into Timber Creek at this very spot, his favorite "swimming hole."

Later, I set my kayak into Darby Creek<sup>4</sup> on 27 August 2013 at the 18th-century red brick "MM" House, built by Morton Mortonson, the great-grandson of the original Swedish settler. A new dock had recently been added there. It is graced by beautiful summer flowers on the Mokornipates Creek. I decided to paddle up this small creek before venturing out onto the Darby. The land to my left was Amosland, home of the Mortonsons and on the right bank is Calcon Hook, land of my own Peterson ancestor. The outgoing tide forced me to turn around and get back to deeper water or risk being stranded in the mud.



*Ken's trip on Darby Creek started at the red brick MM House. He took a detour up a small creek past present-day Amosland Park and land owned by his own Petersson ancestors. He paddled up to Hay Island and then down to the Morton Homestead log house, just past the 420 Bridge, before returning to his starting point.*



KEN PETERSON, GENE GILROY



Great Egret



Double-crested Cormorant

See more pictures in color  
and additional information  
on our website  
[www.ColonialSwedes.net](http://www.ColonialSwedes.net).

Once out on Darby Creek I am surprised to see more summer flowers blooming on Måns Petersson's former property. The red Cardinal Flower, white Virgin's Bower and Purple Loosestrife all growing together are a pleasant and added bonus on this trip. I imagined Måns' log home on that spot, now a children's baseball field.

I paddled east on the creek, scanning the bank and shallow water searching for historical relics but finding none. But what I see is abundant wildlife, valued by the "Antient Swedes."<sup>5</sup> As I approached Hay Island, also formerly owned by Måns Petersson, I came upon turtles sunning themselves on a protruding log and Double-crested Cormorant birds fishing for their next meal. On another protruding tree two large Red-bellied Turtles and a monstrous Snapping Turtle didn't stir as I quietly approached them. When they became aware I was an intruder they plopped back into the water. I also wondered at an old tree stump sticking out of the water way out in the creek and if it was alive during the time of the early Swedes. The stump was a reminder that the water level has risen over the centuries and the old shoreline was not as far inland as it is now.<sup>6</sup> After reaching Hay Island I turned back west and aimed for the Morton Homestead log house about 3/4 of an English mile away. As I came to my starting point I paused to take photos of the handsome "MM" brick home. It was peeking out through the deciduous tree leaves and was framed by the pretty blooming vines of Virgin's Bower. A trace of Superstorm Sandy was made evident by the huge maple tree downed and in the water, partially blocking the view of Morton's brick home.

I continued paddling southwest towards the Morton Homestead, my final destination. The alternating lands of Morton Mortonsson and Anders Johnson were on my right. The wilds of the John Heinz Wildlife Management Preserve were on my left. I wondered if Governor Johan Printz and the settlers saw those same pretty white flowers I looked upon. On the right bank I am treated to a performance by the local birds fishing for their next meal. A Forster's Tern dives from a height and plunges into the water, reappearing a moment later with a fish in its mouth. I was lucky enough to snap a random photo and get its picture as it passed over my head. From a distance I saw a proud white Great Egret stoically perched on a tuft of grass in the midst of the creek awaiting a fish to appear. With my zoom lens I got a good photo of it.

As I continued to paddle I could tell I was approaching the double log home of Matthias and Jonas Mortonsson.<sup>7</sup> The modern road-bridge of route 420 appeared in the distance. As I approached it, cars raced across and made a roaring sound as I floated underneath. Suddenly on the right I saw our dark log Morton home. It too peered out at me from the surrounding brush, trees and pretty white and purple flowers that I'd seen before. I paddled by and decided to enter into the small Amosland Run that flows up behind the log house, wanting to see and feel as the settlers did. I carefully paddled under felled trees, past ancient foot-bridge pilings and came upon the log house from the rear, a view most of us haven't seen before (see front cover). I got out of my kayak and carefully dragged it over rocks to drier, safer ground, hoping not to fill my boots with water.

After scanning the home, grounds and studying each hand-carved log, I can report that the 315-year-old building<sup>8</sup> was secure. The grass had been mowed but not neatly trimmed. I was pleased that tree branches near the building were trimmed but had not been discarded. And I was really pleased to see the disastrous historical markers with their misinformation placed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were deteriorating just fine.<sup>9</sup> I thought to myself how comforting it would be if someone from the borough could inhabit the Morton Homestead to greet visitors.<sup>10</sup>

As I got back into my kayak and out into Darby Creek for the return leg of my trip I paused for awhile to gaze on the land south of the homestead below Amosland Run. I studied the waving purple flowers and blue Pickerel Weed on lands formerly owned by the family of John Hendrickson. As it flows towards the Delaware River, I also imagined the Swedes and Finns boating their way to the big city of “Chester Towne.”<sup>11</sup> Perhaps they were going to the market or had duties at court, I thought.

I paddled back northeast to end my little journey, realizing that this watery time capsule is as wild now as it was 350 years ago. The only things betraying that were the occasional jet aircraft lifting off from nearby Philadelphia International Airport and the sound of a distant car horn.

A question came to mind: “So what settlement do I and my kayak visit next in the land of the “Swedish Nation?”<sup>12</sup>



Cardinal Flower

#### FOOTNOTES:

1. “Amosland” or “Ammansland” was thought to be Swedish for “land of the wet nurse” but more likely was named by the Dutch after the low-lying Frisian island north of Amsterdam, “Ameland” (see Wikipedia), similar perhaps regarding tidewater. “Mill Creek” was named for the watermill Governor Printz built upstream in 1646.
2. The anglicized “Calcon” is from the Swedish word “kalkon” and the Dutch “kalkoen,” both meaning “turkey.” Thus Calcon Hook = Turkey Point.
3. The fort site today is located in Gloucester City, directly across the river from south Philadelphia. Timber Creek was called Tetamekonch by the Lenape.
4. The English of William Penn changed the name of Mill Creek after their arrival in 1682 to “Darby Creek,” after the town where some of the settlers had come from.
5. William Penn’s description
6. E-mail, Gregory D. Lattanzi, Assistant Curator, Archaeology, Ethnography, to Kenneth Peterson: “The level was much lower hundreds of years ago.”
7. The older north log unit was built ca. 1698 by Matthias and the newer south unit was built in the mid-18th century by Jonas.
8. “1698” is carved on the backside of the huge fireplace lintel.
9. *Swedish Colonial News, Historic Sites*; Peter S. Craig, Vol. 1, No. 3, Spring 1991, pp. 2, 3; Pennsylvania Commission’s Dr. Brent Glass: *Rebuttal*, Vol. 1, No. 4, Fall 1991, pp. 2, 3
10. Plans are formulating to care for this historic site.
11. As called by the early inhabitants after the settlement by William Penn’s Quakers in *The Early Courts of Chester County, 1681-1697*.
12. Another description of the Swedes by the Dutch after the conquest of New Sweden



At the award ceremony, left to right, Dr. Javier Alanis, Cynthia, and Dr. Elizabeth Stein. Drs. Alanis and Stein are executive director and faculty, respectively, of the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, Austin TX

### THE REV. DR. CYNTHIA FORDE-BEATTY RECEIVES 2014 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD

In April this year The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Forde-Beatty received the Distinguished Alumna 2014 Award to acknowledge her achievements since receiving her Master of Divinity from her alma mater, Wartburg Theological Seminary, in Dubuque, Iowa. Hearty congratulations! She has been called a “seminary junkie” because she not only has the M.Div. but also a Master’s Degree in Theology, a Doctor of Ministry, and a Ph.D. (all but dissertation) in Ecumenism.

Rev. Forde-Beatty is well-known to The Swedish Colonial Society: On 12 May 2011 she and her fiancé Ronald S. Beatty were married in a unique Colonial New Sweden Wedding Ceremony at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church in Philadelphia. Photos of the wedding and reception are at <https://picasaweb.google.com/113780268026608859160/WEDDINGIMAGES>. (*Swedish Colonial News*, Summer 2011.) And as appointed SCS Genealogist along with her husband, she masterfully presented a three-part article on forefather Anders Bengtsson, his descendants, and their genealogical DNA markers in *Swedish Colonial News*, Jubilee Issue 2013.

### THE REV. DR. KIM-ERIC WILLIAMS OFFICIATES AS PASTOR FOR A MONTH IN KARLSHAMN, SOUTHERN SWEDEN

The Reverend Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, SCS Honorary Governor and Historian, had the opportunity, presented by the Church of Sweden’s Archbishop’s chaplain, to serve as temporary pastor for a month in July to the Karlshamn-Trensum pastorate in the Province of Blekinge (in southern Sweden between Kalmar and Malmö). This pastorate has 3 congregations, one urban and two rural. The church pictured is the Carl Gustaf Church in Karlshamn. He preached a total of 23 sermons. The congregations were amazed that an American pastor could conduct services in Swedish.



Rev. Williams has authored an extensive array of publications including *The Journey of Justus Falckner* (2003), a biography of the first Lutheran ordained in America. He is co-author of the photo book *New Sweden on the Delaware*, (see the back page) and of the series *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania*, volumes 1 through 6, the latter in press.

# *New Sweden: A Family Enterprise*

## THE BOTVID FAMILY AND NEW SWEDEN LEADERS

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Hans Ling is a resident of Uppsala, Sweden, where he lives with his wife Meta and is conveniently near the Uppsala University Library. He is a lifetime member of SCS and a descendant of Pastor Erik Björk and his wife Kristina Stalkop. He is the author of *The Faces of New Sweden, Erik Björk, Christina Stalkop and America's First Portrait Painter*, published by SCS in 2004.**

**Kim-Eric Williams is the Historian and Honorary Governor of The Swedish Colonial Society. He teaches Swedish at the University of Pennsylvania and is the Archivist at the Lutheran Archives Center in Philadelphia. He is a forefather member descending from Olof Stille and Carl Springer and lives in West Chester PA.**

The New Sweden Colony that existed along the Delaware River in North America from 1638 to 1655 was conducted by a private company with support from the Swedish government. Five of the shareholders of the New Sweden Company were closely related to each other;

- 1) Axel Gustafsson Oxenstierna, Chancellor of the Kingdom, 1612-1654,
- 2) Axel's son Eric Axelsson Oxenstierna, Chancellor of the Kingdom, 1654-1656,
- 3) Axel's brother Gabriel Gustafsson Oxenstierna, the Great Chancellor of Justice, 1634-1640,
- 4) Axel's first cousin Gabriel Bengtsson Oxenstierna, the Great Treasurer of the Realm, 1634-1656, and
- 5) Axel's brother-in-law Christer Bonde, the President of the Department of Commerce, 1656-1659, married to Axel's sister Beata Gustafsdotter Oxenstierna.

In addition, Axel Oxenstierna, Gabriel Gustafsson Oxenstierna and Gabriel Bengtsson Oxenstierna had also been guardians of Queen Christina before she came of age and took over ruling in 1644.

But also the last three of the five leaders of New Sweden were related to each other. Their interrelated families are shown in the diagram on the right.

In those days in Sweden a person's name consisted of a baptismal name and a patronymic. Sometimes a person could also have received a last name that often identified his profession or birthplace in order to separate him from others with the same baptismal name and patronymic. Over time these surnames could become inherited as family names. Among the aristocracy the symbol on their coat of arms was often used as a family name. For example Papegoja means Parrot. Women generally did not use family names, preferring patronymics ending in -dotter, such as Elisabet Johansdotter.

A person's name can often vary among different documents. A common name in this family was Johannes, which also appears in a shortened form as Johan and Hans. The names were also generally translated into the language used at the moment. A "Johan" for example introduced himself as Jean in France, Giovanni in Italy and John in England. We have used the form of name that appears most often for each person and we also have used the contemporary spelling of the names to be more historical in spite of the modern spelling reform of 1906, in use in Sweden today.

Because Latin was the language of higher education in all of Europe and the internationally accepted language, we have given the oft-used Latin form of some names within parentheses.

As background to this essay one should remember that Sweden had peace for only 40 of the 150 years between 1525 and 1675. The longest continuous time of peace was ten years in the middle of the 1500's. During the time of New Sweden, 1638-1655, there was peace only from 1649-1653. As a consequence of the wars it is estimated that about one quarter of

the population died and many were forced to leave their homes and settle elsewhere, often due to frequent border changes. As a result many languages were spoken in the Swedish territory – languages which later developed into present Swedish, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, German, Karelian, Livonian, Norwegian, Russian, Sami, etc. The officers and administrators mostly lived in what we today would call an "international environment". The nation state had not fully emerged in Europe. It was more important to know from whom one took orders and under whom one fought than to what nation one belonged.



Tidö Slott, Axel Oxenstierna's country palace on Lake Mälaren west of Stockholm

**BOTVID AND PAPEGOJA GENEALOGIES**

FIRST GENERATION

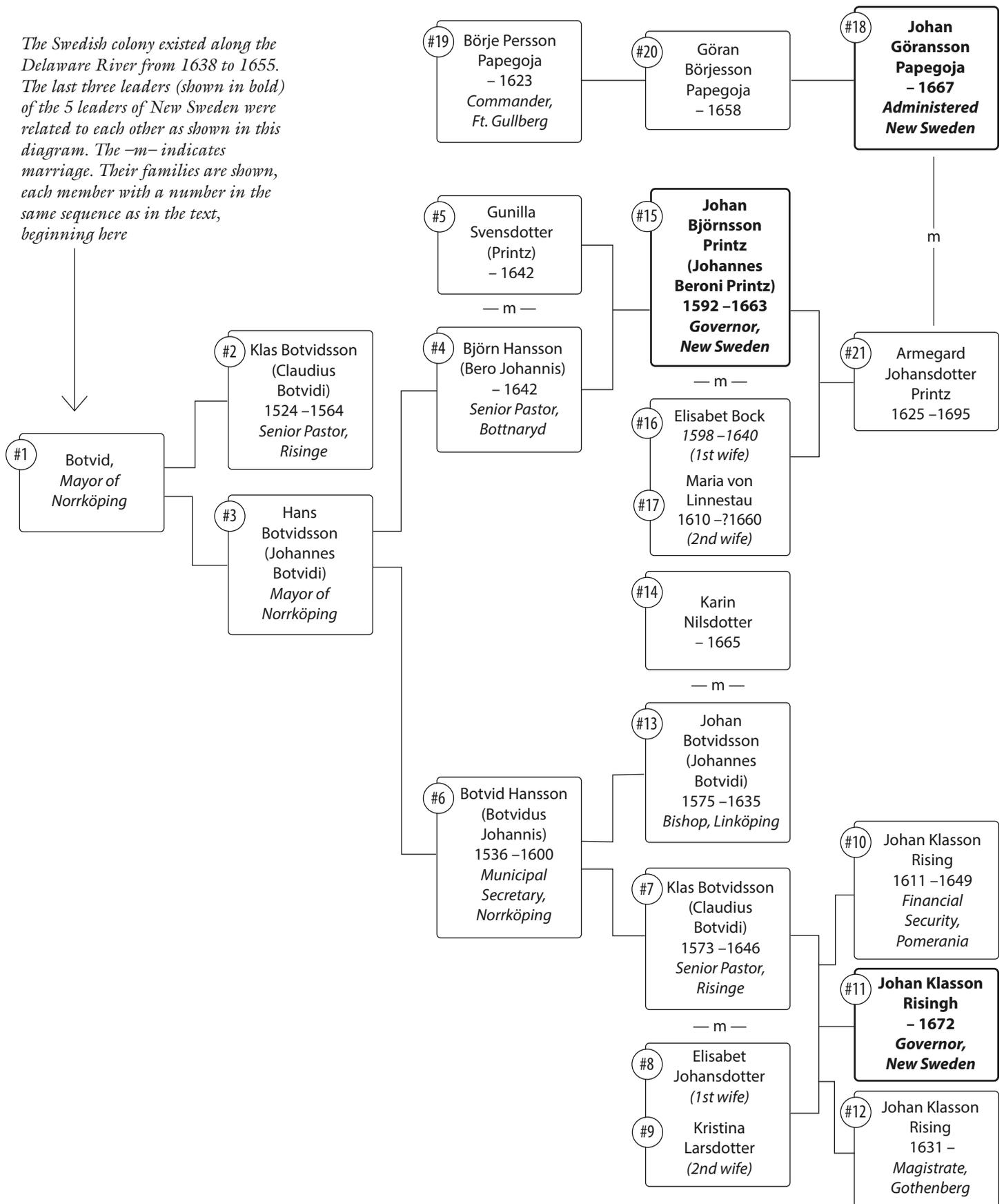
SECOND

THIRD

FOURTH

FIFTH

The Swedish colony existed along the Delaware River from 1638 to 1655. The last three leaders (shown in bold) of the 5 leaders of New Sweden were related to each other as shown in this diagram. The —m— indicates marriage. Their families are shown, each member with a number in the same sequence as in the text, beginning here



## THE BOTVID FAMILY

In the beginning of the 1500's the town of Norrköping had a mayor by the name of **Botvid (#1)**. The name was taken from an early Christian missionary, St. Botvid, the apostle of Södertörn, who was murdered around 1120 and was buried in a church, Botkyrka, built on his farm. Today Botkyrka is a big municipality south of Stockholm.

One of Mayor Botvid's sons, **Hans Botvidsson (#3)**, succeeded him as mayor. Another son, **Klas Botvidsson (#2)** (1524-1564) became Senior Pastor in Risinge Parish which is about 10 miles (16 km) northwest of Norrköping near the municipality of Finspång.

One of Mayor Hans Botvidsson's sons, **Björn Hansson (#4)** (-1642) married **Gunilla Svendsdotter Printz (#5)**, daughter of Cathedral Dean Sven Putt in Skara, and became Senior Pastor at Bottnaryd in the southeastern part of Skara Diocese. The reason that Gunilla had a last name different from her father's was that King Johan III (1537-1592, ruled 1568-1592) wanted to reward Sven Putt for his work with the "Red Book," a work that attempted to reduce the differences between the Swedish Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church. Because Sven Putt as Dean already belonged to the ecclesiastical estate, King Johan had to be content with ennobling Sven's children. Yet nobility could not be inherited on the woman's line.

Another of Mayor Hans Botvidsson's sons, **Botvid Hansson (#6)** (1536-1600) was the Municipal Secretary in Norrköping. His older son, **Klas Botvidsson (#7)** (1573-1646) had the same name as his father's uncle and like him became Senior Pastor at Risinge. He seems to have been a character. For example, on 20 November 1635 he wrote this remark in the Parish Register: "Was buried Anders' wife in Ölsta, housewife Brita, an old, worn-out, rotten shrew. It was God's gift that she died."

With his first wife, **Elisabet Johansdotter (#8)**, Klas Botvidsson had two sons and with his second wife, **Kristina Larsdotter (#9)**, five sons and three daughters. Three of the sons were baptized as **Johan**. The eldest of them (**#10**) ended his career as a Financial Secretary in Swedish Pomerania (present Vorpommern in north-east Germany). The middle son Johan (**#11**), after being the last Governor of New Sweden (see below), ended up as Deputy Judge in the Naval Court. The youngest son Johan (**#12**) became a Magistrate in Gothenburg. All seven of Klas' sons took the last name **Rising** after their home parish.

## JOHAN BOTVIDSSON

Botvid Hansson's (#6) younger son, **Johan Botvidsson (#13)** (1575-1635) deserves a little longer description. He was born in Norrköping and went to schools in Norrköping, Söderköping, Linköping, Vadstena and Stockholm before he registered at Uppsala University at the age of 25. After three years he succeeded in obtaining a stipend from the City of Stockholm for study in Germany, first at the University of Marburg and then at Rostock. In 1605, while he was in Rostock, he published a new edition of Archbishop Laurentius Petri's (1499-1573) work against alcoholism with an appendix which he added. At the age of 29 he was back in Uppsala and was ordained there. He then continued his studies in Germany and the Netherlands and at the Universities of Paris, London, and Copenhagen.

In 1613 at Rostock he published a textbook on mathematics. The next year at Lübeck he translated and published a translation of Martin Luther's work on setting up Christian schools.

In 1616 he became a Court Preacher for the 22-year-old King Gustaf II Adolf (Gustavus Adolphus, 1594-1632). At the same time he had a book published on the Psalter. He also participated in a book on the Pentateuch and became a Doctor of Theology at Uppsala in 1617. After Ingermanland and Estonia with big Russian-speaking populations became part of Sweden in 1617, he published a book in 1620 discussing whether the Eastern Orthodox Russians were Christians or not. He decided that they must be recognized as such. The next year he became the Chair of the newly organized Field Consistory. This was an organization of military chaplains who accompanied the troops.

In 1618, at the age of 43, Johan married **Karin Nilsdotter (#14)** whose father was Magistrate Nils Jönsson in Nyköping. Her uncle Johan Skytte was the Chancellor of Uppsala University and a member of the National Council.

Beginning in 1619 he was King Gustaf II Adolf's foremost adviser on ecclesiastical questions. Thus he went along with the king on war expeditions to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Germany. In 1627 he wrote laws to govern the ecclesiastical organization of newly captured parts of Prussia.

In 1631 he produced Ecclesiastical Instructions for the Swedish Army which were fundamental even into the 1900's.

Also in 1631 he was named Bishop of Linköping and he reorganized the Diocesan leadership. Shortly thereafter he accompanied Queen Maria Eleonora on her visit to King Gustaf II Adolf in Germany. There he worked out an organizational plan for the Archdiocese of Magdeburg and the Diocese of Halberstadt that were in use until the changes of the early 1900's. Returning to Linköping, he developed a new school plan for the gymnasium (high school) and founded a publishing house.

In 1634 he led the funeral service in Stockholm for the King who had been killed two years previously in Germany. He gave a moving sermon dealing with the King's personality.

Johan Botvidsson died in Linköping on 24 October 1635. Karin Nilsdotter remarried to national Historiographer Arnold Johan Messenius. He was the son of the controversial professor at Uppsala, Johannes Messenius, who had served 19 years in prison for contacting King Sigismund (1566-1632) of Sweden and Poland, who had been deposed as king of Sweden in 1599.

## JOHAN BJÖRNSSON PRINTZ

Johan Botvidsson's uncle, Björn Hansson (#4), Senior Pastor in Bottnaryd, and Gunilla Printz (#5) welcomed a son on 20 July 1592, **Johan Björnsson (#15)**. He began his education in Jönköping and continued at the gymnasia in Skara and Linköping. At the age of 16 he registered at the University of Rostock and three months later he was at the University of Greifswald. Both of these well-regarded schools in northern Germany were frequented by ambitious Swedes. It was at this time that he began to use his mother's surname, **Printz**.

Lack of funds made it necessary for him to return to Bottnaryd after only one year. There he was a pastoral assistant to his father. The following year King Gustaf II Adolf passed through Bottnaryd on his way to Gothenburg. Johan managed to receive a scholarship from him for continued studies. He then returned to Germany in 1618 and studied at the Universities of Leipzig, Wittenberg and Jena before ending up at the University of Helmstedt in Brunswick.

Together with some fellow students he made a visit to Silesia about 1620. There they were attacked by some soldiers. A few were killed but Printz and a few others were taken prisoner. They could be freed only by joining a Venetian military corps.

It became apparent that Johan had aptitude for the military and after service as a mercenary with regiments from Austria and Brunswick, he advanced to Lieutenant in a Danish regiment that fought in France.

In 1622 at Helmstedt he married **Elisabet Bock (#16)**, who was six years younger than he was. The couple traveled to Sweden in 1624 and Johan received a position as a Lieutenant in the Colonel Gustav Horn's infantry regiment. After some time he transferred to the Field Marshal Åke Tott's heavy cavalry and afterwards to the Nobles' Cavalry Regiment. In the year 1630 he became Cavalry Captain and in 1634 Major. After he had distinguished himself in a battle at Wittstock he became Lieutenant Colonel in the Åbo (Turku) County Cavalry Regiment. Then he received an estate in Korsholm in the Finnish province of Österbotten while continuing to visit the battlefields in Germany. Once he was taken prisoner but was able to bribe his captors for freedom. In 1638 he transferred to the Västgöta Cavalry Regiment where he was appointed Head of the Regiment and Commandant in the

city of Chemnitz, a town in southern Saxony that had been captured by Field Marshal Johan Banér in 1639.

In May of 1640 the city was surrounded by German Imperial forces and Printz decided to surrender. The surrender and differences that he had with Banér made it difficult, so he returned to Sweden without permission. There he was put before a military tribunal and as a deserter he was relieved of all his military duties.

In November of 1640 his wife Elisabet Bock died. The same year that he was dismissed he remarried (1641), this time to a 31-year-old Colonel's widow, **Maria von Linnestau (#17)**.

Somewhat surprisingly Printz, in 1642, primarily through the initiative of Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna, was sent to replace Commander Peter Ridder in the four-year-old colony of New Sweden. So that he would not have a lower rank than the leaders of other countries' colonies, he was ennobled and given the title of Governor.

At this time New Sweden had begun to develop from a place for trade with the Indians to a real colony, primarily for tobacco production. Except for a few voluntary emigrants, the government had begun to populate it with minor law-breakers and vagrants who otherwise would have been punished or put to forced labor in Sweden, and in addition with Forest Finns from the Bergslagen district. Those Finns practiced agriculture by burning down forests and sowing grain in the ashes. It gave better harvests than ordinary agriculture, but needed new forests to burn down every second or third year. It was thought that the Finns would be particularly able to survive in the North American wilderness and at the same time it was desirable to move them out of Bergslagen where the growing iron mining industry needed the forests for charcoal production.

Printz was given Tinicum Island directly on the Delaware River, (very near the present Philadelphia International Airport) and he settled there soon after his arrival. Besides the original Ft. Christina on the tributary Christina River, he erected two new forts directly on the Delaware River, New Gothenburg on Tinicum Island and Fort New Elfsborg on the east (now New Jersey) side of the River.

At the beginning Printz could send home considerable amounts of beaver pelts and tobacco. But it became more difficult to do business with the Indians and the English in Virginia when supplies from Sweden ceased. Queen Christina was against the New Sweden Company using the government's ships for transport and thought that the government's resources should be used for the war in Europe, not to facilitate members of the government making private money. In addition, a large delivery of goods and weapons in 1649 went to the bottom of the sea before they reached New Sweden on the ill-fated ship *Kattan (The Cat)*. This weakened Printz' position at the same time as the Dutch in New Amsterdam (later New York City) began to try to dislodge the Swedes. The New Sweden Company had in fact been created as a competitor

*continued on page 20*

# Rededication of the Governor Johan Printz Monolith

18 MAY 2014 AT THE CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB ON TINICUM ISLAND

The Swedish Colonial Society held a ceremony to rededicate the Governor Printz monument with Michael D’Andrea as MC. The Reverend Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, Historian of the Society, gave 2 presentations about this first monument to honor Printz, describing how Swedish and Finnish settlers built here a new fort and Governor’s personal residence, Printzhof, in 1643 on the land granted to Printz by Queen Christina. Thus the monolith marks the site of the first formal Swedish settlement in what today is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Also described were the life and deeds of Printz, the most controversial Governor of New Sweden, who ruled dictatorially from 1643 to 1653 before returning to Sweden.

The idea for the erection of the granite monolith was put forth by Colonel Henry D. Paxson, Esq., who later was the third President (Governor) of the Society, 1927–1932. The monument was dedicated on 14 June 1923. However, over the 90 years since then it had darkened and become shrouded among tall shrubs. This last spring, in coordination with the Yacht Club, a new wider club gate entrance was installed and the area surrounding the monolith was re-landscaped, giving an open view toward the clubhouse and the Delaware River beyond.

— *The Editor*



Holding the SCS banner are, left to right, Sandra Pfaff, Britt Apell, Emily Tepe, John Tepe, Jr., and Sally Bridwell, out-going SCS Governor (dedication photos by Britt Apell).



Officiating at the ceremony was Michael D’Andrea, in-coming SCS Governor, on the right. Present were, left to right, the Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, Thomas J. Giancristoforo, Jr., President of the Tinicum Township Board of Commissioners, and Lee Roberts, Treasurer of the Corinthian Yacht Club.

ON THIS SITE  
GOVERNOR JOHAN PRINTZ  
ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED  
THE GOVERNMENT  
OF  
NEW SWEDEN  
1643 - 1653  
  
ERECTED  
BY  
THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY  
JUNE 14, 1923

Left to right, before, during, and after the 2014 restoration. Preservation by Seth Gartland, Conservation Specialist at Materials Conservation Co., Philadelphia, using environmentally friendly anti-biologic detergent.



# *Claes Johansson*, THE FIRST PERMANENT SETTLER AND THE ORIGINAL FOREFATHER OF NEW SWEDEN

One of the passengers aboard the *Kalmar Nyckel* on its first voyage to the Delaware River in 1638 was a freeman by the name of Claes Johansson (also known as Claes Jansen)<sup>1</sup>. He was one of the 24 original occupiers of Fort Christina and it seems probable that he was the only one of them who remained in New Sweden<sup>2</sup>, all of the others returning to Sweden aboard the *Kalmar Nyckel* following its second visit in 1640. Thus he was the earliest permanent settler in New Sweden, and one would think that he would be a sought-after ancestor for prospective forefather members of The Swedish Colonial Society. Yet, according to the most current list available on the society website, there is not a single forefather member who has chosen him as their signature ancestor. Instead, forefather members have established descent from 51 other different colonial Swedish ancestors: Peter Gunnarsson Rambo leads the pack with 41 entries, followed by Jonas Nilsson with 19 and Peter Jochimsson with 16. Certainly many current forefather members must count Claes Johansson among their Swedish progenitors but he is completely ignored. Why that should be is not easily apparent, but it might be because he was a simple tobacco farmer who never held any position of authority, neither in the government of the colony nor in the military. So just who was this original forefather and who were his descendants?

## Swedish (or Dutch)?

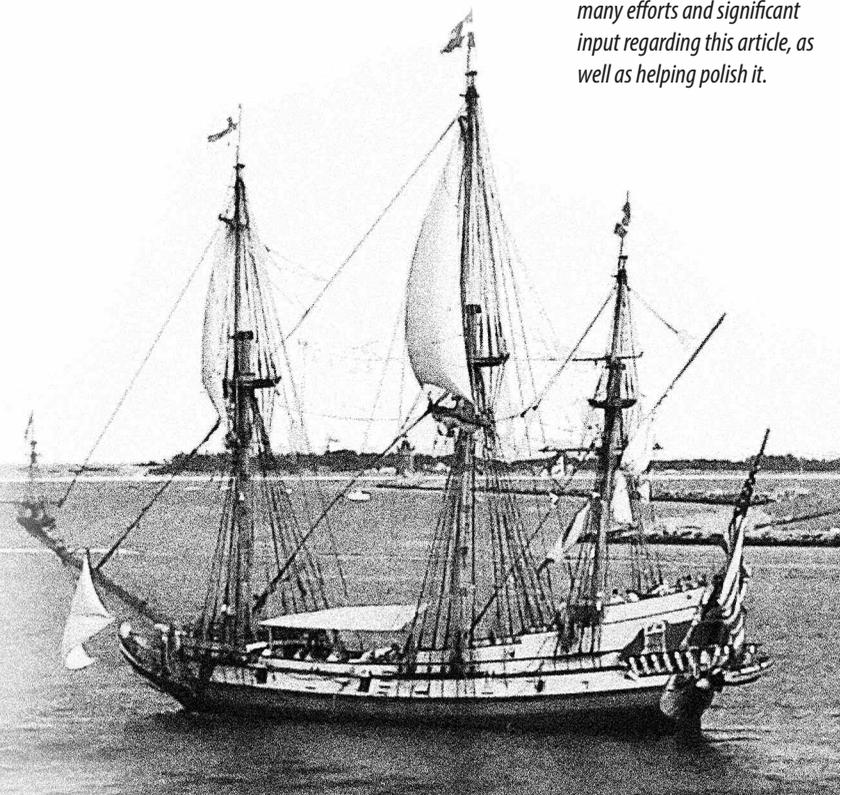
Although the *Kalmar Nyckel* sailed under the Swedish flag, the commander of the expedition (Peter Minuit), the captain of the ship (Jan Hendricksen van der Water) and the crew were actually Dutch, as were at least some of the passengers. One expert (Sten Carlsson) believed that Johansson might have been one of those Dutchmen, although another (Peter Kalm) claimed that he was a Swede from Västergötland.<sup>3</sup> There is a straightforward argument in favor of his being Swedish: He arrived as a passenger on the *Kalmar Nyckel*, settled in New Sweden, and was fully assimilated into the colony. Since there is no hard evidence to the contrary, that simple explanation seems adequate to imply Swedish ancestry.

However, there is some circumstantial evidence that might support Carlsson's view. In 1637, while Peter Minuit was in the Netherlands planning the first Swedish expedition to the Delaware, he ran into an old acquaintance from his days with the Dutch West Indies Company, Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a wealthy Dutch diamond merchant. Van Rensselaer asked Minuit to provide passage on the *Kalmar Nyckel* to America for six young Dutchmen whom he had recruited as laborers for his plantation, Rensselaerwyck, which was located on the Hudson River at present-day Albany, NY<sup>4</sup>. Van Rensselaer actually had no idea where in North America Minuit was planning to sail and Minuit was not too forthcoming as he wished to keep his plans a secret<sup>5</sup>. The agreement was that Minuit would find transportation for the six Dutchmen to New Amsterdam as soon as they made land. One of these young men was a 17-year-old tailor named Claes Jansen<sup>6</sup>. Van Rensselaer later refers to this same young man as Claes Jansen van Nieuwerkerck (there was also a Claes Jansen van Naerden employed at Rensselaerwyck) and describes him as a tobacco farmer<sup>7</sup>.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**John "Jack" Hagan resides in Lawrenceville NJ. He is retired after 37 years as a high school History teacher at Eastern Regional High School in Voorhees NJ. He currently supervises student teachers at the University of Delaware. He is a Forefather Member of SCS since 1999 as a descendant of Sven Skute as well as a descendant of the present subject, Claes Johansson, along with several other Swedish settlers.**

*The author wishes to thank Ron Beatty, SCS Genealogist, for his many efforts and significant input regarding this article, as well as helping polish it.*



*Kalmar Nyckel* replica illustration adapted from Wikimedia Commons (PointsofNoReturn, author)

It seems entirely possible that this Claes Jansen, upon his arrival in America, chose to remain at Fort Christina where his neighbors sometimes referred to him by the Swedish form of his name, Claes Johansson. Certainly he is identified by the surname Jansen or Janson more often than as Johansson in the Swedish records. If we entertain the possibility that Claes Johansson and Claes Jansen were one and the same, it might help to explain why he was the only one of the passengers on the *Kalmar Nyckel* in 1638 who remained permanently in New Sweden. Virtually all of the others were sailors, soldiers, farmers and laborers recruited by the New Sweden Company. It's possible that the six Dutchmen were the only passengers not in the employ of the company. All the others were hired for the purpose of building Fort Christina and establishing the Swedish presence on the Delaware. They never intended to be settlers of New Sweden and were anxious to return to Sweden when their assignment was finished. If the other five Dutchmen left for Rensselaerwyck that would have left Claes Jansen as the only passenger on the *Kalmar Nyckel* who had viewed himself as a permanent settler from the very beginning and had no reason to return to Sweden.

Arguing against the suggestion that the Swedish Claes Johansson and the Dutch Claes Jansen were the same person is the fact that A. J. F. van Lear, editor of the Van Rensselaer Bowler Manuscripts, lists all the residents of Rensselaerwyck arranged by the year of their arrival. For March of 1638 he lists 5 of the young Dutchmen who came over on the *Calmer Sleutel* (the Dutch form of *Kalmar Nyckel*), including a "Claes Jansz, from Nykerck"<sup>8</sup>, who was surely the Claes Jansen in question. But it is important to note that this index was compiled in 1908, almost three centuries after the fact. One wonders if van Lear had proof that Claes Jansen actually arrived at Rensselaerwyck or if he was assuming he had arrived based on the earlier letters indicating that he was supposed to arrive. It is interesting to note that van Lear was able to provide important post-arrival information about the other five, including what work they did, what their wages were, what farm they worked on, their employers, positions they held, and for one of the men, even to whom he was married. But for Claes Jansz he provides no information at all, other than that he was a 17-year-old tailor from Nykerck, which was already known before he ever left for America. Since so much is known about the others at Rensselaerwyck but nothing is known about Claes Jansen it raises the possibility that he never actually arrived at Rensselaerwyck. Could it be that he decided to stay in New Sweden? It's a question with no concrete answer at this time.

## DNA

Perhaps the riddle of his homeland could be solved if only one of his proven male descendants were to submit Y-DNA for testing. The DNA might conclusively prove him to be Dutch or Swedish. If several descendants were to correlate their results, other genealogical findings could prove extremely interesting to the participants. FamilyTreeDNA offers, on their website, a "Family Finder" test that allows male and female descendants to find possible cousins through autosomal DNA correlations.

## Mill Torp

Regardless of whether he was Swedish or Dutch, Claes Johansson was the first settler of the area known as "Mill Torp", located on the opposite side of the Christina River from the fort, an area later identified as "Claes' Land" in Governor Risingh's 1667 inventory of property confiscated by the Dutch in 1655<sup>9</sup>. On 27 July 1653, he was one of 22 settlers who signed a petition to Governor Johan Printz complaining about his autocratic rule<sup>10</sup>. This was not a trivial matter and the apparent leader, Anders Jönsson, paid for his boldness with his life, executed by firing squad for "treachery" on 1 August 1653. Nevertheless, Claes Johansson escaped punishment and the tyrannical Printz packed up and returned to Sweden. Then in June 1654 Claes was one of the "Old Freeman" who signed an oath of allegiance to the new governor, Johan Risingh<sup>11</sup>. Claes was the father of Peter and John Classon, who were living at Mill Torp in 1669-71, and most likely of Christiern Classon, who was living in Tacony by 1677<sup>12</sup>. There is one record of Claes having a daughter but no name is indicated. The male descendants of Peter and Christiern Classon adopted the surnames Classon and Clewson, while the descendants of John Classon became known as Johnsons<sup>13</sup>. The surname Johnson became most common in Pennsylvania and the surname Classon was more common in Delaware and Maryland<sup>14</sup>. The eldest son, Peter Classon, remained at Mill Torp. He was given the first English patent for his lands 26 November 1669<sup>15</sup>. John Classon, the middle son, first moved to Passyunk and eventually to Neshaminy Creek in Bensalem<sup>16</sup>. The youngest son, Christiern Classon, was settled in Tacony by 1677<sup>17</sup>.

## Lineages

Peter Classon, the oldest son of Claes Johansson, married a woman named Swaentie and fathered two sons, Peter Classon, Jr. and Jacob Classon. Peter, Jr. eventually removed to Cecil County, MD. Jacob remained at the original Mill Torp in what was then the New Castle One Hundred. He married Margareta (Grety) Siericks in 1683, and fathered son Peter Classon and daughter Margaret Classon<sup>18</sup>.

John Classon, the middle son of Claes Johansson, was known to the Dutch as John "Paerde Cooper", meaning "horse trader"<sup>19</sup>. A deed dated 26 April 1681 describes the sale of "one lot at Passyunk near Mallabour's Point" from "Jan Classon Paerde Cooper of Passyunk" to "Andries Bankson of Moyamensing"<sup>20</sup>. The Upland (present-day Chester) Court on 11 September 1677 granted John Classon 300 acres on Neshaminy Creek in Bucks County, which was eventually expanded to 525 acres as the result of a grant from William Penn<sup>21</sup>. He was the father of six daughters and three sons. His daughters were named Anna, Hannah, Henrietta, Gertrude, Elisabeth and Catharine<sup>22</sup>. His sons were named Clas, Dirick and John, all of who adopted the surname Johnson<sup>23</sup>. On 10 August 1684, he and his son, Clas Johnson, pledged 12 guilders each to the Swedish church at Wicaco (located near present-day Penn's Landing in Philadelphia). John Classon apparently died soon afterward<sup>24</sup>.

Christiern Classon, the youngest son of Claes Johansson, is not followed further.

Claes Johansson's daughter with unknown name and age is known to have received aid from the New Sweden Company in 1655.<sup>25</sup>

Clas Johnsson, the oldest son of John Classon, born circa 1658<sup>26</sup>, continued to support the Wicaco Church, pledging 1.4 pounds annually for Pastor Rudman's salary in 1697 and giving 15 pounds toward the cost of the current church building, which took place from 1698 – 1700<sup>27</sup>. That church, Gloria Dei (Old Swedes'), is still in use today, the oldest church in Pennsylvania. In 1704 Clas Johnsson pledged another 6 pounds for the addition of vestibules<sup>28</sup>. In 1707 he was elected a churchwarden and became a vestryman in 1708<sup>29</sup>. He married Walborg Bengtson, born around 1661, the daughter of Matthias Bengtsson. Matthias Bengtsson is believed to have arrived in New Sweden aboard the *Swan* as part of the eighth expedition in 1648. He served as deputy schout (sheriff) and court messenger for the Upland Court until his death 9 September 1662<sup>30</sup>. Clas and Walborg (a name often Anglicized as Barbara) had seven children. They were John (b. 1683), Lawrence (b. 1688), Derick (b. 1691), Gertrude (b. 1694), Barbara (b. 1697), Richard and Elisabeth. The dates of the births of the oldest five children were noted in the church census conducted by Gloria Dei in 1697, but the two youngest were born after that count and their birthdates are therefore unknown<sup>31</sup>. That 1697 census reported that the family was living along Neshaminy Creek in Bucks County. In the 1693 provincial tax we find Claws Johnson taxed 6 shillings, 8 pence for lands in Bensalem Township valued at 80 pounds. In that same assessment his son John was taxed 6 shillings in Buckingham (Bristol Township). Clas Johnsson died in December 1723 at about 65 years of age, and Walborg died in April 1732 at about age 70<sup>32</sup>.

John Johnson, the oldest son of Clas Johnsson, married Christina Schute, the daughter of John Skute and Armegott Mortonsdotter. John Johnson inherited 213 acres of land and 15 acres of meadow in his father's will, which was later supplemented by 110 acres from the estate of his Aunt Hannah, widow of Eric Gästenberg<sup>33</sup>. He also inherited his father's pew at Gloria Dei, where he was named as a vestryman in 1709. He was still listed as a member of the church, residing at Neshaminy in November 1743<sup>34</sup>.

Dirick Johnsson, the second son of John Classon, was born around 1660 and married Brita Gästenberg. Their three children were John (b. 1690), Peter (b. 1691) and Brigitta (b. 1693). "On 14 April 1693 the Bucks County Grand Jury indicted Dirick Clawson, alias Jonson, for murdering an unidentified victim whose body was found near the mouth of Neshaminy Creek on 8 May 1692." He was convicted and eventually executed<sup>35</sup>.

John Johnsson, John Classon's youngest son, married Margaret Williamson. He died in 1721. In his will he is identified as John Classon. That document identifies his children as John, Peter, William, Williamet, Maria, Elisabeth and Hanna<sup>36</sup>.

All of John Classon's six daughters married: The eldest, Anna, married Francis Walker about 1675, and they moved to Bensalem, Bucks County. They later moved to Duck Creek, in lower New Castle County, Delaware. They had one child, Frances. After her husband's death in 1686, Anna married her neighbor, Michael Fredericks<sup>37</sup>. Her daughter, Frances Walker, married Jonas Hansson Keen around 1697<sup>38</sup>.

Hasin (or Hannah), John Classon's second daughter, married Eric Gästenberg<sup>39</sup>. The third daughter Henrietta married Matthias Keen<sup>40</sup> and Gertrude married Hans Lycon<sup>41</sup>. Elisabeth married William Williamson, the son of Scotsman Dunk Williamson and the brother of her sister-in-law Margaret Williamson. Catherine, John Classon's youngest daughter, married Eric Hansson Keen<sup>42</sup>.

Claus Johnson, the eldest son of John Johnson and Christina Schute, was born sometime prior to 1712 and died about 1786<sup>38</sup>. He married, 30 March 1734, Rebecca Bankson, the daughter of Andrew Bankson, Jr., and his wife Gertrude Boore<sup>39</sup>. Claus and Rebecca were living in Neshaminy in 1740 when he contributed 10 shillings to Gloria Dei, and also at the time of the church census on 20 November 1743<sup>40</sup>. In 1744 they bought a farm in Haverford Township, now in Delaware County, from Amos Lewis. The East Course of the Merion Golf Club now occupies that property and their former home is the clubhouse. Claus was a vestryman at Old St. David's Church in Radnor from 1760 to 1770 and it is presumed that he is buried there<sup>41</sup>.

Christiana, the daughter of Claus Johnson and Rebecca Bankson, married John Vaughan. In her will, dated 2 April 1800, Christiana Vaughan left some of her land in Haverford to sons Joshua and Jacob. She also willed sums of money to children Johnson, Jonathan and Martha. One other son, John, had died as an infant<sup>42</sup>. Joshua Vaughan first married Susannah Litzenberg, and then, as a widower, on 5 April 1801, married Catherine Colflesh<sup>43</sup>, the daughter of William Colflesh and Mary Harner<sup>44</sup>. He is buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in Ardmore, Montgomery County, PA.

## Conclusion

We see over the succeeding generations that the descendants of Claes Johansson married descendants of other Swedish forefathers. His grandson, Clas Johnsson, married Walborg Bengtsson, the daughter of Matthias Bengtsson. Four of his granddaughters married Swedes: Hasin to Eric Gästenberg, Henrietta to Matthias Keen, Gertrude to Hans Lycon, and Catherine to Eric Hansson Keen. His great-granddaughter Frances Walker married Jonas Hansson Keen.

His great-grandson John Johnson married Christina Schute, the granddaughter of Captain Sven Skute; and his great great-grandson, Claus Johnson, married Rebecca Bankson, the paternal granddaughter of Anders Bengtsson, maternal granddaughter of Lars Thomasson Bjur (Boore), and great-granddaughter of Peter Gunnarsson Rambo. Matthias Bengtsson, who arrived in New Sweden aboard the *Swan* in 1648, was not related to Anders Bengtsson, who arrived aboard the *Mercurius* in 1656. Thus, descendants of Claes Johansson

are also likely to be descendants of at least eight other forefather lines: two different Banksons, plus Rambo, Skute, Lycon, Keen, Gästenberg, and Boore. However, of all the possible forefathers available to be claimed by members of the Swedish Colonial Society as ancestors, the only arrival on the *Kalmar Nyckel* who permanently settled in New Sweden from 1638 onward was Claes Johansson. Therefore, he truly deserves the title, not only of “The First Permanent Settler,” but also of “The Original Forefather!”

## FOOTNOTES:

1. Craig, Peter S. *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware*. (1993) p. 2.
2. 1693 census p. 2. There was one other passenger on the *Kalmar Nyckel* who arrived in 1638 and who subsequently left descendants in North America. That was the barber-surgeon Timen Stiddem. However, Stiddem went back to Sweden, probably in 1644, before returning for good to New Sweden in 1654, unlike Claes Johansson, who stayed in New Sweden permanently from 1638 on. Thus the author has bestowed on him the title of “The Original Forefather.”
3. 1693 census p. 55.
4. Weslager, C.A. *A Man and His Ship: Peter Minuit and the Kalmar Nyckel*. (1990) p. 127.
5. Weslager p. 127.
6. Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts (VRBM). A. J. F. Van Lear, editor, University of the State of New York, 1908. p. 395. There is no evidence that the Clas Johansson at Fort Christina ever worked as a tailor in New Sweden.
7. VRBM, p. 398.
8. VRBM, p. 817.
9. 1693 census p. 55
10. 1693 census p. 2
11. 1693 census p. 55
12. Craig, Peter S. In a personal correspondence to the author of 4 June 1999: “It is certain (not merely likely or possible) that Peter and John Classon of Mill Dorp were the sons of Clas Johansson. The Swedes would have spelled the place Mill Torp.”
13. Craig correspondence 4 June 1999.
14. 1693 census p. 2
15. 1693 census p. 122
16. Craig, Peter S. *The 1671 Census of the Delaware*. (1999). p. 47
17. 1671 census p. 47
18. 1693 census p. 122
19. 1693 census p. 54
20. Craig, Peter S. In a personal correspondence with the author dated 2 November 1999. Dr. Craig cites Exemplification Book 8:155-156; F-6:117; recorded 20 March 1694/5.
21. 1693 census p. 55
22. 1693 census p. 55
23. 1693 census p. 56
24. 1693 census p. 55
25. Craig, Peter S. *Swedish American Genealogist*, 1996, Vol.16
26. 1693 census p. 56
27. Craig correspondence 4 June 1999. Dr. Craig cites the records of Gloria Dei.
28. Craig correspondence 4 June 1999. Gloria Dei records.
29. Craig Correspondence 4 June 1999. Gloria Dei records.
30. 1693 census p. 56
31. 1693 census p. 56
32. 1693 census p. 56
33. 1693 census p. 53 and Craig correspondence 4 June 1999. Dr. Craig cites Phila. Deeds, D30:239, dated 5 Sept. 1764.
34. Craig correspondence 4 June 1999, Gloria Dei records.
35. 1693 census p. 56
36. 1693 census p. 57
37. 1693 census p. 55
38. Jordan, Wilfred, ed. *Colonial and Revolutionary Families – Pennsylvania*. vol. X, p. 21
39. Craig correspondence 2 November 1999, N.J. Archives, 22:41.
40. Craig correspondence 4 June 1999, Gloria Dei records.
41. Jordan p. 21
42. Jordan p. 22
43. Jordan p. 22
44. Jordan p. 24

## OBITUARY



REST IN PEACE

**Wallace F. Richter 1919~2014**

“Wally,” as he was known affectionately, of Wayne PA, passed away at age 94 on August 20, 2014. He was the 25th Governor of The Swedish Colonial Society, serving from 1989 to 1993, and as Honorary Governor from 1993 to 2014. Wally was Chairman of the 350th New Sweden Anniversary Committee in 1987-1988 when the King and Queen of Sweden visited the Delaware Valley. He was Governor when Peter Craig spearheaded the establishment of The Society’s *Swedish Colonial News* in 1990. He established the traditions, beginning with Volume 1, Number 1, of Governors

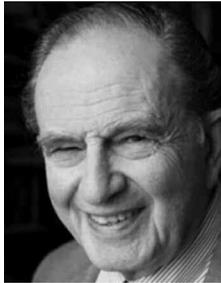
writing a letter outlining current Society activities and of Governors including a picture of themselves. He was instrumental in arranging for the transfer of artifacts and archives, including a portrait of Governor Johan Printz, from The Historical Society of Pennsylvania to our Society management. He was one of the several Governors without a Colonial Swedish forefather but his grandfather and uncle were named Moe and both served as Consul to Norway. Wally’s father Horace Richter was a close friend and associate of Amandus Johnson, well-known in the Delaware Valley as an expert on the New Sweden colony.

He brought a strong and hands-on leadership style to his 43-year career at Westinghouse Electric. He was active in the Masonic Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. His wife of 58 years, Dorothy, is a Fellow of SCS since 2001.

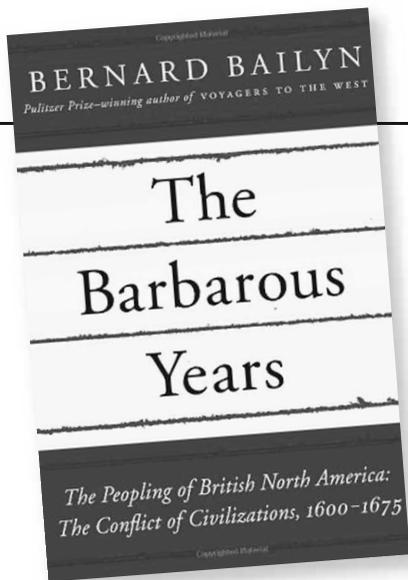
**BERNARD BAILYN**, author of *The Barbarous Years*, is Professor Emeritus of Early American History and Director of the International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500-1825, at Harvard University.

About Lawrence Backlund's review, he wrote:

*"It is well-written. None of the other reviews of the book had taken much notice of the chapter on the Swedes and Finns though I was myself intrigued by that small but quite remarkable segment of early American population. . . . It is gratifying to see your own interest in this part of the story."*  
*"I read your review with appreciation and want to thank you for sending me a copy."*



*"Sincerely,  
 Bernard Bailyn  
 Adams University Professor Emeritus"*



**Bailyn, Bernard. *The Barbarous Years: The Peopling of British North America: The Conflict of Civilizations, 1600-1675*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 2013.**

## NEW SWEDEN IN *The Barbarous Years*

Review by Lawrence Backlund

This book is part of a series of studies written by Harvard historian Bernard Bailyn on the theme of the “peopling” of British North America. Here the scholar summarizes the historical scholarship of the last 50 years and devotes most of a chapter to the New Sweden colony and its inhabitants.

Bailyn stands firmly with other historians of the Atlantic world in recent times, challenging accepted visions and the myths associated with Colonial North America. He points to “gloomy and dark days” in this unforgivingly unheroic account, employing terms like “social pathology” and “unrelenting racial violence” to characterize those barbarous years of the mid-17th century.

He points out that the New World was far from isolated from the Old World. Puritan John Winthrop’s dream of creating a “shining City on a hill” could not escape from the counter purposes of investors in colonial enterprises nor from the violence associated with religious and political warfare, themselves models of massacres and pacification by extermination. And after 1618, the Thirty Years’ War was always in the background as well. It allowed for the meteoric rise of Sweden to prominence.

In this triumphal atmosphere, the Swedish monarchy came under the influence of a group of Dutch merchants and Peter Minuit, who persuaded Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna and others to establish the Swedish West Indies Company in 1635, whose mandate was to seek profits in the New World, Africa, and elsewhere.

Thus, as Bailyn puts it, the New Sweden colony was an “almost accidental product of Sweden’s national exuberance.” However, all of the elements of commercial failure and political disaster were there from the very beginning. Sweden’s ambitions were greater than its resources. Economic and social exhaustion derived from large-scale warfare. And yet, the prospect of profits continued to influence decision-makers in Stockholm.

How unique was the New Sweden project? How different from other colonies? Not very much, according to Bailyn, although he does mention the presence of women and children among the New Sweden colonists. Elsewhere family units had only been typical of the New England Puritan settlements. There were few females in the early Virginia and Chesapeake colonies.

Because the Company records are impressive, we know something of the leadership of the colony: Peter Minuit, who later died in a storm in port; Peter Ridder, who constructively set the tone for the colony; the autocratic and huge 400-pound Johan Björnsson Printz, who conducted a 10-year dictatorship hoping to recoup a questionable reputation; Johan Papegoya, Printz’ harried son-in-law; and the scholarly and tragic Johan Risingh, who suffered a “morbid paranoia” when he surrendered to Peter Stuyvesant’s overwhelming besieging forces in September 1655.

The historical record also reveals who the colonists were and how they had been recruited. By 1655, the number of settlers had increased to roughly 600, a typical lot from Bailyn’s point of view: men and women, soldiers, criminals, farmers, mainly Swedes and Finns, as well as some scattered Dutch and English. They were reputable and disreputable.



## ABOUT THE REVIEWER

**Lawrence Backlund is Professor of History and Political Science at Montgomery County Community College, Blue Ball PA. He was born in New York City, raised in Connecticut, and received his MA and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in European History. In addition to his teaching duties at MCCC he has taught as an adjunct at Temple University and Philadelphia University.**

**Dr. Backlund speaks Swedish, German, and Spanish, and has a special interest in music. He travels extensively, enjoys cross-country skiing, and mountain biking.**

**We thank him for his scholarly contributions to the *Swedish Colonial News*, the last being the lead article in the Summer 2011 issue, "Pehr (Peter) Kalm: Race Relations in the 18th Century."**

Making use of the careful studies of Sten Carlsson, Hans Norman, and Gunlög Fur, Bailyn points out that many were part of "fringe" populations, especially the Forest Finns.

Regarding relations with Native Americans in New Sweden, Bailyn observes that "relatively good relations" prevailed, although there were some troubles ("vandalism, thefts, murders") by the Native Americans that he considers "unavoidable." As elsewhere, there were widespread fears of Indian attacks—and some reported incidents. Printz reported that Indians had murdered five colonists in 1643. Whether these relatively good relations were because of Lenape contention with the Susquehannocks, the small number and dispersed living of the colonists, Printz' assertive treatment or Risingh's honorable treatment of Native Americans, or the cultural melding that took place, Bailyn makes no judgment.

In the case of the Swedish- and Finnish-speaking inhabitants of the later "Swedish Nation," not only did languages survive for at least two generations, but other aspects of popular culture as well. This was noted in regard to clothing, agricultural technique (*svedjebruk* form of burn-beating forest clearing), housing (here there were some improvements that Bailyn seems to have missed: the 2-roomed log cabin with corner fireplaces, the logs shaped by use of the broadaxe technique originated by the Forest Finns that minimized the need for chinking), and faults of character (excesses of knife-wielding alcohol-inspired violence, disregard for authority, laziness). Even the Lutheran pastor was a drunkard, according to one source.

It seems some notorious Finns, worthy of entry into multiple historical records, were trouble-makers. Bailyn recounts the sad tale of Iver Hendricksson (almost everyone had a Swedish name but each was frequently identified as "the Finn"). He had been sent to the New World as a convicted criminal in 1641. New Sweden did not rehabilitate him. He assaulted people with knives and an ax. He threatened to kill—probably inebriated. He committed bigamy and was caught having an affair with a married Finnish woman. His punishment was a temporary banishment. Eventually he returned, served in the colonial militia, and joined a conspiracy against Printz in 1653.

This conspiracy involved more than 20 colonists who protested the harsh punishment of another trouble-making Finn. The conspirators accused Printz of arbitrary government and depriving them of their rights as Swedish subjects. Printz determined the ringleader was a Finn named Anders Jönsson, who was arrested and executed. In the end, this episode seems to have convinced Printz it was time to return to Sweden. He departed on the next ship, leaving his son-in-law in charge.

The next governor was Johan Risingh who clashed with "the Finn" Lars Olofsson shortly after his arrival in 1654. Olofsson's crime: a plan to desert the colony with others and make his way to Virginia, which was encouraging such moves. He explained himself saying that, compared to New Sweden, life in Virginia was "good": no one starved over winters and there were no Indian attacks.

One unique feature of the New Sweden episode was that the colony effectively resisted Stuyvesant's demands and continued as the "Swedish Nation" under both Dutch and later English sovereignty. A resupply ship, the *Mercurius*, arrived in March 1656, after the Dutch takeover, with 110 settlers, including 36 females and 22 children. Bailyn reiterates the story that the Lenape intervened to allow the migrants ashore. A decade later, after the region passed to the English, another ship deposited 140 colonists.

This immigration after the change of sovereignty contributed to what Joyce Goodfriend in her book *Before the Melting Pot* called "ethnic crystallization." Newcomers retained and strengthened vestiges of the culture they came with, delaying and contradicting what Bailyn calls the emergence of an English-based "vernacular" culture.

While the Reverend Israel Acrelius, according to Bailyn, later idealized the New Sweden colonists and their lives, reality was harsh. And absent ongoing support from the home country, the New Sweden colonists adapted to circumstances and adopted a mixture of Lenape and Finno-Swedish "marginal" culture. Elements of this culture—replete with reports of criminal behavior ("the axe was a favored assault weapon")—added up to a "barbarous existence." Thus, the Swedish colony fully shared the barbarity of the mid-17th century, a Scandinavian subculture exemplifying Bailyn's theme.

From the point of view of readers interested in where—historically and culturally—the New Sweden colonists belong in the grand theme of "peopling," *The Barbarous Years* is a magisterial account worth reading for its scope and detail.

## COMMENTARY

by Kenneth S. Peterson, Special to the *Swedish Colonial News*

Governor Printz was not “aggressive” to the Indians, yet Swedish colonists were being murdered by them. In March 1643 two Swedish soldiers were killed by the Natives<sup>1</sup> and a year later in March 1644 one more Swede was killed.<sup>1</sup> Then, three days later John Johnson and his Swedish wife were murdered in their bed.<sup>1,2</sup> Four months later Vice Director Johan Papegoja wrote to Per Brahe, “Likewise, we are all in great danger of the Savages and the English, and if the ship does not come back soon with people they will strike our necks asunder on all of us together.”<sup>3</sup>

No Indians had been killed yet the Swedes feared for their lives. Naturally, Governor Printz on 11 June 1644 made the following statement to his superior: “Their commanders feared, excusing themselves in the highest manner and asked for peace to which I granted on the following conditions: If they practice the smallest hostilities against our people then we would not let a soul of them live.” Printz continues, “Nothing would be better than to send over here a couple hundred soldiers until we broke the necks of all of them in this river . . .”<sup>4</sup> Amandus Johnson states, “Printz treated the Indians with due consideration and avoided all friction, but out of necessity and not through kindness nor love for them. He was a warrior and looked at things from a warrior’s point of view.”<sup>5</sup>

The murder of Swedes continued. Dutch commissary Alexander Boyer reported to Governor Peter Stuyvesant in 1648 that two Swedes who had gone to trade with the Indians for 6 or 7 guns, powder and lead were killed by them. During Governor Risingh’s time a woman near Christina was killed by the Indians and her goods stolen.<sup>6</sup> No Indians had been killed or even harmed by the Swedes during those 17 years. Governor Printz acted defensively and has been taken out of context in this article. I conclude that Governor Printz was not aggressive to the Indians but, on the contrary, the Indians were aggressive to the Swedes.

It is incorrect to stereotype Governor Johan Risingh as “morbid and paranoid.” The latter is defined as “intense and irrational mistrust and suspicion”<sup>7</sup> to the point of being out of touch with reality (delusional). Governor Risingh was successful in leading the New Sweden Colony, trusted by the freemen, and gracious and patient with the Printz protestors. He was good to the local Natives.<sup>8</sup> Yet, and understandably so, he raged against Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant for stealing his colony out from under him, all his plans and hopes for New Sweden gone. After the Dutch conquest and while Risingh was being held captive in New Amsterdam, Stuyvesant made the reply, “Your honor landed in an intemperate manner and insulted us with many threats of going to prosecute us for everything. . . .” “I have quartered your honor in one of the most principal private houses in this city where you, in a passionate manner, threatening you would come to ravage and plunder this place and with other unbecoming words and actions harassed the honest people of the house so that they left their own lodging.”<sup>9</sup>

The Swedes of New Sweden were not “lazy.”<sup>10</sup> The expedition referred to in 1640 was manned by a Dutch crew. Director Ridder was angry at them, including the ship’s captain, for their drunken and worthless behavior. They drank all of the wine, even most of that assigned for Communion.<sup>11</sup> And Ridder was unhappy with those Swedes on board for their unskilled abilities. Recall that these first Swedes were not chosen for their skilled labor but were petty “criminals”. Swedes and Finns on the later voyages were picked for those skills that would benefit the colony.

There were a number of positive comments made of the Swedes and Finns later on by prominent outsiders. William Penn wrote of the Swedes, “They are a strong, industrious people. I see few young men more sober and laborious.”<sup>12</sup> Leaders of the Labadist movement passing through the area marveled at the log house they spent a night in. Jasper Danckerts and Pieter Sluyter described it thus: “The house was somewhat better and tighter, being made to the Swedish mode. The whole structure is made without nail or spike and ceiling and roof do not exhibit much finer work except among the most careful people.”<sup>13</sup> Thomas Paschall, a prominent purchaser and officeholder in Penn’s new colony wrote, “Most of the Sweads and Finns are ingenious people. . . they use but little iron in building, for they will build and hardly use any other toole but an ax. They will cut down a tree and cut it off when down sooner than two men can saw it and rend it into planks or what they please. They are generally very ingenious people, living well. They have great plenty of all sorts of provisions.”<sup>14</sup>

It is incorrect to call the Swedes or Finns “barbarous.” One can always find individual exceptions of poor behavior with any people but the Swedes generally lived well with their neighbors, did their work, tended their business and lived clean, moral lives. The Swedes and Finns found themselves inserted into a primitive wilderness with no conveniences. It may be tempting to call their adoption of homespun customs and some of those of the Natives as “barbarous” but perhaps the correct word is “adaptive”.

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## New Sweden Leaders

*continued from page 11*

to the Dutch West India Company on the initiative of Peter Minuit, the former Dutch governor of New Netherland. In 1651 disputes with the Dutch flared; they had erected their own Ft. Casimir (today's New Castle DE) on the Swedish company's territory on the west side of the river. Printz felt compelled to contract his forces so Ft. New Elfsborg was abandoned. At the same time Printz' relations with the Indians became tense since he had no trade goods. He asked for troops from Sweden to "break the necks of all of them" in spite of the fact that his instruction proclaimed that the Indians were the "country's proper owners". Even within the colony there was growing disenchantment with his high-handed policies. This led to protests and Printz executed one of the protesters. After having almost no correspondence from his superiors, and feeling unsuccessful, in 1653 he did what he had done in Saxony: He deserted his position and went home. But this time he prepared for his return by writing a detailed letter to Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna in which he declared that he was willing to return to New Sweden if he was given more resources. He did not encounter any serious charges after his return this time, but instead was given the responsibility of enlisting soldiers for the war in Poland. He settled in his home parish of Bottnaryd on the family estate Gunillaberg, named after his mother Gunilla Printz (#5).

In 1657 Printz became Commandant of Jönköping Castle just east of Bottnaryd and the year after he became Governor of Jönköping County. He participated in the Parliament from 1654-1660, in the last year as a member of the important "Secret Committee".

He died in Jönköping on 3 May 1663 and was buried at his father's parish church in Bottnaryd.

### JOHAN GÖRANSSON PAPEGOJA

When Printz left New Sweden he turned over the Governor's duties to his son-in-law, **Johan Göransson Papegoja (#18)**. The latter's grandfather had been Commander **Börje Persson (#19)** of Fort Gullberg (in present Gothenburg), whom King Johan III in 1569 ennobled as **Papegoja**. Johan's father **Göran Börjesson Papegoja (#20)** lived at the farm Ramstorp which he had inherited from his father Börje. Ramstorp is near Tidaholm, about 25 miles (40 km) north of Bottnaryd and a little more than 60 miles (100 km) east of Gothenburg.



Gunillaberg, the Printz family estate near Jönköping. The two-story central house was built by Governor Printz. Photo by Tage Andersen.

There had been several attempts to establish a town at present Gothenburg, but it was not successful until Gustav II Adolf in 1621 had a town built by Dutch experts according to Dutch principles and populated by Dutch immigrants. It was there that Johan Göransson Papegoja joined the navy. In 1643 he was sent to New Sweden together with the new governor Peter Hollander Ridder on the ship Fama. After a visit back to Sweden he returned to New Sweden on the same ship as Johan Printz; Papegoja was appointed commander of Fort Christina.

In 1644 Johan Printz married off his next-to-the-oldest daughter to him. This was the 19-year-old Armegard Printz (#21), whose name is sometimes listed as Armegott although she was named after Printz' first mother-in-law, Armegard von Hagen.

When the newly appointed Governor Johan Risingh arrived in 1654, Papegoja traveled back to Sweden to enlist more settlers. But when he returned to America in March of 1656, the colony had been captured the previous autumn by the Dutch. He was forced to return to Sweden, although his wife Armegard refused to accompany him. In 1662 she and their children came to Sweden. Yet the next year she returned to America to begin a legal suit concerning the ownership of her father's estate at Tinicum. After almost ten years, not until 1672, was she able to clear the title, sell the land, and return to Sweden. She settled at the royal manor at Läckö castle, where her third son, Bernt Papegoja (born in 1649) was Captain-in-charge. She never lived with her husband again. He had become first Captain and then Major at the Admiralty and died in 1667 at Ramstorp. She died at Läckö in 1695.

### JOHAN KLASSON RISINGH

**Johan Klasson Risingh (#11)** was the middle of three sons all named Johan Klasson Rising (#10, 11, 12) of the younger of the Senior Pastors in Bottnaryd named Klas Botvidsson (#7). He studied at the Gymnasium in Linköping and came to Uppsala University in 1635. There his 1640 disputation (an oral defense of a written original work, the dissertation) was in Physics. Then between 1644 and 1648 he worked as a private tutor to the sons of Counts Sten Bielke and Klas Tott. With the funds saved he traveled to study in the Netherlands, England, and France in 1647-48 and then in 1649-51 to the Netherlands and England. There he studied economics and politics and wrote several works on economics. When he returned to Sweden he was in close contact with the elderly Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna and was appointed by him to work out the regulations for the Department of Commerce. He then became the secretary of this department and his views strongly influenced the

political decisions of the department, whose President after 1652 was Eric Oxenstierna, son of the Chancellor.

In 1652 Johan Rising was appointed Commissary and Assistant Councilor in New Sweden and at the same time was ennobled, changing his surname to Risingh. The next year he arrived in New Sweden and was given the title Director. In 1655 he was named Governor to replace Printz and given a large land grant at Timber Island close to Fort Christina.

Risingh's first act was to drive the Dutch out of Ft. Casimir. He then expanded the fort and supplied it with Swedish forces. He began to map the colony and plan its land use and buildings. He drafted laws for landowners, trade, and other conditions such as the relationship between the Swedes and the Indians. He also enlarged the boundaries of the colony by purchasing land from the Minquas which opened up trade to the west and Chesapeake Bay.

But the colony was in serious decadence and the population had decreased to only about 70 persons. Together with Risingh about 260 new settlers (men, women, and children) arrived. But just as it had been with Printz, so now Risingh did not receive the needed supplies from Sweden to maintain the colony. This led to worsening conditions for the colonists and difficulties with the Indians. And finally, he was the victim of an attack by the Dutch, who occupied the entire colony and forced him to leave in the fall of 1655.

He first went to London to report to Christer Bonde, who was there trying to persuade Oliver Cromwell to join Sweden in a war against Holland. From England Risingh continued to Prussia where King Carl X Gustaf and Eric Oxenstierna were engaged in war and reported to them what had happened. Through a series of written reports he attempted to convince the government to re-take New Sweden or start another colony in America. He described the rich animal life, wild berries and other plants in the forests, and the fish-rich waters with which he proposed the colony could feed thousands of poor Swedish families and create large cities as a center for trade across the Atlantic. It could be ruled by the establishment of counties and baronies. But the war in Europe took all the resources of the government and it could do nothing about New Sweden. Instead Risingh was blamed for causing the loss of the colony and had trouble supporting himself. In the years 1657-1660 he was Chief Inspector of Customs in Prussia and Pomerania (today in northwestern Poland). But after this followed five years of unemployment until in 1666 he was named Deputy Judge for the newly formed Naval Court. Unfortunately this court did not begin to function until after his death (1672).

His economic problems steadily increased and he demanded compensation from the New Sweden Company which he saw as justified because of his service in North America. For their part, the New Sweden Company claimed compensation from Risingh because they asserted that he had lost the colony through mismanagement. This led to a judicial process that went all the way to the Swedish

Supreme Court (Svea Hovrätt). There in 1667 he was finally completely freed from the accusations of having caused the loss of the colony and was given partial compensation. But the process led him to make an enemy of Israel Lagerfelt, the Vice President of the Department of Commerce, who then made sure that he did not receive the compensation that he had earned in court. Yet he got some support from the new Chancellor of the Kingdom, Magnus Gabriel De La Gardie. He gave him the job of helping with the planning of the city of Lidköping and, most importantly, made it possible for him to print the main parts of the books on economy that he had been working on his whole life.

Risingh's writings had an important influence in his own time and afterwards. The most important of them was, "An extract about Trade and Commerce" ("Itt vtogh om köphandelen och commercierne") which was printed in 1669 and played an important role in Swedish economic policies into the eighteenth century. According to Risingh, the goal of politics was the peoples' "welfare, power and prosperity". The most important means to reach these goals were trade and overseas commerce. This demands a strong central government which can set up good regulations and demand their compliance. For trading cities there should be special advantages which benefit commerce. Also inhabitants with various religious views should be free to work there as long as they do not cause dissension in the community. Means of transport need to be improved so that it is easy to get wares to the ports. Customs and duties should be low except for finished imported goods which should have high duties to protect domestic manufacturers. Monopolies should be forbidden. Anyone who wants to and can invest in those Trading Companies seen as necessary for the society should be free to do so. Apprenticeship should be abolished or reformed. Banks should be established. Interest rates should be kept low and valuation steady, having a correct exchange rate in comparison to foreign currencies.

In 1671 Risingh printed, "A Rural Book, or some essays about agriculture and country life," ("Een landbook eller några vpsatter om landbruk och landlefverne"). Here he pointed out that agriculture is the basis for all welfare and points to the Netherlands as a good example for Sweden in matters of agriculture and fishing.

He also wrote a number of smaller works. Furthermore, a number of works were never printed but were spread by hand-written copies made by other economists. Among other subjects in these, Risingh argued that Russian international trade should be moved from Archangel to the Baltic Sea and thus be connected with trans-Atlantic trade. He imagined that in this way the Swedish Baltic island of Gotland could be a center for world commerce. Forty years later the Russian Czar Peter the Great would agree with him and found the city of St. Petersburg (northeast of Gotland) on Russian territory that had previously been part of Sweden.

Risingh died in April of 1672 after many years of unemployment and sickness. At the time of his death he was a poor lodger with a tailor in Stockholm.

# Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of New Sweden Heritage Monument

PENNSVILLE NJ, 6 JUNE 2014

Diversity is one of the themes designated to help frame this year's 350th anniversary celebration of the founding of New Jersey. One of the little known facets of New Jersey's history is the fact that in 1638, twenty-eight years before King Charles II of England granted the land of New Caesarea or New Jersey to his brother James, Duke of York, Sweden had already founded the New Sweden Colony. In 1641 Commander Peter Ridder took control of land on the East side of the Delaware River and in 1643 Governor Johan Printz had Fort Elfsborg built on land located in present-day Salem County, New Jersey.

The Swedish Colonial Society was one of the original 10 organizations who sponsored the New Sweden Heritage Monument, dedicated on 6 June 2004 in Pennsville, Salem County, to preserve and promote this history for future generations. In honor of the two coincidental anniversaries a special celebration was held on 6 June 2014. A reception and program was sponsored by New Sweden Centre (NSC) and hosted at Park Bible Baptist Church of Pennsville. Guests enjoyed Swedish hors d'oeuvres prepared by members of the Church and Pennsville Women's Club. Swedish music was provided by "The Strolling Strings" musical ensemble from Pennsville High School.

Herb Rambo, SCS Honorary Governor, served as M.C. Aleasa Hogate, outgoing SCS Recording Secretary and designer of the monument, gave a presentation showing the 2004 creation of the monument, which is quite unique, having two different large bronze plaques, one on each face. Also shown was the 2004 dedication by Consul General of Finland Jukka Leino, Ambassador of Sweden Jan Eliasson, and Nanticoke Lenape Tribal Co-Chair Lewis Pierce.

Following the presentation, two large aluminum replica plaques, the same size as the two original bronze ones, were presented to Julie Acton, Director, and Bob Vanderslice, both of the Salem County Freeholders.

Next on 6 June 2014, Eric Burro, historian and re-enactor from Burlington NJ, gave a short speech congratulating the volunteers and challenging them to continue to preserve and promote early Swedish Heritage. Guests then moved to the monument site at Riverview Beach Park for a sunset wreath laying ceremony and reading of proclamations by the Township, County, and State.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Both aluminum plaques are now mounted in the historic Salem County Courthouse in Salem NJ. On 18 October 2014, Ambassador Björn Lyrvall of Sweden participated in the dedication and unveiling of the plaques. Photos of the event by B. J. Ayers can be found at <http://firechick747.smugmug.com>, search "dedication".



photo by  
Alfred Nicolosi



Left to right, Abdullah Muhammad, New Sweden Centre Black Anthony re-enactor; Aleasa Hogate, NSC Vice President; Dennis Coker, Principal Chief of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware; Aedan and Jesse Hogate, descendants of Anders Larsson Dalbo, Marja Kaisla, President of the Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley, and Jim Schilte, NSC Johan Printz re-enactor, 6 June 2014 (photo by Tom Romansky).

"Commander Peter Ridder" as reenacted by Ken Peterson of Whiting NJ, gazing westward across the Delaware River at the Sunset Ceremony.

## STIDDEM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER AWARD

Swedish Colonial Society Councillor **Richard L. Steadham**, who is editor of "The Timen Stiddem Society Newsletter," passes on the news that the *TSS Newsletter's* once again (for the 5th time!) won the National Genealogical Society's Family Association Newsletter Competition. Bravo! In Issue 61 (Winter/Spring 2014) there is excellent coverage with photos of the 300th Anniversary Celebration 29 March of the founding of St. George's Church and also coverage of the annual Colonists' Day in Wilmington. The Society homepage is <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tstiddem/index.htm>.



# NEW MEMBERSHIP

## FAMILY MEMBERS

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Diana Neal-LaFranchi, Exmouth, Devon UK

Gerald Richter, Hendersonville IN

## 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.net](http://www.ColonialSwedes.net). Also on the website is a complete listing of active SCS members and their respective forefathers.

### Cheryl Haakenson descends from

Peter Gunnarson Rambo and his wife Brita Mattsdotter through their daughter Gertrude and her husband Anders Bengtsson. The lineage continues through their son Anders Bankson and his wife Gertrude Boore.

### Mary R. Hunter descends from

Israel Helm through his daughter Maria Helm and her husband Andrew Robeson, Jr. The lineage continues through their son Thomas Roberson, Sr., and his wife Sarah Singletary.

### Kathleen Ann Hedges Loftman descends from

Olaf Stille through his son Anders Stille and his wife Annetje Pieters. The lineage continues through their daughter Elizabeth Stille and her husband Charles Hedges.

### Brian J. Roberts descends from

Peter Gunnarson Rambo and his wife Brita Mattsdotter through their son Gunnar Rambo and his wife Anna Cock. The lineage continues through their daughter Brita Rambo and her husband Matthias Holstein.



*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: Peg Berich,  
The Swedish Colonial Society,  
916 S. Swanson St., Philadelphia,  
PA 19147 or visit us online at:  
[www.ColonialSwedes.net](http://www.ColonialSwedes.net).**

**The annual membership fee for  
an individual is \$45. An annual  
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includes two adults and minor  
children, is \$52.50.**

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## SWEDISH COLONIAL NEWS

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## SWEDISH COLONIAL NEWS

The Swedish Colonial Society  
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[www.ColonialSwedes.net](http://www.ColonialSwedes.net)

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*New Sweden* authors (left to right) Ken Peterson, Ron Hendrickson, and Kim-Eric Williams at the book-signing.



The hardcover photo book of historic locations, *New Sweden on the Delaware*, which makes an excellent gift, can be ordered through the Society's website; the cost is \$25 plus s/h.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sunday 7 December from 2 to 4 pm the Friends of the Swedish Cabin will hold their annual **TRIM-A-SWEDISH-CHRISTMAS-TREE EVENT** at the Cabin at 9 Creek Rd., Drexel Hill PA. Visitors are encouraged to bring an authentic Swedish tree decoration (not obligatory) to decorate the live tree, and to enjoy the "goodies", warm fireplaces, and the gift shop. For directions call Dave Anderson at (610) 449-3577 ([www.swedishcabin.org](http://www.swedishcabin.org)).

Please save the date!  
**THE ANNUAL SCS  
JULMIDDAG LUNCHEON**  
Saturday December 20, 2014  
12 noon to 4 PM  
at the Corinthian Yacht Club

### 14TH ANNUAL NEW SWEDEN HISTORY CONFERENCE

## *Beef, Beer and Bread: Colonial Foodways*

This year's conference, held on November 8th at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia, explored 17th century foodways in Sweden and colonial America. Five speakers discussed various aspects of culinary history, from the kitchens of Stockholm to the brew houses of Philadelphia.

The keynote speaker was author, chef, and Swedish food historian Dr. Ulrica Söderlind, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Stockholm. She has written 5 books on topics such as the role of food in Swedish social history and the culinary history of the Nobel Banquet. Her conference session focused on the cooking practices of a 17th century Swedish noble household. Additional speakers included David Furlow, who discussed the significance of cattle as an important part of New Sweden's economy, and Rich Wagner, who presented information on the intricacies of colonial beer brewing.

In the spirit of this year's theme, a special luncheon was served featuring homemade colonial recipes and, of course, beer. The conference fulfilled its goal of being both informative and delicious.

For further information on the conference and pictures of the event visit the ASHM website at [americanswedish.org](http://americanswedish.org).

